

## ADJUSTABLE COMB ON A SPORTER

Hi Bruce,

I have a Beretta 682 Gold E that's set up with a LH sporting stock. For medical reasons that I need not go into, I'm planning on switch over to a RH Beretta buttstock with an adjustable comb (the Skeet model). Are there any technical or rules reasons why this may be ill-advised? I plan to have a gunsmith do any necessary fitting and have a good one nearby.

I know about stock bending, but my understanding is that one can't practically bend a righty stock into a lefty. I realize it will cost some coin, but I'm OK with that. I'd rather have something that's right than mickey mouse.

Thoughts? Issues I'm not considering? Any rules issues with using an adjustable stock in Sporting / FITASC? I couldn't find a rule barring adjustable combs in NSCA rules. Not so sure about FITASC.

BTW, I love your articles on the SG Report. Thanks for the dose of well-needed reality. Thanks in advance,

Eric

Dear Eric,

Like you, my reading of FITASC/NSCA rules shows no prohibition of an adjustable stock. I can't think of any reason why it would be banned either.

I'm certainly not a stock maker by any stretch of the imagination. It's all I can do to screw on an unfitted recoil pad. That said, I've seen some surprising stock bends. The surprise has come both from how little a certain stock has moved to how much another one can be bent. Each piece of wood seems to have a mind of its own. If your guy says he can't move your particular lefty stock to the right, then so be it. Sometimes it's worth a try though. I've seen plenty of stocks bent sideways quite a bit. If they go one way, they might be able to go another. Compared to the cost of a new stock, bending is often worth the experiment (unless you have a ready buyer for the existing stock as it is).

Rich Cole at [www.colegun.com](http://www.colegun.com) knows as much about Beretta wood as anyone. You ought to give him a call to get a second opinion, just for peace of mind if nothing else.

I've used, but have never owned, adjustable comb guns. In the past it always seemed to me that you just got the stock to fit by sanding/bending and then left it alone. I left the adjustable combs to the trap shooters. More recently I've felt the urge to tinker with fit and was sort of thinking of trying one myself. A shooting slump will do that to you. I do notice that not very many (any?) of the top sporting/FITASC guys use them.

Also be aware that the comb adjustment mechanism may add some weight to the butt of the gun and take that into account in your gun's balance. Find out what the added metal will weigh. Adjustable butt plates can be really heavy too.

One final caveat: Anything that can adjust can also un-adjust, and always at the worst possible moment. I've seen some adjustable stocks that locate pillar height with only a simple grub screw. I'd want a little more insurance than that.

Best regards,

Bruce Buck  
Shotgun Report's Technoid