



Our Specification

We publish this because almost nobody does. Ask most makers what their cabinets are built from and you are given adjectives — heavy-duty, high-security, police-approved. Here are the figures instead, so that you can hold them against anybody else's.

EVERY CABINET AND EVERY ROOM

Mild steel throughout the enclosure	3mm
Laminated anti-bandit glass where glazed	21.5mm
8-lever safe locks to	EN 1300 Class A
Anchored into masonry, never plasterboard	Fixed by us

THE BUILD, IN FULL

Carcass	3mm mild steel throughout the enclosure. Not a steel back panel with lighter sides. Corners formed and reinforced rather than butted, so the box does not distort under leverage.
Doors	Folded steel, with anti-cut pins to the hinge side. Folded to a returned edge rather than left flat, closing the line of attack around the perimeter. If the hinges are cut, the door is still held.
Locks	8-lever safe locks to EN 1300 Class A — tested for picking and drilling as well as force. Tall and multi-bay cabinets take more than one, each bay secured independently.
Keys	Yours. We keep no copies, hold no register of your locks, and supply no manufacturer's master.
Glass	21.5mm laminated anti-bandit glass where doors are glazed, thicker again on tall panes. Not toughened, which fails completely and leaves an open aperture.
Fixings	Anchored into masonry or located structural timber. Never plasterboard. Floor fixings as well on tall pieces. Type and centres recorded in writing.
Ammunition	Separate lockable compartment with its own lock. Built to any specific condition on your certificate, where you tell us what it says.
Interior	Drawn from your gun list. Racks cut to your guns, no gun touching another; rifles standing with optics mounted; felt-lined cleaning rack; full-extension heavy-duty drawer runners; brass or bronze ironmongery.
Climate	Internal air movement, provision for a low-output heater rod agreed at design stage, ventilated provision for slips away from the firearms. A sealed cabinet traps moisture rather than excluding it.
Timber & finish	Quarter-sawn solid oak, walnut or mahogany, book-matched across pairs of doors, or a hardwood built for paint. French polish, hand-oiled, hand-painted or antiqued by hand, in our own finishing shop by our own polisher.
Installation	Delivered and installed by us, never delivery-only — the fixing is a large part of the security. On completion you receive a signed specification sheet stating steel thickness, glass, lock model, fixing type and centres, drawings as installed, and care instructions.



What to Ask Any Maker

Comparing bespoke quotations is difficult: the photographs all look similar and the language is all adjectives. These ten questions produce facts. Ask them of us, and of everyone else you are speaking to — our answers are printed here so that you can hold us to them.

The question	Sporting Cabinetmakers	Maker A	Maker B
1. What is the thinnest panel of the enclosure, in millimetres? <i>Ask for the thinnest, not the headline. A heavier front improves one face; it does not change the sides, back and base.</i>	3mm mild steel throughout. The thinnest panel is the same as the thickest.		
2. How is the hinge side of the door secured? <i>"The hinges are very strong" is not an answer to this question.</i>	Anti-cut pins on every door, engaging into the frame as it closes.		
3. Is the glass laminated, and how thick in millimetres? <i>Toughened glass fails completely and leaves an open hole.</i>	21.5mm laminated anti-bandit glass, thicker on tall panes.		
4. Is the lock a certified safe lock? <i>A lever count is a description. EN 1300 and VdS are tests.</i>	8-lever safe lock, EN 1300 Class A / VdS Class 1. Multi-bay locked independently.		
5. Does one key open everything? <i>On a large or multi-bay cabinet it should not.</i>	Each bay secured independently. Keys are yours; we keep no copies.		
6. Is ammunition separately locked, or is it an option? <i>A separate shelf is not a separate lock.</i>	Separate lockable compartment with its own lock, as standard.		
7. Who fixes it to the wall, and into what? <i>Delivery-only makes the fixing — a large part of the security — your problem.</i>	Our own fitters. Masonry or located structural timber, never plasterboard.		
8. Will you speak to my FEO before you make it? <i>Almost nobody does. Disagreement after delivery is expensive.</i>	Yes. We set out the specification in writing and agree it first.		
9. What paperwork comes with it? <i>If nobody will write the specification down, consider why.</i>	Signed specification sheet, drawings as installed, care instructions.		
10. Who actually makes it, and where? <i>Ask whether any part is subcontracted, imported or badged.</i>	Our own cabinetmakers, in our own Suffolk workshop. Nothing subcontracted.		

If a maker will not answer one of these in writing, that is itself the answer. We are happy to be asked all ten, and happy to answer them about anybody else's cabinet as well as our own — we would far rather have the technical conversation than the sales one.

On standards. Secure storage is a condition of your certificate under the Firearms Act 1968 and the Firearms Rules 1998. No statute names a product, a manufacturer or a steel thickness, and there is no police-approval scheme for gun cabinets in the United Kingdom whatever the advertising says. The Home Office *Firearms Security Handbook* is guidance rather than law. BS 7558:1992, which covered gun cabinets, was withdrawn on 7 November 2023; our locks are certified to EN 1300 Class A and VdS Class 1, which are current European safe-lock standards. Whether an arrangement is adequate at your address is a matter for your local police

firearms licensing department. Nothing here is legal advice.

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sportingcabinetmakers.com