

I have never handled a Krieghoff with anything like the balance and feel the Parours possesses, but then the manufacturers had never before designed a gun of this type. There's no doubt it is a Sporter shotgun, with a weight of just 8lbs, but its dynamics are of a gun faster and lighter, combining low recoil and sufficient control to hit targets at long range. If there is such a thing as an all-round shotgun, the Parours comes very close to it. A supremely well-balanced target gun, I would definitely like to be under some high pheasants with it. This was the general consensus of people I showed it to, most of whom only knew the Krieghoff as something much weightier: "It doesn't feel like a Krieghoff," they said. Well, the Parours is still fundamentally a Krieghoff, with the same strong time-proven action which represents a singular combination of simplicity and sophistication. At the same time, it has been subtly re-specified to create one of the very best handling and potentially most effective Sporting shotguns I've seen.

Vic Harker looks at the guns that give clay shooters the edge

GUN TEST

ON TEST
THIS MONTH:
**Krieghoff K80
Parours**



A great K80

If there was ever such a thing as a perfect all-rounder, the Krieghoff K80 Parours may be it, suggests Vic

The Sporter shotgun is all things to all people. It was originally created by Browning in the 1970s as a Skeet gun with some choke and a Schnabel fore-end. Subsequently it has become anything the manufacturer decides it is, with every kind of rib, barrel length and stock configuration and weighing anything between 7½lbs and up to 2lbs heavier.

The Krieghoff K80 as a Trap gun is a market leader in the UK, and as a Sporter it has enjoyed

some success. However, because of its considerable heft it has largely been in the hands of the particularly big and strong shooters.

Krieghoff has brought its considerable experience to bear and created a Sporter shotgun which, while retaining most of its antecedent's iconic features, provides it with characteristics that will undoubtedly broaden its market appeal.

The action

The Krieghoff's unique sliding latch top fastening action needs no introduction, except to say its lock work, incorporating in-line

the British have no equal when it comes to creating a Sporting gun that possesses the very human qualities that make the difference between a blunt

‘ The Parours is a gun that is in perfect harmony with its user ’

hammers and a class-leading coil spring mechanism, as always provides excellent trigger pulls.

I should also add that my sample gun with deluxe grade engraving was particularly handsome. No changes there then, and no need for any, but in other areas there are some significant changes.

The stock

While gun-making expertise exists in a number of countries,

instrument and something that is in harmony with its user.

The gun stock – its configuration and dimensions – is a key factor in creating this desirable quality and it's in this area that Krieghoff has concentrated much of its effort.

While no stock shape or dimensions are definitive, when it comes to game or Sporters, the task of the stock-maker is to make it as easy to manipulate as possible on targets at every height and angle, as well as to ensure the stock minimises recoil and helps the shooter place the shot charge accurately. Krieghoff has clearly understood all these requirements and has incorporated them into the Parours' stock.

To achieve these things, the comb must ensure the aiming eye is sufficiently elevated above the rib to give the shooter a good view of the target and discourage him from making the kind of slow, poking swing that too low a comb usually



causes. It must also be sufficiently straight, which is to say the difference between the amount of drop at the front of the comb from the line of sight and the heel at the back is not too great.

This desirable arrangement ensures recoil is as straight backwards as possible and taken at the shooter's shoulder and not in the face. For those who in the past have had to put up with stocks which don't incorporate these principles, the Parours' stock could be a revelation.

Barrels

These changes are all very well, but to get the best out of this kind of stock it needs to be fitted to a gun with handling qualities that complement it, and this often has a lot to do with the weight of the barrels.

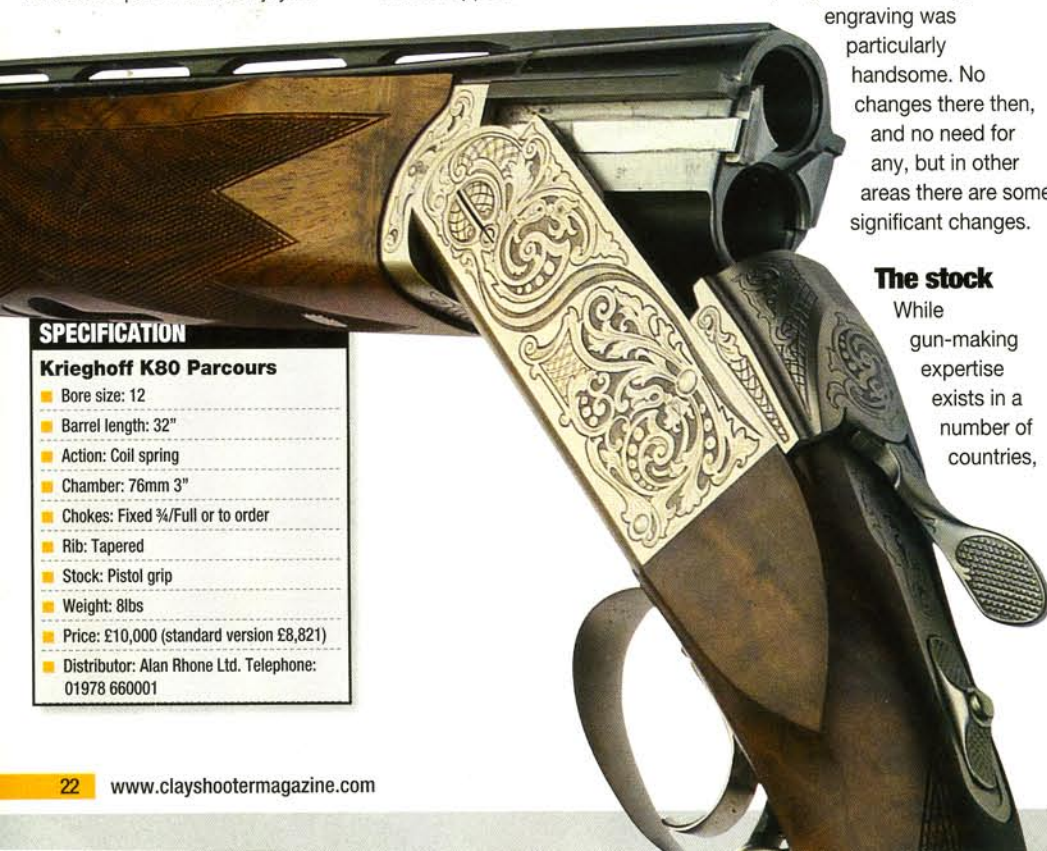
The Krieghoff K80's barrels are usually free floating and adjustable for impact, as is the rib. The barrels are suitably heavy as they are usually

incorporated into Trap guns, but the Krieghoff team wanted to create a fast-handling Sporter.

The heavy adjustable barrel assembly has therefore been substituted with a conventional one that incorporates a centre rib. The top rib is also lightweight and tapered, but most importantly the tubes have been profiled to create lightness and give the gun a perfect between-the-hands balance.

The Parours' 32" barrels are beautifully light at 1.397kg and, equally important, they are painstakingly assembled

with the monobloc to print the shot patterns to exactly the same point of aim. ■



SPECIFICATION

Krieghoff K80 Parours

- Bore size: 12
- Barrel length: 32"
- Action: Coil spring
- Chamber: 76mm 3"
- Chokes: Fixed ¾/Full or to order
- Rib: Tapered
- Stock: Pistol grip
- Weight: 8lbs
- Price: £10,000 (standard version £8,821)
- Distributor: Alan Rhone Ltd. Telephone: 01978 660001

