



Breda Zenith

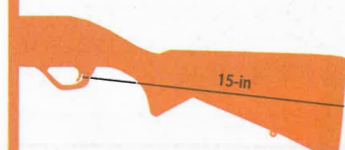
A totally new over-and-under clay-buster from Breda has hit the UK market – and **the editor** likes it

The Zenith is the debut sporter from Breda, a gunmaker well known for its superbly engineered (if pricey) semi-autos. This new over-and-under has been designed from the ground up. It incorporates some of the Italian gunmaker's barrel-making technology, combined with tried and tested methods from other manufacturers, plus a host of innovative ideas.

In some ways, the Zenith redefines the over-and-under. It is a bold new design that builds on the progress made

IN DETAIL

Price:	£2,400
Weight:	7½lb
Barrel:	30in and 32in (tested)
Stock:	Grade 3 with oiled stock as standard.
	A basic made to measure stock costs around £300 extra
Rib:	Ventilated 11mm tapered to 7mm



The bite on the barrel lumps can be replaced when worn

over generations to produce something stunningly different and exciting. Designed primarily as a clay-buster, the Breda Zenith is packed with new features. These are not gimmicks but born from practicality. The company says it took almost two years from concept to a working prototype and that expert shooters were consulted every step of the way. I can believe that because the Zenith is a very well thought out shotgun.

Wear and tear

An example of this is the replaceable wearing parts. Many guns have replaceable parts, such as Beretta and Perazzi, but the Breda has taken this idea to the next level. Anything that wears can be replaced. Not only that, it can be replaced at home. For example, with little effort the ejectors can be removed and replaced. Even the small part



Note the modern design on the fore-end release

on the fore-end that regulates the tightness between the barrels and fore-end can be replaced when it wears. Part of the barrel lumps can be replaced by using an Allen key, which means after many years of shooting you can tighten up the gun on the fore-end. Other parts that tend to wear after much use are the trunnions and hinge pins. They are also interchangeable. Even the U-bolt, which helps lock the gun up, can be changed in no time when it wears. So what you get is a gun that can be easily and affordably rebuilt when necessary.

Trigger's broom

This aspect of the gun really appealed to me. The Zenith is designed as a clay-buster and will have thousands of cartridges put through it a year. To be able to rebuild the gun easily and increase its working life is a real bonus. You may think it would be a bit like Trigger's broom from the TV show *Only Fools and Horses*, in that once you had replaced everything little of the original



The Zenith is an ideal sporter at a good price

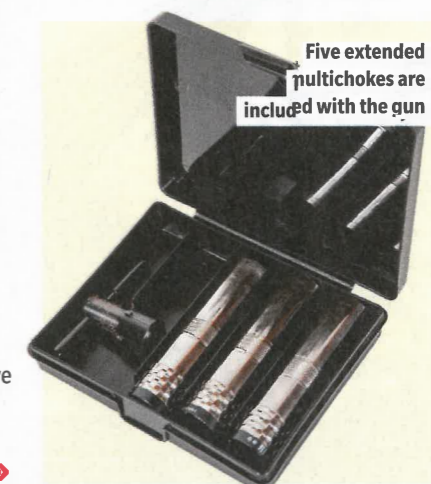
gun would be left, but what matters is that you would still have a serviceable gun. I was told that the price for the parts would be reasonable and the beauty is that you could fit them yourself if you are half competent.

Lock-up

The lock-up of this gun is solid and uses a conical U-shaped locking bolt with two pins that emerge from the face of the action and engage with bites on the breech when the gun is closed. The engineering of this part of the Breda is very much like that of a Beretta 690. Nothing wrong with that. The fore-end is also reminiscent of the Beretta 690 series

as well, but it has a geometric release that looks pleasingly modern.

A trigger plate action is reminiscent of many Italian guns but, like most of the gun, is made entirely by Breda. The only thing the company outsources is the blacking. Captive coil spring assemblies power the tumblers and it is an inertia driven action. A thing to remember about this type of action is that when new they may need a hefty shot load to ensure the gun cycles to the second barrel. Usually 28g loads or above are enough to ensure the gun cycles. Once worn in there should be no problems with using lighter loads.



Five extended multichokes are included with the gun

INFO Available in 12-bore only • Low profile action • Extended multichokes • Adjustable trigger • 2¾in chambers

Easily replaceable parts • Long forcing cones • Imported by Viking Arms • vikingshoot.com

