

# MOSSBERG 590

SMALL ARMS REVIEW TEAM

## PUMP ACTION SHOTGUN (12 GAUGE)



The Mossberg Model 590 (c. 1987) is a variant of the Model 500 (c. 1961) which have an excellent reputation for reliability and durability.

Pump action shotguns are the most versatile long guns for defensive use due to the wide range of ammunition they can use, including buckshot, slugs, and less lethal rounds that use low velocity bean bags, rubber bullets or pellets.

The sound that loading a pump action shotgun makes is also intimidating and can cause offenders to flee or surrender.

If a round does not go off (due to a defective primer) you can instantly load the next round by pumping the slide, whereas manually reloading a semi-auto takes much longer.

The best 12 gauge rounds for defensive use are the reduced recoil '00' buckshot loads (full power loads have punishing recoil). Less-lethal bean bag rounds (typically small lead pellets in a fabric carrier) will not penetrate an internal sheetrock wall. Bean bag rounds should normally be aimed at the gut area to wind an offender except when lethal force is justified and it is appropriate to shoot an offender in the head or throat. If you use less-lethal bean bag

rounds don't mix them with conventional loads as you could mistake one for the other in an emergency.

The SBS (short barrel shotgun) variant uses a 14" barrel while the pistol type Shockwave variant uses a 14.375" barrel. The 590 Shockwave can be fitted with any 500/590 buttstock to convert it into an SBS.

The five round magazine can be left fully loaded as the magazine spring is designed for this level of stress. Magazine extensions are also available if you want to increase the magazine capacity. If you use your shotgun on a regular basis for training or sporting use replace the magazine spring every five years as magazine

springs can suffer metal fatigue from the many compression cycles involved in loading/unloading the magazine.

It can be readily fitted with a folding stock like those made by Choate Machine & Tool, albeit at the cost of making it much slower to activate the safety catch on the top rear of the receiver as the pistol grip moves the firing hand away from the safety. Choate also make a polymer forend for the 590 with a short Picatinny rail to attach a white light like the SureFire G2 (via an adaptor like the GG&G G2 Ring) or Streamlight TLR-1.

Mossberg also produce a .410 bore version of the 590 SBS and 590 Shockwave for recoil sensitive shooters.

### SUMMARY

A versatile magazine fed long gun that can use both lethal and less-lethal rounds.

### ACCESSORIES

#### Log Book

Firearm Usage & Maintenance Log Book. [Blackheart International]

#### Cleaning Kit

Legend Cleaning Kit (HPULSG) [Hoppe's]

#### Dry Fire Rounds

A-Zoom Snap Caps. [Lyman Products Corp.]

#### Ear Plugs

EarPro EP3 or EP4. [SureFire]

#### High Visibility Sights

Rifle/Shotgun Set—Rem. [TruGlo]

#### Buttstock Ammo Holder

Deluxe Buttstock Shell Holder & Accessory Pouch. [Allen Company]

#### Tactical Light

TLR-1 Gun Light. [Streamlight]

### HOT TIP

Work the pump vigorously to prevent 'short stroking' and ensure reliable functioning.

