

Unlike Any Other

MANUFACTURING LONG AND SHORT BARRELS WITH THE NEW INNOVATIVE EUROTECH TD TORO SERIES



ABOUT SSK FIREARMS

SSK Firearms is an American designer and manufacturer of guns and accessories in Ohio. Founded in 1977 by J.D. Jones, SSK is known for its custom Contender® and Encore barrels.

J.D. Jones has been heavily involved with Contenders® since 1969 and has devoted a great deal of his life to the ballistic aspects of sporting, law enforcement, and military cartridges and the firearms that handle them. In the early 60s, he and Lee Jurras developed the first true high-performance handgun ammunition for revolvers and auto-pistols, marketed as Super Vel Ammunition. Every manufacturer uses the basics of this ammunition in the world that manufactures high-performance handgun ammo today. While SSK Industries started with handguns, the reputation of exceptional quality and accuracy has spread to all firearm platforms. Today, SSK Firearms provides custom firearms.

David Fricke grew up in Ohio, and in 1978, a friend's father let him shoot his 45 Colt Contender®; he was hooked, but it was several years later before another friend let him use his 223 Contender during a groundhog hunting trip. "I made my first shot at an estimated 300 yards off shooting sticks. Even after I paced the distance off to 130 yards, I was so excited that I couldn't stand still. I have not hunted groundhogs with a rifle since that fateful day," shared Dave.



"His passion drove him to push the limits on pressure and accuracy, creating barrels that once were never before possible. Barrels created that are bigger and more precise. JD Jones used only the highest quality barrel blanks and built each barrel manually with precision techniques. As a result, SSK barrels established their place in the market as offering the "gold standard."



SSK Firearms™ has taken that same commitment to quality and modernized it by using state-of-the-art manufacturing techniques. Except for chambering, all barrel machining operations are done on Eurotech's TD Forza precision CNC machines, which can hold linear dimensional accuracy to three ten-thousandths of an inch and rotational positioning to one-thousandths of a degree.



“The harmonics of Eurotech’s TD Toro make is so easy to work with. Done in One Manufacturing is paramount to manufacturing gun barrels.” - Dave Fricke

Years later, David started Lehigh Defense and became a parts supplier to SSK Industries. “I got to know J.D. I always had a fascination with ballistics, and J.D. took me under his wing and began teaching me a little what he had learned in his many years of experience. As a result, we began producing subsonic projectiles for the 300 Whisper using the Controlled Fracturing principle,” said David. Shortly after forming Lehigh Defense, David had the drive to create unique and innovative products.

As Lehigh Defense expanded to a firearms part supplier to many OEMs, the desire to see the original Contender return was always present. An opportunity presented itself to assume the operations of SSK Industries. With J.D.’s guidance and assistance of great friends in the industry, David is extremely proud to deploy the manufacturing capacity and capability of Lehigh Defense to continue the innovation that set SSK apart from the crowd so many years ago.

MANUFACTURING BARRELS

SSK Firearms manufactures barrels ranging from 10” - 24”. For his barrel manufacturing, David Fricke invested in Eurotech’s new TD Toro series machine. Many would say this product purchase was a leap of faith, i.e., to buy a machine dedicated to barrel and shaft manufacturing, the fear that there isn’t a large enough market to sell your product, or that the machine can’t deploy for anything else.

David didn’t have those fears or look at it as taking a leap of faith. “I’ve been a customer of Eurotech for twenty-two years. I didn’t hesitate. I have so much confidence in their products and the Eurotech team that I knew it would be an unbeatable investment,” said David.

David continued to share his manufacturing secret.

- One of the keys to manufacturing these barrels is the 16-station turret on the Eurotech TD Toro. You usually only get a 12-station turret. The 16 is a game-changer.
- The tool drive system is pretty advanced compared to other tool systems. We can now eliminate chatter, get better rigidity and improve the tool life for the live tooling.
- The steady rest system is easy to program. The harmonics of this machine make it so easy to work with!

For example, Dave explains, “What we start with is a \$250 blank. You might use \$3 of raw material with ordinary bar stock. You make a bad part; it’s not a big deal. But with a \$250 blank, you can’t live with chatter; it destroys the part. So I always set the counter and track how many parts you scrap before getting the good one. Sometimes it can take 50 parts. With the Eurotech TD Toro, the harmonics deliver a perfect part the first time.

One and Done manufacturing is paramount to manufacturing gun barrels. This machine gives us confidence. Its rigidity and repeatability don’t just reduce but eliminate costly material mistakes.”

“From an operator and user perspective, you can see that the materials’ construction and quality are incredibly advanced. In addition, you can tell that the people who designed this machine have run machines for many years and built them for longevity—it will last 20 years at least.



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