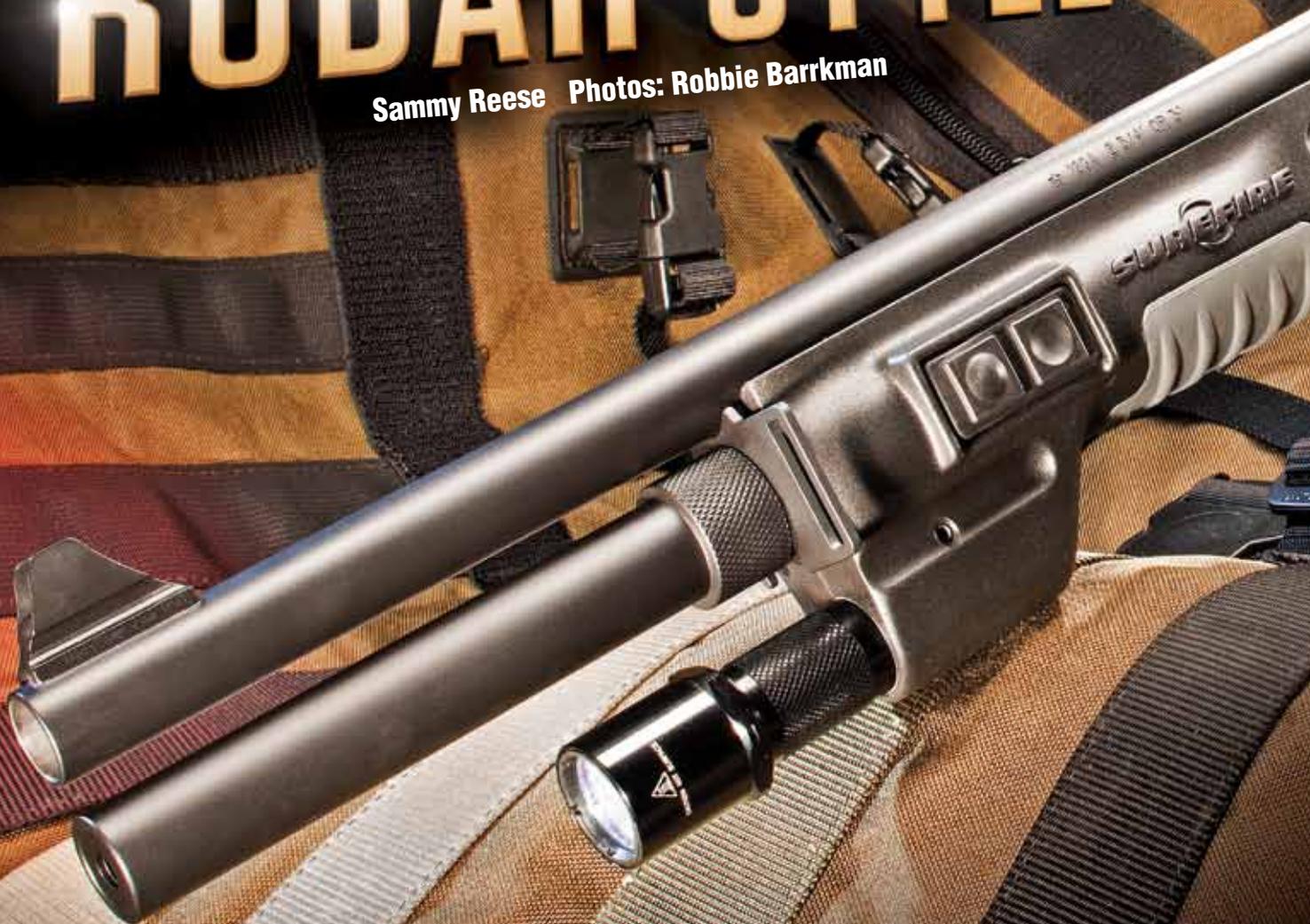


HOME DEFENSE SHOTGUN ROBAR STYLE

Sammy Reese Photos: Robbie Barrkman





My 8-year-old son Mason sat patiently on the stool as I unloaded guns from the safe; he asked, “Dad, how come you don’t have a police shotgun anymore?” My first thought was, I’m retired now, and my very next thought was, why don’t I ... I need one. I’m not sure how it slipped through the cracks that I didn’t have a Remington 870 in the collection anymore. It might have to do with having my shoulder fixed up by the orthopedic surgeon a few years ago — lets just say I don’t ever want to go through that again.

Over the next few days I had this feeling something was missing from my life — it was a home-defense shotgun. Sure I could have gotten away with box stock 870, but what would be the fun in that? I put in a call to Rob-

bie Barrkman to ask what he thought I should do — buy one already done up the way I wanted it, or build it on my own? Robbie being Robbie said, “Why would you build it when I have the best gunsmiths in the world work-

ing for me?” He did have a point. I’m a parts installing hacker at best and he is Robbie Barrkman. I also learned, while talking to Robbie, that he built the first “tactical” shotgun for Col. Cooper when he was working as the

HOME DEFENSE SHOTGUN PARTS LIST

VANG COMP:

VCS Stainless Magazine Follower
Vang Comp Front Sight For Ghost
Ring (With XS Sights Insert)
Vang Comp Optical Rail With
Integral Vang Rear Ghost Ring Sight
Vang Comp Safety Button

SURFIRE:

SureFire 618LFG WeaponLight

SPEC-OPS:

Patrol Sling

BROWNELLS:

Pachmayr Decel Pad
TacStar SideSaddle

TIMNEY:

870 Trigger

ROBAR:

Robar Custom Magazine Tube
Extension (6-round Total)
NP3 Metal Finish Bolt And Internals
Matte Roguard Metal Finish
Complete Shotgun

FOR MORE INFO:

www.vangcomp.com,
www.surefire.com,
www.specopsbrand.com,
www.brownells.com,
www.timney.com,
www.robarguns.com,
www.xssights.com

on-site gunsmith at Gunsite. Please don't get wrapped around the axel with the word "tactical"; it has been beaten to death by the gun/shooting industry. Just because its painted black, OD or coyote brown, doesn't make an object tactical. I prefer to look at the tactic part of the word. For example, I had to use the appropriate tactics when I explained to my wife the shotgun project was only about work. She threw the BS flag, but I had

to try. Better work on my tactics for explaining to her the next project.

Back to the important stuff — building my home-defense shotgun. Robbie and I both agreed the 870 was the best platform to build on. I know there are other shotguns out there, but I've spent so much time with the 870, it didn't make sense to go outside the box on this one.

I wanted to keep the gun as simple as possible. No sense in hanging all

kinds of stuff on the gun I didn't need. The shotgun needed good sights, a white light for identifying friend or foe, a place to keep some extra ammo and a sling. Robbie suggested I let him machine a magazine extension — more ammo on board is a good thing, and I'm not planning on going for a long walk with this shotgun.

Getting Parts

My search for a good condition,



used 870 came up empty so we had to go with a new base gun. A call to Hans Vang to inquire about purchasing some of his sights was met with, "You are going to send me the barrel to get it fixed up for you right?" I would never say no to Hans; my only request was no porting, only to do the back-boring process to improve shot groups and lessen felt recoil. I've shot guns with the porting and it does keep the muzzle from rising some, it

also puts a lot of hot gas and stuff up in front of my face. Since I don't plan on wearing eye pro when I hear a gremlin trying to break into my house at 0' dark-thirty, I thought it best to not have them.

Building It

As you can see from the photos, Robbie Barrkman and his crew really know how to build a shotgun. Starting from the front, they silver

soldered the Vang Front sight. The XS big-dot insert makes picking up the front sight almost too easy. They also seamlessly mounted the Vang Comp Optical Rail with ghost ring sight. The oversized safety button and Timny trigger were fitted and TacStar side-saddle mounted.

The butt stock was cut down 1" and a Pachmayr Decel pad was mounted and rounded off. Shortening the length-of-pull and adding the decel

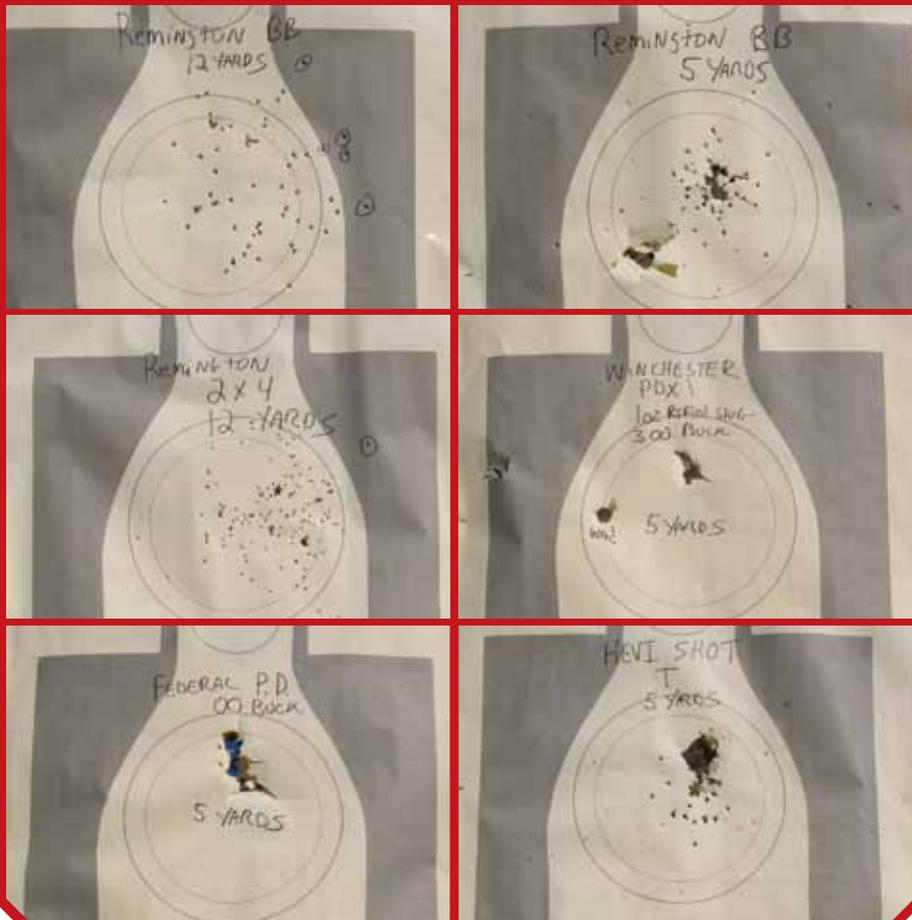


HOME/PERSONAL-DEFENSE SHOTGUN AMMO

When I set out to build a home-defense shotgun, I started to think seriously about what type of ammo I wanted to use inside my home. I assumed I would just run 00-Buck and call it good. After all it worked when I was cop. Since I had no intention of traveling outside my house with it, the thought of just one .33 cal ball tearing through the sheetrock of my house was unacceptable so I gathered up a small sample of the latest Home/Personal-Defense Shotgun ammo. Remington came in with two new offerings; 1-1/4 oz of BB shot and 1-1/4 oz of both number 2 and number 4 shot, Winchester's PDX1 is a mixture of 1 oz. rifled slug with three 00 Buck pellets, Federal's Personal Defense load is nine copper plated 00-Buck pellets incased in their Flightcontrol wad and Hevi Shot's offering is the new Maximum Defense — 1 oz of T Shot.

I measured the longest possible shot I could take inside my home and I found 12 yards was the longest and more then likely it would be from across the bedroom which measured 5 yards.

As you can see from the photos taken of each load from both 5 and 12 yards, each of these loads proved they and can stay on the torso area of the silhouette at the furthest and at the closest some make one really big hole. I would recommend you measure you homes and pick the load that works best for you and then practice, practice, practice and practice some more. 🍻



pad makes the shotgun easy to shoulder and maneuver inside the house. It also makes shooting it easier for my wife. (See this shotgun wasn't just for me.) After all she is a big part of our home-defense plan. The grip area of the stock was textured, assuring a positive grip.

The entire shotgun was finished in Matt Roguard and the internals and safety button were finished in Robar's own NP3 Finish. The Roguard protects the finish and looks great too. The NP3 not only protects the finish, but also makes the internals self lubricating. I'd try to explain how they work, but I only have so much space. To find out all the details about the Roguard and NP3, I suggest you go to the Robar website and read all about them.

When I first put hands on my shotgun I knew right away this wasn't any standard 870. The action was so smooth it took almost no effort to cycle. It shouldered like it was custom fit for me. My eye was automatically drawn to the XS front sight. The white dot with tritium insert let me know exactly where my point





of aim was. I had high expectations from the crew at Robar, but I will say they were far exceeded. The shotgun gobbled up everything from bird shot to slugs without so much as a hiccup. A few of my shooting buddies had big smiles on their faces after running through six shells as fast as they could run the gun. "That's smooth and super accurate ... I want one," was often heard.

This shotgun had to have a sling. I look at the sling as a holster for the long gun. I chose the Spec. Ops Patrol sling because it was super simple to use. I don't want to get caught up in the sling when I should be doing other things with the shotgun. The Spec. Ops sling ensures I'll be able to use my hands for other things like talking to the 911 operator or moving my kids to the safe room.

Could I have gotten away with a box stock 870 and added a SureFire light, sidesaddle and sling? You bet I could have and I plan on doing that very thing when I have some extra cash. After all one is none right! The Robar Home Defense Shotgun has everything I need to protect my family, with no unnecessary stuff cluttering up the gun — just like it's supposed to be. 🔫