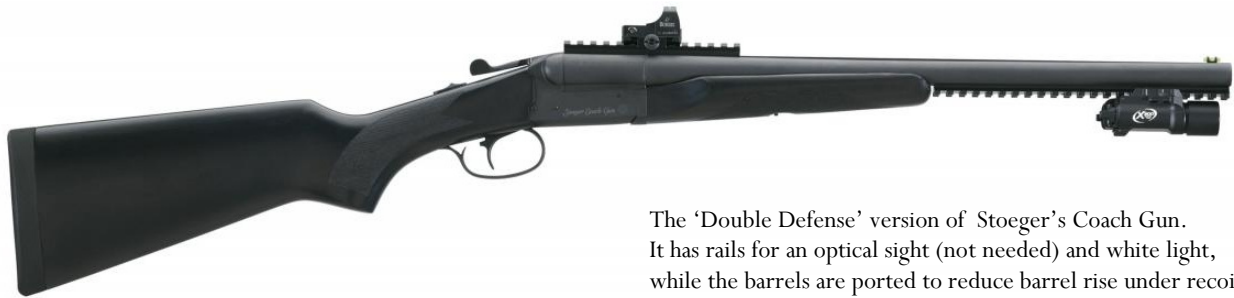


STOEGER COACH GUN

SMALL ARMS REVIEW TEAM

DOUBLE-BARREL SIDE-BY-SIDE SHOTGUN (12 GAUGE)



The 'Double Defense' version of Stoeger's Coach Gun. It has rails for an optical sight (not needed) and white light, while the barrels are ported to reduce barrel rise under recoil.

Double-barrel shotguns have been used for sporting and defensive use for centuries, with the Stoeger Coach Gun side-by-side shotgun (made by Boito) being of the modern type. Older shotguns have external hammers that must be manually cocked before the gun can fire, which is dangerously slow, while they are prone to catching on things, whereas the Stoeger has internal hammers that are cocked when the action is opened, which is far better suited to defensive use.

The Double Defense version is only available with a single trigger as double triggers are primarily for sporting use so you can select the barrel you want to fire, as one might be loaded with fine birdshot and the other with buckshot suited to larger animals, and consequently often have different chokes, but for defensive use a single trigger is best for the sake of simplicity.

Some people like the idea of using a less-lethal bean bag round in one barrel and a lethal buckshot round in the other barrel for defensive use so prefer a double trigger, but this is a recipe for disaster as it is very easy to forget which barrel has the lethal round in

it, while if you maim or kill someone with the buckshot round you will invariably be accused of mistaking this for the less lethal round, which can result in you being charged with negligent homicide or manslaughter, and sued.

Another problem with double triggers is that you can accidentally fire the second round by pulling through the first trigger and pulling the second trigger. Thus it is best to stick to one load and a single trigger for defensive use.

Breech loading shotguns can use a greater range of rounds than magazine fed single barrel shotguns (notably short 1-3/4" rounds), while two barrels are more intimidating than a single barrel.

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 lethal loads as you could mistake one for the other in an emergency.

It is best fitted with a light for use in low light situations (always identify targets).

SUMMARY

The most reliable type of multi-round shotgun due to its simplicity and the most intimidating due to having two large caliber barrels.

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]

Buttstock Ammo Holder

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

Tactical Light

TLR-1 Gun Light.
[Streamlight]

HOT TIP

Fit an elastic ammo carrier to the buttstock to facilitate quick reloads.

