

## The Sawed-Off Shotgun

Contrary to popular myth, shortening the barrel(s) of a shotgun *doesn't* improve hit probability or damage at all. The practice serves primarily to render the weapon more compact. Hunting guns have long barrels, making them unwieldy in combat – and if you want to conceal one under a coat or wear it in a holster, removing the stock makes sense, too. Sawed-off double-barrel scatterguns are more handy on the seat of a stagecoach (the origin of the term “riding shotgun”) or in a belt holster!

On a double-barreled shotgun, cutting the barrels down from a normal hunting length of 26-32” to a “riot gun” or “trench gun” length of 18-20” removes -1 from the Bulk penalty. Weight drops by 1 lb., too. The barrels can be cut even shorter, to a “whippet” configuration of 8-12”; this removes -2 from Bulk and lowers weight by 2 lbs., but increases muzzle blast (+1 to Hearing and Vision rolls to locate it firing in the dark).

On a single-barreled repeating shotgun with a tube magazine under the barrel, the barrel can only be sawn off to the end of the magazine. Weight drops by 0.75 lb. Bulk is unchanged.

On *any* type of shotgun, sawing off the shoulder stock removes -1 from Bulk and lowers weight by 1 lb. It also reduces Acc by 1. Multiply ST by 1.2 (round to the nearest whole number) and increase Rcl by 1 (but not if Rcl is 1). A folding stock (p. 160) may be more useful.

These effects are cumulative. In some times and places – notably the U.S. from 1934 – such modifications will also lower the gun's LC from 3 to 2.

*Example:* At the O.K. Corral in 1881, “Doc” Holliday carried a Belgian Meteor 10G 2.875” double-barrel – similar to the LeFever (pp. 104-105) – in “whippet” configuration. The original gun, with 32” barrels, had Acc 3, Wt. 10.3/0.3, ST 12†, Bulk -6, and Rcl 1/7. With cut-down barrels and stock, it has Acc 2, Wt. 7.3/0.3, ST 14†, Bulk -3, and Rcl 1/8.

From 1985, it comes with a 3” chamber as standard, allowing it to fire 3” shells (Dmg 1d+2 pi, RoF 2×12, Shots 4+1) as well as 2.75” ammo. It's also made in 20G 2.75” (Wt. 7/0.45, RoF 2×7). As sold off the rack at a sporting goods store, the magazine is plugged to take only two rounds (plus one in the chamber) due to U.S. hunting laws. The plug is easily removed; this requires five minutes and an Armoury (Small Arms) or IQ-based Guns (Shotgun) roll.

The *Model 870P* (1969-), designed for police service, has a shorter barrel and an extended seven-round magazine: Wt. 8.3/0.8, Shots 7+1, Bulk -5, Cost \$400. An optional folding stock, available from 1972, gives Bulk -5\*. This weapon is also offered in “cruiser” configuration, with a 14” barrel, *no* stock, and a pistol grip: Acc 2, Wt. 6.7/0.4, Shots 4+1, ST 12†, Bulk -3, Rcl 1/6.

The KAC *Masterkey* (1992-) is a cut-down variant, mounted on a rail (p. 161) under the barrel of an assault rifle or carbine: Acc 2, Wt. 6/0.3, Shots 3+1, Cost \$1,900, LC2. It adds -2 to the host weapon's Bulk.

### *Franchi SPAS-12, 12G 2.75” (Italy, 1979-1994)*

Designed from the outset for police and military use, but confusingly called the “Sporting Purpose Automatic Shotgun, 12-gauge” the SPAS-12 could function as either a gas-operated semiautomatic or, at the touch of a button, a pump-action shotgun. This allowed it to use any 12-gauge shell that fit its chamber – even if the load wasn't powerful enough to cycle the action (such as 12G 2.5” ammo and many of the less-than-lethal rounds under *Exotic Shotgun*

*Ammo*, p. 103). A folding stock came standard, but it was also available with a fixed stock (Bulk -5).

The SPAS-12 is still in service with several European and South American military and police forces.

### *Armsel Striker, 12G 2.75” (South Africa, 1983-1989)*

Intended as a riot and home-defense gun, the Striker fired semi-automatically, feeding from a revolving cylinder with a loading gate. A clockwork spring turned the cylinder. Reloading was slow (three Ready maneuvers to put each round in its chamber, plus two more Ready maneuvers to wind the spring). The weapon had a 12” barrel and a folding stock.

Several U.S. producers manufactured this shotgun under license as the *Street Sweeper* (1986-1994). This version had an 18” barrel to comply with American laws: Wt. 11/1.3, Bulk -5\*, Cost \$2,000.

In South Africa, the externally similar Reutech *Protecta* (1989-2004) replaced the Striker in production. This weapon automatically ejected spent cases and did away with the clock spring (skip the two seconds to wind it when reloading),

instead using a pump-action mechanism to turn the cylinder. The *Protecta* was available with a 12” barrel (treat as Striker but with RoF 2×9) and an 18” barrel (treat as Street Sweeper but with RoF 2×9), and as the *Protecta Bulldog*, with a 7.5” barrel and no stock: Acc 2, Wt. 6/1.2, RoF 2×9, Shots 11, ST 10†, Bulk -3, Rcl 1/6, Cost \$1,500, LC2. Due to the Bulldog's muzzle blast, Hearing and Vision rolls to locate it firing in the dark are at +1. It can be seen in the movie *Desperado*.

### *Benelli M1 Super 90, 12G 3” (Italy, 1984-2005)*

The Super 90 is a recoil-operated semiautomatic shotgun, famous for reliability and fast handling. It features a full stock with a pistol grip. The weapon can fire both normal 2.75” shells (in the table) and longer 3” Magnum loads (Dmg 1d+2 pi, RoF 3×12, Shots 6+1). It's widely used by police units and antiterrorist teams.

The *M1 Super 90 Entry* (1992-2004) had a short (14”) barrel: Wt. 7.2/0.6, Shots 5+1, Bulk -4, Cost \$1,100.

The *M3 Super 90* (1989-) can be switched to pump-action mode (RoF 2×9) when using low-powered ammunition (see *Exotic Shotgun Ammo*, p. 103): Wt. 8.3, Cost \$1,170. The *M3T Super 90* (1990-) is similar, but has a folding stock: Wt. 8.6, Bulk -5\*, Cost \$1,170.

The *M4 Super 90* (1999-) is gas-operated but operationally identical to the externally similar M1: Wt. 8.3/0.7, Shots 6+1, Cost \$1,470. In 2002, it entered service with the U.S. military as the *M1014*. The M1014 has a telescoping stock and integral rails (p. 161) for a sight.