



## Shotgun Terminology

**Action** - the moving parts that allow you to load, fire and unload your shotgun.

**Barrel Selector** - determines which barrel of a double barrel gun you will fire first.

**Blacking/Blueing** - the blue coloration applied to protect gun barrels.

**Bore** - the interior diameter of a gun barrel, which will vary according to the gun's size and intended use.

**Box-Lock** - a type of gun action, often recognizable by its squared appearance.

**Breech** - the end of the barrel nearest to the stock.

**Break Open** - in a hinge type gun, where the barrels are dropped open and clear of the action, exposing the chambers to view.

**Butt** - the rear of the shoulder end of the gun's stock.

**Comb** - the side of the stock that fits against your cheek.

**Chamber** - the part of the action, at the breech end of the barrel, into which the shot shell is placed.

**Choke** - the degree of narrowing or constriction of the bore at the muzzle end of the barrel. Intended to increase the effective range of the gun.

**Ejector** - the mechanism on shotguns

**Hinge** - a type of action in which a hinge mechanism separates the barrel from the standing breech block, providing access to the chamber.

**Improved Cylinder** - least constricted or narrowed choke causing shot pattern to widen relatively quickly.

**Modified Choke** - moderate constriction or narrowing of the bore.

**Muzzle** - the end of the barrel from which the shot exits.

**Over-and-Under** - a two barreled shotgun with one barrel placed over the other.

**Pump** - a type of action that loads and ejects shells by "pumping" the forearm of the stock back and forth

**Safety** - a safety device that, in the "on" position, prevents the gun from firing. In many field guns the safety is automatically engaged when the gun is opened; in other guns, particularly competition grades, the safety must be manually opened.

by which spent shot cases are automatically ejected from the gun when it is opened after firing.

**Forearm** - the part of the stock that lies under the barrel.

**Full Choke** - the tightest constriction or narrowing of the bore, producing the greatest effective range.

**Grip** - the narrow portion of the stock held with the trigger hand.

**Gauge** - the term used to describe the interior diameter of the bore. The smaller the gauge number the larger the bore size.

**Semi Automatic** - a type of action in which gas from a burning gunpowder in the shell automatically ejects the spent shell that loads another.

**Shot** - round projectiles, usually of lead or steel.

**Shot Pattern** - the concentration of a shot measured in a circle at a given range, usually 30 to 40 yards.

**Side-by-Side** - a shotgun with two barrels sitting side by side.

**Stock** - the "handle" of the shotgun, the part held to the shoulder, comprising the butt, comb, grip and forearm.

**Shotshell or Shell** - the ammunition fired by shotguns, consisting of five components: the case, primer, powder charge, wad, and shot.

**Trigger** - finger-pulled lever—single, double and release—that drives the firing point forward and fires the gun.

Source: Black's Wing & Clay