

**June 2009**

*I am curious about getting an adjustable comb fitted to my Beretta 686 shotgun as I have never been really happy with either the height of the stock in relation to the barrel or how straight my eye is down the rib of the barrel. I have seen lots of different styles of adjustable combs and was wondering which is the best? I was told I need to get one that the “drop” of the comb can be altered.*

*Ken Fitzpatrick, Ascot QLD*

There is little doubt in my mind Ken that if you believe you need an adjustable comb then stay with the manufacturers brand if possible if for nothing else than for the resale price of the gun . Beretta make a great adjustable comb as it is one of the few that I have seen here in Australia that allows not only for up and down movement (height) as well as side to side movement (cast), but it also allows the comb to be adjusted in terms of the angle the comb runs at from the front of the comb to the rear (drop). This may not sound that important, but I can promise you that it will be one of the most important factors you have on your stock in relation to the performance of your shotgun at the particular discipline of clay target shooting you wish to use the gun for. Sporting or field shooters in general terms like to have about 20mm difference in their drop in the comb from front to back. This is measured simply by running a ruler along the barrel out over the stock then measuring the distance from the edge of the ruler down to the front of the stock. A typical Sporting gun may measure 40mm of drop at the front of the comb and 60mm at the back. Trap shooters have anywhere from zero “drop” from front to back which often requires the use of what is called a “Monte Carlo” stock. This is the name for a stock which has its angle of drop parallel to the barrels then a small indentation down to the pad. Trap guns may well have up to 10mm which is pretty standard in most European shotguns thus showing typical dimensions of around 35mm at the front of the comb down to 45mm at the back.

Everyone is built different and often uses a different technique therefore varying amounts of drop are required. If you don't have an adjustable comb that can change the amount of drop you may never find what is just right for you.

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