

KRIEGHOFF

K80 Parours

REVIEWER: Vic Harker

THE VERY best kind of shotguns continue to evolve successfully because they are designed on sound principles that have stood the test of time. The Krieghoff K80 is an example, originally based on an American design it has over the decades been constantly improved and refined by the German firm of gunmakers who inherited it. I have been looking at its latest incarnation in the form of the K80 Parours.

The first Krieghoff gained an enviable reputation on the Trap ranges of the USA. Its strong and reliable action made a perfect platform for a Trap gun, being able if necessary to withstand tens of thousands of cartridges without malfunction. We tend to think of the drop-lock trigger action with flat springs as the ultimate for target guns, but the Krieghoff represents a unique alternative and a serious rival in terms of function, strength and reliability.

THE ACTION

The barrel selector is powered by a coil spring and pushes hard at the rear of the sears and so there is no free play. The K80s sears and hammers are cut from the hardest steel and require a diamond file to cut them. These component parts are then polished with a ceramic stone to a glass like finish. It is however the geometry of the hammer sear

engagement that is the vital factor in the gun's mechanical function. The sears sit on a step rather than in a notch and when the trigger is pulled the barrel selector pushes upwards, disengaging the hammer and simultaneously rotating to select the second barrel. This all provides class leading trigger pulls and a very fast lock time. If the design of the trigger mechanism is original the jointing or locking of the barrels to the action is equally so. It is based on the very sound principle of placing the locking mechanism above the explosion of the cartridge. In the form of the now iconic sliding latch top fastening, the Krieghoff interprets this principle in the most convincing way possible. On closure of the gun slots machined in the action body each side of the breech face engages with flats integral to the Monobloc. At the same time a tempered steel shroud now moves forward and closes over the breech face locking the barrels down into the action. The Krieghoff's design as the basis for Trap and Skeet guns is renowned both in the United States and Great Britain. There can however be no doubt as to the ever growing popularity of Sporting clays and so the relatively recent introduction of the K80 Parours is of particular interest to those

Sporting enthusiasts looking for a very special kind of gun.

THE BARRELS

As an example that Krieghoff has risen to the challenge of incorporating lighter and faster handling characteristics required of a Sporter, in the K80 we need look no further than the barrel assembly. The Krieghoff's floating barrels adjustable for POI at the muzzle ends have been dispensed with. Instead the Parours barrels have conventional side ribs and are fitted with long hand detachable Briley chokes. A very pointable narrow rib is also incorporated and the all up weight of the 32" barrels is still only 1.386Kg (3.09lbs).

THE STOCK

The stock configuration is equally impressive and while for many European manufacturers a shape that complements a classic gun down technique essential for FITASC Sporting clays still eludes them, Krieghoff have got it right. A thin tapered comb which is also adjustable for height and cast comes into the face and provides excellent support. This combined with an open radius to the pistol grip that complements the slim beavertail forend provides that all important hands in line hold essential to a coordinated gun mount.

SHOOTING IMPRESSIONS

While a number of European

manufacturers are at present upping their game in the matter of how a Sporter gun handles, it should be acknowledged the Krieghoff K80 Parours sets a benchmark few can match. Setting up the stock to my personal dimensions was a simple matter, comb height I set at 30mm with 35mm at the back, the drop at heel which cannot be adjusted measured just 50mm. A stock that is fairly straight ensures the butt keeps well up into the shoulder which is vital for hitting high driven targets. How useful a centre bead is when using an adjustable comb, it is not intended that the shooter should line it up with the front bead when shooting the gun, which would obviously be a hopeless endeavour. It does however provide an accurate indication of how high your master eye is above the rib. I like to see about 1/2" of rib between the two beads, which will equate to a 70% / 30% pattern above and below the point of impact. Too high for most I know, but it works for me. A combination of near perfect gun fit and the Krieghoff's superb handling characteristics made the Parours a real pleasure to shoot. Surely long but light barrels are the way to go so far as a Sporter is concerned. I do appreciate shooters possess differing tastes, nevertheless I would still insist if you want to give yourself a treat try the Krieghoff Parours on some good Sporting targets. ●

TECHNICAL SPEC

Maker: Krieghoff
Model: K80 Parours with
Vintage Scroll Engraving
Bore size: 12

Barrels length: 32"
Action: Coil spring
Chamber: 76mm 3"
Chokes: Long Briley chokes

Rib: Tapered
Stock: Pistol grip
Weight: 8lbs 1oz
Price: £10,920 inc VAT

Distributor: Alan Rhone Ltd.
Telephone: 01978 660001



“

THE VERY BEST KIND
OF SHOTGUNS
CONTINUE TO EVOLVE
SUCCESSFULLY
BECAUSE THEY ARE
DESIGNED ON SOUND
PRINCIPLES



ELEY

PROUDLY SPONSORS
THE GUN TEST

OLYMPIC BLUES WHEN
YOU NEED SPEED AND
BREAKING POWER