

Form and Function

Vic Harker tests the Krieghoff K80 DTS.

The K80 DTS is an excellent package for the serious Trap shooter and I would like to have kept the gun longer

While I remain sceptical regarding the benefits of a high rib for most kinds of clay target shooting, as far as Double Trap is concerned the high half rib has already proved its usefulness beyond doubt. Now adopted by most of the top performers in this discipline, until recently it has been an after market item. Even Richard Faulds has had to resort to one, Beretta having yet to produce a gun of this type. It is therefore Krieghoff, with Perazzi, which is the only other manufacturer to go for what at the moment is a niche market. It was a Krieghoff prototype in the hands of Double Trap

shooter Andreas Loew, who tied with China's Li Lun in the World Championship in Belgrade last year on 146 + 48, taking a sudden death shoot off to put the German in second place. Acting as a test pilot for Krieghoff, Loew was so pleased with the way he shot with the half rib design, he insisted on hanging onto it for the Championship with dazzling results. Built around the K80, America's favourite Trap gun, and in Britain so far as DTL shooters are concerned, the DTS may be the gun that puts Krieghoff under the spotlight in the Olympics.

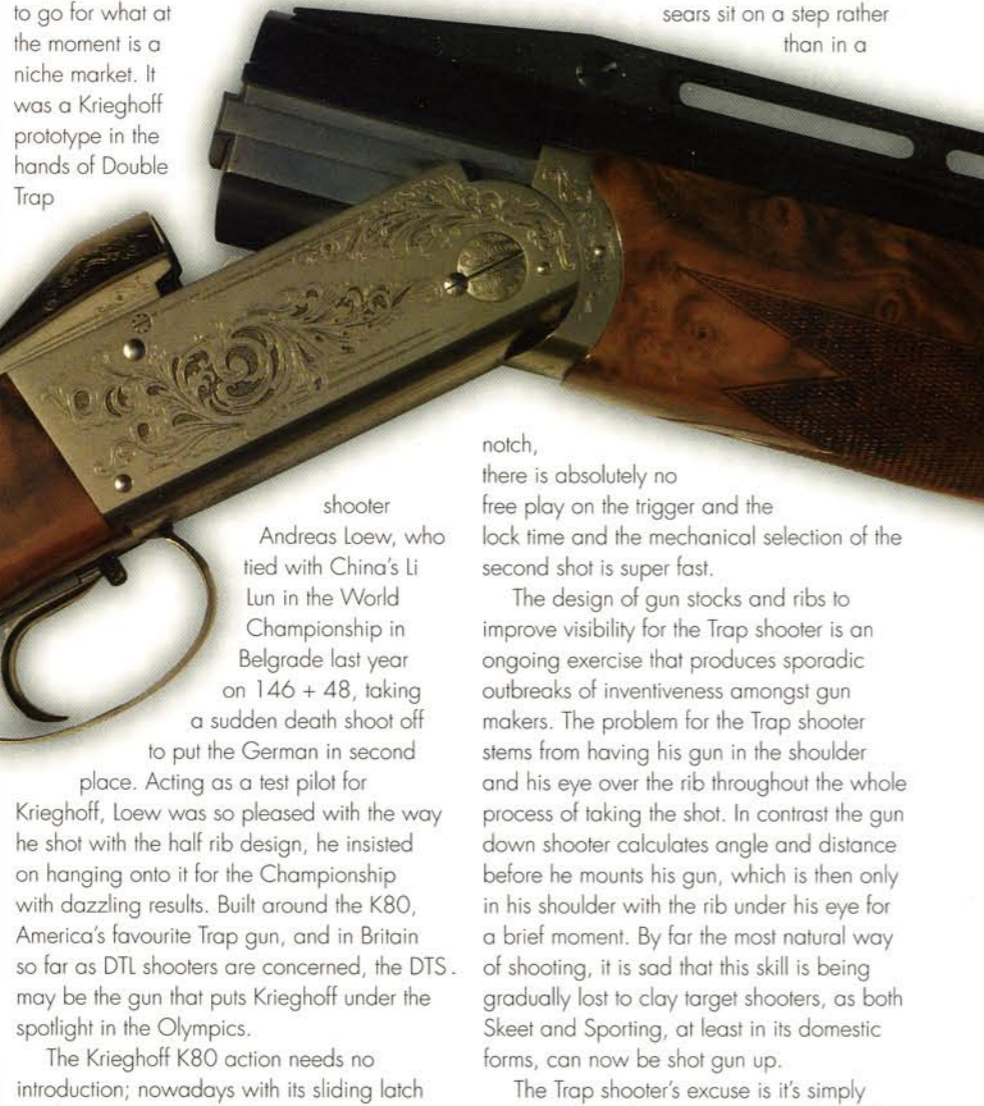
The Krieghoff K80 action needs no introduction; nowadays with its sliding latch top fastening it is as familiar to Trap shooters

as the Perazzi or Beretta. It may appear a simple solution to holding a shotgun together but its in exactly the right place for maximum security above the explosion of the cartridge. Every component part beautifully machined, the materials employed are of the highest quality and the replacement of the sliding latch or shroud is unheard of. The trigger mechanism is of equal high quality and for crisp pulls it has few equals. Again each component part made from the best quality steel is then polished to a glass like finish. The sears sit on a step rather than in a

notch, there is absolutely no free play on the trigger and the lock time and the mechanical selection of the second shot is super fast.

The design of gun stocks and ribs to improve visibility for the Trap shooter is an ongoing exercise that produces sporadic outbreaks of inventiveness amongst gun makers. The problem for the Trap shooter stems from having his gun in the shoulder and his eye over the rib throughout the whole process of taking the shot. In contrast the gun down shooter calculates angle and distance before he mounts his gun, which is then only in his shoulder with the rib under his eye for a brief moment. By far the most natural way of shooting, it is sad that this skill is being gradually lost to clay target shooters, as both Skeet and Sporting, at least in its domestic forms, can now be shot gun up.

The Trap shooter's excuse is it's simply not feasible to shoot Trap targets effectively



trigger pulls, the K80 DTS is an excellent package for the serious Trap shooter and I would like to have kept the gun for longer in order to explore its capabilities still further.

What makes a great target gun?

The answer, of course, is having the same qualities every good gun must have: balance, feel and a good trigger, although these qualities can be interpreted in many different ways, depending on what kind of shooting it's intended for. What I believe also endears one make over another to the British in particular, is genuine design integrity. This can encompass guns of very different design, but what they all must share are qualities that do not compromise mechanical function or durability. This does not mean they have to be very expensive, either by ingenuity of design or because of where it's made, some guns fill this criteria more adequately than others. The Krieghoff K80 is expensive and it is lavishly engraved and stocked with highly figured walnut, but that is not why it sells. If it had no embellishment at all and the stock was as plain as a pike staff, shooters would still buy it because of all the qualities I have already described, plus some unique to this outstanding target gun.

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without resorting to a pre-mounted gun. The theory behind the half rib is while it provides a more head up position to give a better view of the target, it does not represent the distraction a rib of similar height that comes back to the breech face. It has the added advantage for the Double Trap shooter in that his view is less encumbered for the all important acquisition of the second target. As you might expect from Krieghoff they offer more, their half rib can be adjusted for point of impact with a small knurled wheel at the muzzle end and there are three options for the bottom barrel's POI determined by separate hangers. In addition to this there is also a choice of five detachable chokes with graduations from light modified to full. There can be no doubt that used intelligently, these options offer advantages other guns don't. All of this is together with an adjustable stock which complements whichever set up you decide upon.

With the adjustable rib and barrel hanger number three I set the DTS to print its pattern 70% above the point of aim. As my own Trap gun has a flat rib, as always I had to get used to the head up position the half rib demands, but on Double Trap targets there is no doubt its advantageous, particularly so for the second target. I did, however, have to keep in mind that when placing a high rib on the mark you are looking further down range than with a flat rib gun. The target therefore, comes into your peripheral vision sooner, an obvious benefit when shooting doubles. The K80 DTS weighs 9lb 6oz but the weight is comfortably distributed between the hands. With Express Super Comp cartridges recoil was negligible, another important factor when shooting doubles. This combined with great

Technical Specifications

Maker	Krieghoff
Model	K80 DTS
Bore	12
Barrels Length	30"
Action	Coil spring
Chamber	76mm 3"
Chokes	five extended detachable
Rib	Adjustable for POI tapered 10mm-7mm, 35mm above the standing breech
Stock	Monte Carlo adjustable comb
Weight	9lb 6oz
Price	£11,720
Distributor	Alan Rhone Ltd. Telephone: 01978 660001