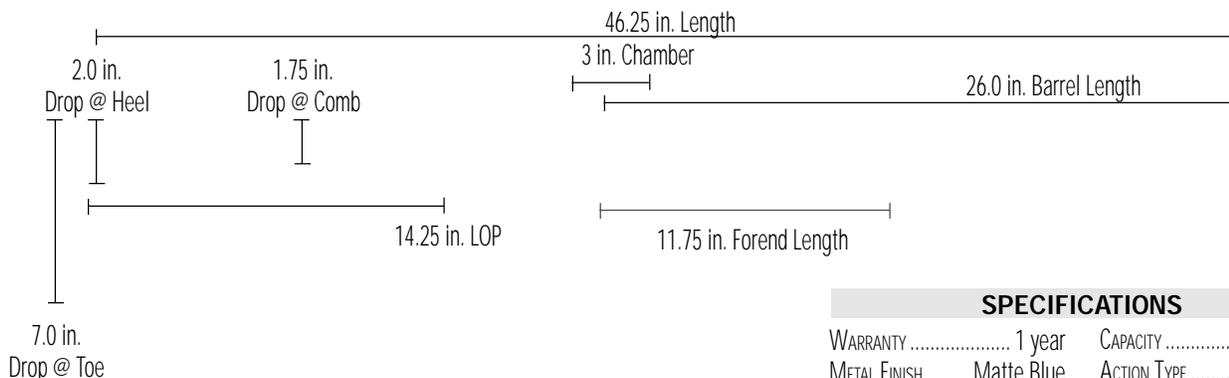


BROWNING GOLD HUNTER 20 GAUGE

Price....\$735



Our recommendation: Buy it. This is a fast-handling, reliable autoloader.

SPECIFICATIONS

| | | | |
|-------------------------|------------|---------------------------|----------|
| WARRANTY | 1 year | CAPACITY | 3 |
| METAL FINISH | Matte Blue | ACTION TYPE | Semiauto |
| STOCK | WALNUT | TRIGGER PULL | 5.5 lbs. |
| WOOD FINISH | Glossy | IC CHOKE EFFICIENCY | 46% |
| RECEIVER MATERIAL | Steel | M CHOKE EFFICIENCY | 73% |
| WEIGHT | 6.75 lbs. | F CHOKE EFFICIENCY | 69% |



Above and right: The Browning had a 14.25-inch length of pull with a 1-inch field pad. Our test gun had no cast. It came to the shooter's face smoothly.



Left: The Browning's big, triangular safety was easy to operate, we found.



Left: Shiny guns sell well, but they can alert gamebirds to a hunter's location. We wish the Hunter came in a matte-finish package.

pull with a 1-inch field pad that offered relief when testing 3-inch magnum loads. Our test gun had no cast, which makes it handle neutrally for left- or right-handed shooters, but it might be worth putting cast on the stock for some hunters. The stock had 1.75-inch worth of drop at the comb and 2 inches of drop at the heel. (We look forward to testing the company's Gold Classic line, which has adjustable stock settings like the Beretta. Wonder

where they came up with the idea?) We thought mounting the Browning was smooth and easy. The slight amount of pitch fit our shooters' shoulders well, and we were able to make the stock come easily to the face without the muzzle dipping. The rounded top of the rubber buttplate slipped from underneath the shooter's arm cleanly. With a little practice, we were able to see just the top of the rib, which thanks to its grooved top surface,

offered a flat-black sight picture below the white front bead.

In our opinion, the stock's high-gloss finish was too shiny. We would have preferred a satin finish on the stock and barrels, but well we know that dull guns don't sell. Nonetheless, the finish showed off the stock's nicely figured walnut. Cut checkering graced the pistol grip and forend. The barrel was blued steel with a black-anodized aluminum receiver.