

(Traveling Wingshooter magazine 2007)

All beauty, but a beast within.

“I’ve shot my AyA No. 2 on twelve trips to Europe, three to South America, and all over the United States. In nearly 80,000 rounds, the total breakdowns and malfunctions amount to one—a broken striker, about ten years ago. If that isn’t the definition of ‘durability,’ I don’t know what is.”

So said renowned shotgun writer Michael McIntosh about his AyA. As he explains it, “travel and guns are not always wholly compatible.” His AyA filled a long-standing need for a side-by-side that he “could take anywhere...that handled well and looked good; one that I could afford to replace without mortgaging my soul, if the worst should happen.”

Since 1915, Spain’s Aguirre y Aranzabal has crafted fine doubles with a reputation for ruggedness and reliability, seemingly at odds with their graceful, almost delicate English styling.

All AyAs are built entirely to the customer’s specifications, with several models offered, but the No. 2 addresses the quandary faced by every wingshooter that entrusts their shotgun to commercial transportation—owning an elegant side-by-side that will elicit large numbers of oohs and aahs when slipped from the case, but doesn’t require a second mortgage to purchase. \$4499 for a world-class sidelock best gun is refreshing in a day and age when doubles of even dubious origin can run well into five figures.

Contact New England Custom Gun Service, Ltd. at (603) 469-3450, e-mail , or visit newenglandcustomgun.com.