



This gun has a colour hardened finish but the buyer can choose from numerous engraving options on a silver finish.

BRITANNIA RULES OKAY

It's beyond the reach of most of us but there's no harm in dreaming that maybe one day this best English gun could be ours. Jason casts a longing eye over a Holloway and Naughton O/U.

A century after being founded Holloway and Naughton Gunmakers are enjoying a renaissance under the ownership of well known shooting instructor, gun fitter and champion clay shooter, Andrew Harvison.

Since acquiring the company ten years ago Andrew has been living his dream of making best quality guns and after much blood, sweat and toil he has achieved his goal with two models of O/U - the Premier and the Britannia.

The sidelock Premier is one that can hold its corner against any of the best guns coming

out of London and other British gunmaking houses while the Britannia sidelock is a slightly more affordable gun built to a design that Andrew has enhanced and fine tuned. The Britannia is also available with a trigger plate action



Level of workmanship is first rate in every respect.

and sideplates.

The Premier is particularly interesting as it is a very close copy of the Boss O/U in that it hinges open on revolving trunnions and the bolt locks precisely into the demi-blocked barrels. Both features require the highest level of craftsmanship and Holloway and Naughton have also used their own design of single trigger to keep things as straight forward as possible, and reliable.

Both guns are built by a team of seven gunmakers hand-picked by Andrew, a team that in the last year, produced 12 guns - a significant number at this level of

quality gunmaking.

The barrels, actions and all mechanical parts are made by Holloway and Naughton in the UK and it's their proud claim that the only imported part is Turkish walnut for the woodwork.

Both guns are built to order and the list of options you can choose from are just about endless:

- » Choice of sidelock or trigger plate action.
- » Game or Sporting clay gun.
- » Barrel lengths from 27 - 34 in.
- » Choice of 12, 20, 28 bore or .410
- » 2¾in or 3in chambers
- » Fixed chokes or H&N's own flush fit or extended multichoke system.

- » Single or double triggers.
- » Manual or automatic safety catch.
- » Wide choice of engraving styles.

The enormous flexibility in specification means you can have a truly custom gun built to your exact needs.

The H&N game gun has been designed to be carried easily,

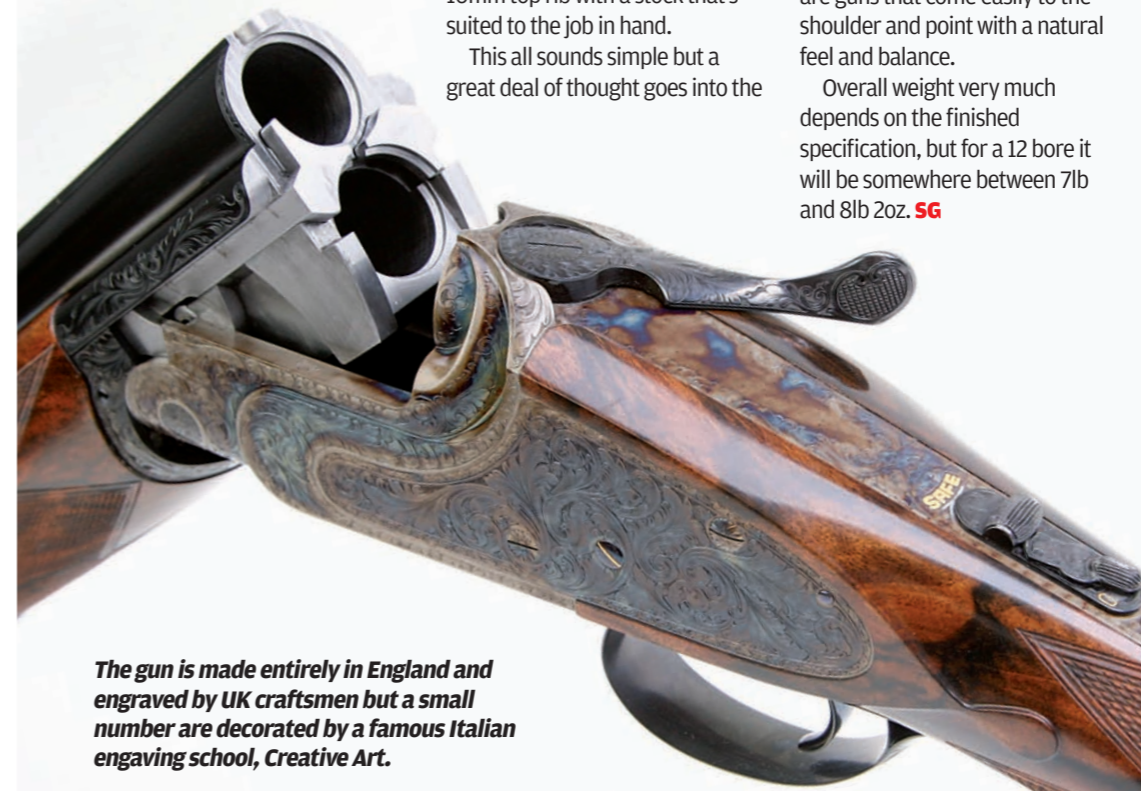
handles quickly and is highly pointable thanks to the weight of the barrels and a narrow rib that tapers from 7mm at the breech to 5mm at the muzzles. The slim stock and fore-end sit in the hands a treat.

The Sporter version has a slightly heavier barrel set and 10mm top rib with a stock that's suited to the job in hand.

This all sounds simple but a great deal of thought goes into the

building of each gun to ensure the barrel weight, balance and rib are in tune with the overall weight of the gun. There is no compromise on handling or "dynamics" as Andrew calls it and these certainly are guns that come easily to the shoulder and point with a natural feel and balance.

Overall weight very much depends on the finished specification, but for a 12 bore it will be somewhere between 7lb and 8lb 2oz. **SG**



The gun is made entirely in England and engraved by UK craftsmen but a small number are decorated by a famous Italian engraving school, Creative Art.

JASON'S VERDICT

"Most of us can only dream of owning a sidelock of this quality but it needs to be remembered that the men who build these guns have served their time with all the best London makers so the workmanship is first class. In fact it's as good as it gets and the guns represent terrific value for money. Andrew Harvison deserves our admiration and respect for breathing life back into an old name and restoring it to the highest level."

PRICE: £55,000

Depending on specification. The trigger plate version will be cheaper.

MORE DETAILS:

Holloway and Naughton, tele 0116 259 6592. Email afharvison@hollowaynaughton.co.uk or visit their website www.hollowaynaughton.co.uk

MARKS OUT OF 100:

Build Quality	25/25
Handling	24/25
Styling	25/25
Value for money	24/25
TOTAL SCORE	98/100

KEY FEATURES



The gun is available with a choice of single or double triggers.



Woodwork is to a superb standard and the oil finish really does enhance the quality of the walnut. The wood is chosen by the customer.



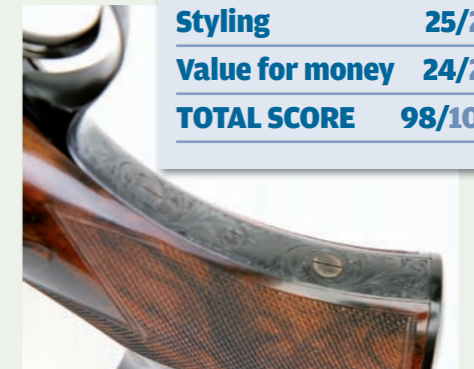
The style and shape of the stock and fore-end is down to customer choice.



The Britannia's ejector work has been kept simple and uses design principles adapted from the Boss O/U.



Low profile action with hinge pins and bites in line with the bottom barrel. Replaceable drawers built into the action frame ensure longevity of jointing.



The hand cut chequering is both neat and precise - Jason said he has rarely, if ever, seen better.