

# Atkin Grant & Lang

GUN & RIFLE MAKERS LONDON EST. 1821

## Guns that could tell a thousand stories



With the constant evolution of the gun making industry, Atkin Grant & Lang are striving to preserve the history and heritage of Best English shotguns and rifles.

Established in 1821, the story of Atkin Grant & Lang started with Joseph Lang. Gunmaker, retailer and innovator, Lang made a huge impact in the development of breech loading shotguns as well as establishing the .470 Nitro Express rifle. In 1925 Lang merged with Stephen Grant, formerly managing partner of Boss & Co. Grant set up his own business in St James's, London in 1866 and quickly became well known for his exceptionally elegant, beautifully made shotguns. Earning Royal Warrants from the Prince of Wales, Queen Victoria, the Czar of Russia and the Sultan of Turkey, Grant was famed for keeping his guns mechanically simple and reliable, focusing on the quality of finish and handling. The final part of the famous trio was amalgamated in 1960. After working for James Purdey & Sons, Henry Atkin began building guns under his own name in 1875 and in 1877 opened his first premises in Haymarket, London using the name 'Henry Atkin' (from Purdey's). Atkin is best known for his Beesley style 'self-opening' sidelock and his renowned Gough Thomas gun, made for Shooting Times writer Godfrey Thomas Garwood. Gough Thomas was famously hard to please, but was highly complementary of Atkin's work stating in a letter that "I am particularly pleased with the smoothness of opening

... and the uniformity of the effort required to close it". The trio of gun making names lives on as Atkin Grant & Lang, continuing to build best quality shotguns and rifles to this day.

Where other gunmakers are focusing solely on producing modern guns, Atkin Grant & Lang Gun & Rifle Makers are keeping their rich history at the forefront of future development plans. As well as designing and making their new shotguns and rifles, they are also refurbishing previously owned heritage guns. This process gives a new lease of life to well-loved guns and combines mechanical perfection with years of history.

The team of supremely skilled gunmakers merge the latest machining techniques with hands on experience to produce a truly bespoke gun, re-built specifically to satisfy the customer's requirements with a rich and unique history. A gun that could tell a thousand stories.

### Selecting the right gun

Not all guns are created equal, and not all would be suitable for rebuilding. AGL select only the finest English shotguns from makers such as Henry Atkin, Stephen Grant and Joseph Lang. Their team of gunmakers will then evaluate the potential gun, look for certain characteristics and assess what condition it is currently in.





### **Barrels**

All rebuilt guns receive new "Chopper Lump" barrels in the customer's choice of length, choke, chamber and rib type.

"Chopper Lump" barrels offer superior strength as each tube is formed from a single piece of steel. They are all superior proofed and covered for use with steel shot.

Depending on the condition of the original barrels, they can often be re-furnished, re-proofed and supplied to make a two-barrel set. A particularly interesting option if the original barrels are "Damascus" steel.

### **Actions**

The action, together with the lock plates and forend iron, create the base of the rebuild.

The gunmakers try to maintain as much of the original furniture as possible depending on the condition of the gun. The action is stripped down and many of the internal parts are replaced with new parts built entirely by hand. This ensures that the action is as strong and reliable as if it were brand new.

The action is softened and the original engraving is refreshed or removed to allow the customer's choice of engraving style to be added. The action can then be colour hardened, or brushed back to create a beautiful antique coin finish, especially attractive with game scene engraving.

### **Stocks**

The customer has a complete choice of grip, style and shape of the new stock and forend. A full gun fitting service is included in the price of all rebuilds to ensure

the gun is completed with the correct measurements and give the client absolute comfort and confidence when shooting. This can take place at Atkin Grant & Lang, based in Hertfordshire, or the Cotswold ground, The Oxfordshire Shooting School.

The customer can then choose a stock blank from a range of best quality walnut, to suit their preference of colour and grain.

### **The Finishing Touch**

All rebuilt guns are "Best London" finished by AGL's resident gunmaker and workshop manager, Alan Bower, who has a reputation for his exceptional eye for detail and quality of workmanship.

The guns receive a new London pattern case, with options on tools and accessories to complete the truly bespoke nature of the project.

### **History**

The beauty of a rebuilt shotgun is its past. These guns can be over 100 years old and passed down through generations.

AGL have access to the original Sales Ledgers documenting the provenance of each individual gun, telling the story of when it was made and who for. If you would like to know the origin of your Henry Atkin, Stephen Grant or Joseph Lang, please get in touch on the contact details below.

Rebuilding gives these guns a new life in the field, doing what they do best.

To find out more about Atkin Grant & Lang's bespoke rebuilt shotguns,  
please contact Tom Cosby (Sales Manager).

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