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# SURVIVAL

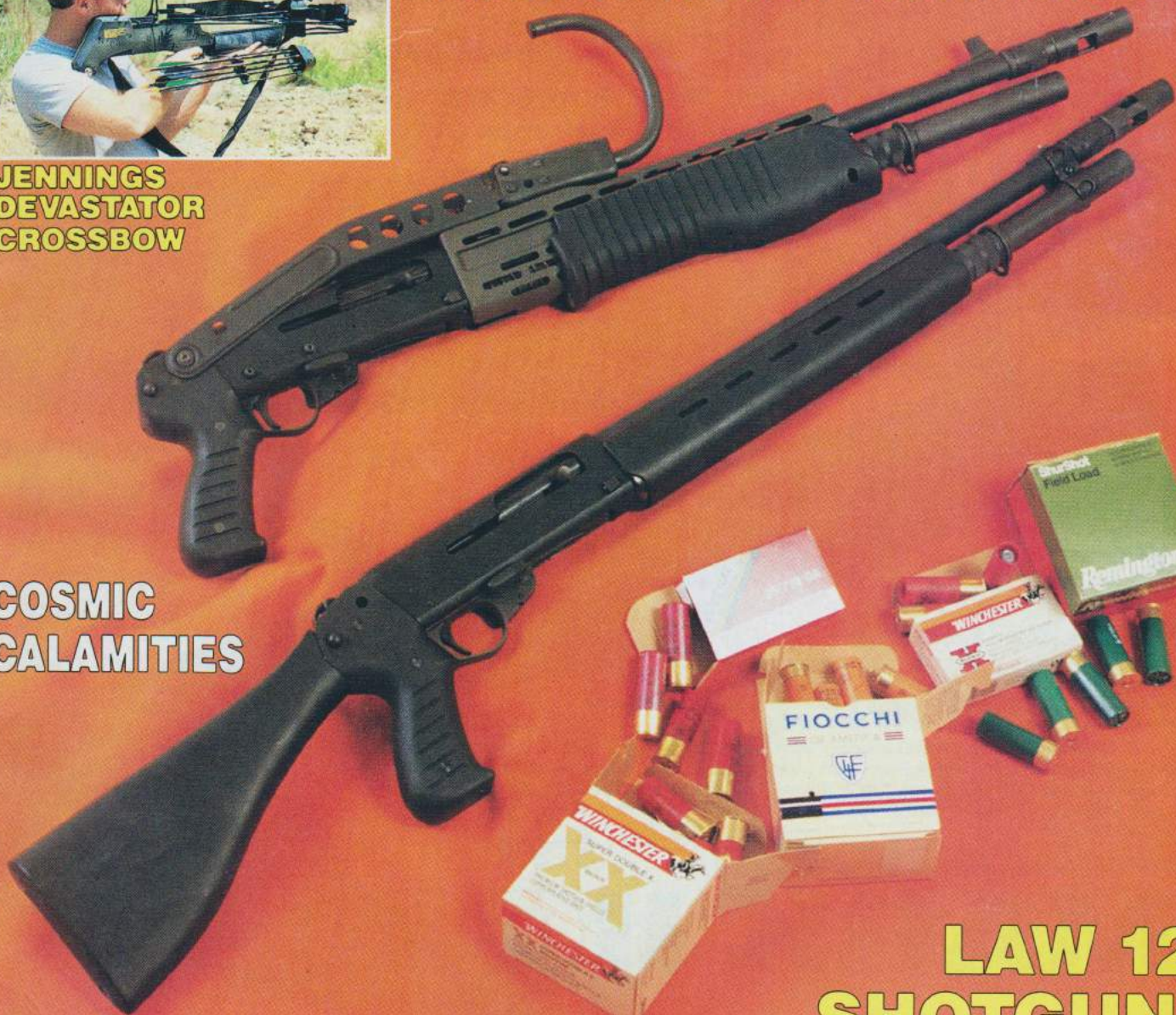
THE MAGAZINE FOR SAFER LIVING

# GUIDE



**JENNINGS  
DEVASTATOR  
CROSSBOW**

## SHARK ATTACK AVOIDANCE



**COSMIC  
CALAMITIES**

## LAW 12 SHOTGUN: Son Of SPAS

**ROADSIDE EMERGENCY CAR REPAIRS**



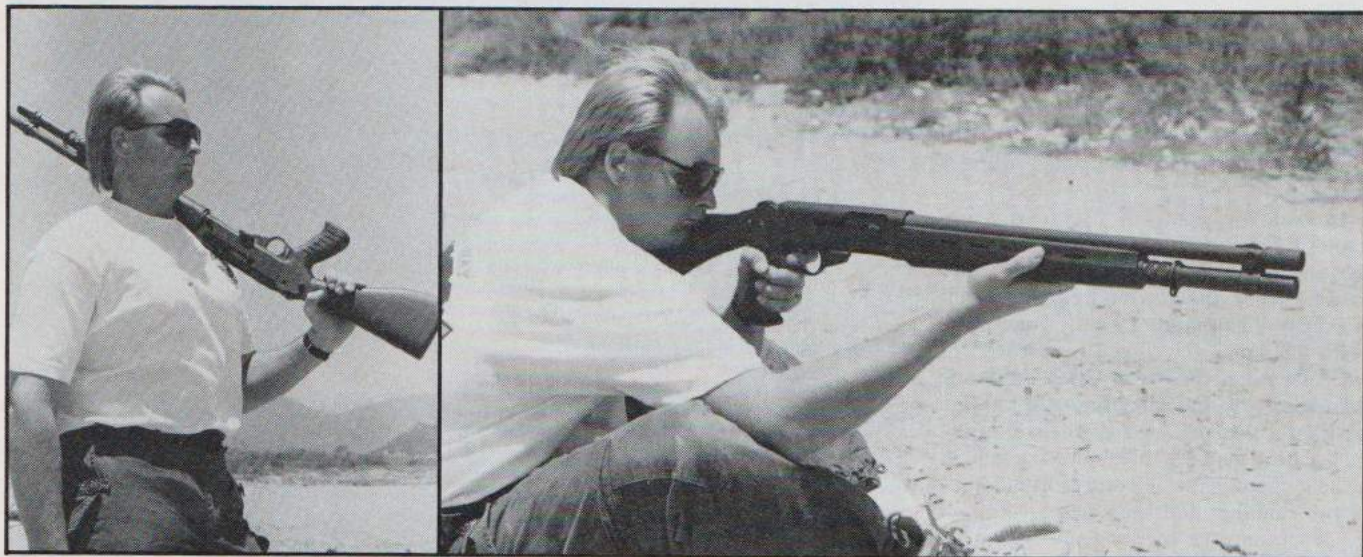
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Franchi's semiautomatic LAW 12 shotgun is some 2 pounds lighter than its predecessor, the SPAS 12. Shown here with some of the 2¾-inch 12 gauge ammunition tested with it, the weapon is fitted with a "duckbill" diverter shot spreader which extends the length of the barrel.



Shooters found the LAW 12 was easy to handle and functioned superbly with a variety of 12 gauge loads tested in it.





## LAW 12 Shotgun

*This new semiautomatic-only version of the SPAS 12 is lighter and easier to use . . .*

By Jim Benson

**F**RANCHI's new LAW 12 semiautomatic assault shotgun, imported by Firearms Import & Export Corp. (F.I.E.), is a lightweight variation of the famous SPAS 12 semiautomatic/pump shotgun.

More than 2 pounds lighter than the SPAS 12 (which weighs 9½ pounds empty) the LAW 12 is simpler to operate and can use all SPAS 12 accessories. The LAW 12 is available in fixed stock only but after purchase it can be converted to a folding stock weapon with a folding stock purchased separately (this is required under new BATF regulations).

Like the SPAS 12, the LAW 12 fires any type of 2¾-inch 12 gauge ammunition but requires sufficient power in the loads used in it to properly cycle the action. Only good quality factory ammunition or handloads that meet factory ammunition specifications are recommended. It will hold 8 shells in its magazine plus one in the chamber. The LAW 12 will *not* fire 3-inch 12 gauge shells, only 2¾-inch shells.

The fixed stock and forend are European walnut. The pistol grip is nylon resin. The forearm is ventilated.

The LAW 12 has a number of attractive features which will help to make it, as Duncan Long, in this new book *Street-sweepers* (see review in this issue) notes, "one of the major contenders on the semiauto combat shotgun market. Its gas operation (to minimize recoil), light weight and wide range of accessories available for

it promise to help it gain quick acceptance among those needing such a weapon."

There are two safeties on the LAW 12, a carry safety for general use and a quick

employment safety for competition and tactical situations. One or both of them may be used at all times. The carry safety is a large lever on the right side of the trigger guard. It points forward to an "F" for fire position and must be rotated 180 degrees rearward to point at a large "S" for "ON SAFE" position. This is the main safety and it blocks the hammer. It can be used until you are ready to fire the weapon. With the bolt closed and hammer uncocked, engaging the carry safety prevents opening the bolt and cocking the gun.

The quick employment safety is a blade on the left side of the trigger guard. It is also moved forward to place it in the fire position and back for safe position. This safety disconnects the trigger. It can be moved to the fire position with a flick of a finger and provides safety even when instant readiness is needed. This safety can also be employed as a backup to the main safety, being set in the safe position at the same time as the carry safety so it will be



The LAW 12, right, is sold in fixed stock model only but can be converted after purchase to use a folding stock like that of its predecessor, the heavier, more complicated SPAS 12.



Forend and buttstock are European walnut. Pistol grip is nylon resin.

## LAW 12 Shotgun

on safe when the carry safety is moved to the fire position. Additionally, the quick employment safety unlocks the bolt. Moving it to the safe position allows the bolt to be unlocked and opened without firing.

In loading the gun, the shell carrier has two spring tensions. It is much easier to move with the hammer cocked. For easier loading, cock the gun and close the bolt but leave the chamber empty for safety. With this done, the shotgun is turned upside down and the carrier latch bottom is depressed with the carry safety in the safe position to load 8 2¼-inch shells into the magazine. There are three ways to chamber a shell: opening the bolt and moving a shell in the chamber and then closing the bolt by depressing the carrier latch button on the left side of the receiver above the shell carrier; by operating the bolt to chamber a shell from the magazine; or by repeating the first procedure while depressing the magazine cutoff button, on the receiver's right side above the shell carrier, to keep the magazine full.

The LAW 12 can be carried with the bolt open, chamber empty and magazine loaded and still be instantly readied for firing by engaging the magazine cut-off button. With the bolt open and locked, strike a fairly hard glancing blow to the magazine cut-off button and a shell will be released from the magazine and chambered as the bolt closes. Unless the carry safety is in the safe position, the shotgun is then ready to fire. Use of the magazine cut-off button also allows



The main safety is the carry safety, a knob that points forward for "fire" and 180 degrees to the rear for the "on safe" position. On the opposite (right) side of the trigger guard is the quick employment safety which is moved forward for the "fire" position and back for "safe."

chambering of different ammunition than that in the magazine without unloading the magazine first.

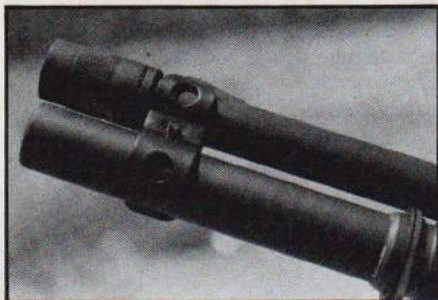
The LAW 12 comes with a thread protector on the muzzle and this can be removed to install Franchi Rapid chokes (optional full or modified) or a "duckbill" diverter shot spreader. These add about 2½ inches of effective barrel length. The LAW 12 can also be fitted with the same scope mount as the SPAS 12.

**Field Testing**—Loaned a fixed stock LAW 12 from F.I.E., several ASG shooters journeyed to a legal shooting area in the mountains of southern California to try a variety of ammunition out in this new weapon. We took along Federal 00 and 000 buckshot loads and hollow point slugs, Winchester Super Double X Magnum #2 shot shells and hollow point rifled slugs. Remington #4 ShurShot Field Loads, and some Focchi #6 Game Loads.

Approximately 70 shells of this ammunition were fired through the LAW 12 by three shooters. The shotgun functioned superbly with only two or three of the lightweight Focchi shells jamming when fired by a woman shooter new to firing shotguns. We attributed these to the fact she was not keeping the butt pressed firmly against her shoulder when firing for the necessary firm resistance to recoil.

Of course our testing was limited and there wasn't time for long-term shooting and observation of the LAW 12. But those of us who fired this weapon were pleased with its handling characteristics and performance and we concluded that the LAW 12 is among the best of this type of shotgun we have seen.

Soon to be available in this country will be the SAS 12 pump shotgun version from Franchi and imported by F.I.E. For more information, see your gun dealer or contact F.I.E. ●



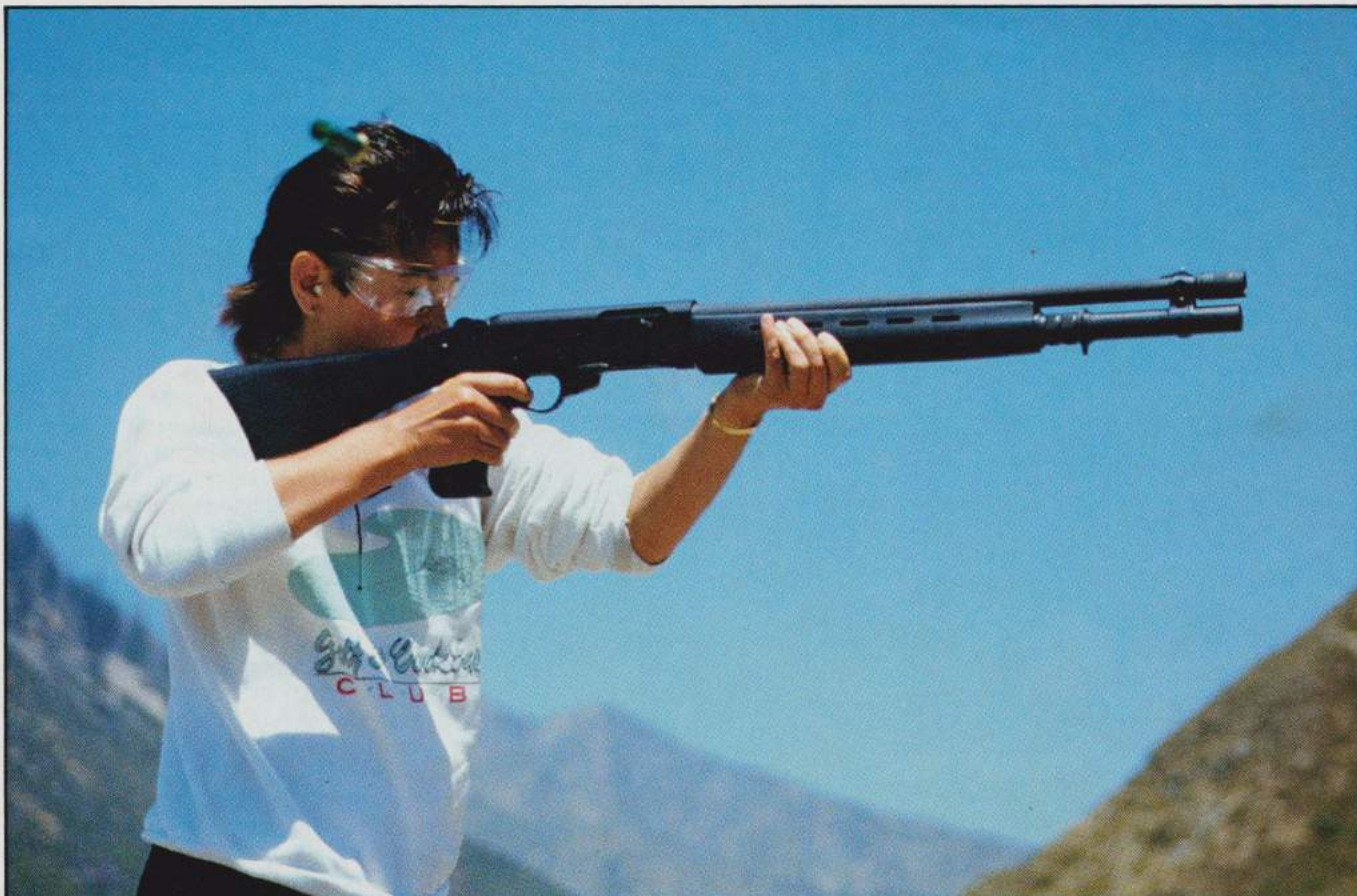
This thread protector quickly screws off to be replaced with optional full or modified chokes or shot diverter.



Loading is easiest with the gun cocked. Make sure safety is on and chamber is empty.

### Franchi LAW 12 Semiautomatic Shotgun: Tech Specs

Finish .....	Matte black
Caliber .....	12 gauge, 2¼-inch shells only
Barrel length .....	21½ inches
Overall length .....	41½ inches with fixed stock
Action/operation .....	Semiautomatic, gas
Weight, empty .....	7 lbs., 4 ounces
Capacity .....	8 plus 1 in chamber
Price, suggested retail .....	\$649.95
Manufacturer .....	Luigi Franchi s.p.a. Brescia, Italy
Importer .....	F.I.E., Dept. ASG, P.O. Box 4866, Hialeah, FL 33014; (305) 685-5966



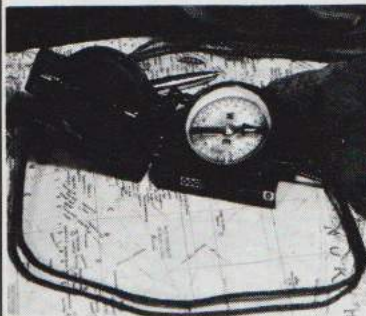
Though new to firing a shotgun, this woman shooter had little trouble adjusting to the LAW 12. Here she is shooting Remington ShurShot Field Loads.

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