

Red Kettle Parka

Not often, in this age of rapidly changing technology, do you come across a product that utilises traditional, natural fabrics in place of modern, synthetic ones and design that eschews fancy features in favour of simplicity. This lends Christian Saugmann's Red Kettle products an almost retro feel.

A dedicated rifle hunter of long experience, much of it in his native Denmark, Christian developed his clothing range specifically with the deer stalker in mind, and he has recently launched his new Ventile Hunting Parka.

Ventile fabric was first developed as long ago as the Second World War, where it was used to make immersion suits for fighter pilots. Densely woven from premium cotton, the principle of the fabric is that the fibres expand on contact with water to create a natural moisture barrier. Meanwhile, being an entirely natural fabric, Ventile is, as the name implies, a fully breathable cloth that is light and comfortable to wear. It is also remarkably quiet when stalking in woodland or when shouldering or mounting a rifle.

Thus the Ventile Hunting Parka has no extra insulation or waterproof membrane. Instead it is composed of two layers of ventile fabric, one on the outside and one constituting the lining. Made in Scotland to exacting standards of workmanship, the parka is designed for comfort, with raglan style sleeves and masses of room at the elbow. The sleeves are finished with popped cuff adjusters. It is



quite military in feel and appearance, with a goodly number of gadget and map pockets, all of them zippered, the zips being covered by popped flaps. The zips themselves are chunky and appear hard wearing, and are fitted with Hypalon rubber finger tabs that are easy to use with wet, cold or gloved fingers. The front of the parka is fastened with a single zippered and popped storm flap. The side cargo pockets are deep and have an angled opening; there are two decent sized inside security pockets and a pocket on each shoulder.

To keep the cold out and the warmth in, there is a draw string around the waist and another around the integral hood, and because of the deep hem length, the parka affords good weather protection to the thighs.

Although many deer stalkers these days take the hi-tec camo route when selecting garments to wear in the field, this

approach by no means suits everyone, and there are occasions when the more traditional look and feel of an all-cotton parka in olive green is more acceptable and appropriate. Thus, although it might be primarily designed for stalking, this beautifully made and highly versatile jacket would not look out of place in a wide variety of circumstances, including game shooting, fishing and even hillwalking or other outdoor countryside activities.

The parka is not distributed via the trade and is available online only from the Red Kettle website.

Price: £510.00

Available online from
www.redkettle.co



Price: £218.95

Available from Monarch Country Products
www.monarchcountryproducts.co.uk

Lowa Hunter boots

Possibly the most important piece of kit that you will buy as a hunter is your pair of boots. Without rugged, well-constructed footwear that can provide proper support to your feet and ankles and give you a firm foothold on treacherous ground whilst keeping your feet dry and warm, then you cannot hope to operate effectively, whether on the hill or in the forest.

There are only a limited number of high-end manufacturers who produce a boot that is specifically designed for extreme hunting, and Lowa is one of those manufacturers. It is no accident that they produce footwear for the British Army, a purchaser with possibly the most exacting footwear requirements to be found anywhere in the world.

The Hunter GTX® EVO Extreme hunting boot is a full ten inches high, giving massive support to the ankle and lower calf, and making this a perfect boot for the hill. Built with a nubuck leather outer over a Vibram Masai sole, the boot has a 37mm high rubber rand to provide toe protection and a totally secure seal. There is a Gore-Tex liner to ensure that the boots are completely waterproof and yet breathable, while the Primaloft 200g insulation is designed for durability under repeated compression. These boots will keep your feet warm and dry in pretty much any circumstance.

They are also designed for comfort. I was especially impressed with the instep support and the soft padded tops designed to prevent any chafing around the ankles. Like other boots of their class, they are fitted with strong and reliable lacing eyes with five rows of hooks up the ankle, and are compatible with crampons or snow spikes. All-up weight is 2060 grams.

These Lowa Hunter boots are a real quality product built for hard use in extreme conditions by the professional hunter or by the recreational stalker who demands the very best in hunting footwear.

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