



The Beauty of Balance



THE KRIEGHOFF K-80 VICTORIA, BY [ANDREA BOGARD](#)

“Balance is not something you find; it’s something you create.” --Jana Kingsford

I remember playing on a see-saw as a child. It was typically a frustrating activity because I was usually much shorter and lighter than my opponent across the battered wooden plank. I learned early about fulcrums, balance points and weight distribution, even though I couldn’t yet affix the terms correctly.

Some shotguns I’ve picked up remind me of the imbalance found in a poorly paired see-saw shenanigan. The K-80 Victoria was the absolute antithesis of that. In 25 years of shooting, I’ve never picked up a shotgun that felt so perfectly right in the hands. But why? What makes the K-80 Victoria feel so right? Let’s walk through her and find out.

When I first got her out of the hard Victoria gun case, I found a crisp, elegant white and gold package marked “For Ladies Only.” The iconic Krieghoff logo was etched in gold at the bottom. I flipped open the fastener and found a stack of heavy linen cards with details and imagery showcasing the K-80 and K-20 Victoria models. The mantra on the back of many of the pieces read “*Like a Goddess. Feminine. Elegant. Beautiful. The K-80 Victoria.*”

I picked her up out of her velvet lined case and put her together. She settled comfortably into my small hands. The first thing that jumped out to me was the grip radius. It had been tightened to accommodate smaller hands/fingers.

My right index finger was able to reach the adjustable trigger with ease.

The delicate palm swell nestled into my hand like they were made for one another. In my kitchen I executed a few practice gun mounts. The beads stacked perfectly and my eye was aligned with the rib properly. So far so good.

It was time to take her to the range. In true Northern Michigan form, it was 25 degrees with gusts up to 20 mph. This means two things. First, the birds will be extremely unpredictable. Second, a down coat and fuzzy bibs will be the shooting attire of choice.

When I profile a shotgun, I like to shoot as many different types of ammunition out of it that I can get my hands on. This helps me learn about how it shoots/functions under varying circumstances. I started out with a 1 oz load of 7.5s travelling at 1150 feet per second and cleared the first station. Off to a good start...

The next station brought a medium speed 35-yard crosser. As I called “pull,” the wind kicked up providing an unexpected tail wind. What was a medium speed bird now called for a significant acceleration across the icy field.

At that moment, I was not confident I could get the 32-inch Parours barrels where I needed in time. Before the thought had completely formed, I watched the target explode in the air, mingling with the driving snowflakes. The

32-inch barrels had moved exactly where I wanted them to go with seemingly no effort.

Over the next 12 stations, I would shoot ammunition across a broad spectrum of shot size, dram equivalent and speed. Even with 1 ½ oz handicap loads travelling 1235 fps, the K-80 recoiled comfortably and swung smoothly. Additionally, recovery time between shots was immediate – this is important for quick cadence doubles.

On the subject of swing, let’s talk weight. The K-80 Victoria weighs in at a marvelously manageable 7 pounds 15 ounces. Many comparable women’s shotguns are within this weight range, but I have yet to handle one that moves as effortlessly or feels as light as this one.

To me, weight is less important than feel. Frequently, a women’s version of a shotgun is modified heavily in the stock (cast, pitch, drop, length, toe dimensions, etc), with the fore-end construct being left the same as the original male version. In some shotguns, this feels akin to grasping a 2x4 instead of a shotgun.

Not the K-80 Victoria. The fore-end has been slenderized just enough to accommodate a smaller hand, without sacrificing the solidarity and stability found in the traditional K-80. That said, the balance of the overall gun has not been compromised in any way. For each intentional modification, the gun appears to have been

considered as a whole to make sure each change is complimentary, instead of a distraction.

“...Offers captivating lightness, handling and precision...”

Frequently, marketing materials highlight the positive, downplay the shortcomings and attempt to reframe any negatives in a positive light. That’s why it’s called marketing. After combing through all the information I could find, I can say that the K-80 Victoria backs up all that it purports to be.

It delivers on everything it promises and shows no hint of deficiency. Let’s look at some specs in the table below.

The combination of components that make up the K-80 Victoria demonstrate that balance was intentionally created, not found. There is not a single facet of this shotgun that has not been perfectly curated and flawlessly executed – from aesthetics to functionality.

When creating the K-80 Victoria, the goal was not to create a blinged-out version of a man’s gun. In fact, everything about the Victoria is elegant and understated. The mission was to create a fine shotgun that uniquely fit the needs, wants and expectations of the discerning lady shooter.

SPECS	
MODEL	K-80 VICTORIA
BARREL	32" TESTED, 28" AND 30" AVAILABLE
GAUGE	12G TESTED, 20G AND 28G AVAILABLE
WEIGHT	7 LBS 15 OZ
LOP	14" (TO TRIGGER SET AS ARRIVED)
STOCK	LADIES VICTORIA WITH ADJ. COMB
FINISH	OIL, WITH VICTORIA CHECKERING
RIB	7-6MM TAPER FLAT
ENGRAVING	STANDARD
CHOKES	MOD/IMOD, AVAILABLE WITH CHOKED BARRELS

The K-80 Victoria exemplifies perfect balance and also raises the bar for what a ladies shotgun should be. Are you ready to experience the balanced beauty and perfection that define the K-80 Victoria? ■

