

are you just happy to see me?



Fourteen 2-1/2" 12-gauge shells are distributed between two tubular magazines beneath the barrel. At the barrel's muzzle, on either side are sling loops.



The buttstock is nicely padded and provides an integral opening for mounting a sling.



White followers can be seen inside the ejection port, along with the selection lever.



With the TangoDown VFG in place the author could smoothly and speedily work the slide action, and operate the Streamlight TLR-2 with his thumb.

Range Time

I was prepared for about anything except how well the KSG handled! It balances nicely in the hand when empty, and stays that way stuffed full of all those 12-gauge shells. Using a TangoDown VFG and Magpul's AVG, working the forend was smooth and pain-free.

In two range trips we experienced no double feeds but a few short strokes. (Short stroking is an inherent potential problem with any pump.) Two things became apparent: When the VFG or AFG was held securely and the forend was worked smartly there were no short strokes. A bit of good news was that, unlike traditional pump shotguns, a short stroke did not cause a double feed. Rather than locking the KSG's action up, a loaded round dropped to the ground and the hammer fell on an empty chamber. Work the action again and you were back in the fight!

Recoil was not a problem – equal to or perhaps a little less than other 12-gauge slide actions. An iTac was attached directly to the top rail, sans elevated mount. We quickly discovered with the stock's straight-line design it was almost impossible to get low on the stock enough to see the red dot well while keeping the butt in the shoulder pocket. However, I found the butt of the KSG stock perched high on my shoulder somewhat mitigated recoil compared to the full shoulder position. Control of the shotgun was still excellent.

Holding the shotgun as it would be held with a higher-mounted red dot, such as the Vortex's SPARC added later, pushed the butt down on my shoulder. The lower butt seemed to deliver a slight increase in recoil but the KSG was still quite controllable.

Patterns at 15 yards were commensurate with cylinder bore barrels. Winchester's eight- and nine-pellet reduced recoil Ranger 00 buck dropped into 7-1/4" to 7-1/2" patterns. Remington's Managed Recoil eight-pellet 00 buck load spread to 12". Federal's eight-pellet, reduced recoil, FliteControl load of 00 buck produced a

phenomenal 3" group. Federal's Tactical Slug eased three slugs into a 2-1/4" group.

These buckshot loads would do great for a building tactical scenario. And working in close confines is just what the KSG is all about! The size, especially overall length, is perfect for maneuvering through tight spots, and does so without sacrificing barrel length like traditional short-barreled shotguns.

Despite what the Internet says, carrying different loads in the tubes could be a bad idea. In the confusion of a confrontation, there is a good chance of brother Murphy rearing his ugly head. Flip the lever the wrong way and you could spray slugs instead of buck! As long as your intention is hitting and stopping your target, all might be OK. Certainly no way in Hell I'm mixing "lethal" and "less than lethal" loads in the same gun, even if in different magazines! Making someone unexpectedly dead is not an option.

That said, the transition between tubes is quick and efficient if you set it up correctly, and can be done with any number of rounds in the magazines. For a right-handed shooter, with the lever on the left (feeding from the left tube) the shooting hand's thumb can flip it to the other side, without completely losing contact with the pistol grip or the forend being released. Smooth and quick, with the hand returning fully to the grip easily.

Last Shots

What would I change about the KSG? Two things: Have Kel-Tec add pieces of rail on each side of the forend or design the forend with holes to make adding my own rail easier. The second would be for the stock's butt and pad to extend about two more inches down. This would allow use of a lower-mounted sight, raising the stock higher up on my shoulder for more shooting comfort.

Even without those changes I declare Kel-Tec's KSG a hit. It balances well, despite carrying what one friend calls a "butt load" of buckshot! At an MSRP of \$880, the KSG is truly a great deal. Home defense or law enforcement – looks like the Kel-Tec KSG should be a great choice for either! **DP**