

SAVING THE BEST 'TIL LAST

Drennan Kenderdine gets his hands on a seriously snazzy Krieghoff to end his year of gun reviews; it's beautiful, customisable, and shoots like a dream!

We've saved the best until last with the final gun review of the year, in my opinion! Being behind shotguns for over 40 years has undoubtedly allowed me to try out both the worst and the best there is to offer, and if there is one manufacturer out there that has always had me intrigued, it's Krieghoff. I've always admired the engineering and look of their guns, but hand on heart, I have not exactly felt the same enthusiasm for them when shooting certain models. I have found the SuperSport a bit hefty and sluggish for me personally, while on the other hand, I have found the Parours to be a totally different animal – agile, nimble, very pointable, lighter, and a much easier machine to shoot, but with more felt recoil due to its lighter weight. So, it was no surprise that in 2020, Krieghoff birthed the Parours X into the world for those shooters who wish to shoot a Krieghoff, but haven't yet

found they connect well with the SuperSport or the Parours.

The team at Ian Coley Shooting Ground recently invited me to try out the gun fitting service they have for the Krieghoff K80 and K20 range. Ian Coley is the only Krieghoff-approved agent in the UK to have a Try Gun for the K80 and K20 range, and I was rather keen to see if the bespoke, made-to-measure stock service was as good as the rather enthusiastic team at Coleys say. I'll be writing a full article on this fantastic service in both *Sporting Shooter* and *Clay Shooter* magazines, so look out for those articles in the new year.

THE BARRELS

With a length of 81cm (32") and weighing approximately 1.5kg (3.4lb), this is the main party piece of the K80 Parours X. It slots in

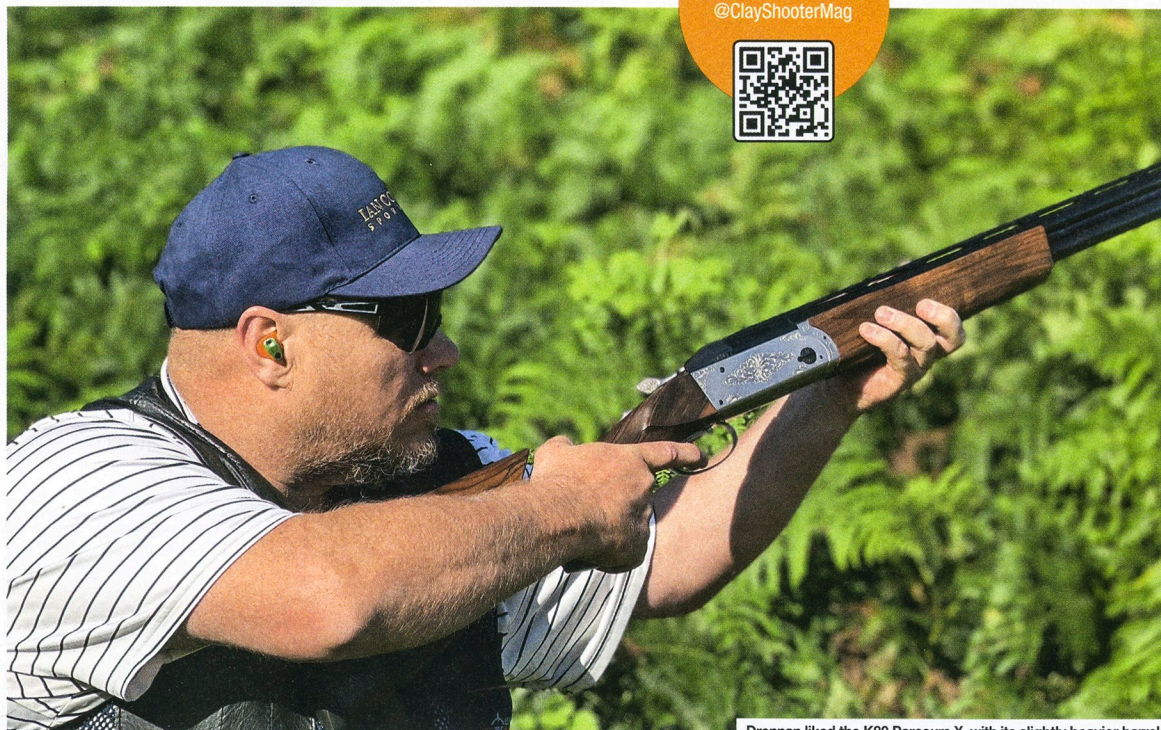
ideally between the SuperSport and the Parours barrel weight options. The barrels give a steady, reliable swing with no overrun from excessive weight and no whipping through from being too light. They are steel-shot proofed with 3" chambers.

The rib is tapered 10mm to 8mm with a centre bead, and gives perfect clarity over the barrel to see the intended target. The K80 Parours X comes with a set of flush-mount thin-walled chokes and a speed key to change them over.

SLIDING TOP LATCH

If there is one thing that Krieghoff stand out for, it is the sliding top latch. This provides a robust locking system, durability and the peace of mind that your Parours X will stay tightly closed when shooting. It also maintains the

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Drennan in action
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Drennan liked the K80 Parours X, with its slightly heavier barrels



PICTURE: THOMAS KAECHER

gun's tight fit and solid feel for thousands of rounds, since the top latch slides forward with barrel wear. A neat piece of engineering.

TRIGGER MECHANISM

The adjustable trigger for LOP has a smooth and comfortable feel. When firing the gun, the action gives a crisp feeling through the trigger, which itself gives perfect clarity and feel. Each trigger squeeze is the same as the last, with no variance as you can get with some guns.

Just ahead of the trigger is the barrel selector. This allows the selection of either top or bottom barrels. I really like this selector's ability to be locked into place with the barrel of your choice. This removes the potential of accidental switching of the barrels, and it takes a short time to put on or off with an Alan key.

SAFETY

The Parours X safety has been well designed. I have said many times that even the most expensive guns could be let down by having poor safety catches. Nothing could be further from this situation with the Parours X. In order to engage it on or off by sliding it forwards or backwards, it first has to be operated by pushing a large button mounted on the safety, which then allows it to move.

HOW DOES IT SHOOT?

Well, the team at Coleys took my dimensions from the bespoke fitting I had and transferred what they could of those dimensions to a standard factory-made Monte Carlo adjustable stock. How did it shoot? Check the Clay Shooter Facebook page to see videos of how

this sublime and incredible gun turned clays into balls of dust!

I love love LOVE this gun! But truthfully, I have been spoiled by having a Krieghoff fitted to me by the team at Coleys, which turns an already astonishing gun into something from a whole other dimension. If you do purchase this gun, there are a host of accessories available, along with over 70 engraving styles to choose from and countless choices of wood for the stock; you can basically build your dream gun.

Just remember: if you are in the market for a Krieghoff, I can't shout loud enough the importance of trying the different models out to find the one that suits you best, and how a bespoke stock makes all the difference. ■



Krieghoff and Lyalvale – a pretty pairing!



The Parours X barrels made all the difference for Drennan



Ian Coley provides a fitting service for the K80 and K20 ranges

TECH SPECS

Krieghoff K80 Parours X

Barrel length:	81cm (32")
Bore:	12 bore
Weight:	Approx. 8.5lbs
Recoil pad:	Kick-Eez (301-6)
Engraving:	Any available Krieghoff pattern
Choke sizes:	Five supplied, with a choice of constrictions
Stock:	Adjustable as standard (non-adjustable available on order)
Forearm:	London pattern Parours
RRP:	From £13,800
Website:	iancoley.co.uk/krieghoff
Tel:	01242 870391

PICTURES: IAN COLEY