



A KRIEGHOFF SPECIALIST

NICK SISLEY TALKS WITH ERNEST MARLETTE OF MARLETTE FINE ARMS

Marlette Fine Arms is based in Winston-Salem, North Carolina. The combination of selling Krieghoffs and gunsmithing keeps Ernest Marlette busy seven long days a week – such are the fortunes of a gunsmith who has learned all the intricacies of working on fine competition shotguns.

While the storefront is minimal, Marlette does have a sophisticated walk-in trailer that he takes to various sporting, skeet and trap Big Blasts. That walk-in trailer is outfitted with everything he needs to perform just about any magic to a Krieghoff or most any other competition shotgun.

Marlette started professional

gunsmithing 21 years ago, but he started as an amateur gunsmith at the ripe age of five! That's when an Uncle gave him a Winchester single shot rifle. The stock was in sorry shape, so the Uncle gave him all the information he needed to strip the stock, close the wood's pores and totally refinish it. "That project took months," Marlette told me, "but that single shot Winchester was the beginning of a lifelong passion."

Early Days

As he moved into adulthood Marlette became interested in rifles as a result of working with accomplished rifle smith, Richard Hunt. "From Richard I learned lots of the so-called tricks of the trade," he told me.

Around 1988, Marlette started working on shotguns in earnest (yes, a play on words there). In 1990 he discovered competition skeet shooting – as did his wife Marnie – so regular competition was something the two enjoyed together. While he would love to compete more these days, he's simply too busy.

His first competition gun was a Perazzi MX8, but he switched to a Krieghoff K-80 in the early 1990s, eventually moving up to the K-80 he shoots today – a Plantation Grade with high rib and adjustable comb stock. Marnie started serious competition shooting with a Perazzi, and still shoots it today.



ERNEST AND HIS WIFE MARNIE WITH A HIGH GRADE K-80.