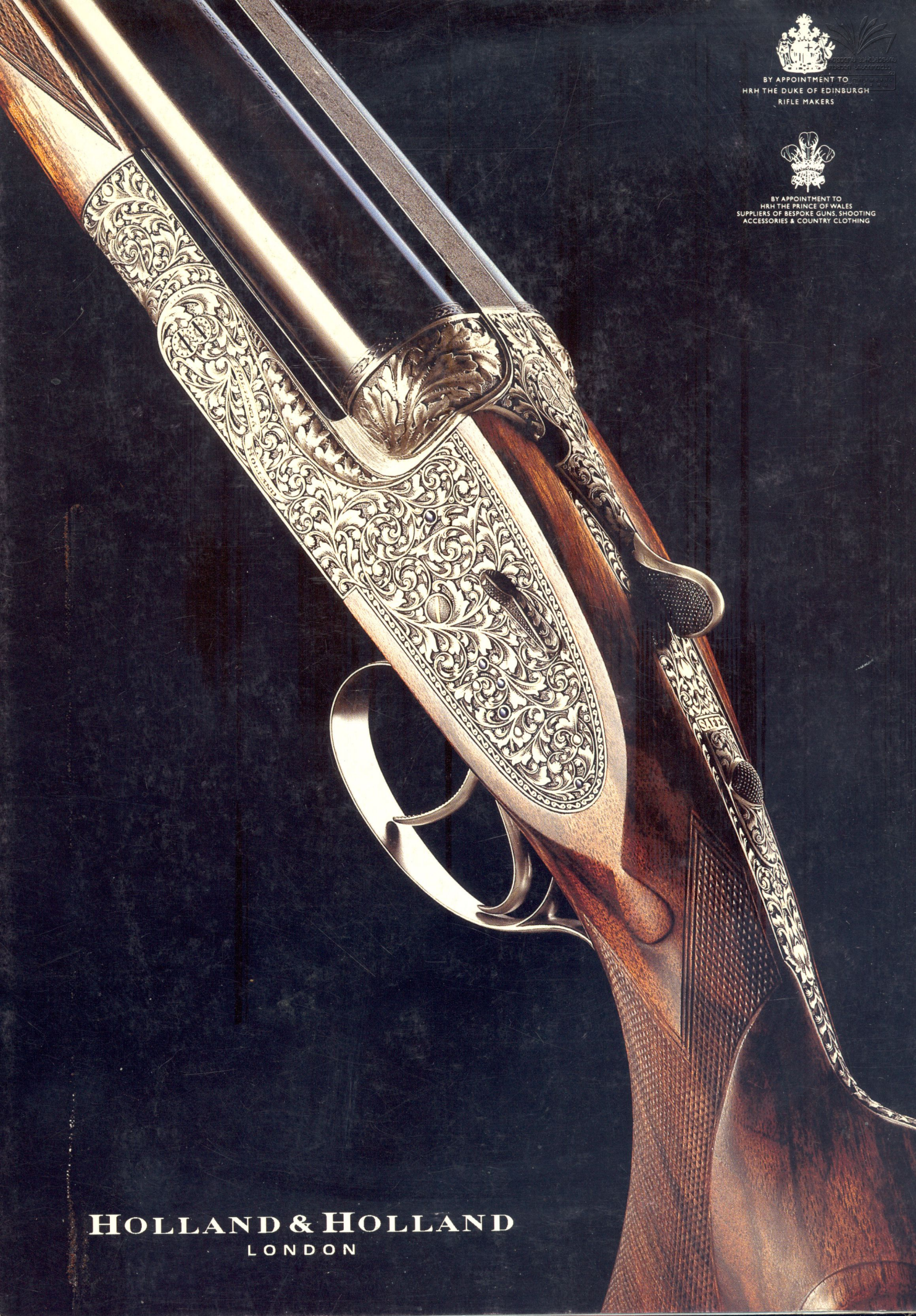




BY APPOINTMENT TO
HRH THE DUKE OF EDINBURGH
RIFLE MAKERS



BY APPOINTMENT TO
HRH THE PRINCE OF WALES
SUPPLIERS OF BESPOKE GUNS, SHOOTING
ACCESSORIES & COUNTRY CLOTHING



HOLLAND & HOLLAND
LONDON

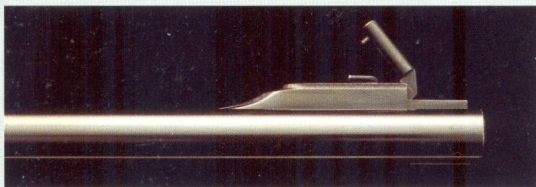


THE HOLLAND & HOLLAND "ROYAL" DOUBLE RIFLE

THE CLASSIC DOUBLE EXPRESS RIFLE



Above: Smoke from an oil lamp will reveal the lightest irregularity in oiling



The Holland & Holland "Royal" double rifle is celebrated as the best of its kind in the world today. This pre-eminence dates from the astonishing day in 1883 when the company's rifles, ranging from a .295 rook rifle to a 4-bore elephant rifle, won all ten categories of the trials organised by THE FIELD magazine. The quintessential practicality and design detail of today's Holland & Holland "Royal" double rifle ensures its continuance as the weapon of choice for the modern hunter facing dangerous game, in Africa or on European battue hunts.

Big game hunting in Africa came into its own during the 19th century when early settlers found abundant exotic and dangerous quarry to hunt. These settlers required specially-made firearms and it was at this time the double rifle first established itself, since the best available insurance against personal injury lay in the reliability offered by two independent firing mechanisms. This is as true today as it was one hundred years ago.

Theodore Roosevelt, twenty-sixth President of the United States, was perhaps the most famous admirer of the Holland & Holland rifle: "I do not believe there exists a better weapon for heavy game," he reported from Africa. With the handling characteristics and balance of a shotgun, a double rifle points with ease and speed - an

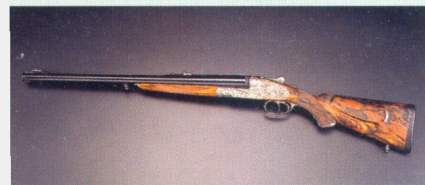
essential requirement for moving game, and the ability to fire two shots almost instantaneously is a considerable plus should a second, quick shot be required.

The greater knock-down effect that a double rifle imparts also lends an advantage in close cover, as does rapid and straightforward reloading if an angry buffalo is in mid-charge. An inventive integral muzzle wedge, of Holland & Holland design, is fitted to the barrels and allows the rifle regulator to adjust the point of bullet impact to guarantee perfect shooting. Each rifle has its barrels individually regulated for the client's preferred ammunition and bullet weight. Amply robust, the "Royal" double rifle is equal to the harsh environments it will doubtless encounter.

The company's gunmakers, like all great gunmakers, are never content to rest on 19th century laurels and are engaged in a continual quest to improve accepted methods. The genius of a Holland & Holland rifle lies in the melding of tradition with state-of-the-art technology. Today's weapons are made from the best steel the modern age can provide and they are drilled, milled and turned by machines far more precise than those used by yesterday's craftsmen.

Lock, stock and barrel, there are many processes that the components will pass through during manufacture and there are over one hundred parts in every rifle. Each will be fitted and tested to the finest tolerances imaginable.

The barrel-maker requires close to 100 hours to complete a pair of rifle barrels. Bored from solid forgings of high-grade nickel chrome molybdenum steel, individual barrels are balanced, turned and rifled before being paired off and assigned to a customer, and then finally silver brazed at the breech.



Embellished by master engravers, special commissions and individual designs are imaginative and creative

Left: The Holland & Holland muzzle wedge, an inventive design which assists barrel regulation

Next comes the time-honoured method of soft-soldering which joins the barrels, ribs and sight blocks, using pure tin fluxed with rosin, a non-corrosive substance. The actioners may take up to 350 hours to complete their section of the weapon, which comprises all the working parts, including the bolting mechanism, lock work and ejectors. The action is the heart of the rifle and embodies the Holland & Holland hand detachable locks, easily removed for inspection after a hard day's hunting. Correctly actioned the rifle will give many years of faultless service.

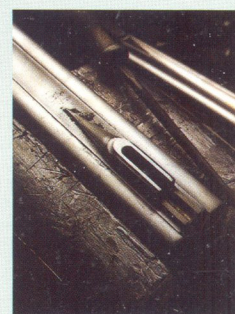
The action shop is also responsible for jointing the barrels into the action, again to minute tolerances. Here, smoke from an oil lamp is used and the carbon deposit will reveal the slightest irregularity in the jointing, and any high spots will be painstakingly eased. The assembly is then sent to the London Proof House for testing.

The "Royal" will be further embellished by Holland & Holland master engravers who adorn the rifle with



discussion of their respective merits between gunmaker and customer. Smaller game calls for the lighter, higher velocity calibres, while big game requires the large calibres. Holland & Holland are world-renowned for having developed many well-known double rifle calibres. Pre-eminent are the .300 and the .375 Holland & Holland Magnum, the .500/.465 Holland & Holland Nitro Express and the largest sporting calibre in the world, the .700 Holland & Holland Nitro Express. Most popular modern calibres are available.

Skill, fieldcraft and patience are all required of the hunter. He, in turn, can rely on the Holland & Holland "Royal" double rifle, which has been tailored precisely to his needs. It will take shape week by week as it is built to the customer's order - the stock of finest walnut, painstakingly oil finished; the barrels carefully regulated for maximum accuracy; and in all calibres the classic lines of his rifle enhanced by Holland & Holland's master engravers. Together these features combine to ensure that each "Royal" is a unique creation and, undoubtedly, one of the world's finest rifles. ■



Rifle sights in detail



"Royal" scroll engraving, or customise it with a design especially commissioned by the owner that is frequently imaginative and creative. The customer also selects a walnut stock blank with the particular figuring and colour they find most appealing.

Walnut stocks, properly seasoned for up to ten years, provide the stability essential for a Best London rifle, and in the stocking shop the stocker inlets the head of the stock blank with minute accuracy to receive the action and lockwork. Each stock is shaped to the customer's bespoke measurements. Lastly, the stock is oiled and polished to reveal the distinctive lustre of its figuring.

Regulating the barrels will come next, and many shots will be fired on our range by a skilled regulator during this painstaking task, to ensure the rifle shoots accurately and precisely.

'Finishing' the rifle involves checking, subtle easing and smoothing of the working parts. Meticulous polishing is required to effect the crisp trigger pulls and smooth ejection that so much characterises the "Royal" model.

One of the pleasures of selecting a Holland & Holland "Royal" double rifle is in the choice of calibre and the



STANDARD SPECIFICATION

The "Royal" Double Rifle is available in most modern calibres whether flanged, belted or rimless from .240 to .700 calibres.

- Action** Sidelock ejector with reinforced action and hand detachable locks, double triggers with hinged front trigger, extended top strap, manual or automatic safety.
- Barrels** From 22" to 26" (56cm to 66cm) chopper lump, with sling loops, standard wide-V backsight with one or two folding leaves and a combined moon-protector foresight, regulated to required range and bullet weight.
- Stock** Selected dense walnut, oil polished and finished to customer's measurements, with pistol grip, cheek piece and leather covered recoil pad, the grip with cap box for spare foresight, with gold oval engraved with initials or crest.
- Engraving** Traditional "Royal" scroll engraving, colour hardened or bright finish, the rifle number engraved or inlaid in gold.
- Weight** Weights depend upon calibre and specifications.

OPTIONAL EXTRAS

Optional extras can include deluxe engraving, special patterns, relief scrolls, game scenes, carving or gold inlays, deluxe grade walnut for stock and forend, Holland & Holland telescope mounts and best quality leather rifle case.

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