

(Pheasants Forever magazine 2007)

92 years perfecting the double: AyA No. 4/53 12-gauge side-by-side

There's a reason why AyA is so prominently featured in Terry Wieland's book, *Spanish Best*. Wieland states, "the modern era of fine guns in Spain is defined by AyA." Driven by the skyrocketing prices of classic British doubles, most well into five figures, AyA perfected English styling, offered it at a reasonable price, and built in quality superior to a good many of the revered London names in shotgun history. So much so, that AyA is now the top selling side-by-side in Great Britain.

"I never pass up a chance to shoot an AyA," said Scott Cherek, owner of The Cherek Group, which represents PF magazine to advertisers. "I hadn't tried the Model 4/53, and it shoots just as well as their higher-priced models. The 12-gauge is only 6.8 pounds, great to carry. Plus, it's such a pretty gun, I spend all day in the field with a smile on my face."

The Model 4/53 differs from other AyAs, some of which exceed \$10,000 in cost, with its Anson & Deeley mechanism (as compared to the more complicated sidelock design of their other models). That allows the 4/53 to start at \$2,799—quite a feat for the only shotgun reviewed here that can be built completely to customer specifications—a true "bespoke" shotgun. "You get the same hand-fitted craftsmanship, custom stock dimensions, double locking action, automatic ejectors, and gorgeous finish of other AyAs," Cherek said. "Just for a lot less money."

The Model 4/53 is offered in 12, 16, 20, 28 and .410 bores. Do your shopping at newenglandcustomgun.com.