

*Build quality has improved noticeably in recent times and now matches or beats the main competition in almost all respects.*

# KEMEN KM-4

**THE SPANISH KEMEN HAS ESTABLISHED A SOLID REPUTATION IN EUROPE WITH A COMBINATION OF GOOD HANDLING AND VALUE FOR MONEY.**

***ClayShootingUSA puts it under the microscope***

*Kemen's slim plain fore arm is one of our favorites. It looks and feels elegant and adds to the gun's sense of pointability. It would be our choice from the range offered.*

*This is the plain black finish of the KM-4 Standard*

*Ejectors are spring loaded – a proven and reliable design*

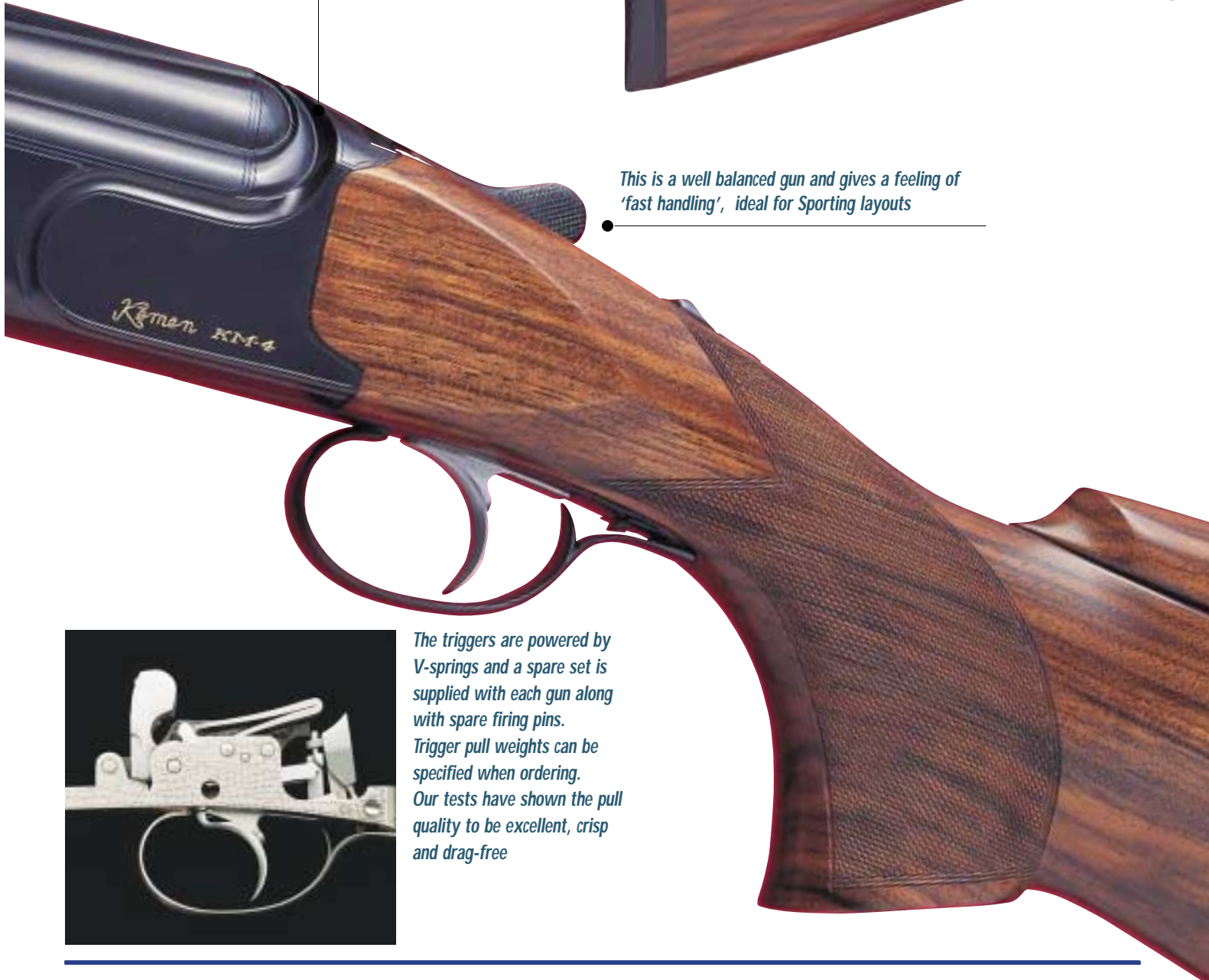


*Expect the wood to be left proud of the action – it's standard practise among most European makers in this price bracket.*

*An adjustable comb is the latest option to be added to the list. Grade of wood can be selected on all guns. Every Kemen is built to order with the customer's own stock dimensions.*



*This is a well balanced gun and gives a feeling of 'fast handling', ideal for Sporting layouts*



*The triggers are powered by V-springs and a spare set is supplied with each gun along with spare firing pins. Trigger pull weights can be specified when ordering. Our tests have shown the pull quality to be excellent, crisp and drag-free*

# KEMEN KM-4

## FROM UNKNOWN TO WORLD BEATER

Kemen (the word means 'strength' in the Basque language) is a very young company, barely more than a decade old, but its guns have already notched up a string of major titles that any gunmaker would be proud of. The wins include several English and FITASC Sporting World Championships and a host of other big events in Britain and Europe.

The KM-4 was first seen around 1990, although the design had its roots much further back in a gun called the Arramberi.

Kemen distributors concentrated originally on the trap shooting disciplines, but they soon saw the potential of sporting clays and made some inspired signings to their select group of sponsored shooters, not least the young phenomenon Richard Faulds and, in 1995, World Champion George Digweed. Both proceeded to put the name firmly in the minds of the shooters with a run of big wins and they were followed in 1999 by Ben Brunton, winner of that year's World FITASC event.

Both Faulds and Digweed have been lured away by lucrative offers from other firms, but the

**DIGWEED FAMOUSLY STRUGGLED WITH HIS KEMEN IN THE EARLY STAGES UNTIL HE SWITCHED TO THE LONGER BARRELS, THE NEW GUN HAVING MARKEDLY DIFFERENT HANDLING CHARACTERISTICS**

job of establishing Kemen as a legitimate force in the market had been achieved.

### THE RANGE

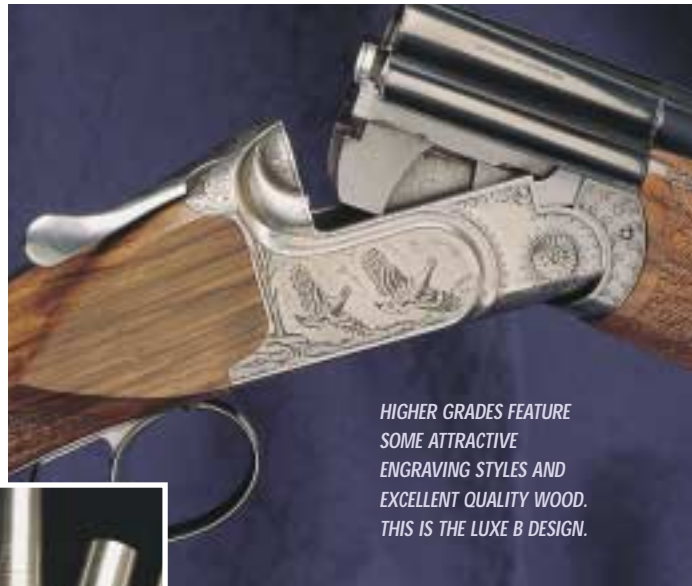
The Kemen KM-4 range is essentially one gun in a wide selection of cosmetic finishes and a choice of 12 and 20 gauge. The standard model, as shown in our main pictures, is finished with a plain black action, but the catalogue lists eleven higher grade models, including sideplate versions.

### BUILT TO ORDER

All Kemens are built to order and the buyer has a great degree of flexibility in choosing the final specification of his gun. That includes choice of fixed or detachable trigger (selective and non-selective), fore arm styles and fixed or multi chokes, the latter featuring Briley thin wall tubes. More recently an adjustable stock option has been added to the range.

### BALANCE AND HANDLING

Kemen have been at the forefront of the European move towards long barreled but fast handling guns for sporting clays. Many buyers choose the 32" tubes,



HIGHER GRADES FEATURE SOME ATTRACTIVE ENGRAVING STYLES AND EXCELLENT QUALITY WOOD. THIS IS THE LUXE B DESIGN.



BRILEY THIN WALL CHOKES ARE AN OPTION.

which typically come in the weight range 1500-1600 grams (3.3 to 3.5 lbs), and you can specify your preferred weight to within around 20 grams or so. In a standard sporter weighing 8-8½ lbs, these relatively light barrels lead to a neutral weight distribution and guns that feel very 'pointable'. The contrast with some well known mass produced guns and their typically nose heavy balance (a product of thick walled tubes and

long, heavy chokes) is immediately apparent on first handling.

With 30" barrels some may find the handling almost too quick. Digweed famously struggled with his Kemen in the early stages until he switched to the longer barrels, the new gun having markedly different handling characteristics to the early model Beretta 682s with which he enjoyed his early success. Our view is that 30" is ideal for fast relatively close targets, but we would go for the extra two inches if you plan to shoot longer European-style FITASC targets. Why not buy with two sets of barrels?

## ...our verdict

The reputation the KM-4 enjoys with shooters for sweet handling and soft shooting is well deserved in our opinion. Kemen seem to have quickly found the elusive blend of balance and dynamics that has eluded others for many years. In particular the longer barreled guns seem ideally suited to the demands of FITASC-style sporting targets. Few who have bought one seem inclined to change.

The guns are priced very competitively against their main rivals (primarily Italian) and are well worth a closer look.

STAR RATING

8/10