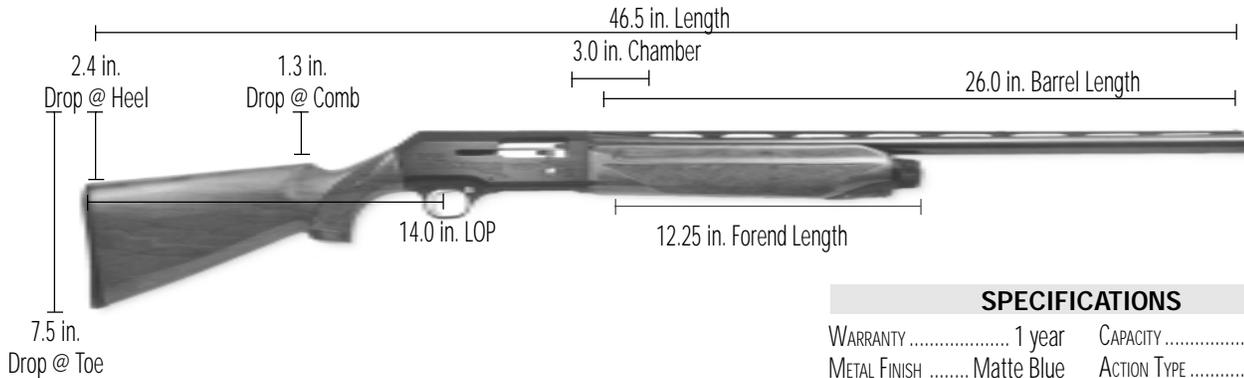


BERETTA AL390 SILVER MALLARD 20 GAUGE

Price.....\$885



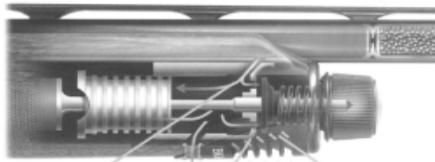
Our recommendation: Buy it. The adjustable stock can be the difference maker if your physical dimensions aren't "average."

SPECIFICATIONS

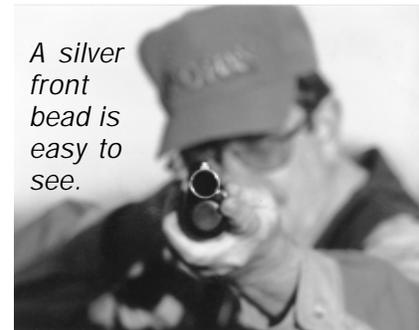
WARRANTY	1 year	CAPACITY	3
METAL FINISH	Matte Blue	ACTION TYPE	Semiauto
STOCK	WALNUT	TRIGGER PULL	4.25 lbs.
WOOD FINISH	Glossy	IC CHOKE EFFICIENCY	67%
RECEIVER MATERIAL ..	Aluminum	M CHOKE EFFICIENCY	70%
WEIGHT	6.4 lbs.	F CHOKE EFFICIENCY	61%



The AL390 had a black-anodized aluminum-alloy receiver. The trigger broke between 4 to 4.25 pounds.



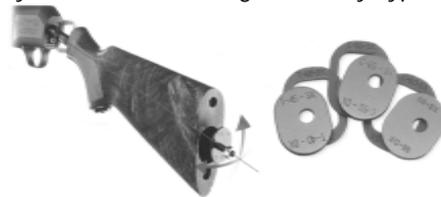
The AL390's gas system adjusts to the load. Heavier charges vent more gas, reducing recoil somewhat.



A silver front bead is easy to see.



When we first began shooting the AL390 as it came out of the box, we were bothered by its stiff recoil. Then we changed the drop and cast of the buttstock using enclosed parts and solved the recoil problem. Once the gun is set up properly, it works nicely indeed for a range of body types.



This test gun came with 3-inch chambers to handle a wide range of 2.75-inch to 3-inch loads. We tested one 3-inch magnum steel load, one 2.75-inch high-brass steel load, and one 2.75-inch target lead load. On the patterning board, the Gold's Modified choke shot Winchester's 3-inch steel shot No. 2s the best, placing 73 percent of the shot inside a 30-inch circle at 40 yards. The IC choke put 63 percent of the steel

shot inside the circle at that distance. The literature with the gun said the barrel had been back-bored, and perhaps this helped tame its recoil. The thinking behind back-boring is simple: To open the barrel diameter as much as possible to allow the shot wad free passage until it reaches the choke. This supposedly reduces pressures at ignition and promotes a smoother, more comfortable recoil curve. We

found the Winchester magnum load wasn't pleasant to shoot in the Browning, but it didn't make the gun slap the shooter's face either. We didn't notice the recoil when cupped-wing teal were falling into our spread.

In the field and on the range, we thought the Hunter's 5.5-pound trigger pull was too heavy, though it was crisp and consistent. The safety, located behind the trigger, is a large