

**March 2004**

*Question: I have been searching the Internet for a new set of barrels for my Perazzi and I have found quite a few for sale in the United States. Nearly all of them have been modified 'after sale'. Is there an advantage doing this or are these modifications just a marketing tool?*

*Barry Johnston, Geelong VIC*

There are certainly becoming more and more barrel modifications available every year. Some are worthless, some are definitely an advantage. I am certainly in favour of variable chokes to any barrel that is to be used for any clay target or field use that the target will be varying in distance. For trap, skeet and sporting shooters where a quick second shot is often required I would also endorse certain types of barrel porting. Many American barrels have been over bored to their maximum width. There are some recoil and patterning advantages with this, but be warned. Make sure the after sale work has been done by a reputable gunsmith who will guarantee their work because once the barrel has been modified the manufacturer then has limited liability for their product.

*Question: Can you please explain why my skeet scores in practice are always higher than what I shoot in competition? I have been shooting for two years now, but don't seem to be improving any.*

*John Sanderson, Fremantle WA*

Shooting clay targets is by no means rocket science. Technically it is not a very hard sport, certainly compared to golf anyway. When you are shooting practice you are often relaxed and your brain is letting your natural hand to eye co-ordination shoot the targets for you. In competition you awaken what is commonly called 'the little man in your head' who constantly fools your brain by getting over technical and feeding far too much instruction. The trick is to perfect your technique in practice to the point where you can fool your brain with confidence that competition is also practice. The targets are exactly the same. I would suggest you go and buy a book called 'The inner game of golf' by Tim Galloway. The first few chapters of this book explain in laymen terms how to perfect this technique.

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