

Beretta/Benelli (Beretta Group)

Beretta's key autoloading shotgun products are the AL390, AL391 Urika, ES100 Pintail and the new A391 Xtrema. At this writing, the **AL390** is being sold exclusively to Wal-Mart. Since its introduction two years ago, the 2 ¾" and 3" chambered **AL391 Urika** has gained significant favor in the auto shotgun market. It features 12 and 20 gauge self-compensating gas-operated actions, select walnut wood/synthetic stock and fore-end, and is available in field and competition versions spanning 37 SKUs.

The **A391 Xtrema** is a 12 gauge 2 ¾", 3" and 3 ½" capable gas-operated autoloading shotgun that is available in wood and synthetic versions. The 2002 introduction of the Xtrema has been too recent to draw any conclusions about its market acceptance. However, according to sales trends across the industry, the 12 gauge 3 ½" shotgun market has experienced a significant downturn over the past two years causing most shotgun manufacturers with 3 ½" guns to offer promotions of various kinds to move product. Beretta's introduction of a 3 ½" capable autoloader at this time is a curious strategic move.

The **ES100 Pintail** is an inertia-operated 12 gauge gun and like the Urika is chambered for 2 ¾" and 3" shells. The Pintail was once the flagship of the Beretta auto shotgun line, but is now only available in synthetic stock and fore-end versions covering six SKUs.

Benelli's main autoloading shotguns are the Super Black Eagle (SBE), M1 series and Montefeltro. The **SBE** is Benelli's premier autoloader, and is a 12 gauge only, 3 ½" capable inertia-operated gun that comes in wood and synthetic versions. The **M1** is also 3 ½" chambered and comes in 12 or 20 gauge field. The M1 comes in field versions, but is also the basis for Benelli's LE tactical shotgun platforms. The **Montefeltro** is a 3" chambered gun that only comes in 12 gauge, wood and blued metal offerings. All Benelli shotguns are based on an extremely simple inertia-operated action that is renowned for its reliability and durability.

Browning/USRAC

The **Gold** is the only autoloading shotgun design that Browning offers. There are several versions but all have the same gas-operated action, "speed loading" feature and magazine cut-off. Available in wood or synthetic, field or competition grade, the Gold comes in 12 or 20 gauge. Browning has separated this gun into 3" and 3 ½" models and has made some differentiation with a "Classic" that sports a semi-humpback receiver and a stock with a much straighter comb.

Since **USRAC (Winchester)** discontinued the Model 1400 nearly 10 years ago, it had no autoloading shotgun until the introduction of the **Super X2**. This gun is essentially a clone of the Browning Gold without the "speed loading" feature. The SX2 comes in wood and synthetic versions and will cycle 2 ¾" and 3" 12 gauge loads.