

BELGIAN BROWNING CHOKE DESIGNATIONS

Hi there,

I have a 1957 Belgian Browning 12 ga O/U and I am trying to find out the choke restriction. The barrel has *** and I am not sure what that means i.e. modified, IC or other.

Thanks

Thomas

Dear Thomas,

Ned Schwing's book, "The Browning Superposed", Krause, 1996, is pretty much acknowledged as the bible for the Superposed. He lists the Browning choke symbols as:

- * Full
- *- Improved Modified
- ** Modified
- **_ Improved Cylinder
- **\$ Skeet
- *** Cylinder Bore

That said, on any old gun that might have passed through several hands, it always pays to mike the chokes to know what you really have. Old guns have a way of having the chokes altered. Also the numbers that constitute a named choke vary from manufacturer to manufacturer. One maker's "Skeet" choke is another's "Cylinder Bore" or "Improved Cylinder".

On some of the Superposeds I've owned, 12 gauge Modified has been around .018" and IC around .011". Variances a few thou either way are common. Cylinder is usually .000" and Full in 12 has been around .035". I don't remember what I miked the skeet chokes at, but probably something around .003" to .005" Again, this is on a relatively small sample of a dozen or so 12 ga Supers that I've miked.

As a total aside, the Schwing Browning book has become something of a rarity now that it is out of print. If you can find one, snap it up.

Best regards,

Bruce Buck
Shotgun Report's Technoid