

On the line: Pylinski Arms

Laurence Pylinski of Pylinski Arms began his career in gunsmithing after a three-year tour in the Army as a machinist. He then earned two associate's degrees: one in mechanical engineering from Mohawk Valley Community College in Utica, N.Y., and a second in gunsmithing from Trinidad (Colo.) State Junior College.

Although Pylinski himself is not a trapshooter, he has a background in shooting. While in the military he won numerous titles in rifle and pistol competitions; he was the 1982 New York state military small-bore champion.

After completing his formal education, Laurence worked as a gunsmith/machinist in Oregon with Pete Grizzel; subsequently, he worked for Alpha Arms and then for Ron Coleman Gunsmithing, both in Dallas, Texas. After concentrating on clay-target firearms for two and a half years, he decided to form his own company.

Pylinski Arms, which has been in business for 18 years, specializes in clay-target shotgun gunsmithing. Other services offered by the Virginia-based company are mechanical repairs and stock alterations plus general shotgun maintenance. While Pylinski Arms' focus is on shotgun repair, maintenance and service rather than on the sale of products, Laurence stated that it is his policy to observe the quality and validity of new products on the market before recommending them to his customers.

Laurence lists gun fit as the most important factor in shotgun shooting. "If the gun doesn't fit," he stated, "it's not for you." He also believes gun maintenance to be essential and suggests that shooters have their guns serviced after every 40,000 to 50,000 rounds. In the process of servicing a client's firearm, it is not uncommon for Pylinski Arms to detect a problem that is forthcoming and fix it before it affects the customer's performance.

Pylinski Arms offers gun-fitting services; however, Laurence warns that in

some cases, a gun may not be able to be fitted properly to a particular person. In that case, it is best to just "find another." Laurence recommends that persons shopping for new shotguns arm themselves with information regarding proper dimensions in order to make the best possible purchase.

Since the company's formation, Laurence has traveled around the country nine months every year to attend such events as the Grand American, the Southern Grand, and the Pennsylvania and

Ohio state shoots plus the World Skeet Shoot and the National Sporting Clays Championship in San Antonio, Texas. He attends approximately 36 shoots per year. Pylinski said that traveling gives him the "ability to service shooters at the point of need" during the tournament. He enjoys meeting people at shooting events and being able to travel and see the country. "I [also] like my boss," he joked.

For more information on Pylinski Arms, call 804-492-4082 (shop) or 804-357-2393 (cell), or e-mail pylinskifarms@aol.com.



Laurence Pylinski has owned and operated Pylinski Arms for 18 years, performing such services as mechanical repairs, stock alterations and shotgun maintenance.

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