

# Champion's Choice

Vic Harker tests  
the Krieghoff  
K80 Trap.

I have commented before on the Krieghoff shotgun's cult following and, among Down the Line shooters, it is particularly strong. At any shoot, especially the major championships, K80 caps and t-shirts abound and the wearers haven't just bought the t-shirt they also paid around £10,000 for the gun. I have always found the Krieghoff and its history fascinating, so I considered it time I took a look at what, on the Trap fields of the United States and increasingly in the UK, is considered to be the ultimate Trap gun. When talking about Trap I am of course referring to the ATA kind in the United States and DTL in the UK. While the Italians may rule in the Olympic disciplines, with Beretta and Perazzi carving up the market between them in DTL, my impression is it's the Krieghoff that most shooters aspire to own.

The origins of the Krieghoff's design remain obscure although it was Crawford C Loomis of The Remington Arms Company Connecticut who, in 1931, lodged patents for the Model 32 over and under, its American ancestor. Wyoming born Loomis had travelled east and joined Remington in 1912, and was a brilliant designer who also created the Model

The sheer strength of the massive locking latch operated off the top lever never fails to impress

31 pump shotgun, the only gun of its type to rival the Winchester Model 12. Taking the now iconic sliding latch top fastening, he incorporated a number of other design features into what became the very first and most successful over and under shotgun to be manufactured in the USA.

