

TIGHTENING CHOKES

Dear Technoid,

I understand and agree with you about the use of extended chokes (not needed) but I have them and have a question about two major makers of them. I own Briley extended chokes and find that they need to be tightened with a tool and not just by hand or they will become loose after a few shots. Seminole Chokes advertise "only hand tightening required" and are not made with slots for a hand tool. How is this possible? In comparison the threading of the two chokes look the same.

Thanks for your response. - F.B.

Dear F.B.,

Seminole and Briley have the same threading system when they are sold as "drop in" chokes for the same brand of gun. Gotta be. The fact that the Briley's come loose in your gun if not tightened in hard is probably more due to production variances (the barrel or choke threading) than it is due to design. The next set may stay in just fine when hand tightened.

Why Seminole says that hand tightening theirs is OK, whereas everyone else gives you a wrench is probably just a bad marketing idea. From a safety point of view, I don't think that it matters much as the things take so many turns to install that they are NEVER going to shoot out. Still and all, it isn't good to have them start to loosen up as you could possibly get a residue build up under the rear lip which might eventually cause problems. The original Perazzi MT-6 chokes fit poorly at the rear and were often shot out, much to the surprise of the shooter and his checkbook. Perazzi has since changed their style of choke.

Teague chokes (from England) are not cut with wrench notches, but he does supply a cone shaped aluminum wrench. It works quite well by friction alone, without teeth to grab notches.

I much prefer using a wrench because it saves times and getting finger cramps if you change chokes a lot. Some of those guns has an entire ton of threads. I consider the lack of "wrenchability" to be a major defect in the Seminoles. Seminoles will accept the expanding rubber collet style wrench (I forget the name. I gave mine away as they were such a pain to use). The Royal wrench is my favorite by far. It works like an old soda pop bottle stopper. You push in a rubber coated part, bend the top over which expands the rubber coated part, and then start to turn. It is quite fast and a bit more positive than Briley's fishing reel handle type device. The Royal wrench has the standard teeth and will not work on Seminoles.

If I am shooting a bunch with the same flush chokes in place I check the tightness often by giving them a little turn with the rim of a shell in the notches. Extended chokes are easier to check with the fingers.

By the way, if your chokes are not a perfect fit and seem to loosen up, try painting the threads with a dab or two of clear nail polish. Let it dry BEFORE you install the chokes so that they

won't get painted in. The nail polish will give you just a bit of extra friction and the chokes will not loosen up. The nail polish lasts quite a long time too. I use this same trick to tighten up skeet gauge tubes that have become worn.

Regards,
Bruce Buck
Shotgun Report's Technoid