

How to Restrict your Magazine Size

New regulations in the Eastern Region (and all of the North Island except Northland and Taranaki Fish and Game Regions) restrict magazine capacity. For all game birds in the 2017 game season, shotgun magazines are restricted to two shells. Therefore you can have one in the breech and two in the magazine, a total of three shells.

The magazine must be adjusted with a one piece filler which is incapable of removal without disassembling the gun. This can be done at home and only takes a few minutes. Below we have chosen a pump and a semi to show you how:

For this exercise we used a piece of 12mm diameter wood dowel. The length of dowel required will depend on the shell length you use but if you fit it for 31/2" shells it will be good for the smaller shells too.

Pump: Remove the magazine (remove the barrel and then unscrew the magazine cylinder - ours took a bit of twisting as it hadn't been off before). Remove the spring and the follower (i.e. the bit that sits up against the shell). Place the dowel into the magazine cylinder and mark the dowel where it sticks out (Figure 1). Remove the dowel and then measure 6 1/4" (159mm) from this mark towards the end that was in the mag. A 3 1/2" shell is not 3 1/2" it is in fact 3" when crimped close, hence the 6" plus 1/4" for the follower. This is where you cut the dowel. Round off the ends and slip the dowel inside the spring and replace the follower (Figure 2) then just reassemble the gun.



Figure 1. Mark the dowel where it sticks out of the magazine.



Figure 2. Place the dowel in the spring and return it to the magazine cylinder.

Semi-Auto: With the semi you can remove the spring and follower by undoing the magazine end cap (the non-breech end). Measure 159mm from the breech end (Figure 3). Then from this mark measure to the end of the magazine (Figure 4). This is the length of dowel required. As with the pump round the ends of the dowel and place it inside the spring and reassemble. Don't do this in the maimai as we have seen springs end up in the swamp.



Figure 3. For the semi-auto measure 159mm from the breech end and place a mark.



Figure 4. Measure from the mark to the end of the magazine or if there is an end stopper to this point. This is how long your dowel needs to be.

If you are not sure about disassembling your magazine check your instruction booklet or see if it is on You Tube, or ask at your local sports store or a gunsmith. Note many new semi-auto shot guns come with a spacer to comply with American duck hunting regulations; check that this spacer complies with the 2 shell rule.