

BROWNING GOLD HUNTER SEMIAUTOMATIC 3.5-INCH 12 GAUGE, \$700

GUN TESTS GRADE: B+

The Gold Hunter worked well, handled well and was a pleasure to shoot, except with the 3½-inch shells. its slightly higher price tag was also a consideration in giving the 1012 the nod.



SPECIFICATIONS

OVERALL LENGTH	45.25 IN.	LENGTH OF PULL	14.5 IN.	STOCK	BLACK COMPOSITE
BARREL LENGTH.....	24.0 IN.	WEIGHT (UNLOADED).....	7.0 LBS.	FOREARM	BLACK COMPOSITE
VENTILATED RIB WIDTH.....	¼ IN.	CAPACITY	3+1	TRIGGER PULL WEIGHT.....	5.75 LBS.
DROP @ COMB.....	1.5 IN.	CHOKE TUBES.....	IC, M	WARRANTY	NONE
DROP @ HEEL	1.75 IN.	ACTION FINISH	BLACK	TELEPHONE	(800) 333-3288
		BARREL FINISH	BLACK	WEBSITE.....	WWW.BROWNING.COM



We liked the large, ambidextrous safety on the back of the trigger guard of the Browning (arrow), which would be easy to access in hunting situations, and with the speed-loading feature that automatically feeds a shell from the magazine into the open chamber.



Like both of the other test shotguns, the Browning was very easy to break down for cleaning and to reassemble. We also found that the Browning seemed to become less fouled with powder residue than the Winchester or Smith & Wesson after our shooting sessions.

Even the heavy recoil pad on the Browning's stock could not tame the 3½-inch steel-shot shells fired in our testing. We would not recommend excessive shoulder pounding from the heavy loads in this otherwise fine field gun.

