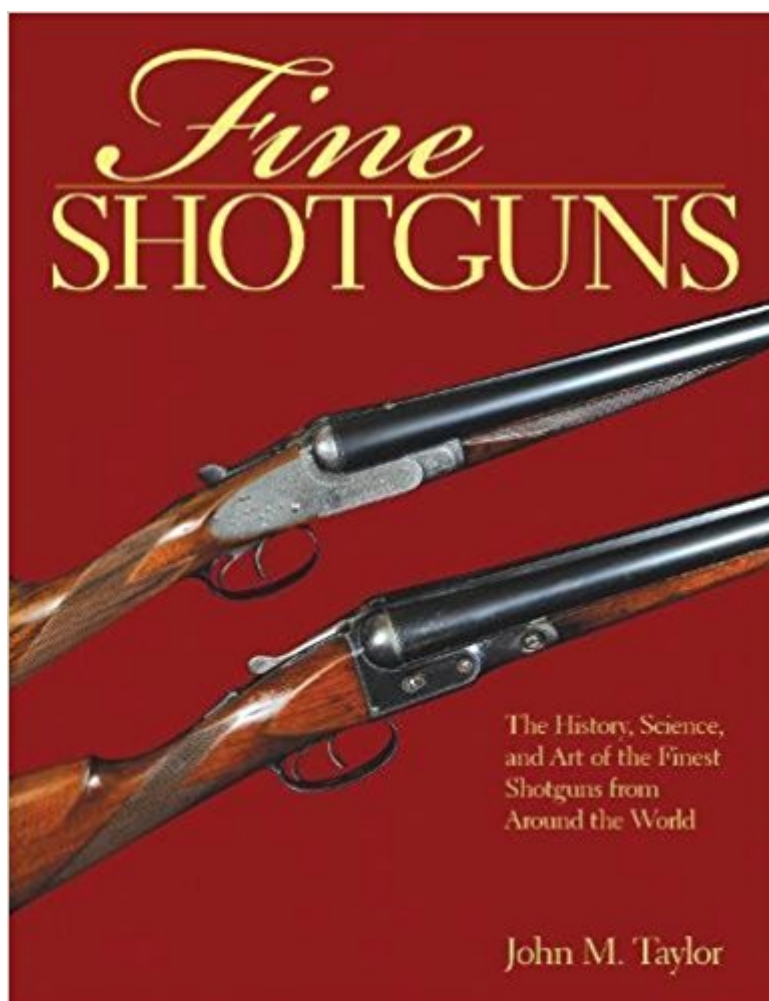


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# Fine Shotguns: The History, Science, And Art Of The Finest Shotguns From Around The World



## Synopsis

In *Fine Shotguns*, expert John M. Taylor offers a global view of shotguns using photographs and descriptions of guns from the United States, Britain, Germany, Austria, France, Spain, and Italy. Here are all types of shotguns: single barrel, double barrel, combination guns, hammer shotguns, paired shotguns, special-use guns, small-bore shotguns, shotgun stocks or shotguns with metal finishes, and bespoke shotguns. This all encompassing guide includes sections on how to care for and storage your weapon, what accessories are available for your model, and how to choose the perfect traveling case. Skyhorse Publishing, as well as our Arcade imprint, are proud to publish a broad range of books for readers interested in history--books about World War II, the Third Reich, Hitler and his henchmen, the JFK assassination, conspiracies, the American Civil War, the American Revolution, gladiators, Vikings, ancient Rome, medieval times, the old West, and much more. While not every title we publish becomes a New York Times bestseller or a national bestseller, we are committed to books on subjects that are sometimes overlooked and to authors whose work might not otherwise find a home.

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## Customer Reviews

John M. Taylor began hunting with his father at age five. For the past thirty-five-plus years, he has written for major outdoor publications, including *Petersen's Hunting*, *Gun Dog*, *The American Rifleman*, *Outdoor Life*, and more. He is currently the shotgunning editor of *Sports Afield*, *Delta Waterfowl*, and *Pheasants Forever* magazines. He lives in Lorton, Virginia.

I was excited when I read the preview for this book, excited when I received it and saw the table of contents, and pleased when I initially thumbed through it (many pictures of some wonderful subjects, although often the newer pictures of cased guns were not taken with enough light to see details), but once I started reading the text, my excitement turned to disappointment. My impression is that the author knows guns, but doesn't know fine guns well enough to write such an ambitious treatise. Sure there is some good information, but nothing new or more complete for double gun aficionados. The same information is available in other better written books. "Fine Shotguns" is full of opinions, strange segues (in the section on pairs and garnitures, the author tells us that his dentist ordered two different pairs of guns, and that had he requested it, the manufacturer would have gladly supplied two sets of three), and constant name-dropping . . . to the point where you are rolling your eyes, and the text gets awkward (the author mentions seven or eight different people by name on page 159). Although many manufacturers are listed as important, the vast majority of the book concentrates on only a small group of products that the author seems devoted to. If you're like me and you just have to buy every book that comes out on double guns, go ahead, there are enough interesting photos of the manufacturing process to justify it, but if you're smarter about your money, take a pass or wait until the price comes down to reflect the quality.

Great coverage.

I must confess that I am one of those people who walk into a high end gunroom and are shocked by the very high prices that some fine shotguns are able to command. Just what is it about those shotguns that makes them so special? What are the collectors looking for and what shapes their aesthetics? John Taylor's "Fine Shotguns" answers those questions and a lot more. Like any good introductory book, Taylor begins with the history of the modern shotgun and then moves onto the key manufacturers who have shaped the development of the shotgun. His book then proceeds to highlight the most famous gunmakers from the United States and Europe. He concludes with the more mundane aspects of purchasing and maintaining a high end shotgun. John Taylor is a knowledgeable writer with a graceful style. The photographs are interesting and this book is printed on high quality paper. However, it is important to emphasize that "Fine Shotguns" was not written for the hardcore shotgun expert. The target market for this book are people like me who are considering stepping up from the world of mass produced shotguns to a higher quality shotgun. I thought this book was a good value and I recommend it.

A very good book, informative and thorough. The author is very knowledgeable with decades of experience in the field. Custom gun mfg. profiles and their beginnings provided as well as different mfg. designs and processes. The usual omission of the more contemporary high-end American shotgun makers but that was to be expected. The only disappointment was not many pictures of the bespoke shotguns were provided.

I like John Taylor and read many of his writings in other periodicals. I was excited to buy the book and read it hoping that like in every one of my reads I can learn something new. It started okay but then became more and more mediocre as I progressed. I don't like writing any kind of poor review for any gun book because I know the work the author has to go to write and the sacrifices required but there are a few points that jumped out at me worth mentioning: Photography is not very good, dark pictures, lack detail and in a few cases not germane to the text... Photoshop would have helped immensely. The author repeats numerous examples and situations throughout the text. It is okay to give an example and then refer to it later but not repeat the same thing... there were at least 5-6 examples of this in my read. I'm not sure the chapter flow made sense in terms of subjects and in some cases there was not enough detail or missed topics... for example no mention of Fausti in the O Italia chapter. Though they are not known for their high grade shotguns they are major players in the Italian market and growing respectable over time. I respect Mr. Taylor and I believe he has an immense knowledge of shotguns and their uses and functionality but would like to see him spend a bit more time in organizing and reviewing his work before publishing.... still having said what I have I will continue to buy his books and read his writings.

This book covers a lot of ground but it's quite shallow. If the reader knows little about the subject then it's worth buying as long as it's just considered as a starting point. For someone with a bit more experience it's very disappointing. Many of the illustrations are far too dark. It's so frequent that I think the error could be with the printer rather than the original photographer.

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