

The KID Trigger by Gwyn Roberts

For anyone wanting to gain extra points in Gallery Rifle competitions, especially those who are just a few points adrift in order to move up to the next classification, a decent trigger unit should certainly do the trick. Yes, you can take up most of the sloppy feel of a Ruger unit by re-profiling or installing a set screw in the sear. You can also reverse the trigger return spring and plunger or take them out completely and try to make up your own trigger return spring system, or lighten the initial pull weight (not let off weight) of the trigger but at the end of the day there is only so much you can achieve with it due to its actual design. Spend £200 on tuning parts for your Ruger unit and it will still be nowhere near a KID trigger!

Back in March 2003 I got hold of my first KID "Match" 10//22 trigger unit and did a test with 2 of my Junior shooters (Sarah 15 & Nick 16yrs) at the time to see if using a lighter trigger release would improve their performance. Neither were novice shooters as they had competed for over a year or so in various 1500, Bianchi and Steel Challenge matches and Nick could certainly hold his own shooting a 10/22. They decided to shoot a couple of 1500 stages as it is more of a precision match where using a better trigger should certainly prove its worth. They both shot using the standard club triggers (all "tuned") and put the targets to one side then both shooters had time to get used to the new KID unit before again shooting from the different positions and distances. Their improved performances with the KID unit installed could easily be seen in the quicker Match 1 (10 & 15yds - 12 shots in 20 seconds). Nick managed to keep all of his shots within the X ring, with the exception of a couple of 10's.

While Sarah who had not been shooting anywhere near as long as Nick has, still managed to keep most of her shots consistently inside the X and 10 ring. "Pulled" shots were virtually eliminated in the match 3 practice (shot at 25yd as we only have an indoor range), and the Weak hand and Kneeling position scores were much better as both shooters found it easier to keep their sights on the centre of the target as each shot



was fired. With the crisp let off and much lighter trigger pull on the KID they could release each shot almost when they wanted to, from any shooting position. Due to the mechanical operations of a Ruger based unit it is much harder to keep the sights fixed inside the target centre as the increased pull weight and "roll over" sensation during the trigger travel tends to pull the rifle over to the side or downwards slightly nearly every time, or sometimes both! "Snatching" a shot even slightly on a 50m target will usually cause the bullet impact to be at least a couple of inches off centre. Sometimes a lot more!

Finally, after 10 years of trouble free use one of the springs in my Jewell trigger unit has just broken so it's time to replace it. Purchased for £200 at the time, they were certainly not cheap, but the performance benefit was to be worth at least double that once I had got used to it.

Working out at £20 a year it was probably the best bargain I have ever had, until now maybe! Having had until recently a KID Match unit on loan for nearly 5 years now, knowing which replacement trigger unit to buy was obvious, but getting hold of one wasn't looking that easy. Trying to successfully import anything to do with firearms from the U.S at the moment is a gamble to say the least, as even our British RFD's are having major problems with export and import regulations, which seem to be changing for the worse, on a weekly basis.

KID (Kidd Innovative Design) is run by Tony and his wife Maripat Kidd. Tony is one of the top gunsmiths in the USA and is the man responsible for the design of this exceptional trigger assembly. This is the trigger unit that helped Troy Lawton become the first person to win the US National Silhouette championships with a Ruger actioned auto-loader, instead of the typical bolt actioned Anschutz rifles used for this kind of match. Looking on the KID (Kidd Innovative Design) website I found the "European" sales contact was Greg Goldsworthy from Rude Fat Dog firearms in Ilfracombe, North Devon. After a quick phone call to see if he had any in stock, a black Match unit was immediately in the post and heading for Wales. During the conversation I mentioned that I may have been a bit over enthusiastic with the allen keys on the one that I had previously used and not having understood the "Americanised" instructions I simply altered everything that was possible in the quest to find the "perfect" trigger, which of course failed! Even having it "re-zeroed" it never really worked trouble free again so be warned! Greg asked what I wanted the "feel" of the trigger to be (reach, "take up" travel, first stage weight, second stage let off weight etc) explaining exactly what each one did, then told me to put it in the post and he would sort it out for me. While he had it, I also asked if he could install one of the flat bladed triggers that I had seen on the website as it may increase the reach slightly which for me would be a good thing. It was posted to him Tuesday lunch time and by Friday morning it was back, with everything adjusted properly to suit me, along with another silver unit bound for a good friend Germany. Excellent service I think you would agree!

Unlike the Ruger unit which is cast, every KID trigger housing is machined from 6061-T6 Billet using the latest CNC and EDM technology and top quality is evident everywhere you look, with no loose or ill fitting components to be found anywhere. The 10/22 KID Match trigger is a 2 stage design and mine arrived from the workshop set at 9.5oz for the first stage ("take up" or "slack" weight) and 15.2oz. for the second stage (trigger release). As most of my 10/22 shooting has been done with a single stage Jewell trigger (no "slack" or trigger creep at all) Greg set the first stage movement of the trigger blade to about 3mm with a 4.5oz weight which is just right for me as it gives good feeling up to what I call the second stage "contact point" which is where the second stage plunger engages to release the trigger once the second weight pressure has been exerted. This "release" weight on my trigger unit is now set at 8oz and needs only the slightest increase in feel to release each shot when I have the sight in the middle of my target and for 1500 targets at 25 & 50m this will definitely help me shoot better. It should also pay dividends when shooting Metallic Silhouettes which I plan on doing later this year as they are really challenging targets all the way out to 100yds. As well as looking a bit different, the flat trigger blade now also provides good contact with the pad of my index finger (instead of the first knuckle joint as before) and helps to ensure the smoothest possible release. As well as having an ABR (automatic bolt release) built in, one of the best features of the KID is that the trigger reach (as well as cant) is adjustable, so I had the new flat blade installed as far forwards as possible to increase the "reach" for my trigger finger as I don't have small hands. KID recommends for safety not to reduce the first stage pull below 3oz, whilst the trigger release weight (second stage) can be adjusted anywhere from 2.5lbs right down to 6oz, or even slightly less. This means that you can swap it easily from rifle to rifle to suit any situation from vermin control use to bench rest competition.

One thing they don't do in America is much shooting from the weak shoulder, kneeling or sitting positions with their 10/22's. This is because they can shoot their 1500 and Bianchi matches etc with the pistols and revolvers they were designed for in the first place, and this is the reason that the KID unit does not come with an Ironwood lever attached. For any newcomers this is a small rod that is positioned just in front of the trigger guard that allows you to pull back the slide and Ironwood lever at the same time, to quickly lock open the action which is required whilst moving between shooting positions during some of our competitions. Having an engineering background, Greg is already working on this type of magazine release, that will rest under the trigger guard allowing you to drop a magazine with the flick of a finger and allow you to hold open the action quickly in exactly the same way as an Ironwood does. As soon as they are available, I will be on the phone! With the seemingly endless adjustment possibilities with the KID triggers Greg recommends using it as it arrives in the box until you get accustomed to the feel and operation of it on the range. Then, supplied with the 4 page "British" instruction manual which has been kindly "interpreted" by Nigel Graham, you should then be able to adjust everything you need to suit your shooting style and preference. The instructions are now very clear and easy to understand but if you buy one and are still not confident on how to adjust it properly Greg will, for a nominal fee, fine tune it for you

and send it back by insured carriage. I am more than happy with my new set up now and my practice results over the winter months look very promising!

I wouldn't advise a novice shooter to go out and buy one of these trigger units straight away until they are competent in all aspects of firearms handling and related safety practices. I'd then recommend they undertake some good pre competition training to make sure that they can safely adopt the various ready and required shooting positions, and safe loading and reloading practices before moving up to a KID trigger. Once this is achieved however, it should be one of the first priorities on their "must buy" list. I certainly have less funds available than most when it comes to shooting, or anything else for that matter, but have no doubt that my KID trigger will be a sound investment. From experience I know that a good trigger unit will help me shoot better and while some shooters have said that they will just buy some after market parts to "tune up" their Ruger units because its "cheaper for now," I decided to save the extra money and buy one that will do the job properly, first time and every time! Anyone wanting a KID Match trigger should take advantage of the good (for us) dollar rate we have at the moment and get in touch with Greg on 01271 865865 or check out the website at www.rudfatdog.com

Excerpts from the article by Gwyn Roberts that originally appeared in Target Sports.