



Krieghoff's *K-20* Parcours



//// photos by Ralf Müller //// story by Matthew Gay

ClayShootingUSA was excited to be invited to a special event showcasing the many great shotguns manufactured by Krieghoff. This particular event was held at the gorgeous Signature Lodge, just north of Pierre, South Dakota. Nearly every model and configuration were available for demo on both clay targets and the wily ringneck rooster which calls the Dakota prairie home. This event was focused on the K-20 Parcours, and the versatility it offers for both field and clay applications.

The Epitome of Craftsmanship

Krieghoff has been known for more than a century as a quality firearms manufacturer based in Ulm, Germany. The product needs no formal

introduction, and their name is synonymous with quality and elegance. The Krieghoff K-80 sporter can be seen on every sporting clay course across the country and has routinely been the target tool of choice for many national and world champions. Extreme attention to detail combined with outstanding service has positioned Krieghoff one of the premier gun manufacturers in the world.


The K-20 Parcours holds steadfastly to this company ethos and in some small details even ups the ante a little. As expected, when this shotgun came out of the case it oozed aesthetic appeal. Intricate engraving graced the side of the receiver in full coverage and the wood was superb. Being a Parcours model, this shotgun does not bear the traditional barrel hanger which Krieghoff shotguns have become

known for. The barrels on this 32-inch specimen have a solid mid-rib, intended to lessen the weight, and make the swing of this shotgun more responsive. This particular model offered both a 20 and 28-gauge option with matching forearms. The wood on both forearms perfectly complimented the stock mounted on the receiver and bore wonderfully executed engraving for a positive grip.

On the Range

With a couple of days to put this shotgun through its paces, I opted for the 28-gauge barrel set on the exquisite 5-Stand layout at the Signature Lodge. While admittedly, I prefer the balance on my sporting gun to be almost completely between my hands, with swift barrels, I did wonder if this set



A man wearing a red baseball cap and yellow-tinted sunglasses is shown from the side, aiming a shotgun. The background is a soft-focus outdoor scene with a blue sky and some greenery. The text is overlaid on the upper right portion of the image.

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of 32-inch 28-gauge barrels might be a little too light. To my surprise, this little 28-gauge swung like a dream and balanced perfectly for my liking. The 32-inch barrels were quick to engage the target and moved effortlessly as a well-balanced shotgun should. The absolute ease with which this gun broke targets was impressive.

The mechanical trigger was perfect, with no creep, and smooth as silk. Follow-up shots were immediate, and this little sporter was a great bit of fun to shoot. This particular model had fixed modified and improved modified chokes, which had no problem grinding any target thrown at them. As is expected with a shotgun of this caliber, all controls functioned with the precision of a Swiss watch and the robustness that comes with German engineering and design.

In the Field

The folks at Federal generously provided the ammunition for this three-day excursion and when it came to chasing ringnecks, number five-shot heavy field loads made for the perfect medicine to take down the tough wild pheasants. As we transitioned to the field portion of this event, I opted for the 20-gauge on the first day. Again, flawless fit and finish, perfect balance and looking damn good doing it was the purpose for which this model was born. After loading up with water in the 80-degree heat, a fine over under shotgun and plenty of ammo, we were off to the corn fields and sorghum patches to find Mr. Rooster.

Our guides had obviously mastered the way of the pheasant as demonstrated by the precision with which they navigated the cover at each pass we made through this beautiful piece of God's country. The dogs worked as if they had read every pheasant's playbook in the area, and birds were plentiful. The first

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bird harvested by my K-20 presented itself with a cackle and flash of color, moving off to the right and trying to get out of Dodge. Unfortunately for him, and fortunately for me, the K-20 mounted beautifully and moved swiftly to the leading edge of the bird, putting a handsome ringneck in my game vest. This day continued and plenty additional ringnecks were harvested by the K-20 Parours I carried. Each and every time, the precision with which this handsome instrument allowed me to execute the shot was astounding. Carrying this 32-inch shotgun through the brush and tangles of the prairie was a dream, light maneuverable and easy to manipulate when the spaces got a little tight.

We completed several different pushes throughout the two days of field hunting with this group of wonderful people, who had as much passion for wing shooting as they did for the Krieghoff shotgun they carried. On day two, I swapped the 20-gauge barrels for the 28-gauge tubes...because...why not? The 28-gauge has proven itself, not only to me, but to many hunters, as

a bore size well suited for upland and waterfowl duty. Measuring 32-inches with the fixed modified and improved modified chokes, the patterns from this near ballistically perfect load are exceptional out of the precisely crafted barrels on Krieghoff shotguns. Many a rooster fell to the K20, in the 28-gauge configuration through the final day of field hunting, topping off this wonderful opportunity.

I'd like to thank the folks at Krieghoff for the invitation and wonderful hospitality, as well as the opportunity to test nearly every configuration of shotgun they make. Dieter and Betty Krieghoff were the most gracious of hosts, while Ralf captured the most beautiful pictures, and Alex and Ken made sure all participants were able to demo every model on site. For the refined wing shooter wishing to turn heads in the field, on the sub-gauge course and fill their game vests, the K-20 Parours is the way to go.

For information on the K-20 Parours and its many configurations and engraving themes visit their website at krieghoff.com ■

