

SYSTEM 3R MEASURES UP TO THE CRAFTSMANSHIP OF LEADING BRITISH BESPOKE SHOTGUN MANUFACTURER

Boxall & Edmiston, the Shrewsbury-based shotgun maker, harnesses the accuracy of System 3R's workholding technology to make guns of the highest calibre.

By combining over 150 years of traditional craftsmanship with 21st Century precision engineering, Boxall & Edmiston are setting the pace with their truly superlative, quality shotguns. Major investment in the most accurate machine tools, driven by the latest SolidWorks CAD software, allows them to manufacture every component themselves.

In providing bespoke guns for their customers, they are committed to preserve the art of British gunmaking, that is reflected in the traditional way that individuals are measured for a gun – as happens with bespoke tailoring. Gunfitting is an art in itself – with the walnut stock length, bend, cast off and cast on, all variations dictating the build of the finished gun, in order to provide the comfort and consistent shooting accuracy. Coupled with barrel length, left or right-handedness, dominant eye etc. it is easily understandable why the word 'art' is attributed to Boxall & Edmiston's gunmaking skills.

All metal components of the gun are made on the company's state-of-the-art milling and EDM machines which are all networked and on which System 3R workholding technology is used. These include Brother TC-52C and TC-32B milling machines, Sodick AQ 35L sink erosion machine, Sodick AQ 327L wire erosion machine and Fanuc Cut Alpha-OA wire erosion machine.

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System 3R's Macro pallets/holders are used to not only produce copper electrodes for the sinker, but also to transfer workpieces from one process to the other without any loss of accuracy. On average c.20 different electrodes are required for one gun's components.

The milling of metal components is also effected using Macro holders – with tolerances of below 20 microns being easily and consistently achieved.

Workpieces are moved from one metal cutting process to another with Macro the element that synchronises the accuracy required.

Thus, Macro plays a vital part in the need to produce over 40 precision complex, metal components which, when fitted together in the building of the gun, must be accurate to a few microns internally.

The building of a bespoke Boxall & Edmiston gun by a traditional artisan called 'The Actioner' takes 3 weeks – testimony to the craftsmanship that takes over after every component part has been manufactured. All parts are made with a small amount of positive tolerance which allows 'The Actioner' to zero tolerance the parts for maximum life, by precise fit and finish.

"The repeatable accuracy that System 3R gives us in the manufacture of our complex metal parts goes right to the core of the quality of our guns," said Director, Peter Boxall. "Since we were established in 2009, we have quietly but confidently carved out a significant niche in bespoke British gunmaking and now have customers all over the world."

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