

LONGTHORNE BOXLOCK
SPORTER 3001GUN
- REVIEW -

Mark Brown reviews the brand new Longthorne Boxlock Sporter 3001.

LONGTHORNE BOXLOCK SPORTER 3001

RRP: from £11,995
longthorneguns.com

As lockdown restrictions eased it was with a fair degree of excitement that I was finally able to test the new Boxlock Sporter from the renowned English gunmaker Longthorne Guns. It seems a lifetime ago that I first heard about their plans for this model at the

CPSA World English Sporting and Sportrap Championships back in 2018, and it was fantastic to finally be able to see the gun in action and give it a go myself.

It's a wonderful thing to be able to admire a 100% English made shotgun aimed squarely at our sport, and what's more, it's even better to learn about the product development and extensive engineering that

has gone into the product to make it the very best that it can be.

Lets be clear from the off – Longthorne are making guns for the upper-end of the market for both clay or game shooters. When you consider a Longthorne Gun, you are considering a handmade shotgun that offers exceptional quality. For many it's an aspirational purchase

and a gun that you will love and treasure for the rest of your shooting life.

FIRST IMPRESSIONS

So, what would first impressions be like once we opened the case?

As expected, the case tells the story of quality from the start, a leather trimmed ABS is supplied as standard and looks great. Inside I was

treated to the sight of the striking silver action for the first time. It's a fairly simple affair, a swirl motif on the action with the Longthorne name engraved above, yet there is an elegance in the simplicity of design. The words 'Longthorne, Made in England' are also proudly engraved onto the barrels adjacent to the breach. The test gun had a higher-grade stock made from Turkish walnut, satin finished, and was pleasing to the eye, especially the figuring on the fore-end. If I was honest for the price of the gun, I would have expected something a little more stunning as standard but don't worry – Longthorne have over 500 stock blanks to choose from so you can pretty much have exactly what makes you smile! The Sporter 3001 also comes in a black action, again with the same motif and engraving of the name on the action and barrels.

Looking at the engineering side of things for a moment, there are some interesting features that caught my eye. Firstly, the barrels are a patented design and manufactured from one single block of steel with integral ribs. You will not find a single soldered joint on the barrels at all. It aids stability in use and also helps to reduce perceived recoil significantly. I particularly liked the hatch style engraving on the barrel lump and the fact that the gun had a very positive closing that felt solid and tight. I loved the design of the square back action – it's robust and rugged. The trigger unit is also something to behold as it's very shallow in profile, looking almost squashed. It is

around 3mm smaller in depth than a trigger unit from a 20 bore Perazzi for example, it looks sleek, and the trigger is also completely adjustable. It's very comfortable in hand with the palm swell on the stock. During the design process of the Sporter 3001, the positioning of the trigger unit was given a great deal of thought and the finished position is around 6mm further forward than that of most other guns. It makes perfect sense, because the further forward your hand is towards the breech then the closer your hand is to the middle of the gun, thus offering better balance.



14 ¾" to 15", with the former being on the silver action test gun and perfect for my shooting. Chequering was crisp and comfortable offering exceptional grip and the wood to metal fit was fantastic. The 32"

SHOOTING THE BOXLOCK

So, talking of balance, how did the gun shoot? We tested both the 30" and 32" barrel guns and found both of them a joy to shoot. It's always a compliment to any gun that barrel length becomes insignificant when shooting and that is 100% true with Longthorne, it's so perfectly weighted in the hand and swings effortlessly even with the longer barrel option. Close range targets were just as easily dealt with as

MAKE	Longthorne
GAUGE	12g
ACTION	Over & Under
CHAMBER	3"
BARREL LENGTH	30" and 32"
CHOKES	Fixed or multi-choke available
STOCK ADJUSTMENT	Adjustable stock available
STOCK FINISH	Satin oil finish
WEIGHT	32" 7lb 14 oz, 30" 7lb 10 oz

OVERALL
RATING9.6^{/10}

long-range crossers and the patterns were excellent on all targets with the extended chokes option on the multi, demonstrating slightly better breaks as expected. The standard stock offered on the 3001 has the option of two sizes of recoil pad, which offers length of pull from

at the factory and the options get even more extensive if you want to look at a more game focussed model.

FINAL THOUGHTS

The Longthorne Sporter 3001 starts at £11,995 and you do get an awful lot of gun for your money, when you consider that this is likely to be a gun for life and a possible family heirloom passed down to future generations. There are now a total of 11 Longthorne dealers across the UK, so servicing and repair work can be undertaken via those dealers or direct with Longthorne themselves.

The re-sale or second hand value of these guns appears to be holding up well which is no surprise, given the quality of workmanship that was displayed on the test guns and the impatience of many consumers these days.

There are certainly other brands to consider at this price point, but it's so refreshing to see a British built gun from a manufacturer at the cutting edge of engineering and design, with an attention to detail that is sure to please even the most discerning of customers.

Hats off to Longthorne and I look forward to reviewing the next model or placing an order (if my lottery numbers come in that is!)

THANKS
to Ian Coley Shooting School.

barrel option model with adjustable stock weighed in at 7lbs 14oz and the 30" barrel with standard stock weighed 7lb 10oz, all barrels are proofed for use with steel shot (down to ½ choke on the m/c option).

It's important to consider the other elements that make a gun such as this so special, and aside from looks and performance there is also the whole host of options including barrel length, flat or ramp style rib, fore-end shape, and adjustable stock too. In addition to this there is the custom stock fitting

RATINGS: Value for money: 8 Handling/balance: 10 Specification: 10 Build quality: 10 Mechanical function: 10