RIPPED AIC OF TIRES FOR HAIR

RIPPED FACE SHAPE

... Shotgun

A gunsmith's hard-won lessons will ...ing out the best of your gobbler getter

> BY PHIL BOURJAILY

...OES YOUR TURKEY gun suffer from pattern baldness? Instead of giving a gobbler a full head of holes, does it leave the bird with a healthy scalp?

...d may need a consultation with Rob Roberts, the Turkey Gun Doctor ...-251-9955; gobblerguns.com), who prescribes chokes and loads based on ... own extensive pattern testing of your gun.

Recently, I sent Roberts an 870 Super Mag to save myself the time, te... um, and blunt trauma of shooting hard-kicking turkey loads and counting ...oles. Roberts lengthened the forcing cone, lightened the trigger, and pat...erned the gun at 40 yards with a wide variety of chokes and loads until he ...ound the combination that performed the best: a .665 choke and a 3½-inch load of Winchester Xtended Range No. 6 shot that throws a dense but even swarm of pellets downrange. Roberts's pattern testing costs $100 and in...cludes a stack of computer printouts and analysis of the patterns shot with ...arious chokes and loads. A new choke ($60–$75), lengthened forcing cone ($60), and trigger work ($100) are extra.

If you prefer to find the best choke-load combination yourself, what Roberts has ...arned in the course of testing hundreds of turkey guns can point you in the right ...ction. First, pattern your gun at 40 yards on a piece of paper about 3 feet square. ...n aiming point in the center, shoot a pattern, and draw a 10-inch circle ...e densest part. A good pattern fills that 10-inch circle to the edge without

the ... my tu... and still do (last year ... 870 that has an 18½-in... purely to performance, ba... range stabilize shot charges better a... barrels. If you want to shoot a very short barr... to use more choke constriction to get good patte...

3 | Longer forcing cones make a differen... (sometimes). The forcing cone is the funnel through which shot passes from the chamber to the bore. Increasing the length of the tapered section smooths the transition of shot into that narrower space, often improving a pattern's center density. Roberts says guns with a bore at or under the nominal 12-gauge diameter of .729 (he names the Stoeger 2000 as one example) almost always benefit, gaining up to 40 or more pellets in a 10-inch circle after the cone is relieved. Overbored guns with diameters of .740 or more usually don't see nearly as much improvement.

4 | Tungsten-iron requires less choke. The ... premium turkey loads—Remington HD, He... Winchester Xtended Range, and Federal He... are all composed of hard shot that doesn't ... supertight chokes as smoothly as so... Roberts tests guns, he starts with ...

BILL