



Great gun, budget price

Rob Speed is pleasantly surprised by the FAIR Jubilee shotgun, where quality is affordable without breaking the bank



Let's face it, shooting isn't exactly a cheap hobby. But of course we love it so we are willing to spend our hard-earned money to get out with our gun. Many people don't want to spend thousands of pounds on a shotgun because they might only be using it very occasionally or have other financial commitments that take precedence.

I am aware that many of my previous reviews have looked at high-price guns that many readers may have very little interest

in. For this review I will be looking at a brand of shotgun that many of you may not have heard of before but I nevertheless consider an excellent choice for a budget gun – Fabbrica Armi Isidoro Rizzini, commonly known as FAIR.

Italian company FAIR, were established in 1971 and specialise in manufacturing functional and reliable sporting and field shotguns. All the company's guns incorporate the latest mechanical and technical innovations, while remaining

mindful and committed to the centuries-old traditions rooted in the business.

FAIR Jubilee

The first point I want to mention about the range of Jubilee shotguns is that they are available in .410, 28-, 16-, 20- and 12-gauge. This is very appealing to a shooter like me because I am very fond of a sub gauge and it is very unusual for a shotgun model to be available in so many calibres. This is particularly so for 16-gauge as there are very few options to purchase a new gun in this extremely effective and underrated calibre.

On my first glance at the FAIR Jubilee, as I opened the hard case, I thought it looked very similar to the old Beretta 687. My eyes were immediately drawn to the protruding profile of the action and the attractive combination of the game scene and scroll engraving. I have always been fond of the old Beretta 687 engraving and the Jubilee's is not too dissimilar.

The next thing I noticed was the Prince of Wales grip, which is very fitting given this gun is designed as a traditional game gun and will sit very comfortably over the shooter's arm as they walk around on a rough shoot or wait for birds to be presented on a driven day. The owl-beak forend is also aesthetically pleasing.

The walnut stock is of a fairly basic grade but this is to be expected given the price of the gun. Features such as the pierced top lever and wooden butt plate with fine-pitch chequering are nice finishing touches. So my first impression from glancing over this FAIR Jubilee is that I quite like it.

As to be expected from any modern shotgun, the Jubilee's barrels are high-performance steel-shot proofed. It has 3" chambers, which will give the shooter more choice in what cartridges they want to use. The Jubilee is also multi-choked and provided with five chokes ranging from skeet to full – a great selection to satisfy everyone's preference.

After assembling the gun I looked it over as a whole, and without meaning any disrespect to FAIR, I was pleasantly surprised. The most important thing to consider when comparing guns is to do so only within the same price bracket. This FAIR Jubilee does look well built, aesthetically pleasing and a lot of gun for the money. This model costs around £1700, which is a very similar price to a base model Beretta or Browning.

These brands are prime examples because »

they are renowned in the industry and popular among shooters. Many shooters rely on recommendations from others who have experience with specific brands, which greatly influences their choices. Typically this leads to the purchase of well-known and popular shotguns such as those from Beretta and Browning.

However, not everyone feels it necessary to purchase a mainstream brand. I believe that if a shotgun doesn't meet high standards it wouldn't be on the market. With a myriad of options, purchasing decisions boil down to personal preference. There's certainly no reason to believe that the FAIR Jubilee isn't as competent as the more established names, as I discovered when I tested its performance in the field.

In the field

This FAIR Jubilee is designed to be used as a field gun, so it only seemed fitting to take it along for an outing in the hide on a trip to clear up some corvids on a local farm. I am used to shooting a shotgun that is a lot heavier than this, so the Jubilee did feel very light in my hands. But a lot of people who want a shotgun for days out in the field don't want anything heavy.

At 7lb 9oz the Jubilee is a very similar weight to most other field shotguns on the market. This 30" model is extremely front heavy, which might not be to everyone's liking, but for someone like me who is used to shooting a heavier gun with 32" barrels, it is easier to control.



No complaints whatsoever regarding the fit and finish



The wood may be underwhelming but the engraving was impressive for the money

I added a rubber comb raiser to increase the height of the stock because it is very slim, which again is very typical of a field gun. The other change I made was to swap the chokes to 1/2 and 3/4, because I'm not familiar with this choking system and wanted the best chance of dispatching the corvids humanely with a dense pattern.

As the first crow glided across the decoys, I missed with the first shot but then dispatched the bird with a spectacular second barrel. A great start. The Jubilee had very little muzzle flip, which isn't surprising given how front-heavy it is. The felt recoil in my shoulder was heavier than I am used to with a No.6, 30g fibre cartridge, but I am used to a sporting shotgun that is designed to be heavy and soak up recoil. Having said this the recoil wasn't unpleasant and I continued to shoot a few more crows with great success.

The Jubilee was effortless to mount and swing over the hide netting, compared with my sporting gun. So I can see this gun being not only a popular choice for days out game shooting, but for pest control too. The trigger pulls were absolutely fine and I really liked the narrow game rib as I could retain a good focus on the target.

The Jubilee's Prince of Wales grip was the only thing I wasn't too fond of. Having small hands meant I struggled to reach the trigger due to the elongated style of this grip. I am sure many game shooters will love it, though, as it is very slim and comfortable when broken over your arm. On this note, the Jubilee may well suit a side-by-side shooter who is looking to change to a modern-proofed over-and-under. The Prince of Wales grip will feel very similar to a side-by-side straight hand grip.

Conclusion

The FAIR Jubilee was great fun to shoot and I enjoyed my time out crow shooting with it. The gun performed faultlessly and I believe that anyone who purchases one for game shooting or pest control will enjoy shooting it and make some great memories. I expected the gun to have more recoil than it did due to its light weight and I would have happily used a heavier game load.

The Jubilee's handling was great and I felt I was in control of the gun's movement at all times. Due to it being front heavy on this 30" model, it handled smoothly, which aided me in shooting longer targets consistently.

Although a shotgun brand I had heard very little about until recently, FAIR will certainly be on my list of recommendations for anyone looking for a modern-proofed game gun and doesn't want to follow the crowds towards better-known brands. ■

Tech specs

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| Make | FAIR |
| Model | Jubilee |
| Calibre | 12-gauge |
| Mechanism | Over-and-under |
| Orientation | Right handed |
| Barrel length | 30" |
| Stock length | 14½" |
| Weight | 7lb 9oz |
| Chamber | 3" |
| Chokes | Multi |
| Steel proofed | Yes |
| Warranty | Two-year warranty |
| More information | Artemis Outdoors UK |
| Telephone | 01579 362319 |
| Price | £1710.00 |