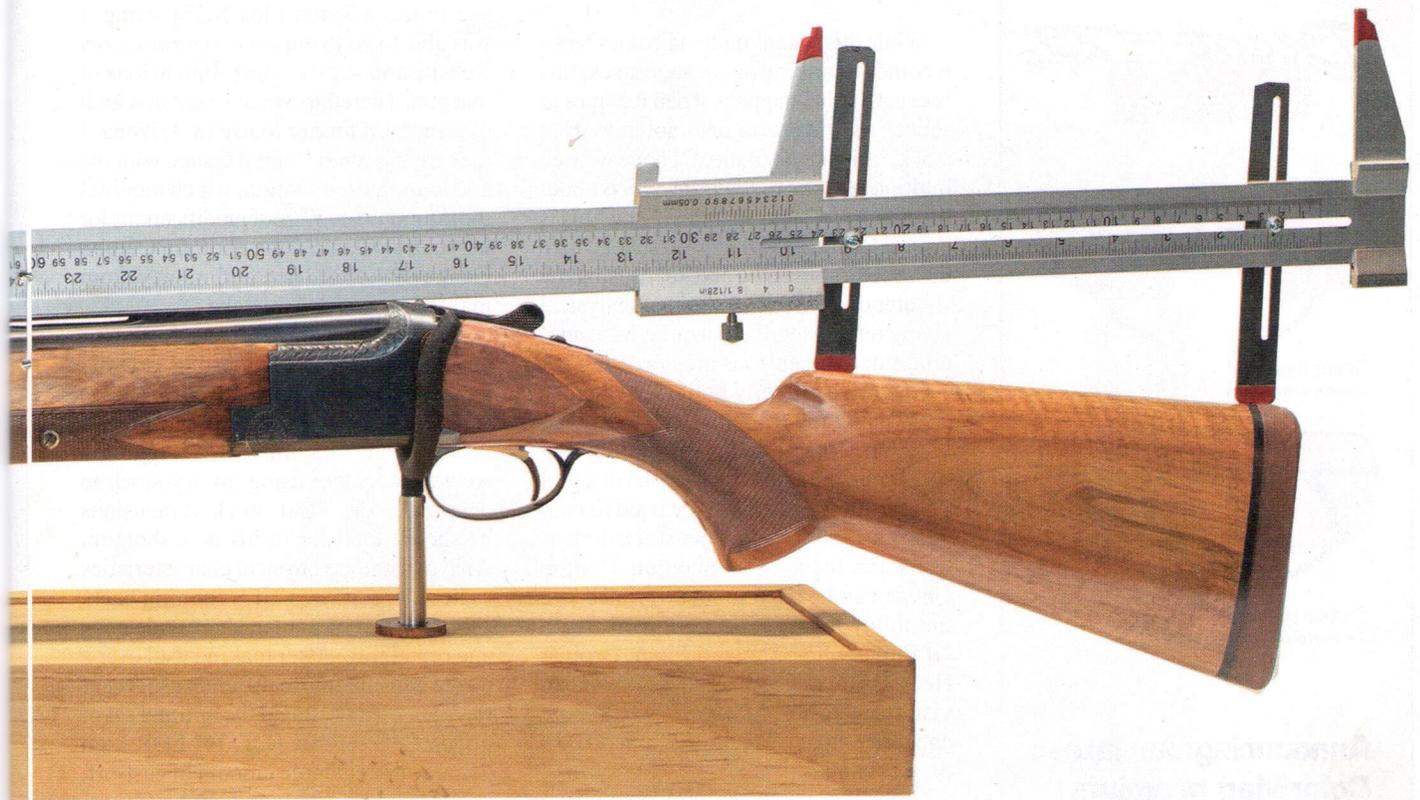




Robert Louis Company's

# Shotgun Combo Gauge



## by Mark H. Taylor

recently went to a sporting goods store to purchase some shoes. I found the style I liked and asked if they had them in size 9½. They did. I purchased them, and they fit quite well. But what if I did not know what size shoe fit me? I would have asked the salesperson to bring out any size shoe. At which point, I would have said, "That one is too big, please bring me a smaller size." Then when he brought out a smaller size, I would have said, "That one is too small, please bring me a bigger size." And so on and so on.

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## Equipment Review

While this sounds quite ridiculous when it comes to talking about shoe sizes, this is exactly what happens when it comes to shooters knowing (or not knowing) what stock dimensions fit them. I have written multiple articles in *Shotgun Sports* about the importance of gun fit, and how this is critical to getting a shotgun to shoot where the shooter is looking and not causing the shooter discomfort. A shooter's physical characteristics will determine what specific stock dimensions are needed to get a shotgun to properly fit them.

By using the Robert Louis Company Shotgun Combo Gauge, a shooter can determine the stock dimensions of a gun that fits them. It can also be used to help others ascertain the proper stock dimensions for them. The Shotgun Combo Gauge can be used to identify/measure the following five dimensions: Length Of Pull (LOP), Angle of Pitch, Drop at Heel, Drop at Comb and Cast. You can visit the website at [RobertLouisCo.com](http://RobertLouisCo.com) and the company's tagline is "If it doesn't fit, you can't hit."

Here are some situations where I have utilized the Shotgun Combo Gauge:

Just recently Akkar came up with the Callahan Pump 12-Gauge shotgun. The Akkar USA Callahan Pump shotgun is a tribute to the legendary Coloradan shooter, Dan Callahan, celebrating his remarkable achievements as a four-time NSCA National Pump Champion. As a long-time friend of Dan Callahan who wants to start competing in the pump division at NSCA events, I recently purchased the Callahan 12 Pump shotgun. Since I know what stock dimensions I need to achieve proper gun fit, the first thing I did upon receipt of the Callahan 12 Pump shotgun was measure all five attributes. What I realized was that the LOP was 1/2" too long (it was 15" and I need 14 1/2"), and the pitch was too shallow (it was 4 degrees and I need 5 degrees). So, I took the Callahan 12 Pump shotgun to my stocksmith and asked him to make those two changes. The cost for these changes was minimal compared to what I would have been charged for a full stock-fitting appointment had I not had the Shotgun Combo Gauge.

As a snowbird, I spend the winter living in Arizona. This winter my daughter came down to stay with me for a little while. She wanted to shoot with me while she was in Arizona, but she did not bring her gun with her. I convinced myself this would not be the last time she would come down to Arizona and want to shoot, so I

decided I would purchase a shotgun and keep it in Arizona for her to use. Since she shoots a Syren Elos N2 Sporting, I was able to go to the [www.syrenusa.com](http://www.syrenusa.com) website and see the stock dimensions of that gun. Therefore, when I went in search of a shotgun for her to use in Arizona, I took my Shotgun Combo Gauge with me and found a used shotgun which required the minimum number of modifications for her to use. As such, the Shotgun Combo Gauge saved me time and money from making a purchase mistake.

A shooting friend of mine named Alan got hooked on shooting sporting clays but has been renting a shotgun from the range for the last six months. Before he invests in a new gun for himself, I suggested we work together using my try-stock to determine the ideal stock dimensions he should look for in his new shotgun. Alan has unique physical characteristics as he is built like an NFL running back: short, stocky, muscular, short wide neck and round face. After making well over a dozen adjustments to different aspects of the try-stock, we found the optimal set of dimensions for him (e.g., 14" LOP, high degree of pitch, large amount of cast-off, etc.). Using the Shotgun Combo Gauge, I was able to accurately measure all five of the key stock dimensions. Of the three shotguns he was most interested in purchasing, we identified which one had stock dimensions closest to what he needed. He ended up purchasing that model and then taking this new shotgun to a stocksmith (along with the dimensions we captured) to get his new gun to fit him perfectly.

As I talked about the Shotgun Combo Gauge with my shooting friends, a lot of them asked, "Why would I need that — isn't that just for gunsmiths and stocksmiths?" The answer to that question is *no!!!* I have very rarely ever met an avid clay target shooter who has only one shotgun in their safe, is using the same shotgun today that they started shooting clay targets with years prior or uses the exact same shotgun for trap, skeet and sporting clays. However, should a shooter opt to use one shotgun for multiple disciplines and want to make changes as they change games (e.g., change the comb height as they transition from skeet to trap), they can do this easily and ensure 100% accuracy by writing down the measurements obtained from the Shotgun Combo Gauge.

And, I know many shooters who change the LOP on their shotgun as they switch from their summer shooting attire to their winter shooting attire and vice-versa. Using a tape measure for

*(Continued on page 14)*

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determining stock dimensions paves the road to despair, as even an error as small as 1/4" can make all the difference between perfect and okay.

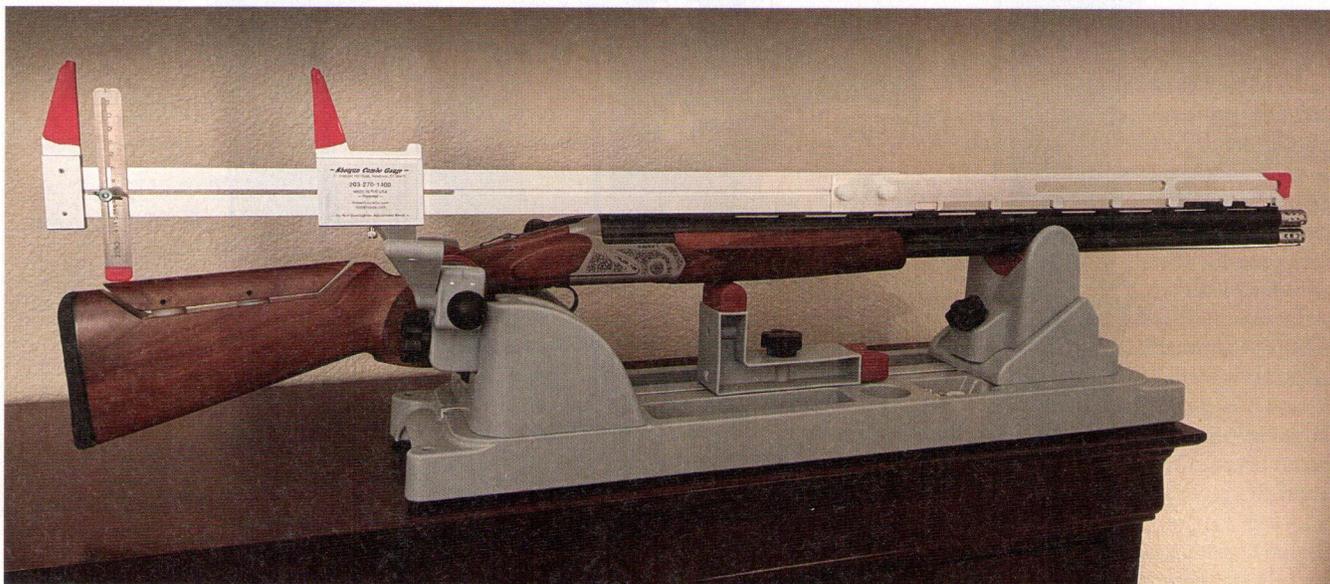
As such, it behooves all shooters who are serious about achieving success in

the clay target sports to invest the time to learn what stock dimensions allow them to do this. **SS**

*Editor's note:* See the Robert Louis Company ad on this page for more information or visit [www.RobertLouisCo.com](http://www.RobertLouisCo.com)

Mark H. Taylor has over 40 years of shooting experience. He has won many regional, state, national and international clay

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