

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

# GUN TEST

ON TEST  
THIS MONTH:  
Krieghoff  
K80 DTS

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VIC HARKER

## The Double Trap Special

Vic Harker tests the austere, purposeful and beautifully-built Krieghoff K80 DTS

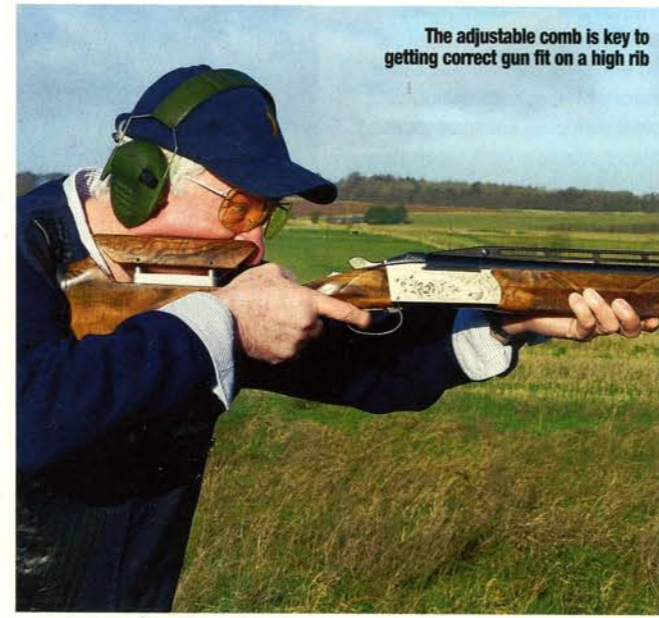
While the Krieghoff K80 can never be described as conventionally beautiful, its austere and purposeful appearance has a perennial appeal. It is sought after by dedicated Trap shooters because it has a reputation for superb build quality and being the choice of Champions, and its one that it deserves. The K80 is not without pedigree either; its ancestor, the Crawford C. Loomis' design for the Remington M32, was a classic. The M32 then extensively developed by Krieghoff as the K80 has for a long time been America's favourite target gun, and in the UK it's gained a similar status with DTL shooters.

The new Krieghoff K80 DTS is, however, targeting

the international clay target market with a gun developed for Double Trap. The example British distributor Alan Rhone has sent me is from the very first production, and only a few months ago the DTS (Double Trap Special) was still in the prototype stage. German Double Trap Team member Andreas Loew, who was evaluating Krieghoff's take on the high half rib concept, shot so well with it he insisted on using it at the World Championships in Belgrade. Only after tying with Li Lun of China on 146 + 48 did he lose out in a sudden death shoot-off to take the silver medal.

### The Action

I have described the Krieghoff's iconic sliding latch top fastening on numerous occasions, but for those to whom it is still unfamiliar let me assure them few if any



The adjustable comb is key to getting correct gun fit on a high rib

alternatives are stronger. It may not be the most elegant solution but it's in exactly the right place

flats integral to the monobloc. The tempered steel shroud now closes over the breech face above the explosion of the cartridge and locks the barrels down in the action. All the bearing surfaces are tapered to compensate for wear, and after tens of thousands of cartridges the shroud can be replaced but this is almost unknown, such is the quality of the materials employed.

While most of us are inclined to consider the flat spring drop-lock trigger

for maximum security. Moving forward on closure in slots machined in the action body each side of the breech face, it engages with

mechanism to be the ultimate so far as Target guns are concerned, the K80 offers an alternative to rival it, so far as function is concerned. The barrel selection powered by a coil spring pushes hard on the rear of the sears, and so there is absolutely no free play. The sears and the hammers are manufactured from the hardest steel, requiring a diamond file to cut them, and then they are polished with a ceramic stone to a glass like finish. It is, though, the geometry of the hammer sear engagement that is the key. The sears sit on a step rather than in a notch. When the trigger is pulled the barrel selector pushes upwards, disengaging the hammer and at the same time rotating to select the second barrel. The Krieghoff's trigger pulls are very crisp and, combined with a fast lock time, they are as good as any alternative and far better than most.

### Stock

To stock a gun that comfortably accommodates a very high rib requires some careful calculation, however Krieghoff have got it about right. The amount of drop at heel was a bit too much for me but with the adjustable comb I achieved a reasonable fit. As with all Krieghoff stocks there was no cast and an ambidextrous grip with a palm swell.

### Barrels and the rib

The half rib, which at its highest point measures 35mm above the breech face, is complemented by the adjustable stock so you can look along a flat sighting plain as you would with a conventional rib. I set the comb height with the front and centre bead forming a figure eight. The half rib, which has in a very short time gained the status of standard equipment for top Double Trap shooters, provides the head up position deemed best for the discipline without offering the distraction a full length high rib does. The shooter sees the target earlier and with more acuity – particularly advantageous when shooting doubles. This Krieghoff provides even more, the top rib is adjustable for point of impact (POI) by way of a small knurled wheel at the muzzle end, which is the neatest of arrangements, and the bottom barrel's POI can be set independently with three different hangers. This flexibility also extends to choice of choking incorporating five detachable chokes with graduations from light modified to full. All this offers wide opportunity for experimentation and while the impatient might be persuaded not to bother, for optimum results they would be well advised to take time to find out what suits them best. As this K80 leaves the factory the adjustable rib together with a number 3 hanger will print 70% of the pattern above the point of aim, about the same set up as my own flat rib gun and so I didn't make any adjustment. ■

### SPECIFICATION

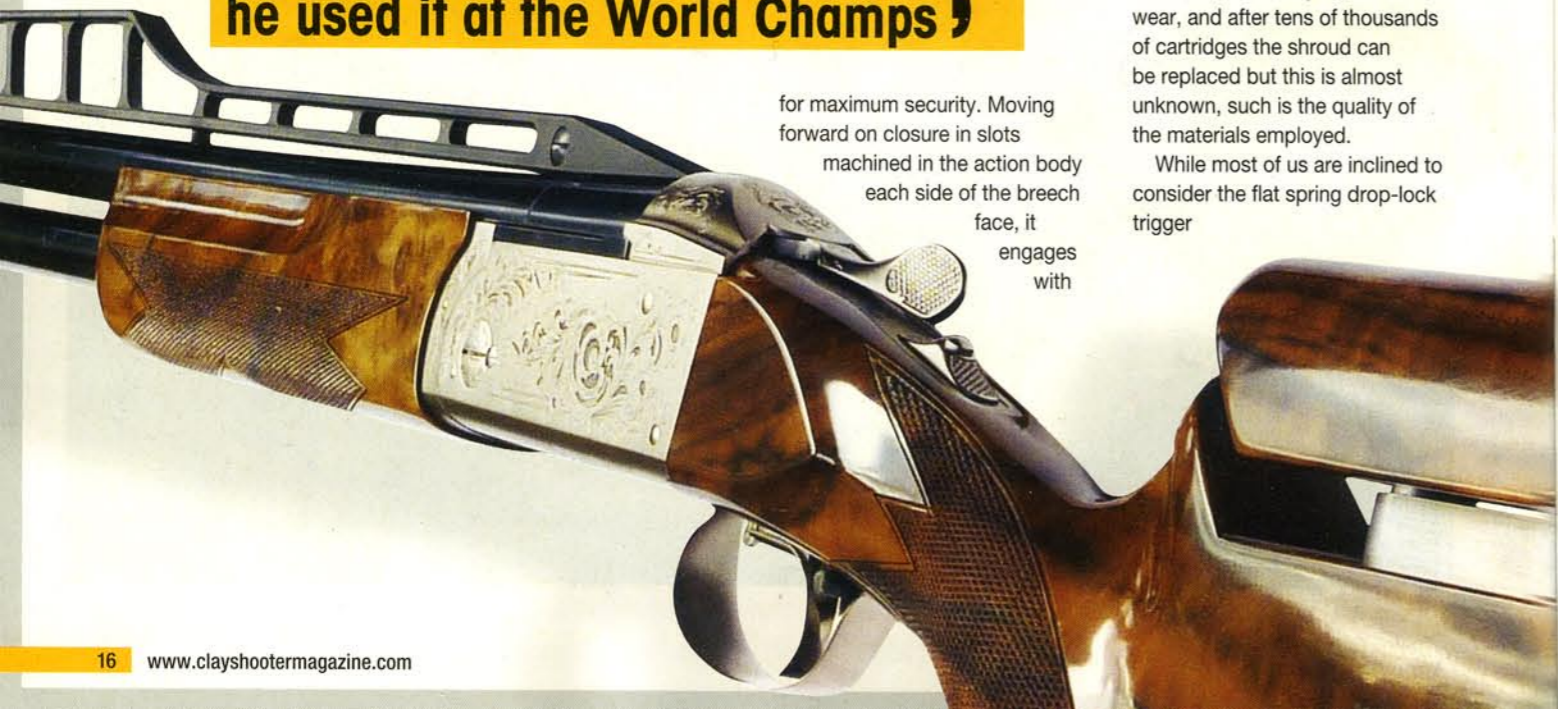
- **KRIEGHOFF**
- Model: K80 DTS
- Bore size: 12
- Barrels length: 30in
- Action: Coil spring
- Chamber: 76mm/3in
- Chokes: 5 extended detachable
- Rib: Adjustable for POI tapered 10mm-7mm, 35mm above the standing breech
- Stock: Monte Carlo adjustable comb
- Weight: 9lbs 6oz
- Price: £11,720
- Distributor: Alan Rhone Ltd. Telephone: 01978 660001

## SHOOTING IMPRESSIONS

Even with only 30" barrels this K80 DTS is no lightweight, tipping the scales at 9lbs 6oz but it is well balanced between the hands and is therefore manageable if not lively. I shot some DTL to begin with to get used to the high rib and the head up position it requires. In the first round I was chipping targets and it soon occurred to me that I was very rib conscious. With a conventional gun, excepting when I first put it on the mark, I don't consciously see the rib. I returned to the club house and consulted the manual. I was tempted to lower the POI but without the use of a pattern plate to see what was happening I would be just guessing. I decided to put a much tighter choke in the bottom barrel which would give me a better indication of where the gun was shooting by how the targets broke. Once again I missed two targets early on, I was still thinking about the rib. With the high rib I should have remembered while you are getting the same picture as you would with a flat rib gun your actual gun point is a metre or so above the trap. This was affecting my timing but instead of bringing the gun lower I decided to try to utilise the slightly higher gun hold the rib replicates. I immediately started breaking targets convincingly, I was looking further down the range which the rib helps you to do, and the targets just kept appearing in my vision and breaking, and everything was now a lot easier – as it's supposed to be.

As a Double Trap shooter I am a complete beginner and it's going to take a lot of trigger time for me to improve, however when I shot some doubles the advantages of the half rib were now obvious for the reasons DT shooters claim. The built in vertical lead that allows you to keep the gun on the mark and at the same time take the target earlier is essential in doubles, and I can also confirm once you get used to the half rib it is much less of a distraction than a full length rib of similar height. As the K80 DTS is in short supply at the moment I had to get the test gun back to Alan Rhone, but some time in the near future I am going to spend a couple of days getting to know this fascinating gun better.

Andreas Loew shot so well with the DTS he used it at the World Champs



ON TEST  
NEXT MONTH:  
PERAZZI HPX  
SPORTER