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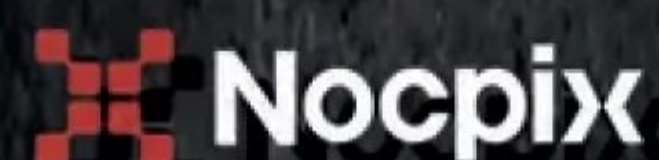
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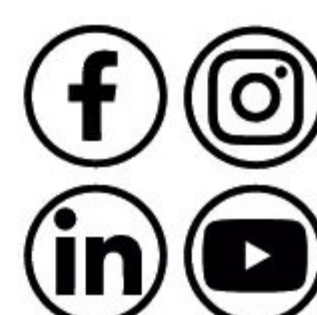


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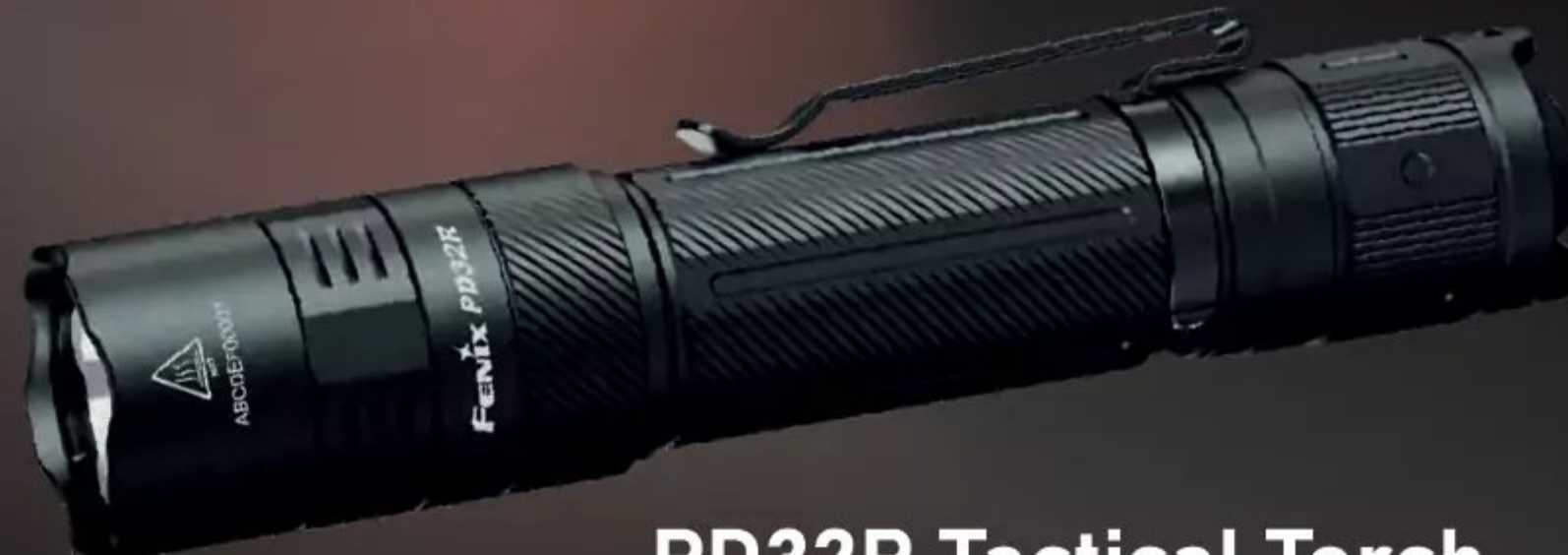
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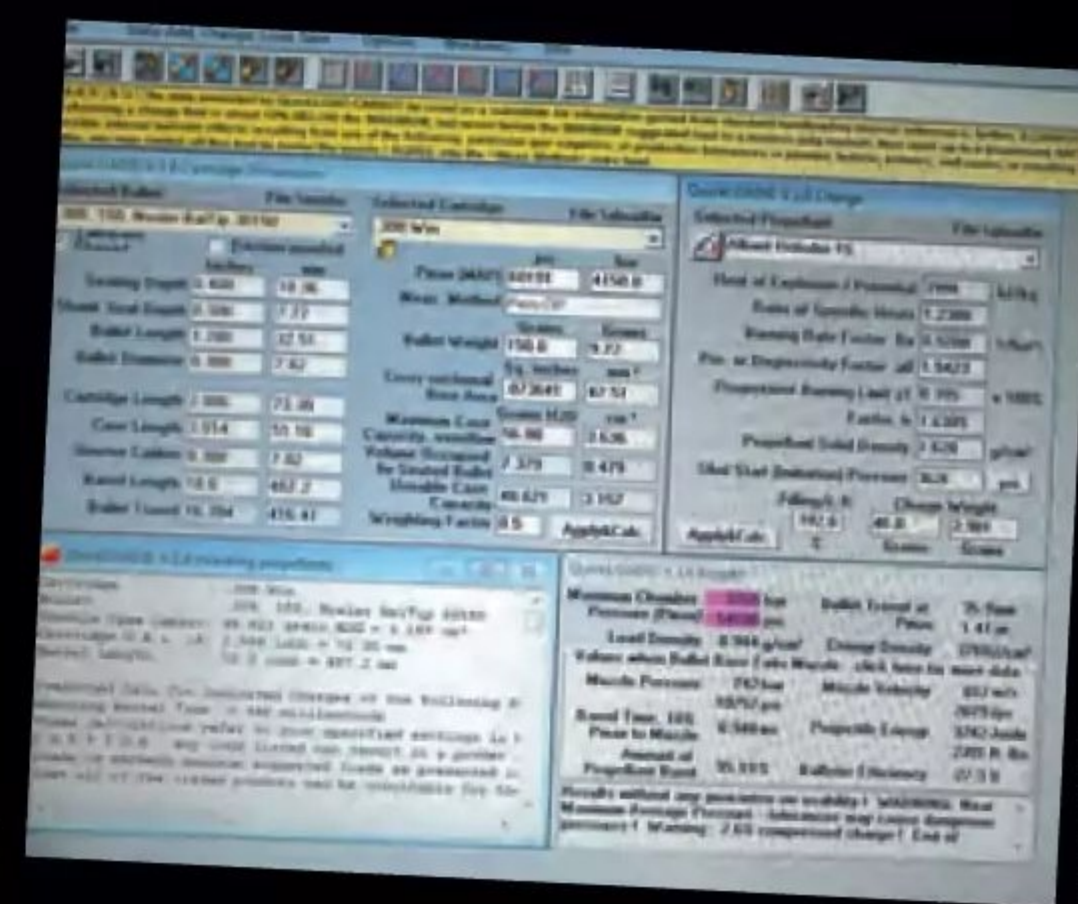
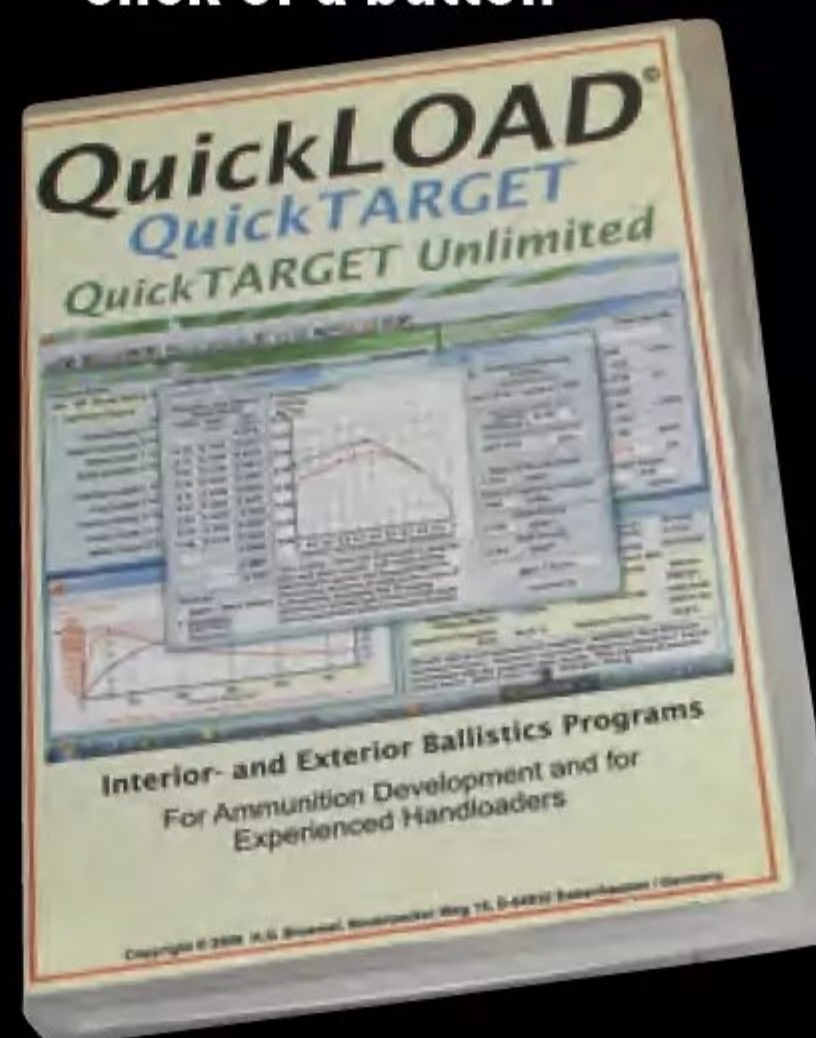
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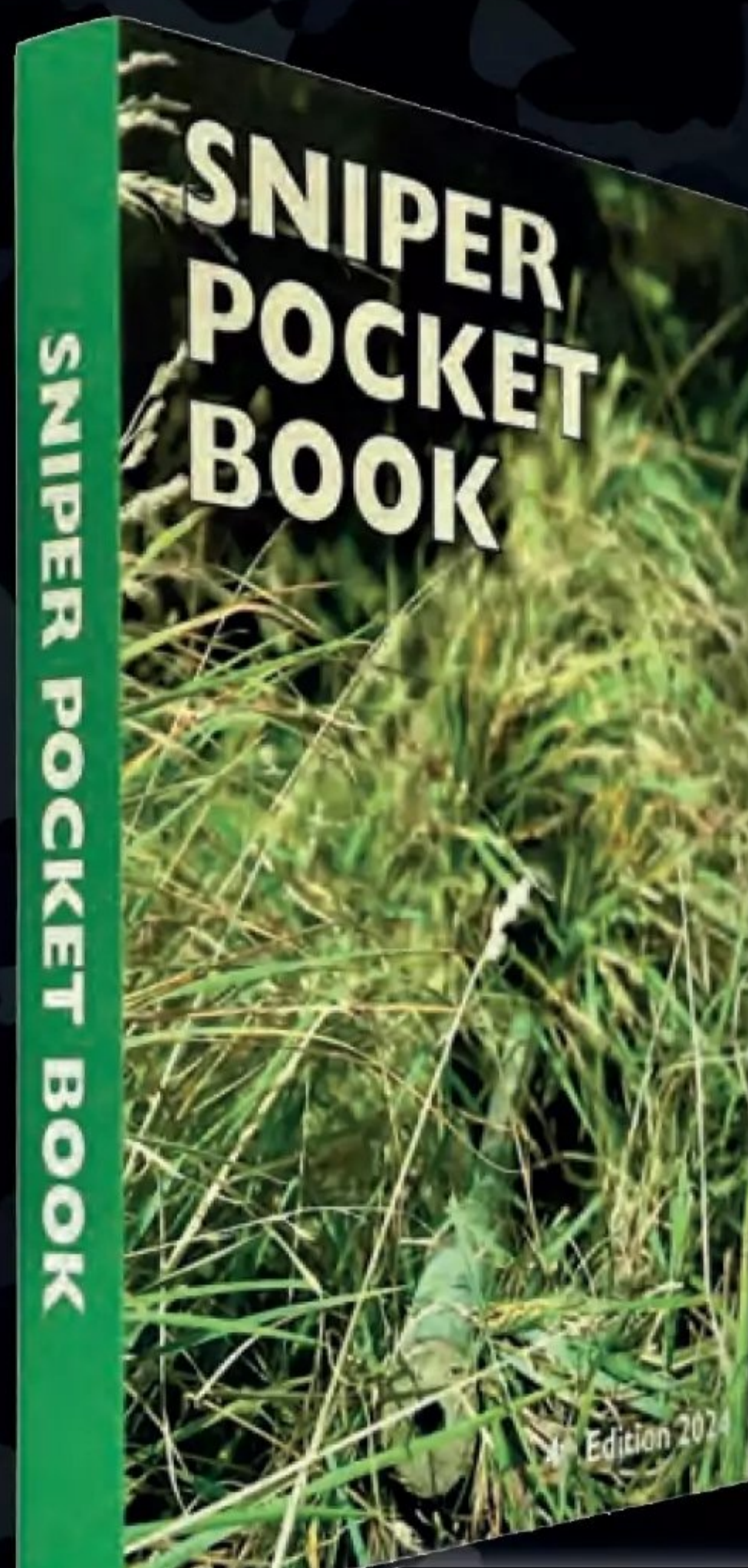
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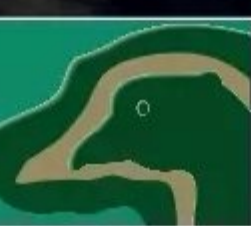
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EDITOR'S COMMENT

Well, the latest issue of Gun Mart has hit the shelves! Packed with all the latest reviews and features, it's a must-read for any shooting enthusiast.

Starting in the airgun section, I evaluate the AirMaks Katran Pro C, highlighting its accuracy and adjustability, while Mark Camoccio dives into the Remington Express Synthetic. If pellets pique your interest, Bruce Potts puts FX's airgun pellets to the test, examining their power and precision. For something a bit more premium, Mark also explores the stunning R12 CLX Pro - Cayenne Edition, a blend of advanced engineering and beautiful design. Not stopping there, he reviews the Kral Puncher Jumbo, a versatile PCP offering excellent handling and value for money.

In Field Cutlery, you'll find a review of the Casström No.14 Fixed Blade Knife by Mark Underwood. It's something a bit special, so it's well worth a look.

Over in the firearms section, Paul Austin takes a closer look at the ATN Mars LTV 256 series, lauded for its simplicity and affordability. Chris Parkin explores the Sako S20 Greentech and his favourite stalking rifles. For scope enthusiasts, Chris also tests the GPO Centuri, which merges German design with practical functionality. Additionally, Bruce Potts reviews PPU ammunition in a classic Mosin Nagant sniper rifle, while Mark Underwood breaks down the pros and cons of reloading with new versus old brass.

Finally, Bruce Potts reviews the EBA Blackthorn, a bargain at £550, and shares his thoughts on Gamebore's Regal Game cartridges. Rob Speed wraps up with a look at the Mossberg .410 Hushpower, a game-changer for pest control.

Enjoy, and as always, safe shooting!

Ed Jackson

Managing Editor

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NEWS

- 022 News:** The latest information from the shooting industry
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- 030 Best on Test:** Our expert reviewers bring you a selection of shooting's top new products

AIRGUNS

- 040 Gun Test:** From accuracy to adjustability, Ed Jackson evaluates the AirMaks Katran Pro C
- 046 Gun Test:** With a sleek design and robust build, Mark Camoccio explores the Remington Express Synthetic

- 053 Ammo Test:** Bruce Potts explores the power, precision, and overall performance of FX's airgun pellets
- 058 Gun Test:** Mark Camoccio examines how the R12 CLX Pro Cayenne Edition combines stunning design with advanced engineering for a superior shooting experience
- 064 Gun Test:** Mark Camoccio explores the Kral Puncher Jumbo, a feature-packed PCP designed to deliver great versatility, performance, handling, and value for money

FIELD CUTLERY

- 072** This month's round-up of all the best cutting-edge tools of the trade

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GUNMART

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News

All the latest news and views from the shooting world

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"We are honoured to represent Anschütz in the UK market," said Sam MacArthur, the Managing Director of Viking Arms. "Their reputation for precision and quality is second to none, and we are excited to bring their products to our customers with the level of service and support they deserve. This partnership is a testament to our shared commitment to excellence and innovation."

Jochen Anschütz, the President of Anschütz, further added: "The Anschütz family and staff are very much looking forward to working with Viking in the UK market. Both companies taking this next important step together will see the beginning of a successful, long-term relationship, with impressive things to come for the UK market. Both family businesses have the same ideas, opinions, and goals. Anschütz is very proud to have Viking as a new partner. A perfect match."

Olympic shooting gold medallist snubbed by New Year Honours List

➤ Nathan Hales, the Olympic gold medallist in men's trap shooting, was notably absent from the New Year Honours List. Traditionally, Olympic champions receive at least an MBE, but recent changes to the Sport Honours Committee's criteria have altered this long-standing practice. Only 41 athletes from the Paris 2024 Games were recognised, despite Team GB and Paralympics GB winning a total of 189 medals, including 63 golds.

The Sussex-based 28-year-old set a new Olympic record by hitting 48 out of 50 targets during the competition. Previous gold medallists in trap shooting, Richard Faulds and Peter Wilson were awarded MBEs in the past, making this omission particularly striking. Expressing his dismay, Hales stated: "I feel very saddened that Olympic gold medallists no longer get the very unique privilege of an MBE. It's



almost like our achievements are not as great or recognised. It seems to have come as a shock for the whole nation - I have had lots of calls and messages with people's regrets around the current situation."



The final recommendations on the lead ban from HSE

➤ **The Health and Safety Executive (HSE) has sent its final recommendations to the Government on the restriction proposals for lead ammunition in England, Scotland, and Wales.**

These proposals are the culmination of a consultation launched in 2022, which has run alongside the voluntary transition away from lead first proposed by nine leading rural organisations in 2020.

Prior to the publication of its proposals, the HSE said it had worked through nearly 11,000 responses to its two public consultations.

As anticipated by the shooting sector, the HSE has proposed a restriction on the sale and use of lead shotgun ammunition for live quarry and target shooting with a phasing-out timeline of five years.

The HSE has also recommended a restriction on the sale and use of large calibre ammunition for live quarry shooting with rifles with a view to phasing it out over a three-year timeline.

With regard to the use of lead ammunition for target shooting with rifles, ranges that cannot de-lead have two years to adapt, or move across to non-lead ammunition. Ranges that can comply with these measures face no restrictions, and no restrictions have been proposed for airguns for live quarry or target shooting.

BASC's chief spokesperson on lead ammunition, Terry Behan, said: "BASC has always been opposed to an outright ban on lead, but it was clear the direction of travel was towards increased regulation.

"By calling for a voluntary transition with the other major shooting organisations, we have effectively given the sector a ten-year timeline to adapt, and significant progress has been made. Ammunition manufacturers have delivered a range of viable alternatives to lead, and many shoots are now lead-free, with their game being sold in supermarkets across the UK.

"While we are pleased the HSE has taken on board the evidence provided by BASC and other organisations relating to airguns and target shooting, we have concerns over the reclassification of large calibre rifles."

"We do not support the HSE's decision to include .243 as a large calibre and have urged them to reconsider.

These are the final recommendations from the HSE and are not yet law. Defra, the Scottish government, and the Welsh government have 12 weeks to review the proposals, and either accept them in their entirety or request more information from the HSE.

When accepted, the recommendations will form the basis of draft legislation to be presented to parliament.

The Kral Puncher K has arrived

➤ **The Kral Puncher K, distributed by Range Right, brings this popular air rifle bang-up to date with a compact carbine option for improved balance and quick handling in confined spaces.** This solidly constructed PCP airgun is available at an RRP of just £365 for the elegant walnut stock option or £349 for the synthetic version.

Measuring a mere 86cm from muzzle to butt, the Puncher K lends itself brilliantly to pest control, but it is equally at home toppling targets on the range. Its scaled-down proportions keep most of its modest weight (3.4kg walnut/3.2kg synthetic) close to the shooter's body, making for easy, accurate shooting from a wide range of positions.

Its rifled barrel has a full-length shroud and is threaded (1/2" UNF) for a silencer. Scope attachment is via a dual rail system that accepts Picatinny or dovetail mounts. A removable front Picatinny accessory rail is also supplied.

Rapid cocking and loading come courtesy of a side-lever action with a biathlon-type dropdown handle. This dependable mechanism drives a magazine that holds 14 pellets or slugs in .177 calibre, 12 in .22, and 10 in .25. The gun comes supplied with two magazines, a single-shot tray, and a quick-fit connector for easy refilling.

The power output is adjustable, and standard models produce muzzle energy close to the UK legal limit (a high-power FAC option is also available). Sub-12 versions can return up to 80 shots from a single fill. The shot release is controlled by an adjustable two-stage trigger with a match-type blade that can be adjusted for height and angle.





Police emphasise the need for firearm security as thefts increase during winter

➤ **Police in Hertfordshire are urging licensed firearm owners to ensure their firearms and ammunition are securely stored to prevent them from falling into the wrong hands.**

The warning follows an annual rise in reports of firearm thefts and losses during the autumn and winter months.

Detective Chief Inspector James Clatworthy emphasised the responsibility of firearm certificate holders to maintain

strict security, particularly during this high-risk period.

"We know that licensed firearm holders in Hertfordshire are very responsible members of our society. However, this time of year, historically, has seen a peak in thefts of shotguns, and licence holders need to be extra vigilant," said Clatworthy.

Clatworthy also highlighted the importance of secure storage during transport: "For those taking

their firearms to organised events, I urge that they don't leave them in a vehicle unattended. Ensure they are properly secured and locked in vehicles out of view when in transit."

Firearm certificates include strict conditions requiring secure possession of firearms at all times, both at home and while in transit. Breaching these conditions can result in prosecution or the withdrawal of firearm certificates.

BRK and Daystate want airgunners to come and have a go

➤ **BRK and Daystate are offering airgunners the chance to shoot the entire range of rifles at an exclusive two-day experience event.**

The 2025 event will be held at the prestigious Sandon Hall stately home in Staffordshire, UK, on the 3rd and 4th of July 2025. This will be the event of the year for airgun enthusiasts of all experience levels.

With BRK-Brocock rifles featuring on day one and Daystate on day two, attendees will be able to shoot every rifle in the range, meet leading airgun celebrities, and attend seminars on many subjects

including hunting, rifle repair, and airgun tuning. There will be demonstrations from top experts in their field on just about every airgun discipline, including the USA-based Extreme Bench Rest, as well as field target and hunter field target shooting. Not to mention some unmissable deals and discounts!

Tickets go on sale from 3rd February. To register your interest in attending and receive updates, visit brocock.co.uk/brk-2025-experience-day/ or daystate.com/experience-day-2025/

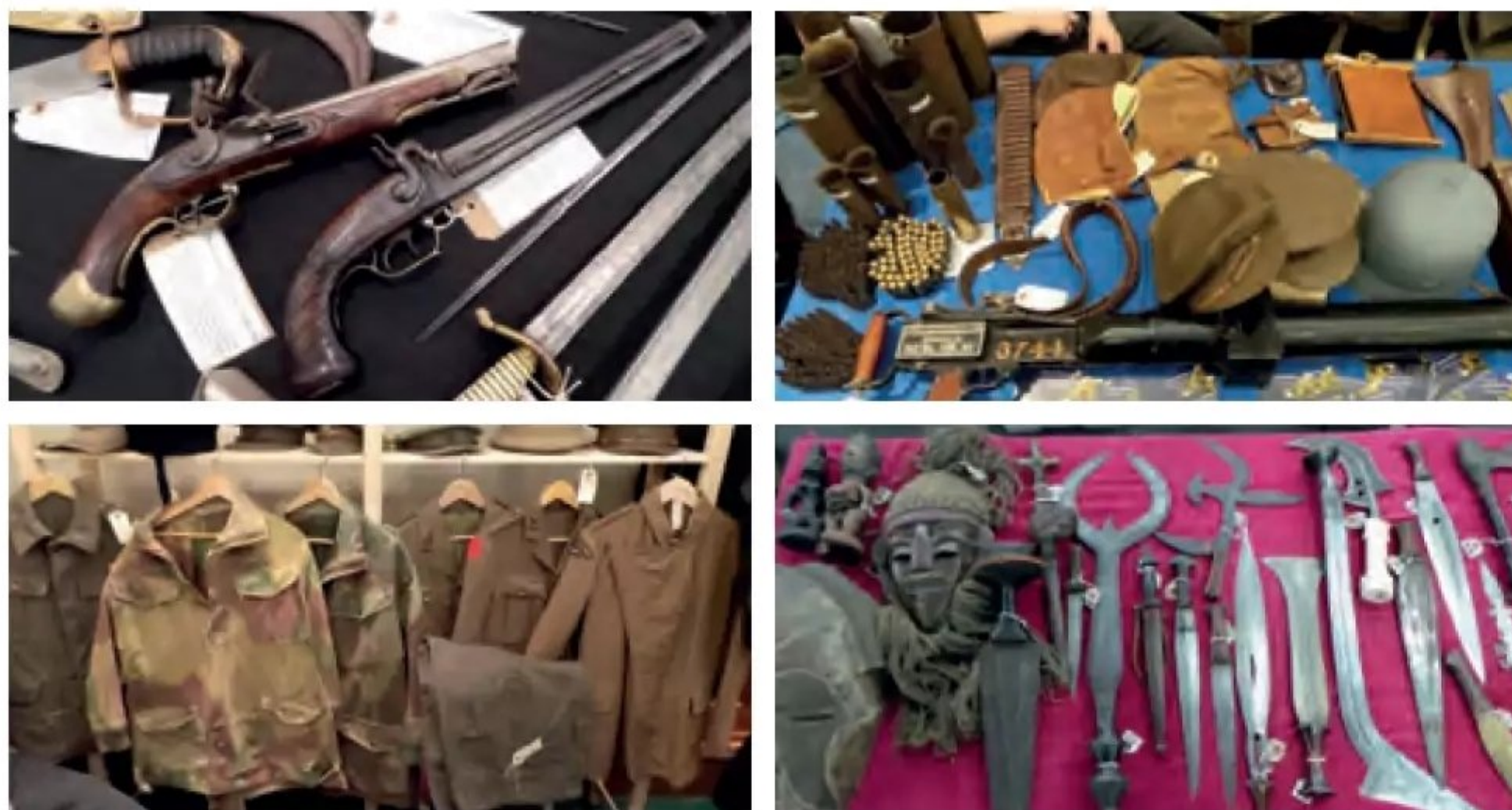


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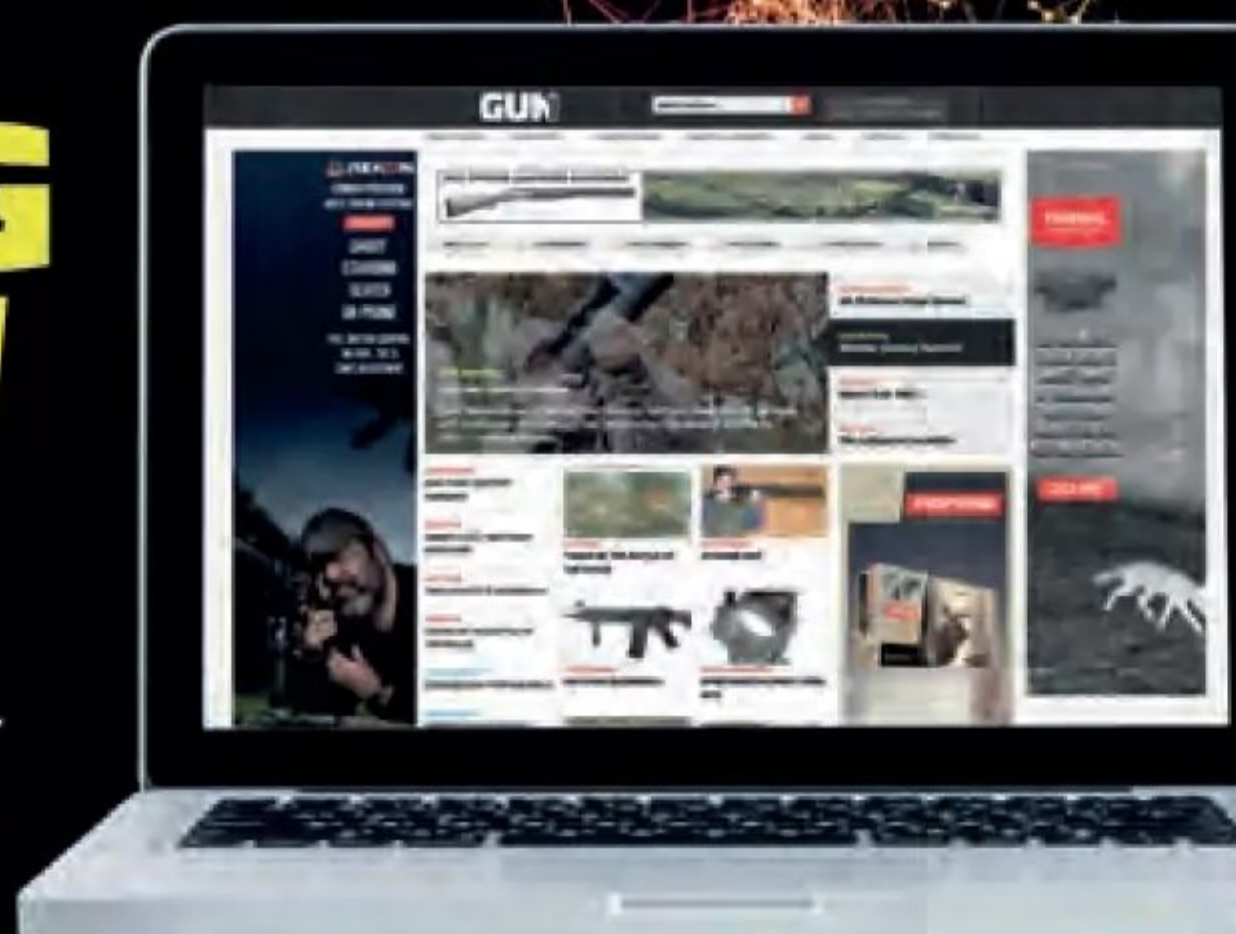
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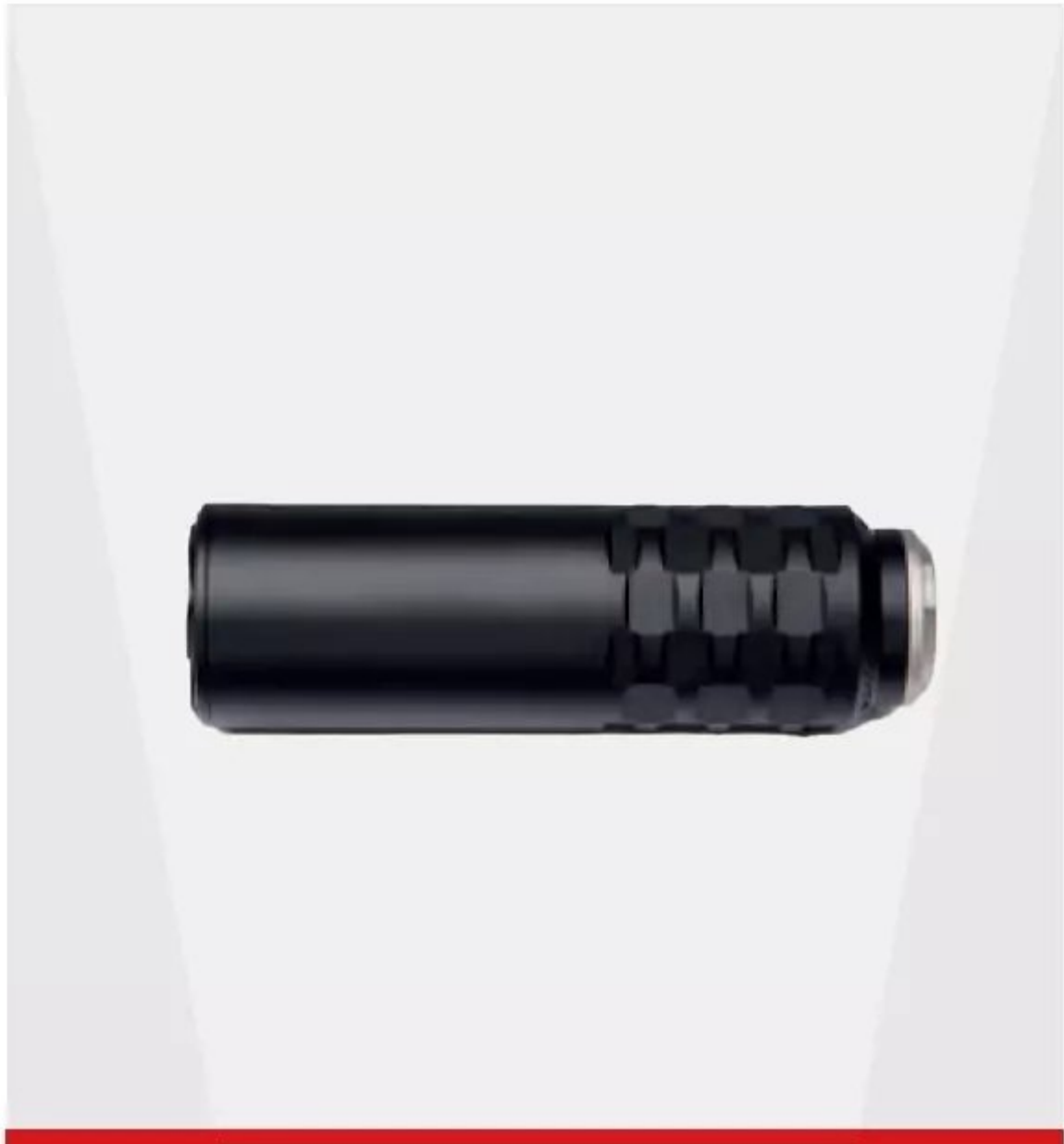
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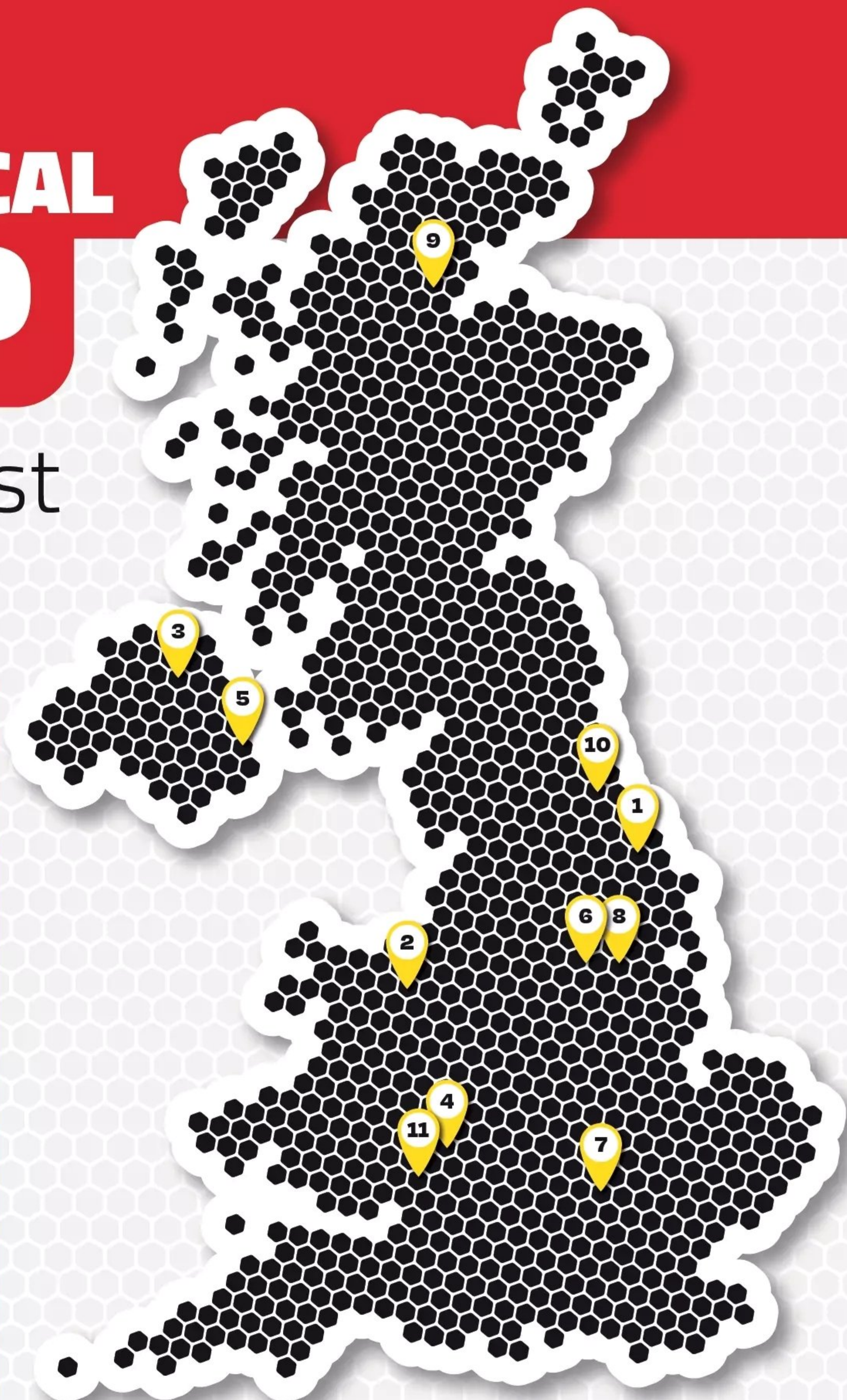


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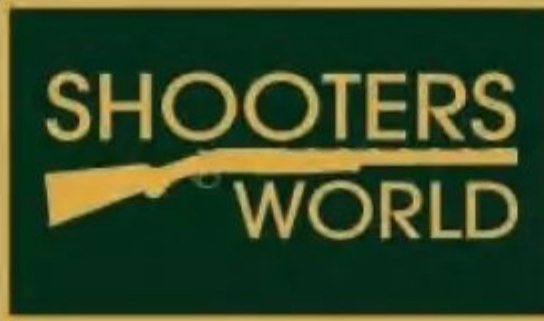


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Burris Fullfield IV 3-12x56



➤ **Could there be a more ideal specification for the hunter, that has long been the classic standard by which others are judged?** I don't think so, and the Burris is a perfect example of keeping things simple, so you can just enjoy great optics when hunting.

Part and parcel

The Fullfield IV arrived with me as part of a package with a Benelli rifle, but it was certainly not a simple tag-along product, and it is available independently. With a 56mm objective, there is a large lens for light entering the tube, and it's important to realise this represents a 25% greater cross-sectional area than a seemingly close 50mm objective. Coupled with a 3-12x magnification erector tube, you can immediately expect a comparatively bright image regardless of published transmission figures. The tube boasts a sleek, deep black hard-anodised finish, with 50mm of clear tube space in front and 55mm behind the spherical saddle, ensuring ample room to fit your preferred 30mm scope rings.

Caps off

Close-up detail shows capped, finger-adjustable windage and elevation dials for zeroing. The clicks are $\frac{1}{4}$ MOA, so



approximately $\frac{1}{4}$ " at 100 yards, and they are commonly seen across many optics. The clicks themselves are tactile and audible without overrun. There is a characteristic faceted pattern to the caps, which is matched on the zoom collar further to the rear. I like the external pattern, as it remains grippy but doesn't feel aggressive, and it does not remove the skin or show the dust from your fingers. The windage on the

right side is marked 7.5 MOA left or right of centre, and the elevation dial offers 15 MOA of vertical travel per turn, separated into 60 clicks. The overall internal mechanical travel is 100 MOA, so you won't struggle with zeroing.

Delicate facets

The zoom control offers magnification from 3-12x in a clockwise direction, and there is no perception of any internal motion within the scope tube. The ocular body is parallel and 45.5mm in diameter, so it will accept added accessories clamped in position, and there is a fast-focus eyepiece at the rear for a crisp reticle picture. This tapers down with a rubber rim to prevent any discomfort, and if a camera or similar device is used, it won't be disturbed by any locking collar. The eye relief doesn't vary too much through the magnification range, and being a modest 89 to 97mm, you get a reasonably forgiving eye box, so it's easier to maintain the sight picture through the recoil impulse.

Light up

Not many scopes exist nowadays without reliable illumination, and the Burris is no different. The left-side rotating dial controls reticle intensity in 11 stages, and there is a screw-off end cap to easily replace the CR2032 battery when it runs out. There isn't an automated off function, but the dial is very easy to control and provides crisp, red illumination without bleeding light at any time or brightness level. Only the very centre cross of the Ballistic E3 reticle illuminates, and I think this is the best path for a hunting scope to take, as it maintains that precise aim point in any light conditions without obscuring the overall view. The small centre cross floats above the lower aim-over marks, and with the scope being second focal plane, you can alter the magnification to change the subtension on target to suit your favourite hunting cartridge. There are small windage

aim-offs too, yet one of my favourite features of the reticle is the gently tapering arms from the edge, which automatically draw your eye central.

Optical comments

The field of view spans the entire tube width, and there are no annoying vignettes on the perimeter throughout the magnification range. The zoom control is especially nice to use, and I like the machined pattern of the collar for plenty of grip without excess styling. Similarly, the tube finish is perfect—matte black without any tendency to collect debris from the skin on your hands. The scope is guaranteed to be waterproof and fog-proof, and as expected, promises multi-coated lenses. However, in practice, such claims often amount to little more than marketing hype for many optical brands. In contrast, these Chinese optics deliver an impressive image with excellent colour balance and low-light performance that far surpasses expectations at this price point. The tracking proved reliable, and the scope held zero without issue. If I did dial any corrections for longer test shots and then counted my clicks to return to zero, the scope performed without fault.

Fixed focus

The parallax is fixed at 100 yards, and on a 3-12x, this isn't really a huge focal drawback unless you want to use full magnification at very close range. The image may not match the ultimate resolution of premium optics, but for straightforward shots on larger quarry like deer at close ranges, it delivers everything you need—without



A clearly defined reticle with windage aim-off and elevation holdover markings that are suitable for hunting

unnecessary features or, crucially, a hefty price tag. The reticle weighting seems optimal, and it's visible clearly in all daylight conditions, with illumination only being required in very poor light. I conducted experiments to provoke any signs of chromatic aberration, but once again, there was nothing noticeable or bothersome. I am left with nothing but respect for this Burris scope.

Conclusion

When manufacturers stick with a proven formula and don't try to be excessively innovative, they can produce some great glass for a very modest price. For a hunter wanting solid reliability and image quality that exceeds the expectations of this price point, I think the Burris is a solid choice, with a quibble-free warranty that the American brand takes very seriously.

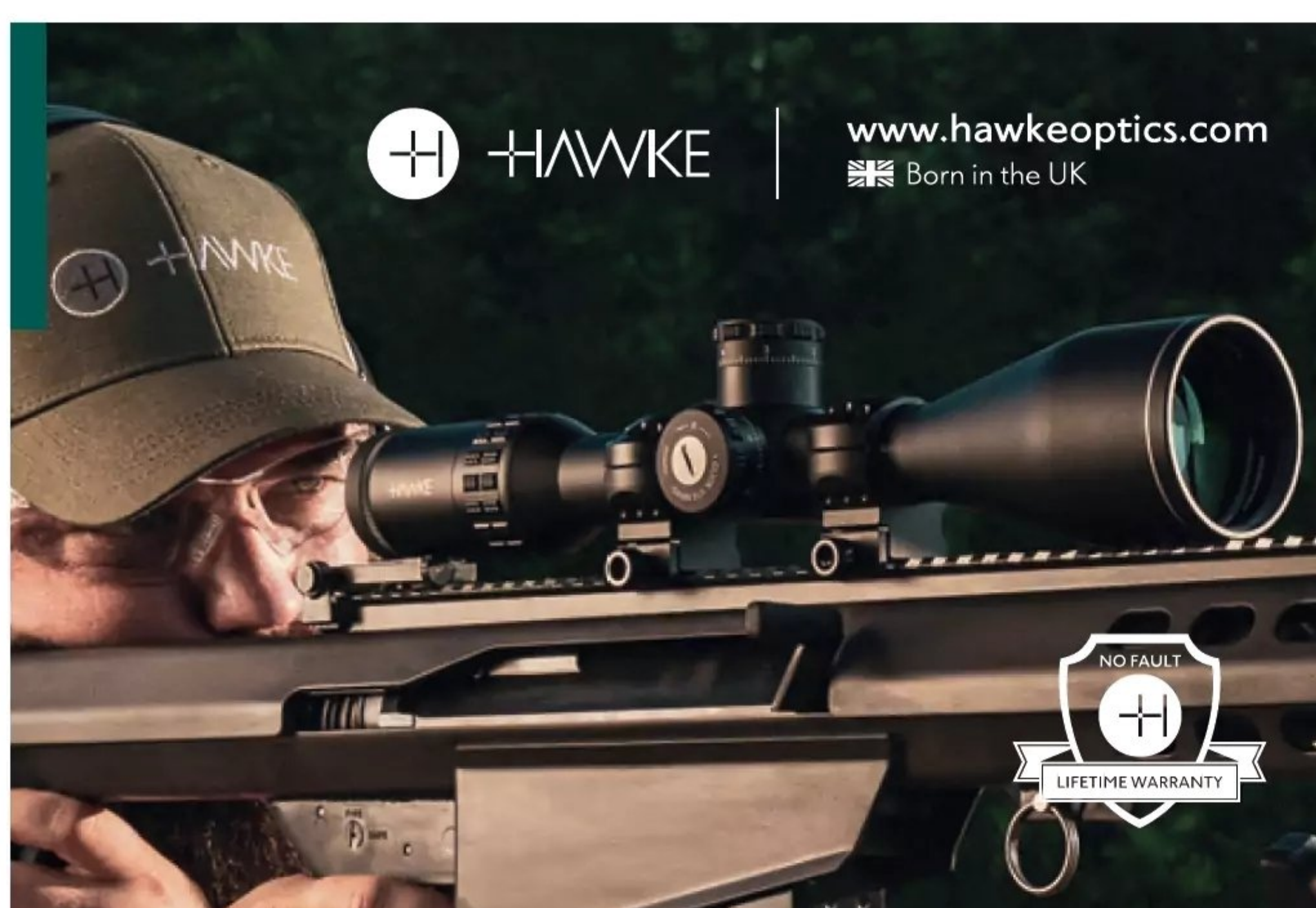
REVIEWER: CHRIS PARKIN



The fast-focus, rubber-rimmed ocular lens

TECHNICAL SPECIFICATION

Name: Burris Fullfield IV 3-12x56
Reticle: Ballistic E3
Weight: 680g (24oz)
Eye Relief: 89-97mm (3.5 - 3.8")
Click Values: ¼ MOA
Body Tube: 30mm
Length: 363mm (14.3")
Overall Adjustment Range: 100 MOA
Price: £580
Contact: GMK – www.gmk.co.uk



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GM02.25/20

Konus Rex 10x42 Roof Prism Binoculars



A Cordura carry case is supplied, along with a cleaning cloth



All of the controls are easily manipulated



➤ **The Konus Rex binoculars come with a Cordura carry case, a cleaning cloth, and a carry strap.** They follow the popular roof prism layout, with twin bodies spanning the open bridge, offering easy access for your hands. The green rubber-armoured tubes feature 42mm objective lenses recessed for protection against bumps. Removable rubber lens caps are supplied. The overall length of the body is 142mm, so they are very compact, with space for three fingers between the bridges. The focusing drum, measuring 30mm in diameter, features spacious knurling along its 29mm length, and it adjusts smoothly with just fingertip pressure. This design ensures quick and precise focusing, enabling sharp focus at distances as close as 3m.

Eye cups

Each telescopic rubber eyecup, measuring 43mm in diameter and encircling 22mm ocular lenses, offers three adjustable positions to suit your preferred eye relief. Importantly, these lock securely into position and don't annoyingly collapse under pressure as soon as they come into contact with your face. This is a particularly useful feature. The right tube carries a knurled dioptre adjuster to correct for any imbalance



The fold-down lens caps and recessed lenses provide protection from scratches

within your own eyesight, and there is a simple lens cover threaded onto the supplied neck strap.

Image detail

The optical performance was immediately impressive without undue effort, and I found the lenses to be well-ground, with an inviting field of view of 10.6m at 100m. The image appears flatly focused and bright all the way to the edge of the tubes, and it avoids internal reflections. The colour balance was neutral without being overly stark, maintaining a smooth, linear progression that matched the external light conditions, with no milkiness as the light faded. The image remained well-balanced into dusk, although, as expected, it diminished in contrast towards darkness. Multi-coated lenses are advertised, offering up to 96% light transmission, and I believe

the detail resolution provided is above average for this price point.

Better binoculars

I have binoculars that cost ten times as much as these, but I still appreciate modest, lightweight binoculars that I can use with ease. As always, it's the interaction I have with the mechanical controls, just as much as the image quality, that determines whether I will accept and happily use any optics. The Konus binoculars are easy to use, feature accommodating focal controls, and deliver a warm image that exceeds expectations at this price point. The rubberised tubes are grippy, the focal control is immediate, and the side anchors for the neck strap are smoothly integrated, avoiding discomfort during use. In my opinion, these binoculars outperform some of the bigger brands that cost more than twice as much.

REVIEWER: CHRIS PARKIN

TECHNICAL SPECIFICATION

Name: Konus Rex 10x42 Roof Prism Binoculars

Price: £173

Contact: Range Right - www.range-right.co.uk

Hornady One Shot Case Sizing Wax

➤ **Lubricating cases before resizing is the messiest stage of the reloading process, and it also slows it down.**

Rolling cases on a lube mat or spraying them with lubricant often leads to it getting onto your hands, and it is difficult to control the amount or distribution of lubricant on the cases. Too much lubricant can lead to dented cases, and too little can mean one gets stuck in the resizing die.

Hornady's One Shot case sizing wax is applied by dabbing it on your finger and thumb and then rubbing it onto the case. It is a firm, wax-based lubricant, with built-in tarnish inhibitors, and it stays exactly where you put it due to its consistency. There is no sticky residue, and it wipes off very easily. The amount that you need is very small and, as it has so little mass, it is highly unlikely that you will apply too much, which means no dented cases.

This is an easy-to-use case lubricant, and, because you only need

to use a very small amount, a tin will last a long time. If you apply the wax around the top half of the case, it works to lubricate the lower half and the inner surface of the die, to give smooth and consistent resizing. It is a very clean alternative to other forms of lubricant and is certainly faster to use. You can apply One Shot case sizing wax, wipe your finger and thumb with a dry cloth, and you are good to go.

REVIEWER: MARK UNDERWOOD

An adequate coating is almost undetectable, but it works effectively

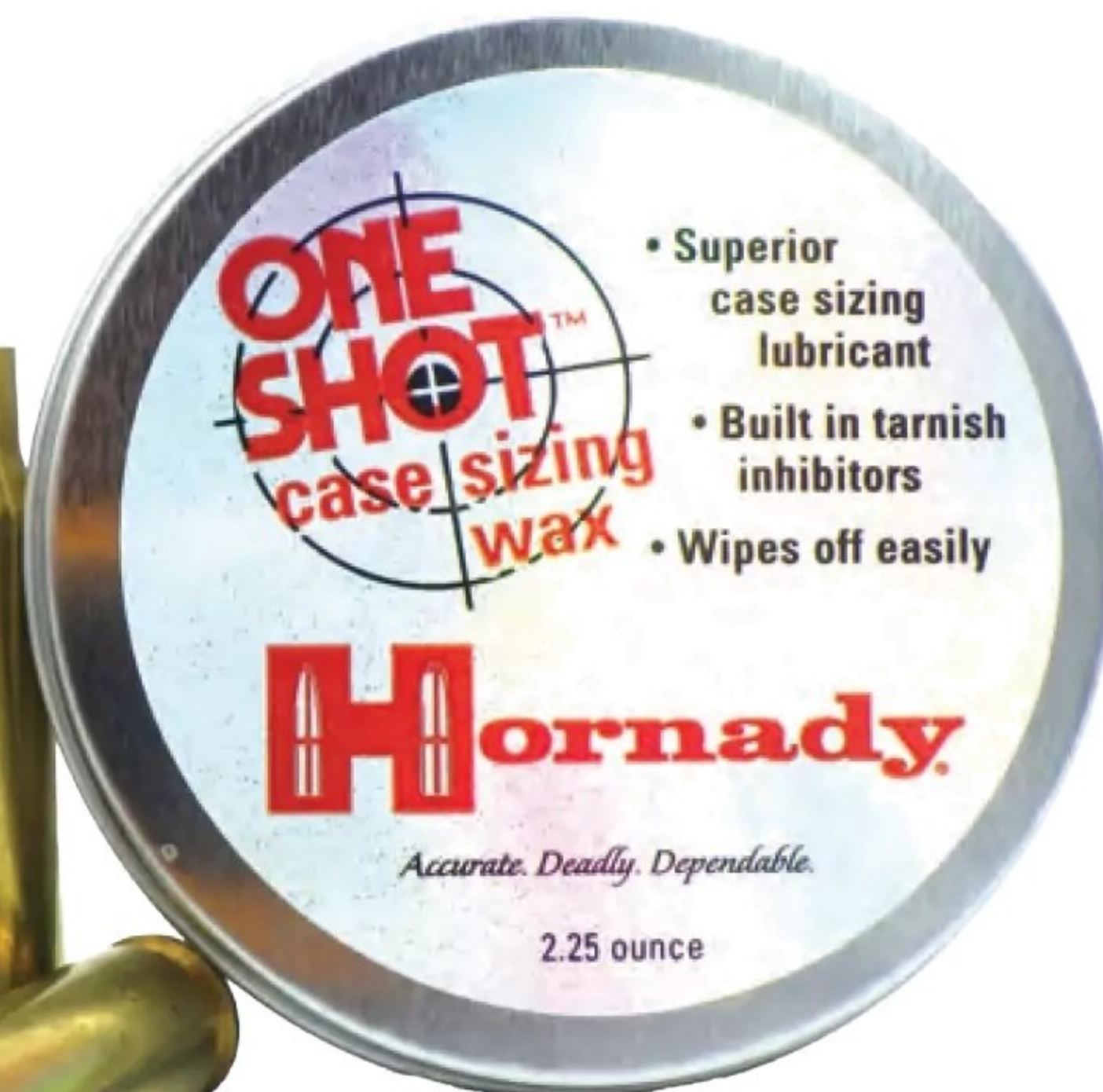


TECHNICAL SPECIFICATION

Name: Hornady One Shot Case Sizing Wax

Price: £19.99

Contact: Edgar Brothers - www.edgarbrothers.com



A little bit goes a long way, so a tin will last for ages

MTM ArmAR Modern Sporting Rifle Maintenance Stand

➤ **AR-15-derived rifles have a few minor handling quirks, which companies like MTM address with specialised accessories.** The ArmAR is essentially an injection-moulded polymer stand to which you can add four rubber feet, and it includes a lid on top to hold the accessories. The accessories that come with the product include a vertical post that slots securely into the device to make an ideal display or maintenance stand for your rifle. The post can be used in either orientation to accommodate .22LR, .223, or .308-sized magazine-compatible receivers, with the first two being particularly popular in the UK.

The magazine well post is angled and can be swapped to tilt the gun

up or down, and the handiest feature is that a small AR cleaning link is supplied. With the rear pin drawn out, and the action hinged open, this clips into position between the hinged upper and lower to offer a secure hold for disassembly, cleaning, and other maintenance, and the stand is stable enough on its rubber feet that you can use cleaning rods to scour a heavily fouled bore without it sliding. The centre post is equipped with a rubber cap that serves as a shooting rest, providing support for the fore-end of your



Open the latched lid to store components and additional accessories

rifle while allowing you to stabilise your elbow on the base for quick function-testing shots after cleaning. Once you're finished, the entire unit folds neatly and stores flat, complete with a convenient carry handle.

REVIEWER: CHRIS PARKIN

TECHNICAL SPECIFICATION

Name: MTM ArmAR Modern Sporting Rifle Maintenance Stand

Price: £47.50

Contact: Hannam's Reloading - www.hannamsreloading.co.uk

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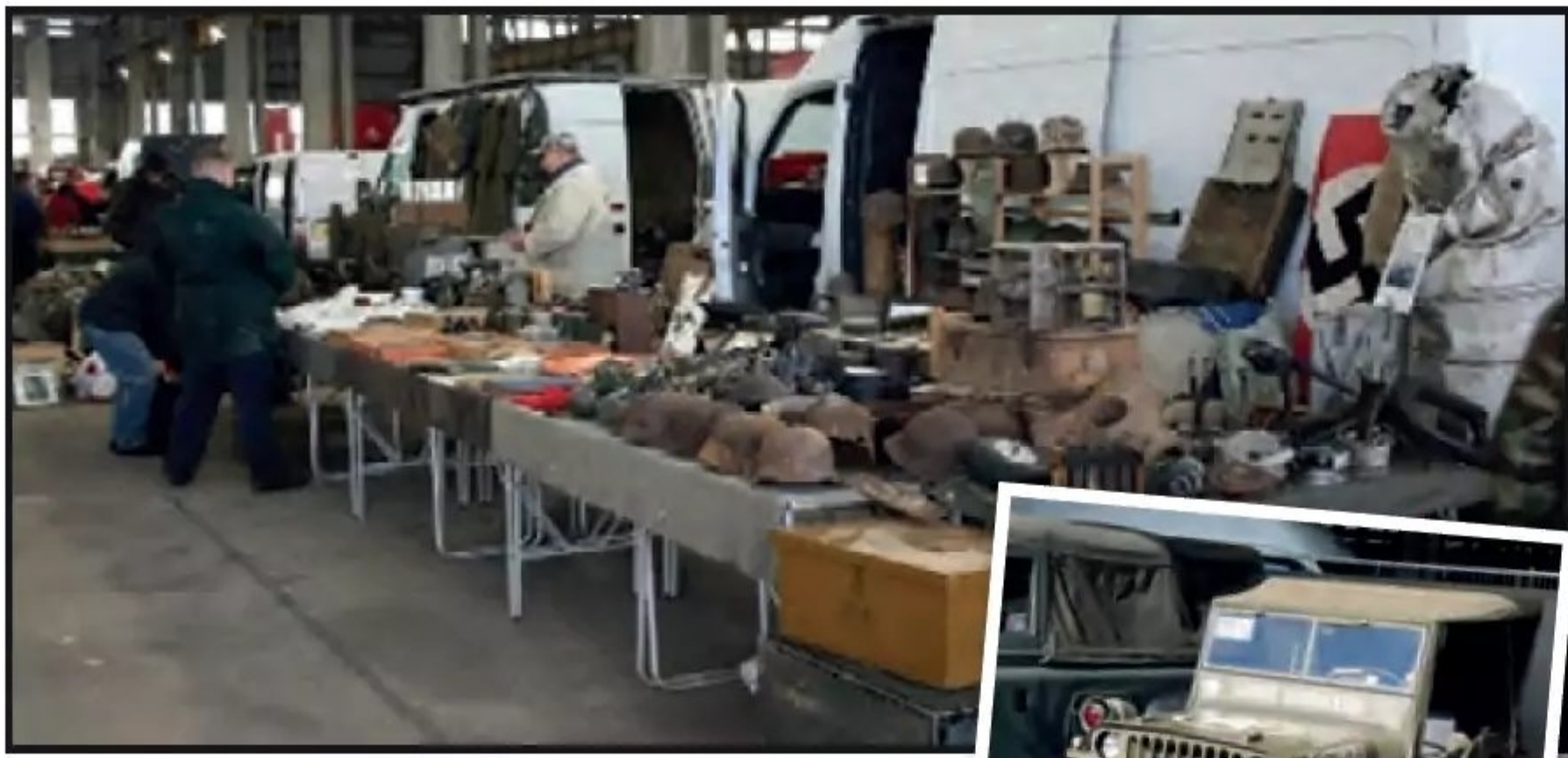


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GM02.25/6

A Tactical PACKAGE

From accuracy to adjustability,
Ed Jackson evaluates the
AirMaks Katran Pro C





So, back in the December issue, Mark Camoccio tested the AirMaks Krait Lite, and it was the first time that he had used an airgun from this manufacturer. Feeling like I was missing out, I decided that I wanted to have a go as well! After a quick call to Hawke Optics, the new distributor for AirMaks Arms, I was sent a Katran Pro C, which comes in at around £1400. As a fan of 'tactical-style' rifles in general, I think it looks great, and it didn't take long for me to start noticing all the practical features that this type of rifle offers. So, let's take a proper look!

Open it and find out

As you would expect, the Katran Pro C is available in .177 (on test), .22, and .25 in sub-12ft/lbs configuration, and .22 or .25 with a choice of choked barrel for pellet and unchoked barrel for slug if you fancy an FAC-rated version. The rifle arrived in its own compact hard case along with one magazine, some basic instructions, a target card showing a very tidy group, an inspection form, and a filler probe with spare seals. Importantly, the hard case is big enough to accommodate the rifle with a scope fitted as well. Hawke kindly sent an Airmax 30 SF 4-16x44, but I actually fitted a much larger Airmax 30 FFP SF 6-24x50, which I still managed to fit in the case! I was also sent an AirMaks silencer and a Picatinny accessory rail for a bipod.

Given the price tag of this rifle and the 'C' for compact in its name, I was very pleased to see that it comes sporting a folding stock. As standard (no attachments), it measures around 30.7" (780mm) in length, and when folded, a paltry 20.8" (530mm)!

Weight-wise, we are looking at 2.86kg (6.31lbs), with the balance point fairly central, although this is bound to change once attachments are fitted. Overall, a sturdy, well-made rifle that boasts a matte black finish throughout and feels good in the hand.

The reason for the price

The ambidextrous chassis system fitted to the Katran looks great and definitely helps to justify the price of the rifle, and you soon realise the quality on hand when you fold the stock around to the left-hand side of the rifle using the solid, beautifully CNC-machined hinge. No flexing or slack in sight! To fold the stock, just depress a sprung button on the left to unlock the hinge, allowing the butt to glide around the side of the rifle until it meets a small magnet that secures it in place, preventing it from flapping about.

To help the shooter get the maximum out of the rifle, the 5" (160mm) long polymer cheekpiece can be adjusted using a single thumb wheel, giving approximately 20mm of extra height. It can then be locked off using two grub screws. The length of pull can also be adjusted using a thumb wheel, increasing it from 13.3" (340mm) to a fairly significant 14.9" (380mm). Want to adjust the height of the rubber butt pad? No problem—you just need an Allen key. To further boost the appeal of this rifle, the butt also shows some QD flush cups, so fitting a sling should not be an issue.

Look to the front of the rifle and you will see an 11.6" (295mm) aluminium fore-end that cradles a 165cc air

The fore-end includes an ARCA rail and multiple M-LOK slots. I attached a Pic accessory rail

Detail of the threaded muzzle, the thread protector, and the manometer

The hinge is beautifully executed, and there is absolutely zero slack

Detail of the sprung button that controls the folding stock

The trigger offers all sorts of adjustability. Note the safety catch

cylinder with a manometer at its tip. The fore-end is bolted to the receiver via seven bolts, making it easy to remove, and features multiple M-LOK slots at 6, 9, and 3 o'clock, allowing the user to attach all sorts of accessories. A huge perk comes in the form of an integral ARCA rail, making it particularly easy to attach the rifle to a tripod, for example. The Katran is scoring highly so far!

It is worth mentioning at this point that when shooting from the bench, the layout of the butt did mean that I had to get a bit creative with my rear bags to make use of the flat area at the base of the butt for support. Do not fret, however, as there are several accessories that you can buy separately for the Katran, such as a bag rider and monopod.

Finally, we have the AR15-type rubberised pistol grip, which is actually a Fab Defense unit. In use, I found it a bit thin, especially when compared to the hand-filling ERGO grips I have on my rifles. No problem, though, as if you don't like it, then you can swap it for something else! Modularity is king, after all.

Air and pellets

AirMaks states a max fill pressure of 300bar in the instruction manual, and filling is easy. Well, sort of! Having attached the fill probe to my dive bottle, I rotated the dust cover at the front of the air cylinder to expose the fill port. However, the angle/position of the port meant that I had to remove a portion of the barrel shroud (very easily done) to access it, which was a tad irritating! Anyway, I opted to fill the rifle to 250bar for

all my testing, and I was pleased to discover you can even discharge the air tank if you want, which is useful.

As previously mentioned, you get one magazine with the rifle (18-shot in .177, 16 in .22, and 14 in .25). It is CNC-machined from aluminium and shows an exposed polymer spindle within. To load it, simply insert a pellet into each chamber while rotating the sprung spindle. Just be sure to cover the hole with a finger to prevent the pellet from falling through. Other than the possibility of dirt or rain getting into the open face of the mag while out hunting, the design of the mag is very good. Importantly, the rifle includes a clever anti-double feed system that can interrupt the magazine, which is a feature that I wish was on more airguns.

The barrel and more

An 11" (280mm) CZ barrel is housed within the shroud, and the overall length is increased by an additional 3" (75mm) shroud segment (the piece I had to remove to fill the airgun) that incorporates a 1/2" UNF thread for a silencer.

The rifle shows a 7" (180mm) length of uninterrupted aluminium Picatinny rail for scope mounting. It was, however, only just long enough to accommodate the large scope I fitted, primarily because of the 3.5" (90mm) of eye relief, so make sure you take this into account when selecting a scope.

The Katran features a well-placed, biathlon-style side-lever that's located just above the trigger guard, and on opening, a third of its travel is spring-assisted,



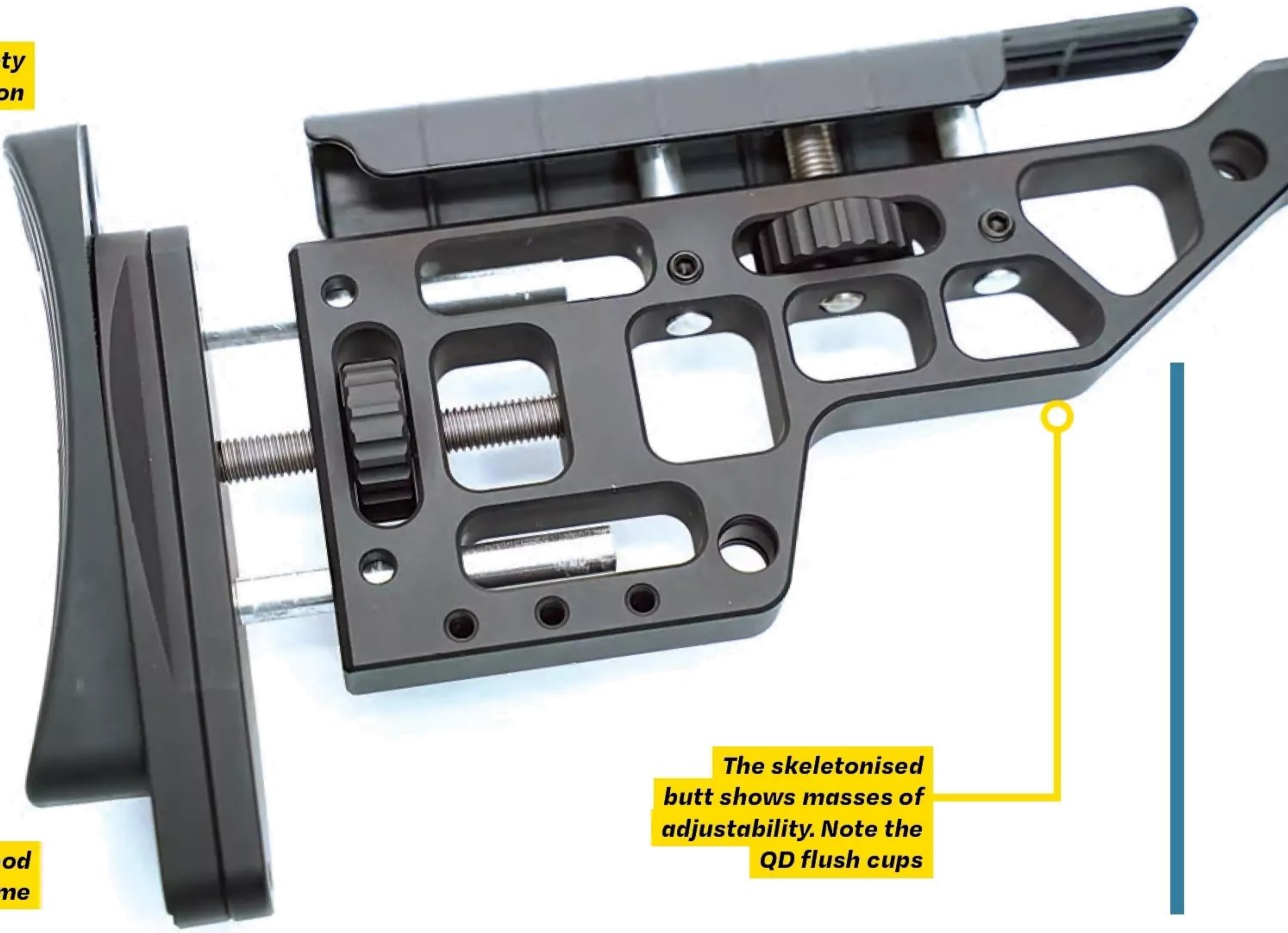
Detail of the side-lever, safety markings, and the magazine in position



You can rotate the tip of the air cylinder to protect the fill port

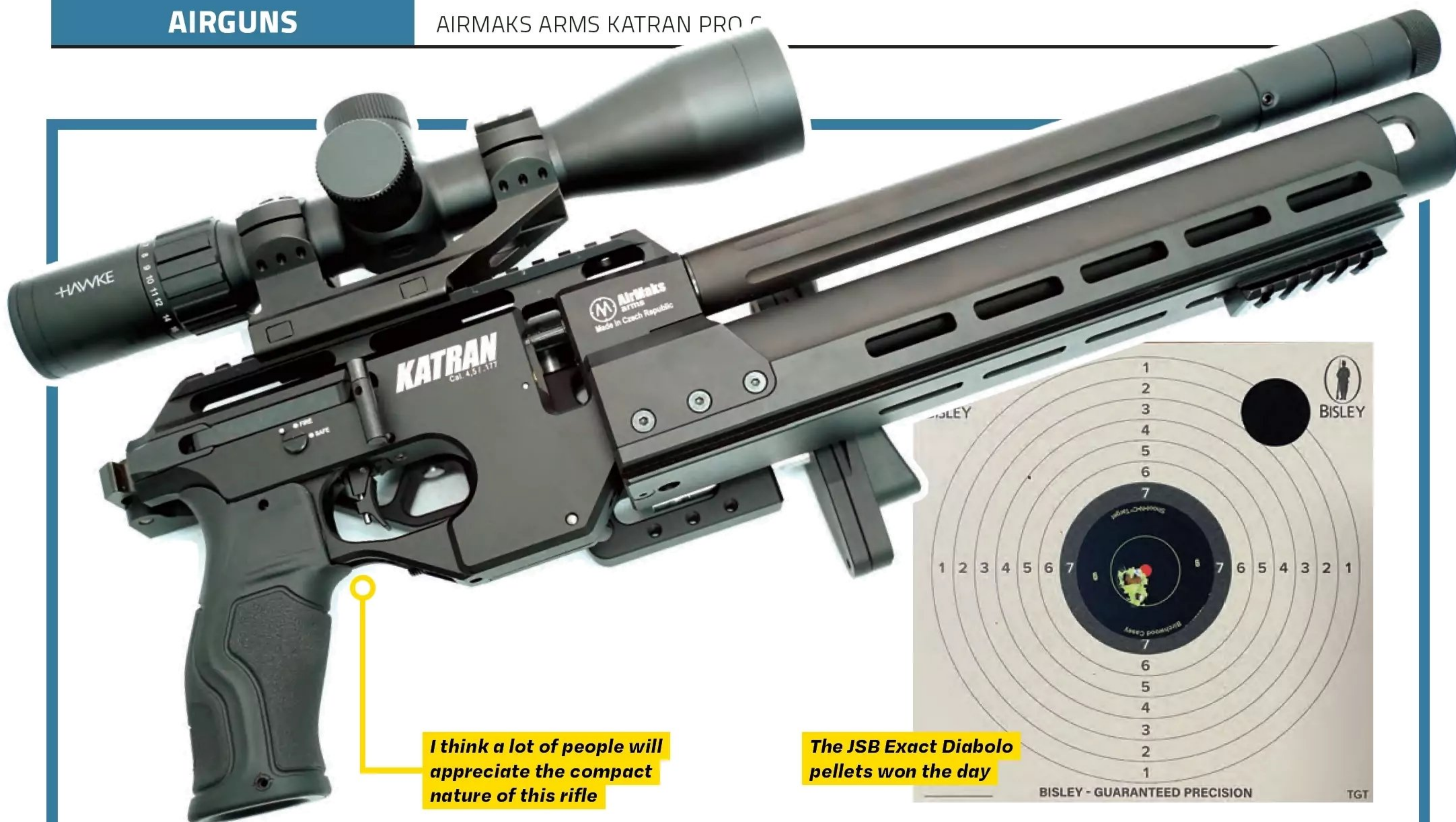


The AR15-type grip was good quality but a bit thin for me



The skeletonised butt shows masses of adjustability. Note the QD flush cups

PELLETTYPE	WEIGHT (GRAINS)	HIGH (FPS)	LOW (FPS)	AVERAGE (FPS)	SPREAD (FPS)	ENERGY (FT/LBS)	5-SHOT GROUP @ 32 YARDS (INCHES)
H&N FIELD TARGET TROPHY	8.64	765	756	760	9	11.08	0.601
H&N BARACUDA 8	8.44	765	759	763	6	10.91	0.423
JSB EXACT HEAVY DIABOLO	10.34	714	703	714	11	11.71	0.547
JSB EXACT DIABOLO	8.44	779	772	776	7	11.29	0.296



ensuring an efficient cocking stroke. As well as the safety catch, the lever is fully reversible, making it ideal for left-handed users as well. Impressive!

To load the rifle, pull the lever to the rear, then make sure the magazine is orientated so that the hole will line up with the barrel, and insert it from the right-hand side. Close the side-lever and you are good to go.

Trigger and safety

The Pro C comes with an AR15/fire-selector-type safety that is mounted on the left of the receiver. It is clearly marked and can easily be toggled using the thumb on the firing hand: up for safe and down for fire.

Trigger-wise, you get a sweet, fully adjustable unit that can be adjusted externally using an Allen key. Out of the box, it was very light, with a short first stage and a final pull weight of around 8.5oz. You can even move the trigger backwards or forwards to alter the reach, plus rotate the trigger shoe around its post and up or down. So, plenty to tinker with then. With a quality trigger being a key component on any accurate rifle, I was very pleased with this one.

So much testing

Right, with the big Hawke scope, the AirMaks silencer, and a Tier-One ELR bipod fitted, I was ready to collect some data. I used a selection of premium pellets for the test, and the first thing I want to talk about is the performance of the Huma-Air regulator that comes fitted to this airgun. I mean, look at the figures in the ammo table! All of them are 10-shot strings, but even after 89 shots using Baracuda 8 pellets straight from the tin, the rifle only produced an extreme spread of 23fps. I will take that all day long! However, given these excellent figures, I was surprised to find that accuracy, to begin with, was not all that, as I was plagued by flyers. I considered the

possibility of the barrel being pellet-fussy and the fact that review rifles have a strange life, and decided to keep shooting to see if the barrel needed a bit of fouling. Well, as if by magic, it came on song after about 300 pellets, so there is a lesson in there somewhere! In the end, the JSB Exact Diabolo came out on top, boasting the best blend of accuracy, power, and velocity.

Shot count-wise, the literature states that with a 300bar fill, the Pro C should achieve 140 shots in .177 and .22. As stated, I filled the test rifle to 250bar, achieving around 89 to 96 shots before the consistency started to waver.

Conclusion

I really enjoyed my time with the Pro C, and I am only disappointed by the fact that I have to send it back. Yes, there were some negatives, such as the incredibly basic instructions and the fact I had to remove part of the shroud to fill it. However, it looks great, is compact, and comes packed with features and adjustability. It also offers amazing shot-to-shot consistency and became pretty darn accurate after enough pellets were sent down the tube. So, all in all, a great choice for anyone looking for this type of rifle.

TECHNICAL SPECIFICATION

Name: AirMaks Arms Katran Pro C
Type: PCP
Calibre: .177 on test, .22 and .25 available
Barrel Length: 11" (280mm)
Overall Length: 30.7" (780mm)
Weight: 2.86kg (6.31lbs)
Air Capacity: 165cc
Energy: 11.2ft/lbs average
Price: From £1,400
Contact: Hawke Optics - www.airmaksarms.co.uk

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WITH 3-9X32 SCOPE & MOUNTS

WAVE SPRING HIGH POWER



Take a close look at the rifle on test here, and the profile may look familiar, with the straight-line butt section and slimline fore-end. I'm not sure who exactly has copied who anymore, but suffice it to say that there are enough details and features designed in to differentiate this model from any similarly styled offerings from rivals. Welcome to the Remington Express Synthetic.

Scope included

Sold as a kit, this spring-piston break-barrel airgun comes complete with a 4x32 scope and twin ring mounts. This is great news for beginners, as it means they get a chance to try out a scope from the off. However, I would add the caveat that the kit scope is extremely basic, and better scopes are still available for very little money at the bargain end. My advice is to spend time learning the ropes with the open sights, then invest in better glassware if and when the time seems right.

So, fibre-optic open sights come fitted as standard, and there is a resettable automatic safety catch, a two-stage adjustable trigger, dovetail scope rails, and a sleek black synthetic stock. The finish is to a pretty high standard, with chemical bluing applied to the barrel and cylinder, and there's a good lustre on show. Plastic components are used sparingly—the safety stud (not lever), foresight housing, trigger guard, and rear sight assembly—and that always helps the cause. As does the density of the synthetic sporter stock, which feels almost solid throughout, rather than hollow and tinny as some so often are.

Fibre optics?

So, how do the open sights shape up? Well, pretty good as it happens, with a spot-on sight picture combining two green rear elements and a small red fibre-optic front element. The rear sight is a neat design, and with properly numbered spring-loaded finger wheels for windage and elevation, it all works well. The foresight element, however, lacks protection.

Fitting the kit scope or any alternative is pretty easy, given the run of dovetail rails on the cylinder. Fancy a Weaver/Picatinny rail? Well, this is also available as an extra for just under £10, so further versatility awaits.

Firing cycle

The trigger gets a nice wide blade with ridges, similar to Weihrauch's Rekord, which is praise indeed. It is not exactly in the same league for refined feel and range of adjustment, but wholly acceptable for this grade of gun, and well above average.

A big part of the attraction of using a break-barrel springer is the grab-and-go aspect, with simplicity being the byword for a fun and relaxing



Basic but ROBUST

With a sleek design and robust build, **Mark Camoccio** explores the Remington Express Synthetic



The cheekpiece is a little low for scope use



The auto safety is designed to be resettable



Some pleasant contours around the grip really enhance the handling



The wide trigger blade shows some ridges



The break-barrel configuration means you can insert a pellet straight into the barrel



The fibre-optic element at the front is a little vulnerable with no hood



THE STOCK CONFIGURATION FEATURES A STRAIGHT-LINE CHEEKPIECE, AND IT DOES LOOK TRENDY AND SLEEK. "

MARK CAMOCCIO

shooting session. In the case of the Remington, the barrel lock-up proved tight around the breech on my test rifle, so a jolt across the knee to initially break the barrel proved the best approach. This will probably ease with use, and thereafter, the cocking stroke proved very easy and fairly smooth too, which all adds to the pleasure of shooting this rifle. You can hear some spring 'graunch' during the cocking process, but I'm nitpicking. Just be careful of the exposed fibre-optic foresight when cocking the barrel. It's more a case of getting into a routine of grabbing the barrel just behind the foresight assembly, and then all should be well.

On test, when the action was cocked, the safety catch didn't always automatically set; but unusually, the break-barrel action can be de-cocked here. For those unfamiliar with this process, it's a matter of keeping a firm grip on the barrel, then pulling the trigger whilst controlling the spring pressure, and slowly allowing the barrel to move back up, returning to its un-cocked position. This style of rifle often comes with an internal bear-trap mechanism fitted, preventing the de-cocking action, so it's quite nice to have the freedom here. In addition, the small lever fitted to the safety allows it to be reset by moving it back and down.

The firing cycle itself is nice and muted, with no spring resonance, which is evidence that a spring guide has been fitted and is doing its job. There's still significant recoil, as to be expected, but nothing harsh.

In use

The stock configuration features a straight-line cheekpiece, and it does look trendy and sleek. It's fine when shooting with the open sights, but opt to fit a scope, and the cheek is just a little low. This is a common issue with many basic springers, but it seems avoidable with a bit more consideration during the design stage. Just a fraction more beefiness in the cheek area needn't add much weight, but hey. I have experimented before with cheekpiece padding kits, which are available for around the £30 mark. These consist of a neoprene

outer skin that pulls over the butt section, then one of three different-sized pieces of moulded foam can then be slid into place under the outer skin. With this extra support to the face, handling can feel transformed—and so it did here.

The underside features an articulated cocking linkage, resulting in a shorter cut-out under the fore-end, which enhances both rigidity and the rifle's solid feel.

The performance wasn't breathtaking, with groups measuring around 1.25" (centre-to-centre) over 30 yards, but bear in mind this is a budget rifle, and barrels are likely to vary from example to example in this price range. Over the chronograph, a 10-shot string showed a 20fps spread, which is hard to fault, and with average energy from a variety of ammunition around the 10.3ft/lbs mark, there's clearly plenty of power on tap for general-purpose fun shooting—the sector of the market this model is aimed at, after all.

Verdict

Don't expect too much, and you'll be pleasantly surprised by this appealing Remington. Basic but robust.

Thanks to Range & Country gun shop in Sleaford—the only Premier Daystate dealer in Lincolnshire—for the kind loan of this rifle.



The fully adjustable rear sight is excellent



A 4x32 scope and ring mounts are all part of the deal



The Remington Express Synthetic has a familiar profile



Rather unsubtle stamping on the cylinder

TECHNICAL SPECIFICATION

Name: Remington Express Synthetic
Type: Break-barrel, gas-ram
Calibre: .22 on test, .177 available
Barrel Length: 18.75"
Overall Length: 45.5"
Weight: 8.1lbs
Energy: 10.3ft/lbs
Price: £159.95
Contact: Sportsmarketing -
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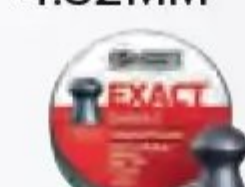


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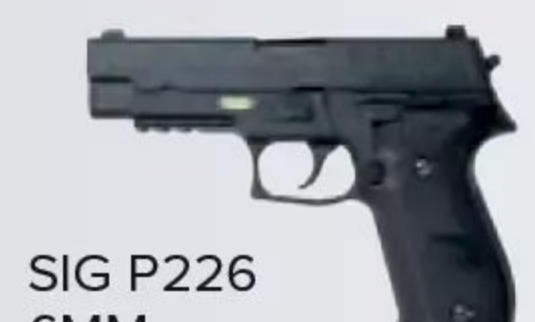


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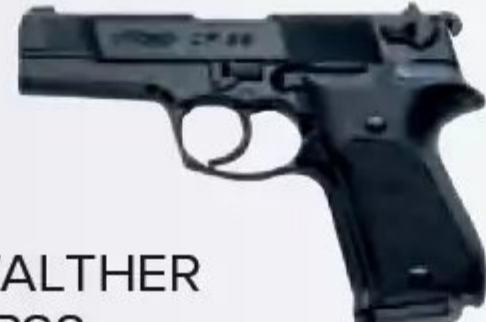
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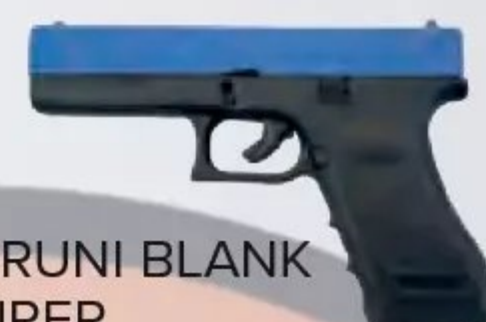
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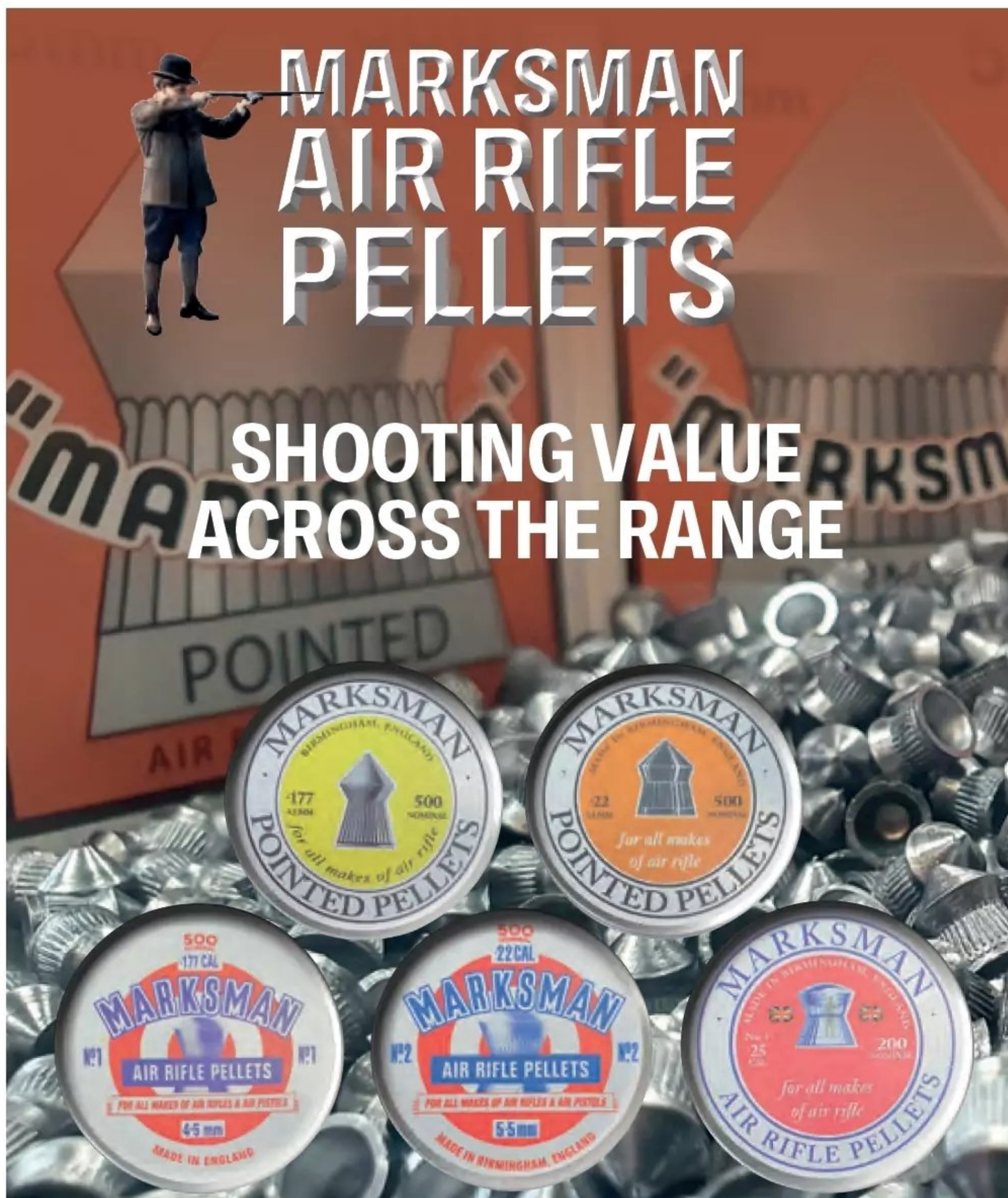
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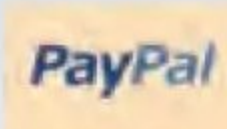
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GM01.25/50

PUT TO THE TEST

Bruce Potts explores the power, precision, and overall performance of FX's airgun pellets



FX has become synonymous with producing some of the most accurate standard and FAC-rated air rifles in the world, using their unique Smooth Twist X technology. Of course, you need to feed these guns, and the new Hybrid slug pellets have really hit the mark—literally—but there is still a place for the more conventional shaped, waisted pellets, such as the FX Airguns pellets, as they are called. These are your traditional domed-shaped, waisted, and hollow-base design with a skirt larger than the head. They can be used for both standard and FAC guns alike, although their weight may favour the FAC. Let's see.

Available in tins of 500 for .22 or 350 for .25 pellets, prices range from £15.49 to £16.49 per tin. Oh, and .177 and .30 calibres are also available.

Weights and measures

For the test, I took a look at the .22 and .25 versions, which weighed 18.1 and 25.4gr respectively. However, when I weighed ten pellets to get an average, these figures changed to 18.4 and 25.8gr. This may seem like nitpicking, but when it comes to working out the energy figures and

ballistic coefficients (BC) for accurate downrange ballistics and sight corrections, it is best to be spot on.

I also measured the head and skirt diameters of the pellets, as this is another crucial area of interest. Some pellets, especially .25 calibre ones, have a large diameter and won't fit a tight barrel like the one found on the Eliminator on test. FX quotes 5.52mm for the .22 pellet and 6.35mm for the larger .25. The .22 pellet's head diameter measured exactly 5.52mm, as stated, and the .25 came in at 6.34mm, which is handy, as it meant these larger pellets fitted the test barrel perfectly.

The FAC test rifles were both Theoben Eliminators, with the .22 coming from CH Westons in Brighton and the .25 from DB Guns in Oxfordshire. For the 12 ft/lbs rifles, I used a .25 HW80 and a custom Venom HW80 in .22.

Time for some testing

I worked out the BC for each pellet using different chronograph readings taken at three different ranges. The BC for the .22 pellet was 0.0312, and the BC for the .25 was 0.0223.

Both pellets feature the classic waisted design, showcasing exceptional craftsmanship and consistent quality in their production



Shooting from a bench and using a loose grip for consistent groups, you can see in the Airgun Performance table that both the Eliminators shot very nicely with the FX pellets. Fliers occurred when using a tight grip or when the recoil pulse was interrupted. Even at 50 yards, the groups were well under an inch, which is very good for a springer. These vintage Eliminators can shoot like this all day without needing an air refill, though cocking them can be strenuous!

I prefer running these Eliminators below their maximum power levels, as

they become more consistent, nicer to use, and less pellet-fussy. This also results in a flatter trajectory, making them far more enjoyable to shoot.

Power and performance

The .22 FX pellets started off at a very healthy 794.3fps for 25.8ft/lbs (Theoben quotes 30 ft/lbs when new), but at these velocities, the setup was smooth to shoot and easier to cock. Even at 70 yards, the FX and Eliminator combo delivered more energy than a standard 12 ft/lbs gun does at the muzzle! Wind drift to 30 yards was negligible, and even at 50 yards, it remained predictable.

The bigger .25 FX pellet was a bit more sluggish, likely because these Eliminators in this calibre should run at 32 ft/lbs. However, here, at 24ft/lbs and 646.6fps, the rifle was more enjoyable to shoot, and the performance was still twice that of a 12ft/lbs rifle. At 60 yards, the pellet still generated more power than a 12 ft/lbs rifle at the muzzle, making it a potent short-range vermin tool—rats and ferals beware.

I did try the FX pellets in standard-power rifles with mixed results, especially the .25 versions. However,

PELLET SPECS

PELLET	WEIGHT (GRAINS)	HEAD DIAMETER (MM)	SKIRT DIAMETER (MM)	OVERALL LENGTH (MM)	HOLLOW BASE (MM)
FX .22	18.4	5.52	5.69	7.88	3.0
FX .25	25.8	6.34	6.53	7.64	2.1

AIRGUN PERFORMANCE TABLE

RIFLE	MUZZLE VELOCITY (FPS)	MUZZLE ENERGY (FT/LBS)	VELOCITY 30 YARDS (FPS)	ENERGY 30 YARDS (FT/LBS)	ACCURACY 30 YARDS (INCHES)	ACCURACY 50 YARDS (INCHES)
.22 ELIMINATOR	794.3	25.8	695.9	19.8	0.45 PLUS FLIER	0.78
.25 ELIMINATOR	646.6	24.0	537.3	16.5	0.65	0.85
VENOM HW77 .22	531.1	11.5	465.5	8.9	0.55	N/A
HW 80 .25	407.5	9.51	339.4	6.6	0.95	N/A

BALLISTIC COEFFICIENT 0.0312

.22 FX ELIMINATOR (FAC)	0 YARDS	10 YARDS	30 YARDS	50 YARDS	70 YARDS
VELOCITY (FPS)	794.3	759.8	695.9	637.4	583.9
ENERGY (FT/LBS)	25.8	23.6	19.8	16.6	13.9
DROP (INCHES)	-1.75	-0.55	0	-2.33	-7.95
WIND DRIFT 10MPH (INCHES)	0	0.15	1.8	3.9	7.9

BALLISTIC COEFFICIENT 0.0223

.25 FX ELIMINATOR (FAC)	0 YARDS	10 YARDS	30 YARDS	50 YARDS	70 YARDS
VELOCITY (FPS)	646.6	607.5	537.3	475.3	420.4
ENERGY (FT/LBS)	24.0	21.1	16.5	13.0	10.1
DROP (INCHES)	-1.75	-0.18	0	-4.65	-15.5
WIND DRIFT 10MPH (INCHES)	0	0.26	2.4	6.9	14.2

the Venom .22 shot really good groups at 30 yards, achieving a 0.55" group and a velocity of 531.1fps. At 30 yards, the velocity dropped to 465.5fps, and at 50 yards, it reduced further to 426.5fps. The trajectory, when zeroed at 30 yards, was +0.85" at 20 yards, then -2.45" at 40 and -6.65" at 50 yards. The .25 HW80, however, was sluggish at 407.5fps, so it wasn't particularly suitable. At 30 yards, the velocity fell to 339.4fps.

Conclusion

I really like these FX pellets, as they are very consistent in their form, weight, and dimensions, and the accuracy, regardless of power

rating, was impressive. The .22 FAC Eliminator performed exceptionally well, and the standard 12 ft/lbs Venom shot these pellets very well too. The Eliminator simply increased the range of lethality, not accuracy. I would stick to an FAC-rated rifle for the .25 calibres, but overall, these pellets are well worth a try.

Contacts

- Sportsman Gun Centre - www.sportsmanguncentre.co.uk
- Uttings - www.uttings.co.uk
- Bagnall and Kirkwood - www.bagnallandkirkwood.co.uk
- CH Westons - www.airgunexpress.co.uk
- DB Guns - www.dbguns.co.uk



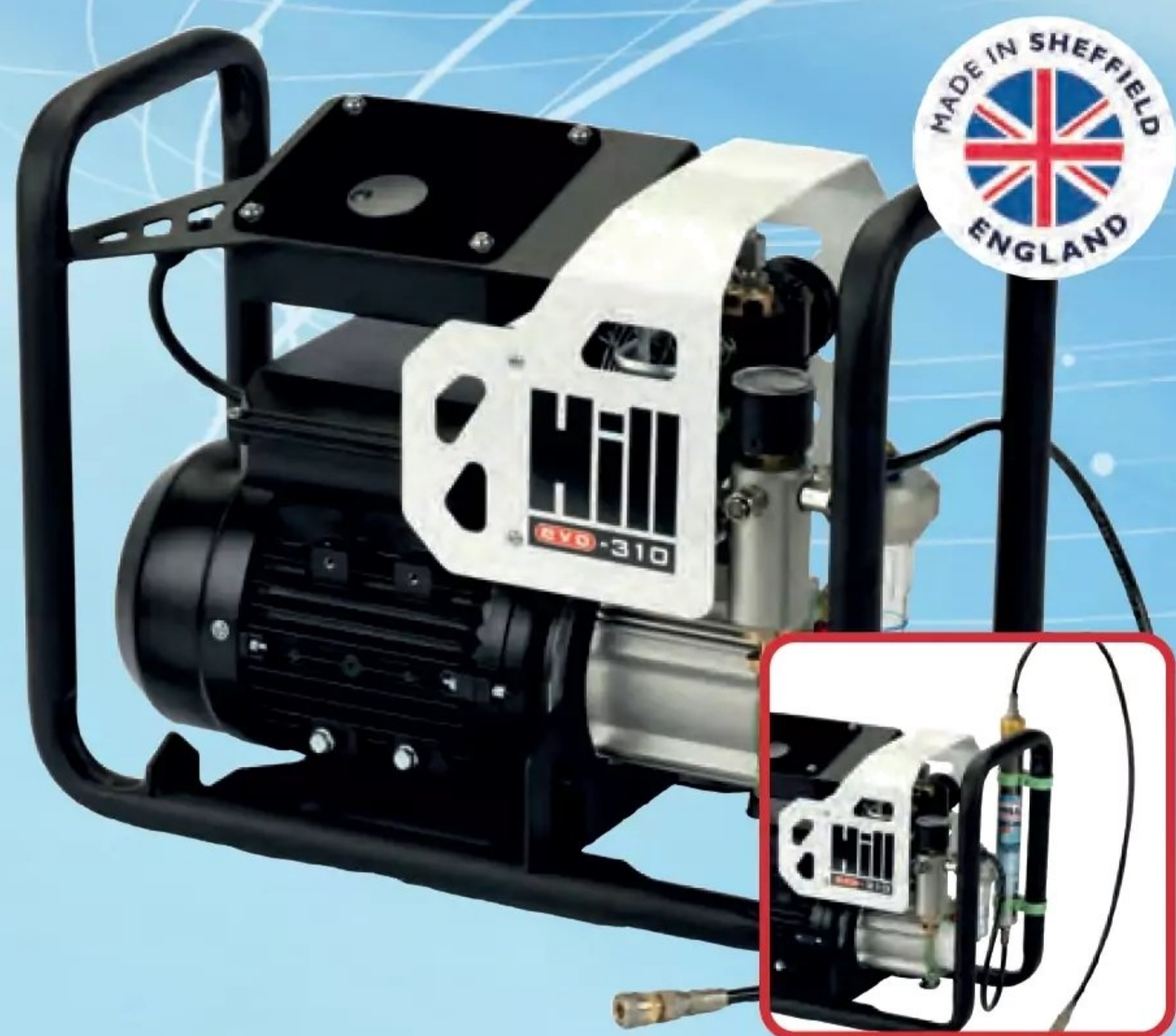
They may look like any other domed, waisted pellet, but these FX lead pellets are incredibly uniform and shot superbly



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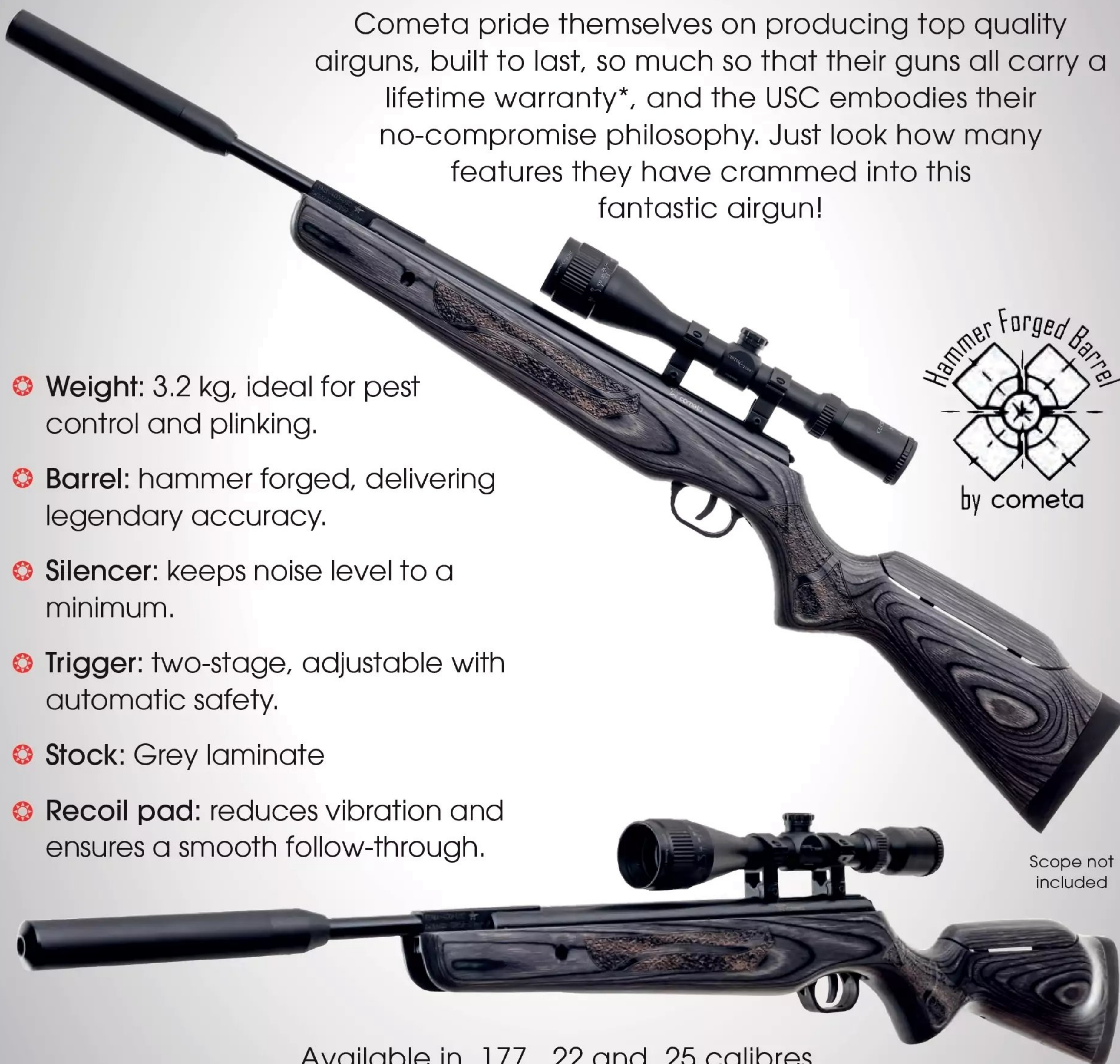
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Hot *stuff*

Mark Camoccio examines how the R12 CLX Pro Cayenne Edition combines stunning design with advanced engineering for a superior shooting experience

In today's ultra-competitive market, airgun manufacturers need to be seen to be improving and evolving their products if they are to stay fresh – just as our good old friends at Beeza have done. It's all about having a rolling development programme, and BSA's top-flight pneumatic models are a perfect example.

10-shot to 12-shot

The R10 certainly made a name for itself, and with the R10 TH, a special edition of their popular PCP, BSA introduced us to the thumbhole sporter stock configuration, complete with a

soft-touch, rubber-coated, adjustable cheekpiece, and a 280cc buddy bottle.

The R12 CLX came next, heralding a 12-shot action and a brand-new, ultra-slick CNC-machined breech block. BSA refers to it as their 'mono-block platform', and upgrades and classy derivatives have been forthcoming ever since. By the tail end of 2022, I was testing a BSA R12 CLX Pro. Checking my records, this model still sported a 280cc buddy bottle, with the option of a 400cc bottle on the way. I tested it in walnut, but a Black Pepper laminate was also available.

Latest spec

On test here is the very latest specification R12 CLX Pro, and whilst those same stock options are still available, BSA has also released two 'specials'—the Wilderness Edition (green, brown, and grey laminate) and the Cayenne Edition, which I have on test here. I think we can all agree that this is a real beauty.

The standard bottle fitted to the CLX Pro models is now a whopping 480cc carbon-fibre version, meaning the shot count has significantly increased. The Cayenne laminate stock is unsurprisingly fashioned by Minelli, and the contrasting brown, grey, and red colouring is quite simply dazzling. The quality of the machining and execution is, as we have come to expect, pin-perfect.

Familiar features

This model gives us the latest side-lever configuration, and here, with a revolving drop-down biathlon-style handle and slick operation, it's hard to fault. In addition, we get a high-grade two-stage trigger unit, one of BSA's cold hammer-forged barrels, two 12-shot magazines, a regulated action, and the CCS shroud system. A manual safety and sling swivel eyelets are fitted as standard, and this Cayenne Edition even comes in its own padded hard case, which is roomy enough for







IT'S A GENUINELY STUNNING
PIECE OF MACHINERY THAT
OOZES CLASS AND INSPIRES
CONFIDENCE."

MARK CAMOCCIO

accessories alongside the Cayenne with a sizeable optic in place.

CCS system

For those unfamiliar with the Customer-Configurable Shroud (CCS) system, it is, as the name suggests, designed to allow the user to alter the profile. Simply remove the silencer, then unscrew and remove the full-length shroud, after which the silencer can then be replaced using small adaptor rings. It's largely cosmetic, but just having the option to change the visual profile, as well as, in theory, the barrel harmonics, will appeal to many.

Trigger adjustment

BSA's triggers have improved immeasurably over the years, and the unit fitted to this R12 CLX Pro is excellent. The downside is that full adjustment can only be made

with the stock removed, which is irritating. With the stock off, the pull weight of the second stage can be altered, along with sear engagement. The first stage is factory-set, and the instructions advise against touching it. As for the match blade itself, this can be adjusted for angle and length with the woodwork in situ.

What lies beneath

Look under the fore-end, and there's a neatly recessed, clearly marked manometer. The magnetic plastic cover is a simple snap fit, and with this pulled away, the inlet valve is visible. To charge the system, insert the filling adaptor (supplied), and slowly charge the system to BSA's usual 230bar. Bleed, remove the airline, and replace the cover.

As mentioned, two of the latest all-metal 12-shot magazines are

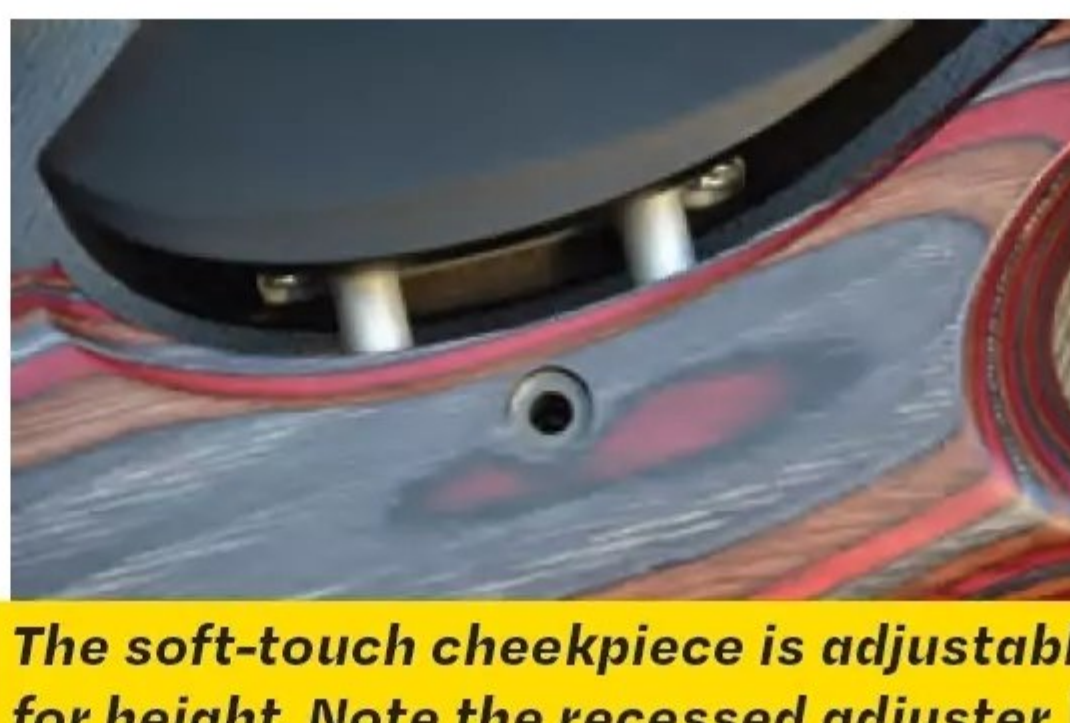
supplied, and these are colour-coded for calibre: blue for .177 and red for .22. I should also mention that new 20-shot magazines are now available in .177 and .22, and a 16-shot version for .25 calibre is an optional extra. All the magazines work the same way—no pre-wind is needed before filling, so just push a pellet into the exposed chamber, ensuring it sits flush. Next, turn the drum anti-clockwise, insert a pellet into the next chamber, and repeat until full.

Fancy furniture

Generous dovetail rails make fitting a scope easy enough, with the only consideration being the height of the magazine when it's in position. The final piece of preparation concerns the gorgeous woodwork, as we need to set the butt pad and cheekpiece heights to guarantee a comfortable,



Detail of the rocker-style manual safety

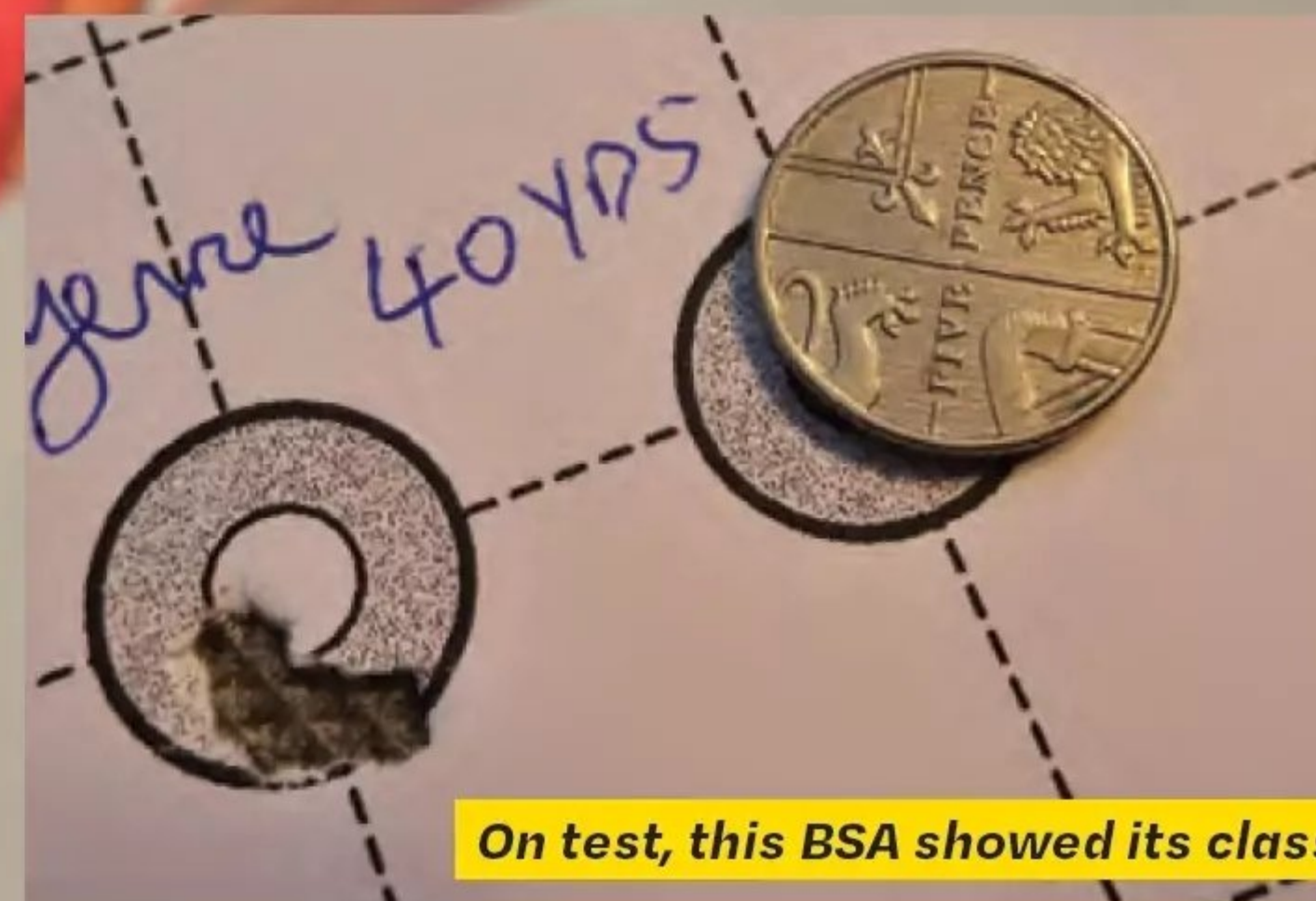


The soft-touch cheekpiece is adjustable for height. Note the recessed adjuster

The quality two-stage trigger includes an adjustable match blade



The side-lever operation elevates the handling



On test, this BSA showed its class

fully supported shooting position. A single Allen bolt holds the pad. Just slacken it off and slide to the desired height. Mounting the gun with the pad at the same point in the shoulder is the key, and the sight picture should all fall naturally into place. A good rule of thumb is to set the butt for the position most often adopted. Likewise, one bolt controls the cheekpiece, so this is to be set in conjunction with the butt pad. We want pressure on the cheek just at the point where a full sight picture is achieved. Lock off both when happy, but for best results, tweak their respective settings over a few shooting sessions. When mounting and aiming all feels second nature, you're about there.

Just swell

Shoulder the Cayenne and the classic BSA swell of the fore-end can be

appreciated. It's a thing of beauty in terms of aesthetics, but the function and feel are also pretty special. I am large-framed, yet my lead hand still sat comfortably around the classy rosewood tip. So, no having to grip the buddy bottle here, as is so often the case with this style of hunting rifle. The concave pad grips the shoulder, whilst the black, rubber-coated 'Soft Touch' cheek section adds further class, comfort, and practicality.

Look at the drop-down thumbhole grip, and the configuration is technically ambidextrous, but little is conceded where handling is concerned. There's the option of a 'thumb-through' hand position, but with twin thumb shelves also included, my favourite grip is well catered for. As mentioned, I'm large-framed, with hands to match, yet this R12 CLX Pro felt superb in the aim.

In operation

OK, let's get started. Pull back the side-lever, and it automatically springs rearwards approximately 70 degrees, effectively assisting the operation. Completing the cocking process to set the hammer and trigger requires minimal effort, making it very civilised. Snap the full magazine into its slot from the left side, and the lever can be closed. Look closely to the right side of the receiver, and you'll see a tiny indicator window. This is designed to show a small red square to indicate that the action has been cocked. It's still possible to double load, but I didn't have a single slip-up throughout my test.

Take up the first stage and squeeze. The trigger feels precise, subtle, and refined. I love the broad match blade, and my test model came with a pleasingly light first stage



This shows the graduated grip panels and the fore-end's rosewood cap



Detail of the thumbhole grip



CCS stands for Customer Configurable Shroud, and it's a nice feature

and a fairly light, ultra-crisp release, so unsurprisingly, I left it well alone. The latest R12 regulator uses 25% fewer parts and is under less stress for increased energy transfer and reliability, which is all good to know.

Down on the range, using Rangemaster Sovereign pellets, initial groups over 30 yards came in at $\frac{1}{4}$ ", which is hard to fault. Moving back to 40 yards, the groups hardly changed, so the BSA barrel was clearly doing its job.

Given the sizeable 480cc carbon-fibre bottle now utilised up front, the shot count has leapt up accordingly. Expect around 400 shots in .177 and

440 in .22. I ran the first 100 shots over the chronograph just to check the BSA regulator was doing its job, and with a total spread of just 15fps and a textbook average velocity of 784fps using 8.44gr Rangemaster Sovereigns, those figures do the talking.

Conclusion

In its latest guise, the R12 CLX Pro has morphed into a truly impressive hunting tool, and this Cayenne Edition just enhances the already attractive visuals. It's a genuinely stunning piece of machinery that oozes class and inspires confidence.

Thanks to Range & Country Shooting Supplies in Sleaford, Lincs., for the kind loan of this rifle.

TECHNICAL SPECIFICATION

Name: BSA R12 CLX Pro - Cayenne Edition
Type: PCP
Calibre: .177 on test, .22 available
Barrel Length: 15.5"
Overall Length: 40"
Weight: 8.5lbs
Energy: 11.5ft/lbs
Price: £1499
Contact: BSA Guns - www.bsaguns.co.uk



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Difficult *to ignore*

Mark Camoccio explores the Kral Puncher Jumbo, a feature-packed PCP designed to deliver great versatility, performance, handling, and value for money





Anyone monitoring the airgun scene over the last couple of decades cannot fail to have noticed the rise of several Turkish manufacturers, and Kral is a significant player in the market. Their range of pre-charged pneumatics has expanded significantly along the way, and the Puncher Jumbo is one of their 'buddy bottle' fed models, aimed at the shooting enthusiast who desires a generous shot count, along with key features.

Case-hardened

This model comes supplied in its own hard case, and it's configured with sturdy roller wheels at one end and a large carry handle at the other. This means that as well as normal transportation, it can be used in a semi-flight case mode (regulations permitting) or manoeuvred/wheeled around hotel lobbies. Unlike several manufacturers who have taken to supplying cases which can only realistically hold the gun without a scope, this Kral-branded case has plenty of room. Indeed, for the duration of my test, I fitted the Jumbo with a sizeable Konuspro M30 12.5-50x56 scope, which is massive! Suffice it to say, the case could accommodate both with ease and still leave space for accessories.

Inside, alongside the rifle, we get a comprehensive instruction book and a small box containing all the important small bits, namely an accessory rail which can be screwed onto the underside of the fore-end, a filling adaptor, a single-shot tray, Allen keys, and two magazines.

Decision time

At this early stage, it's important to mention that two versions of the Puncher Jumbo are available: the same side-lever action, but with either a wood or synthetic stock. These are dramatically different in configuration too. Go down the synthetic route, and in theory, you get more technical features, as the tactical-style stock comes complete with a fully adjustable butt section, both for length of pull on a buffer tube and for the height of the cheekpiece. The pistol grip is a drop-down design too.

Opt for the wood, and you get the lovely Turkish walnut thumbhole stock, as per my test rifle here. Granted, there are no adjustable features here, but an abundance of detail and clever design make this a rewarding choice. So, let's focus on the Jumbo's thumbhole stock first, and then we'll see what the bold action has to offer.

Perfect execution

The Jumbo is a striking piece of design work for sure, and the more I scrutinise the woodwork, the more it impresses. There's plenty of natural grain pattern, and the subtle matte oil finish

Big, boldly styled, and highly effective - the Kral Puncher Jumbo



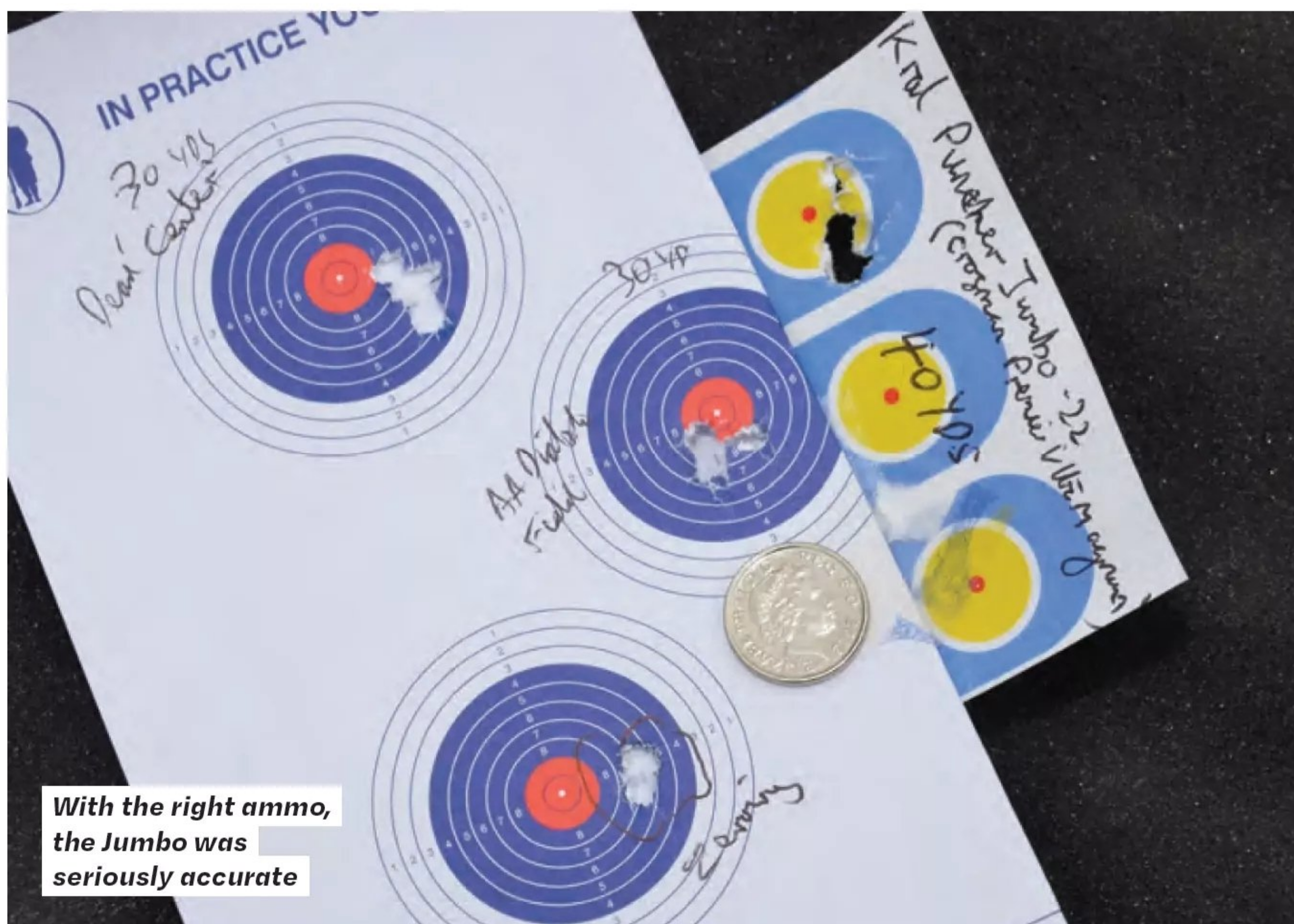
just enhances the beauty of the timber. Small panels of laser-cut stippling adorn each side of the fore-end, and two more panels feature around the grip. It's all pin-perfect, and with subtle contours, finger grooves just forward of the trigger, and a properly extended underside to prevent contact with the buddy bottle, it really is hard to fault its handling. Whether or not you choose to mount the small accessory rail on the underside of the fore-end, where it could possibly interfere with hand position, is a matter for the user, but it's a neat option nonetheless, opening doors to all manner of bipods, lasers, lamps etc.

The prominent cheekpiece offers good support despite ticking the box for ambidextrous credentials, and there's even a soft rubber ventilated pad. Overall, this is an excellent stock.

OK, the glowing report has to pause, while the slightly tatty finish inside the recessed valve area is discussed, but that shouldn't take away from the whole. The manometer is perfectly marked and easy to read, showing the low-pressure area in yellow, the usable pressure range from 100bar to 200bar in green, and the high-pressure danger zone in red. Just to the side is the inlet



...THE WELL-CRAFTED, SUPER-COMPETENT WALNUT THUMBHOLE SPECIFICATION WON ME OVER EARLY ON, BUT IT'S DIFFICULT TO IGNORE THE COMBINATION OF VERSATILITY, SERIOUS PERFORMANCE, GREAT HANDLING, AND VALUE FOR MONEY."



With the right ammo, the Jumbo was seriously accurate

valve, and here we get a basic push-fit rubber dust cover, but hey—it works!

Charging, filling, and mounting

Filling the Jumbo to the prescribed 200bar is easy, just requiring the Foster-style valve adaptor to be snapped into place. Equally simple is filling the cassette magazine, which, unusually, doesn't have a clear cover. My test rifle came in .22 calibre, and these get two 12-shot magazines. Opt for .177, and the mags are 14-shot. Filling the magazine is easy, you just wind the cover around clockwise in the direction of the arrow until the first aperture is clear. Next, drop a pellet head-first into this chamber, keeping a finger over the back to prevent it from dropping through. This should now hold the mechanism. Wind the cover slowly back anticlockwise, filling each chamber in turn—job done.

The Jumbo includes Kral's clever dual-rail system, meaning a scope

can be mounted using either dovetail mounts on the inner rail or Picatinny/Weaver on the outer rail. It's great and avoids the irritation of not having the right mounts to hand. As mentioned earlier, I bolted on a sizeable Konus M30 scope for my test, and its oversized dimensions seemed to perfectly complement the big, bold styling of the Jumbo.

Handling

Side-lever operation is very much in vogue these days, and the drop-down biathlon-style lever here is a perfect specimen. I like the way that the lever initially flies back when released, thus assisting the process, and not much additional effort is needed to cock the action thereafter. The Jumbo can be used as a 'single shot', but for the record, with the small plastic single-shot tray installed in the breech (a fairly cheap moulded item it has to be said), pellets felt tight when loading into the

barrel, so I quickly dispensed with that idea, and stuck with the magazines. It is actually possible to locate a pellet directly into the barrel, with neither carrier fitted. However, I'll admit this is fiddly. I've never had this problem before, and I'm sure any dealer would replace the tray, so moving swiftly on.

Pull the lever back, and with the action now cocked, the full magazine can be snapped into its slot from the right-hand side. Close the lever, and the first shot is ready. Subsequent cycling of the action using the magazines proved ultra-smooth and totally reliable throughout my test.

As for noise levels, the Puncher Jumbo is quite loud, despite the sizeable barrel shroud. However, with the knurled cap at the muzzle quickly removed, a silencer can be spun into place, utilising the ½" UNF spec. On test, this all but killed the report, so it's an easy choice for hunting duties.



Stylish stippling and contours feature around the grip

Detail of the recessed manometer and inlet valve

The knurled cap protects the screwcut muzzle

You can see the power setting on the left side

This silver dial is the power adjuster

Buddy bottles normally mean a large shot count. The Jumbo doesn't disappoint



Detail of the magazine. Note the shot count window



Detail of the cheekpiece and the stock's beautiful grain pattern

Power to the people

Look at the manual, and this model is specified as having a two-stage trigger and a manual safety catch. The trigger is adjustable for the first-stage pull, as well as for second-stage/sear engagement, but the stock needs to be removed first to gain access. As for the match trigger blade, this can be adjusted for height and angle around its pillar, in situ, and it's this sort of refinement that can really elevate performance.

The Puncher Jumbo is fitted with a power adjuster, and this is now a regular feature on Kral's PCP models. This is the silver knob on the right side of the receiver. It's controlled from the right, and the setting marker is viewed from the left. Before running the main chronograph test, I wanted to quickly see the power range on offer. With the dial set right down to minimum, the velocity was reduced to around 200fps, and with it set to the midpoint, it increased to around 450fps. Converted to energy, we're talking 1.4ft/lbs to 7.2ft/lbs. If, for example, you want to do a spot of plinking and you don't need maximum power, then you can adjust it down and benefit from a massively increased shot count. Now, that's great versatility!

OK, dialling back to full power, it was time to properly gauge performance

and consistency. Air rifles utilising the buddy bottle configuration normally produce a large shot count, and this Jumbo proved to be no different. I chose to clock the first 100 shots over the chrono, and this returned a total spread of 37fps, which is very usable consistency. At this point, the residual pressure still showed 175bar on the manometer, so the overall count would be considerable.

To test the accuracy, I used a few different quality brands, all in a bid to find the favourite. JTS Dead 'Centre' pellets managed good, ragged groups over 30 yards, while the Air Arms Diabolo Fields reduced that further to just a ¼" centre-to-centre (c-t-c). The Crosman Premier Ultra Magnums, however, proved the winner out to 40 yards, posting excellent ½" clusters. This Puncher Jumbo is clearly accurate then, especially when you take the time to run some ammo tests, as we would always suggest.

Verdict

Big, bold, and beautiful—quite the compliment coming from someone who isn't typically a fan of the buddy bottle configuration. OK, the well-crafted, super-competent walnut thumbhole specification won me over early on, but it's difficult to ignore the combination of versatility, serious performance, great handling, and value for money.

TECHNICAL SPECIFICATION

Name: Kral Puncher Jumbo Thumbhole
Type: PCP
Calibre: .22 on test, .177 & .25 available
Barrel Length: 20.5"
Overall Length: 40.25"
Weight: 7.5lbs
Energy: 11.3ft/lbs average
Price: £625 (guide)
Contact: Range Right - www.range-right.co.uk



This small accessory rail locates under the fore-end



This hard case is included with the rifle

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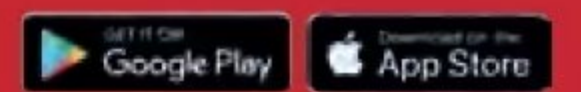


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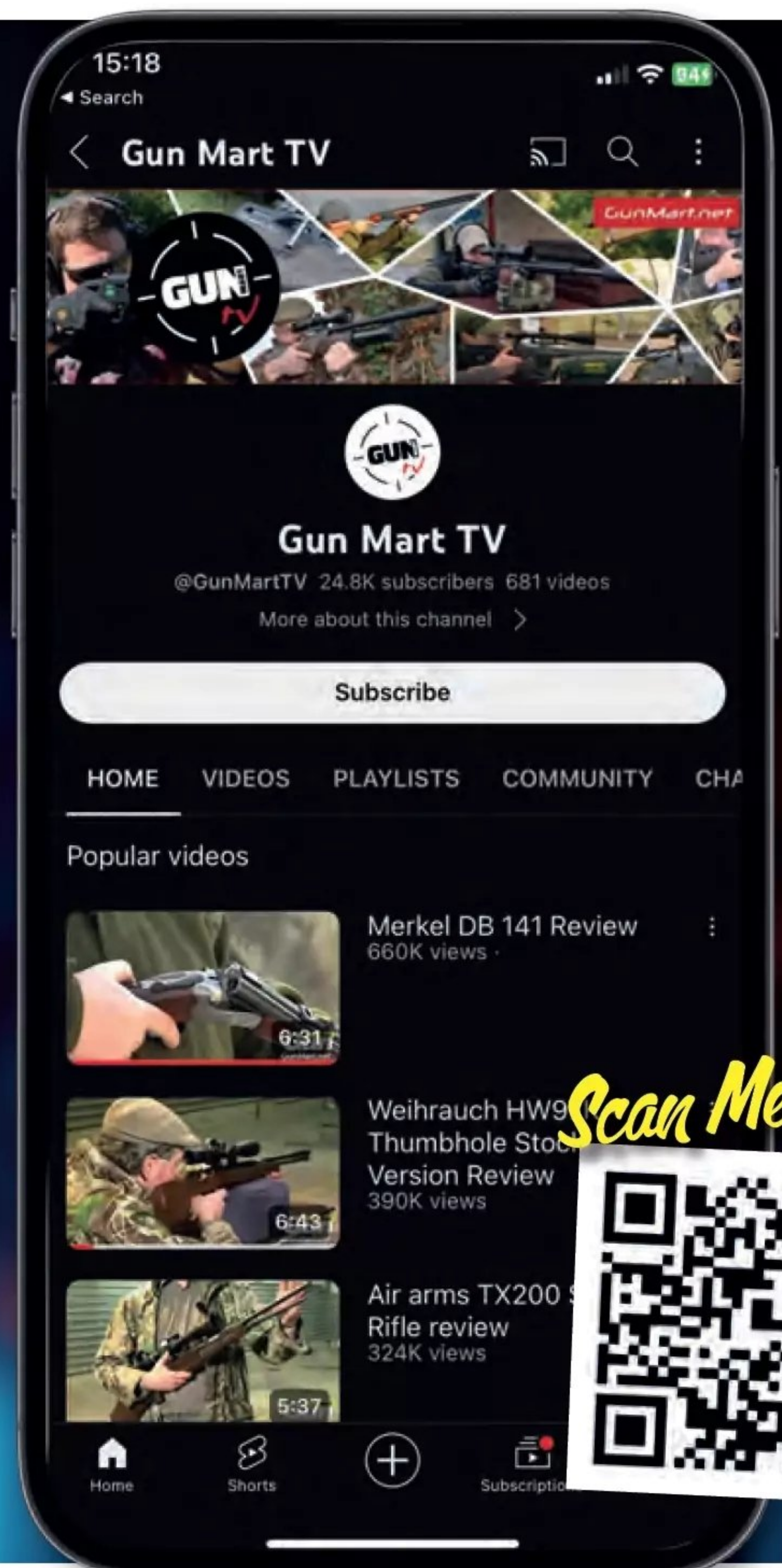
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Casstrom No.14 Fixed Blade Knife

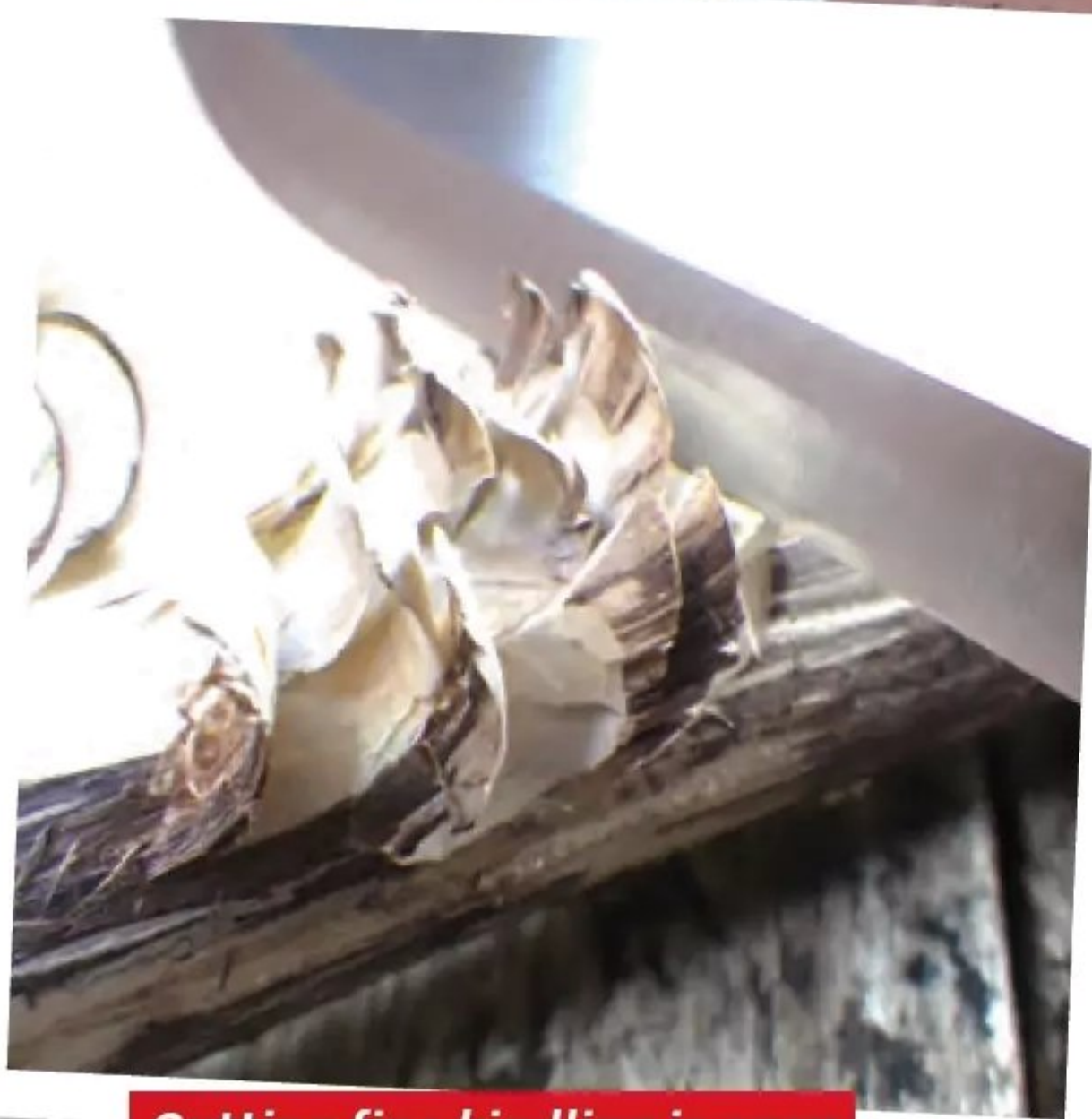
➤ When you use and handle a lot of different knives, it is rare that anything really stands out and makes a lasting impression, but just occasionally, something does. The Casström No.14 is one such knife, and it impresses from the moment you open the box and pick it up. It is an outstanding tool—a real powerhouse of a knife, designed and built to tackle the toughest challenges and conditions. This is a grown-up's tool that delivers exceptional performance every time.

Construction

The full-tang construction is an extremely strong design, and the 14cm A8Mod steel blade, which is 4.2mm thick at the spine, is ideal for larger, heavier tasks like splitting wood or carving. This type of steel was chosen for its toughness and ability to hold an edge, even when used for really heavy jobs like batoning timber. The Scandi grind is an ideal choice for a bushcraft knife, and the edge is suitable for anything from wood splitting to food preparation. It is easily maintained in the field with a diamond sharpener or a strop, and the edge retention is excellent even after prolonged use.



The beautiful and very individual Micarta handle is extremely well-designed



Cutting fine kindling is easy with this super-sharp edge

Although it is not stainless, the steel used for the blade is easy to look after, and with a hardness of 58–59 on the Rockwell C Scale, it is very rigid and durable. The knife is not light, at a little over 300g, but the weight sits perfectly in the hand.

The handle, made from tough green linen Micarta (the No.14 is also available with an oiled curly birch handle), has been crafted for comfort, and the ergonomic design provides a really good grip even when wet. The design of the handle underwent a lot

of development, and right up to the start of production, the shape was being 'tweaked' to add just a tad more girth where needed for that perfect grip.

The knife is supplied with a vegetable-tanned European leather sheath, which is 3mm thick, and the stitching is extremely well done. Using friction alone, the sheath holds the knife very securely, and it is available in both left and right-handed configurations.

Conclusion

This is a knife that needs to be used, not stored away in a collection, because it is a real tool and not a decoration. It does look

fantastic, but it works even better than it looks. As a general-purpose kitchen knife, it can cut and carve all types of food smoothly, and it is very easy to clean, with all interfaces between its different parts being completely tight and closed. Outdoors, it will cut ropes, split wood, perform detailed carving, or even make finely feathered wood shavings to use as kindling, all without any loss of edge. It is such a nice knife to use that you will find yourself looking for things to try it out on! Backed by Casström's 25-year guarantee, this really is a knife for life and well worth investing in.

REVIEWER: MARK UNDERWOOD

TECHNICAL SPECIFICATION

Name: Casstrom No.14 Fixed Blade Knife

Price: £148.00

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PSP	- Pointed Soft Point	FMJ	- Full Metal Jacket
SPBT	- Soft Point Boat Tail	FMJRN	- Full Metal Jacket Round Nose
SPRN	- Soft Point Round Nose	FMJBT	- Full Metal Jacket Boat Tail
FSP	- Flat Soft Point	RNFP	- Round Nose Flat Point
HPBT	- Hollow Point Boat Tail	Z-GROM	- Lead Free

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The LTV found its perfect match with my custom Ruger 10/22 setup

Paul Austin delves into the simplicity and affordability of the ATN Mars LTV 256 series

ATN's Mars LTV units have been on the market for a while, but they have wisely decided it's high time for a facelift. Actually, the term 'facelift' isn't entirely accurate, as the new LTVs look pretty much identical to their predecessors, with all the upgrades being more technical than cosmetic.

There's a drop in pixel count in relation to the 320x240 sensor used on the £1,699 LTV from the original line-up. However, that comes with a significant reduction in price to £1,199 for the new LTV 256. That's a cut of £500 and a factor that may prove very tempting for would-be thermal enthusiasts. There are also quite a few variants in the range, from 1.5-4.5x all the way up to a 4-12x model.

The complete thermal rifle scope collection comprises: ATN Mars LTV, 1.5-4.5x, 256x192, £949; 2-6x, 256x192, £999; 3-9x, 256x192, £1,199; 4-12x, 256x192, £1,349.

Regardless of which one you opt for, they're all identical in terms of core functionality. While the two smaller scopes may seem particularly dinky

for typical UK hunting applications, you need to remember that these lower mag options are ideal for driven hunts in Europe or hog hunting across the pond, where off-hand shooting at close range is often the norm.

Simple features for practical use

Unlike many high-end thermal scopes, which often bristle with every techno-function known to man, the LTV range comprises relatively simple devices. Some people (and indeed situations) don't require all that extra functionality, with many shooters valuing affordable simplicity. All the bells and whistles of the latest ultra-high-spec hardware are very nice to brag about, but they don't always see that much action in the field. With this simplicity in mind, I'll attempt to summarise the LTV 256 in a single paragraph – not something I'd attempt with most thermal scopes.

There's a simple power button for on/off (no standby). There are buttons for click-through zoom selection, brightness, and colour palettes, all of

which are adjusted by simple cycling presses. The mag button, for example, cycles from the base of 3x, to 5.4x, 7.2x, and a max of 9x – an improvement on the 3x/6x/9x of its predecessor. Brightness switches between low, medium, and high, while the rear palette button switches between black-hot and white-hot in a range of colour palettes. The central button either resets the sensor with a short press or opens the main menu if held for longer. The remaining button toggles between pictures with a short click, or video recording if held down. That's it!

Well, almost. Alongside the usual dioptre adjustment at the rear and the focus ring at the front, there's a USB-C port for charging and a memory card slot. However, when it comes to technical features, those basic button functions are essentially all it offers. The main menu is also a pared-down affair, with no ATN carousel, just a selection of four options across the top of the screen with sub-menu items beneath. NUC (reset) settings (available in auto or manual modes), pixel repair,

six reticle styles with seven colour options, and three levels of sensitivity and contrast provide comprehensive tools for fine-tuning the sensor.

Straightforward zeroing

Last but not least, we come to zeroing. There's no one-shot zero 'freeze frame' function, but it's a very straightforward process. 'Take a shot and tweak' positioning is provided via the main control pad, which is retasked to move the crosshairs up, down, left, and right as you hold on the centre of the target. There's also a very handy zoom function in the zeroing menu to help further fine-tune your accuracy.

The new Mars LTV 256, like its predecessor, is a very simple scope. However, the latest incarnation now



This thermal scope features a smaller sensor compared to high-end models but offers significant savings in return



Detail of the controls, which were simple to operate



ALL IN ALL, THIS IS A VERY SOLID, NO-FRILLS THERMAL THAT DOES ALL THE BASICS WELL AND GENERATES A PRETTY IMPRESSIVE THERMAL IMAGE IN THE PROCESS."

PAUL AUSTIN

offers picture and video recording, something the older model did not. There's no Wi-Fi connectivity and no access to ATN's excellent ABL (optional ballistic laser rangefinder), but to be fair to ATN, they do need to offer a unique higher-end upgrade path to tempt the big spenders.

Is it right for you?

Does it shoot? Yes, it shoots absolutely fine, but it doesn't do a lot else, which is ideal if basic thermal shooting is all you require. Zeroing is straightforward and helped by the zoom function. The image quality is surprisingly good for a smaller sensor, and it would be the ideal tool for ratting and rabbiting, but caution would be required at extended range if you planned to pop it on a centrefire and do a bit of foxing.

If you want a bare-bones thermal scope that simply shoots, it's great. While ATN's other offerings feature larger sensors and extras like freeze

frame—which you can easily do without—the LTV 256 stands out as a solid investment. For example, the full-blown ATN Mars 5 320 3-12 (the closest match with a 320x240 sensor) retails at £1,999, which is £800 more expensive. It does have a larger sensor and quite a bit more functionality, but that's a lot of money if you don't need these features.

Note that scope rings are not supplied with the Mars LTV 256. I would also recommend adding a Picatinny rail on your rifle, as the central control panel is fairly large, making it potentially tricky to mount when attempting to get perfect eye relief. ATN's rings aren't a bad choice, as they're quite slim compared with most, meaning they offer a bit more wiggle room for mounting the scope.

Conclusion

All in all, this is a very solid, no-frills thermal that does all the basics well and generates a pretty impressive thermal image in the process. Ideal for FAC air rifles, rimfires, and the occasional bit of close-range foxing.

TECHNICAL SPECIFICATION

Name: ATN Mars LTV 256 Series

Resolution: 256x192px/12µm

Magnifications: 1.5-4.5x, 2-6x, 3-9x, 4-12x

Field of View: 14.2x10.7°, 8.9x6.7°, 7.1x5.4°, 4.9x3.7°, respectively

Display Resolution: OLED, 1024x768px

Eye Relief: 90mm

Video Record Resolution: 1024x768px

3D Accelerometer: Yes

Colour Modes: White-hot, Black-hot, Colour Modes

Reticles: Multiple Patterns

Storage: Micro SD Card, 4-64GB

Connectivity: USB Type-C

Mount: 30mm Standard Rings (not included)

Battery: Internal lithium-ion, 9+ hours

IP rating: Weather resistant

Dimensions: 292x56x55mm (11.5x2.2x2.2")

Weight: 1.4lbs (650g)

Warranty: 3 years

Prices: From £949 to £1349

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A MODERN RIFLE

Chris Parkin reviews the Sako S20 Greentech, exploring its design and performance in the field



TECHNICAL SPECIFICATION

Name: Sako S20 Greentech

Calibre: .243 Win (on test)

Barrel Length: 510mm/20"

Overall Length: 1040mm/41"

Weight: 3.581kg/7.14lbs

Length of Pull: 355mm/14"
(including two spacers)

Magazine Capacity: 5+1

Price: £2495

Contact: GMK - www.gmk.co.uk

The familiar Sako controls include a two-position safety catch and a bolt unlock button



The Sako S20 Greentech

A three-lug bolt with conventional push-feed mechanics and a 60-degree lift



Since the release of the S20, Sako has offered several stock colour variants based around the grippy Roughtech finish, which is a sandy, textured surface designed to ensure a strong hold of your rifle in arduous conditions. The latest green version looks a little less desert-oriented than the standard version and appears visually at home in our green and pleasant lands.

Tungsten Cerakote

The action and barrel on this .243 rifle are stainless steel and both Cerakoted for added atmospheric protection. The barrel is 20" (510mm) long and shows a neat crown and a 5/8"x24 thread for a moderator. The barrel diameter is 18.6mm, and there are six, 200mm-long flutes to save some weight. Sako offers both 1:8" and 1:10" twist-rate options for other versions of the S20, so perhaps the same will continue here. Personally, I would choose the 1:8" twist for its added versatility, and this rifle seems to be configured with that option.

The barrel enters the fore-end and shows a free float up to the reinforce. It's worth noting at this point that the S20 uses a combined polymer outer wrapping and aluminium spine for an extremely rigid structure to ensure the fore-end and barrel will never interact. There is no undesirable bedding stress either.

Sako normality

The barrel screws into the action, which uses a three-lug bolt that locks into the abutments within. The push-feed bolt face smoothly strips rounds

in sequence from a polymer magazine located beneath the action. The bolt face has a left-side plunger ejector and a large right-side extractor claw. The bolt stroke is 101mm on this correctly scaled short action for .243, .308, 6.5 Creedmoor etc. The bolt handle is 68mm long with a 19.6mm grooved, teardrop tip for tactile control of the fast, smooth, 60-degree lift-to-cock action.

Making life easy

Twin Picatinny scope bases span the ejection port to simplify scope mounting. GMK is offering the Greentech as a package deal with Sako's own Optilock mounts, but my review rifle was supplied with Burris XTR rings, in which I have confidence, showcasing the simple versatility of a Picatinny system.

There is a bolt release catch on the left of the receiver, and to the right of the bolt shroud is a two-position safety catch that moves forward for fire and rear for safe (with the bolt locked). There is a smaller secondary switch ahead of the safety that allows the shooter to open the bolt safely, just like on other Sako rifles.

The silver bolt shaft and black shroud offer acceptable colour contrast with other elements of the rifle, and there is a tactile cocked action indicator at the shroud's base, Cerakoted tungsten grey with a red dot on top.

Triggers

Sako offers an adjustable single-stage trigger with a 9mm wide, smooth, curved blade that broke the



The trigger guard is integral to the stock itself, and the trigger position and weight are both adjustable



Here you can see the neat crown and threaded muzzle



An aluminium spine within the stock ensures consistent performance



There was no problem meeting or beating Sako's sub-MOA promise at 100m

mechanism crisply at 1300g (46oz) on the supplied rifle. The weight is adjustable from 1000 to 2000g (2 to 4lbs), as is usual for Sako, and the trigger blade here is also adjustable through a linear 7mm to tailor its reach from the grip to suit your preferences. I wasn't supplied any information with the gun, nor is it yet on the Sako website, but I believe the rifle can be specified with a two-stage unit if preferred.

Feed

The magazine well is part of the polymer stock, and with a single release catch at its front, the mag drops smoothly into your hand. The five rounds stagger into two columns and load from the front, between the central feed lips, so the magazine must be removed from the gun for loading. The action cycles and feeds smoothly, and given that this is a .243 with a relatively large case and a small bullet, this is a good omen for all the available chamberings. It's also good to note that a single round dropped through the ejection port will feed straight to the chamber without any snagging.

Why go S20?

The barrelled action is similar to the Sako 90, apart from the magazine (a twin stack on the 90). However, the stock and chassis are where the S20 truly distinguishes itself. It is stiffer and weighs more, with a far more complex dual-material, modular structure that some shooters will—or will not—prefer. Essentially, the full-length aluminium spine is wrapped with a polymer clamshell for that warmer, tactile feel, with no problematic hollow

resonance. The rigid fore-end has an underside sling stud as well as lateral QD sling anchor points, which are a great benefit on a serious hunting rifle, as they allow a biathlon sling carry.

The mag well and spacious trigger guard are incorporated as part of the green polymer moulding and smoothly flow into an asymmetric, right-handed (although not impossible to shoot left-handed) grip. This is vertical, with integral rubber moulding for the fingers, and shows twin upper/lower extensions into the remainder of the butt. There is a push-button adjustable cheekpiece that is slender and fits under your cheekbone without lateral displacement. It's very well designed and fast to operate, although it does have slight play in the mechanism. There is a slight drop to the heel, and two recoil pad spacers were fitted to this gun, enabling the firm, grippy recoil pad to offer a 14" (355mm) length of pull, which seems ideal.

Finishing touches

There is a further sling stud under the butt, along with a swooping bag rest, which is very well-designed. It's great with a soft bag and the shape also works well with a clenched fist support when out in the field. Most importantly, the underside of the stock, between the stud and the grip, remains smooth, with ample space for the rifle to shuffle under recoil without any abrupt edges hitting the back of your hand. Many stocks may appear sleek and stylish, but they are often designed by artists rather than shooters, resulting in discomfort



Bullet feed to the chamber was extremely smooth, with no meplat damage or noise



Detail of the left side bolt release catch and the Picatinny bases



The adjustable cheekpiece is one of the best I have used on any rifle



Detail of the bolt handle, safety catch, and cocked action indicator

during practical, dynamic use. In fairness, I take my hat off to Sako for doing a superb job here.

Paper testing

The gun very easily met Sako’s promised sub-MOA standard with all the ammunition types tried, though the velocity and energy figures were lower because of the short barrel. The recoil was understandably calm in this small calibre, and the Stalon moderator that I fitted on this ‘not-super-light’ rifle, helped even more so.

Looking ahead to larger calibres, I was impressed by the linear, if small, recoil pulse, combined with great stock ergonomics that prevented any bipod bounce or muzzle lift. Again, the weight helps here, but that doesn’t detract from the fact that the back end of the stock is reassuring, helping you obtain an exceptionally comfortable shooting position. Your hand sits into the grip without any undue effort to maintain a sure hold, and the cheekpiece-to-scope alignment is as good as any I have known, regardless of price, complexity, or customisation.

The trigger was consistent, and the primary extraction of fired cases was faultless, as was ejection from the receiver. I cycled and inspected a few bullets through the gun and couldn’t find any meplat damage. Ejected cases

showed strong firing pin strikes on the primers and no detrimental marks on the brass.

Breakdown

Stripping the rifle is not simple. There are lots of hidden screws, and scope removal is required for access. I didn’t have any official paperwork and remembered similar experiences with the previous S20 I tested, so I opted to leave it alone.

Conclusion

The S20 is doubtless a very good rifle with no operational faults. I can’t see how it would appeal more than the 90, which is a superb rifle. However, I suppose some people will find the chassis concept appealing, even if it is technically slightly inaccessible and mysterious. It is without a doubt very stiff and holds no handling caveats, other than a slight weight penalty.

In terms of shooting the rifle, it’s very hard to make it not work due to the structural harmony within. The factor to always bear in mind with any short barrel—and specifically the .243 relative to UK law—is the drop in muzzle velocity and consequent projectile energy, although heavier bullets will suffer less than lighter ones. In this regard, the 1:8” twist is a major benefit in my opinion.

AMMO TABLE

AMMUNITION	WEIGHT (GRAINS)	FACTORY VELOCITY (FPS)	FACTORY ENERGY (FT/LBS)	ACHIEVED VELOCITY (FPS)	ACHIEVED ENERGY (FT/LBS)	100M GROUP SIZE (INCHES)
HORNADY SUPERFORMANCE VARMINT	75	3580	2134	3298	1812	1.1
SAKO GAMEHEAD VARMINT	70	3576	1988	3302	1695	0.8
SAKO POWERHEAD II	80	2920	1515	2650	1248	0.5



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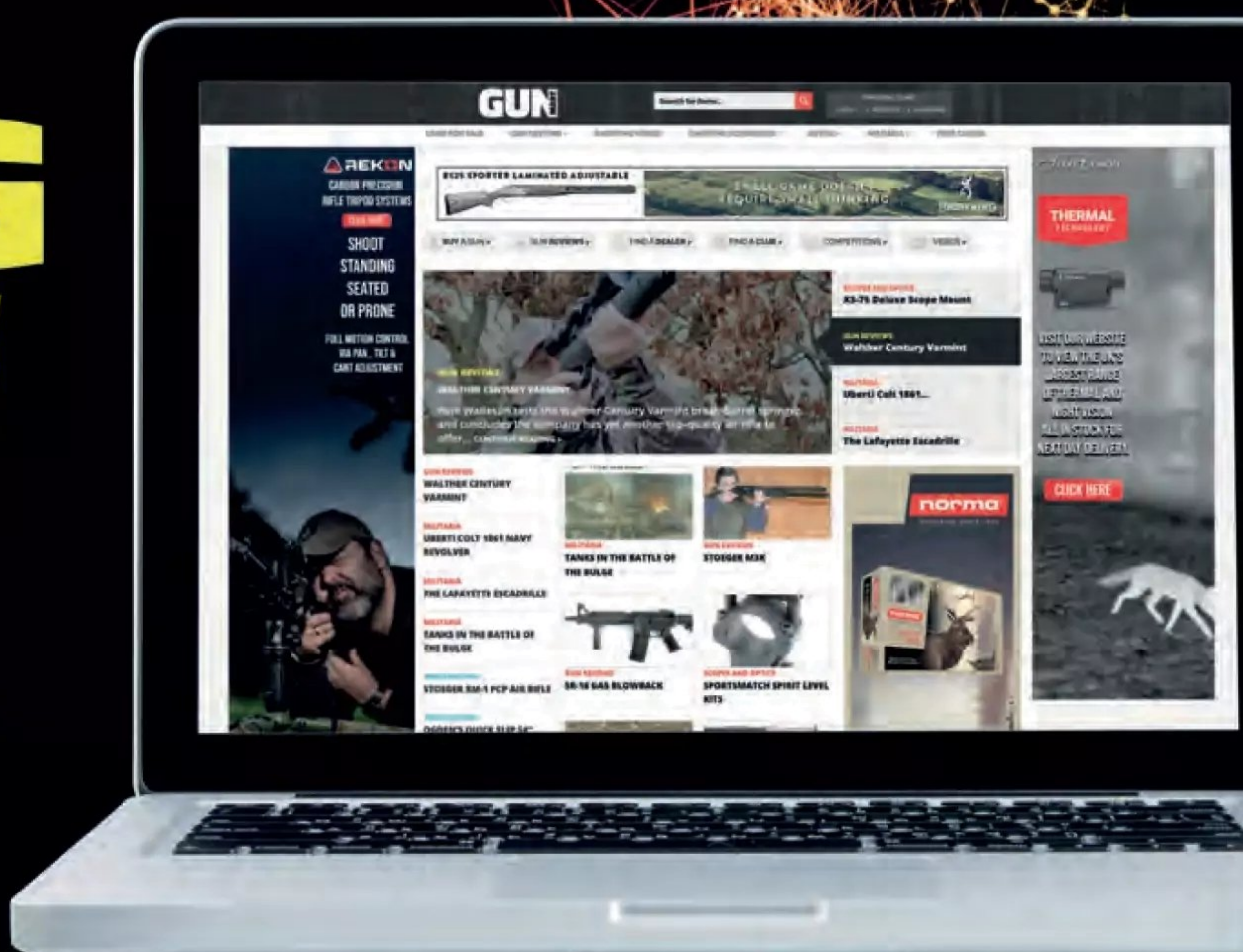
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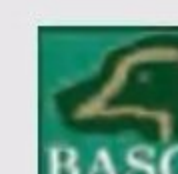
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5 OF THE BEST DEER STALKING RIFLES

Chris Parkin takes a look at a selection of his favourite stalking rifles



SAKO 90 PEAK

PRICE: £3895.00

CONTACT: GMK - WWW.GMK.CO.UK

The Sako 90 Peak comes in a broad range of calibres and has truly refined all the excellence of Sako actions from the past. In addition, it now incorporates Picatinny mounts for even simpler scope fitting. The bolt is a three-lug push-feed unit with a 60-degree handle lift. The rifle sports a detent-weight-adjustable trigger to align it more truly with the capabilities of the brand's fiercest competitors. Sako has always supplied reliable, crisp triggers that are ideal for hunting rifles, and this enhanced adjustability allows for effortless modifications, whether to suit seasonal changes or accommodate the use of gloves. There is a stainless-steel twin-column magazine in place that enables top-loading both in, or out of the gun, which is a feature I really like on a hunting rifle.

The barrel is a 20" cold-hammer-forged stainless steel unit with a 15x1 threaded muzzle for a moderator. It is impeccably finished and offers Sako's usual three-round sub-MOA

guarantee. The action is smooth in operation and quiet, and it features a three-position safety catch with bolt-locking potential. The rifle also includes two sprung plungers for reliable ejection, while the stock is the standout feature. Constructed from carbon-fibre, it offers exceptional lightness, stiffness, and durability, all while being impervious to atmospheric changes, resulting in a total weight of just 5lbs 11oz (2.6kg).

The recoil pad is approximately 22mm thick and secured with two screws, allowing for the addition of spacers if needed, to extend the supplied length of pull of 14.25". The comb is slim and allows decent cheek positioning, but this is a lightweight hunting rifle, and if adjustable ergonomics are a priority, you are looking in the wrong place. The Peak is an exceptional rifle that I would confidently choose for any deer hunting expedition, thanks to its outstanding performance and appeal, with no notable drawbacks.





RUGER AMERICAN GEN 2

PRICE: £825

CONTACT: VIKING ARMS - WWW.VIKINGARMS.COM

Ruger produces straightforward rifles without too much unnecessary embellishment.

The American was a reliable rifle, and in the new Gen 2 format, it is up-to-date while still retaining an attractive retail price. The rifle has a stiff, grey polymer moulded stock, a free-floating barrel that's threaded, a muzzle brake, and a luxurious tungsten Cerakote finish. The three-lug bolt has a fast 70-degree lift, good ergonomics, and a smooth stroke thanks to its naturally low-friction interface. Ruger uses a 'Marksman' trigger, which is adjustable from 3 to 5lbs (1,300 to 2,200g). It's predictable and

consistent to operate, with minimal creep, and it features an inner safety blade. The polymer three-round magazine covers most scenarios.

The stock incorporates a spacer system for length-of-pull adjustment, ensuring a customised fit for shooters across a variety of calibres and recoil levels. The stippled finish enables an assured grip throughout, and the colour sets the gun apart from the crowd. I also like the finger-grooved profiles on the fore-end. It's good to see an economically priced rifle that has reached the UK without a huge financial penalty in what we cannot

deny is a tiny market from an American perspective. The gun feels solid, resists mechanical damage, and holds zero throughout regular day-to-day bumps and knocks when transported and handled.

I thoroughly enjoyed shooting this rifle, finding it an excellent introduction to the demands of deer stalking, with impressive anti-corrosion properties and outstanding handling characteristics. All that aside, the fluted barrel looks far above its price point, and this is a rifle I could recommend to any shooter for its focused attention to performance at a stunningly low price.





SEEKINS PRECISION HAVAK PH2

PRICE: £2770.00

CONTACT: EDGAR BROTHERS - WWW.EDGARBROTHERS.COM

The Havak PH2 has a beautiful, fluted, bead-blasted barrel finished in a deep charcoal grey. It's neatly screwcut 5/8x24 for a moderator or brake, and although concealed under the matte finish, it's 416 stainless steel underneath. The steel action, which has a Remington 700 footprint with an integral recoil lug, features a fluted bolt shaft and four paired lugs locking the bolt with a 90-degree closure. The 20 MOA Picatinny rail is screwed in five places to the receiver for long-shot potential. The bolt's head is detachable, so within either the long or short action length models, you can adapt to a variety of conventional or magnum calibres with larger bolt-face requirements.

A Trigger Tech unit is fitted, which is a smart move, as these always provide crisp operation. The unit fitted to this rifle is adjustable from 40 to 80oz (1,140 to 2,280g). The trigger guard houses a magazine release catch, allowing

for quick removal of the detachable, AICS-compatible, five-round magazine, which feeds reliably from a single column; spare magazines are readily available. The barrel is fully floated, and the stock is stiff, with an epoxy pillar-bedded action fitting, which is a delight to see for reliability on any rifle.

Sub-MOA performance was achieved with five-round groups, and the barrel is supported by Seekins' "Unbeatable Lifetime Warranty" to assure you of long-term performance. The stock features a lightweight varmint profile that strikes a balance between functionality and aesthetics, appealing to some shooters while dividing opinion among others. The Seekins exemplifies what Remington could have achieved with their rifle design, which has since become the basis for many other manufacturers, valued for its modularity and design purity.





SAUER 505 SYNCHRO XTC

PRICE: £6645

CONTACT: BLASER GROUP - WWW.BLASER-GROUP.COM

Sauer rifles break away from convention, seamlessly blending the finest traditional hunting craftsmanship with cutting-edge, ultra-modern features. The latest 505 looks like a 404 but shows necessary evolution without pointless revolution. The cold hammer-forged barrel guarantees longevity and accuracy, is screwcut for a sound moderator, and is interchangeable, ensuring that the rifle will cover all your hunting needs. The steel is plasma-nitride/blued for corrosion resistance.

The new action is steel rather than aluminium, and this has allowed Sauer to use the almost identical Blaser saddle scope mounting solution, which, although expensive, is one of the truest return-to-zero systems on the market. All the finest features, like the weight-adjustable trigger, are retained. It offers crisp shot initiation, but no longer includes positional adjustment.

Sauer offers a diverse range of stock options, including the walnut hunter and synthetic thumbhole designs, along with the XTC Carbon and models featuring adjustable cheekpieces. The de-cocking mechanism is seamlessly integrated for enhanced safety, and the steel magazines ensure smooth, quiet insertion and flawless operation. The fore-end tip features Sauer's SUS sling swivel, which unclips and doubles as a 4mm Allen key to disassemble the rifle and adjust functions.

The bolt provides a smooth 60-degree lift, with reliable primary and secondary extraction and ejection, though the bolt head is no longer interchangeable. The 505 is built to last a lifetime, offering all essential features with customizable luxury to suit your budget. It stands out for its exceptional ergonomic comfort, even with larger, heavy-recoiling calibres, including the lightweight carbon model.





BENELLI LUPO SYNTHETIC

PRICE: POA

CONTACT: SPORTSMAN GUN CENTRE - WWW.SPORTSMANGUNCENTRE.CO.UK

Benelli is so well known for their shotguns that their rifles don't always catch the attention, but that really should change. Their BE.S.T surface treatment leaves all metalwork with a gleaming, deep lustre and comes with a 25-year corrosion warranty. When it comes to cycling the bolt, few are smoother. The gun features a creative polymer/aluminium stock chassis layout that ensures great stability and zero retention. With this rifle, I had no problems getting the best accuracy.

The stock features a soft-shooting recoil pad layout with

length-of-pull and cheekpiece spacers, as well as adjustable cast and drop in the butt. The single-stage trigger is adjustable from 1,000 to 2,000g. The magazine holds five rounds in two columns and can be loaded either in or out of the rifle. It will also load into the rifle full, with the bolt closed, so you have the 5+1 option if needed. Regardless, it's fast to reload, and a single round dropped into the ejection port will also feed straight to the chamber without any hang-ups.

Benelli uses a progressive comfort recoil pad, which deforms telescopically in a

controlled manner. The fore-end is rigid and allows the barrel to maintain its full free float all the way back to the action. If clamped onto a tripod mount, your zero is assured.

Until this point, I had never shot a Benelli shotgun or rifle, but I find it difficult to offer any negative critique of this particular model. It features advanced technical elements as well as inherent styling characteristics that distance it from the crowd. The 10-year warranty with 25-year corrosion protection is particularly admirable, especially for those in challenging climates.





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IMPACT!

Fancy some new steel targets? **Paul Austin** examines the latest offerings from The Steel Target Company

Business has been booming for the Steel Target Company, with its revolutionary designs really catching the eye of the steel-shooting community. In fact, so much so that, arguably, the biggest name in steel, Tom's Targets, has launched a similar product of their own.

However, that initial 'award for innovation' goes to Hugh Nevin and his team, and now they're back with several updates to their inspired designs. Clearly, sitting on their laurels isn't for them.

Signs of improvement

The traditional method of mounting any gong in the field is the good old combination of road pins, chains, and shackles. However, there's a definite weakness in this approach. Sooner or later (often sooner on small gongs), the shackle or chain is going to take a hit, which invariably sees the gong dangling off the remaining chain. This is particularly irritating after the long walk to erect the thing in the first place. Often, repairing it in the field is not an option, requiring a vice and a hammer to untangle the twisted steel and replace the necessary parts. So, that's one target out of action.

The 'bear ears' style of mounting points on traditional gongs is okay, but it's a design that can be improved on, and that's exactly what Hugh has done—and continues to do—with this update.



Evolution of the design

Rather than using the traditional round holes for attaching shackles and chains, Hugh's first generation of gongs featured a three-hole layout in an extended top section on the gong. The two holes left and right could still be used for chain mounting if that's what you'd like to do, but an additional central hole was added specifically for Hugh's custom-built mounting stakes.

The multi-hole design has now been revised to a single central hole, so shackles and chains are no longer an option, and you will have to invest in the stake system. More sales for Hugh, but a more robust product for us. The new design eliminates the only potential weakness, with high hits inevitably chipping away at the shackle connections and weakening the target.

These stakes are not cheap, at £80 for the small stake with a 100mm gong, £70 for the Hardox 500 small stake alone, and £130 for the Pro Stake Hardox 500. In my opinion, they're well worth it, as they're pretty much maintenance-free. The stakes are made of the same 10mm AR500 steel as the gongs, which no doubt accounts for the price.

At first, it seems like a lot of money for a mounting system, but if you subtract the cost of constant repairs for a traditional shackle, chain, and road pin setup—plus the irritation of failures in the field—I think Hugh's solution makes

a lot of sense. In fact, I invested in a range of targets after my initial review.

Upgraded stake

The original design consisted of a main spike accompanied by two lynchpin connectors set at different heights. The idea was that in soggy ground you could really drive the stake in, and by using a lynchpin and the accompanying spiked plate, secure the stake firmly in the ground.

On firm ground, the first setting is more than enough to secure the stake and target, keeping it firmly in place even after multiple hits from a heavy calibre. If the depth of soil is limited, the spiked plate can also be deployed as a kind of foot, which again stabilises the target.

In this latest incarnation, the shackle/chain mounting holes on the gongs have been removed, further simplifying the design, while the support plate has been replaced with a much sturdier right-angled spike that improves stability, especially when deploying heavier 250/300mm gongs and the new full-body swinging targets.

Both generations of the stake have an extended hook design, with a corresponding hole in the gongs, which means they're easy to install, can swing freely, and are also pretty much impossible to shoot off the stakes, even with the heaviest impact.

There are lots of mounting options and target styles on offer, including rails and custom stands for the more complex targets, plus various free-standing critters. But for me, and I suspect most shooters, the spike mounting system is the star of the show.

Design considerations

There is a slight caveat to the updated stake design, which may not be good news for everyone. The new hook section of the stake has been updated and is much deeper, which means the holes in the gongs themselves are cut further into the steel. The result is a tougher gong, but the downside is that the new-style gongs won't fit on the original stakes. Older gongs will still fit on the new stakes but not vice versa. It isn't a problem for a new buyer, but a slight irritation for existing customers. Basically, if you want to buy the new gongs, you will need new stakes to match.

Swinging into action

Animal profiles are certainly nothing new, but TSTC's swinging profiles certainly are. They are hung on a separate bracket that bolts to the opposite side of the new stake design. They are a kind of free-floating gong. A prime example is the roe head and torso gong pictured here. They're typically larger targets with roughly two-thirds of the weight below the hook. As a consequence, when hit, they swing and oscillate (depending on where they're struck) and ring like a bell—a real joy to shoot.

The target obscures the bolts from the line of fire, but if you're planning to shoot standard gongs, it might be wise to remove the swinging bracket beforehand, as there is a possibility that you could clip the bolts. The standard gongs hang considerably lower in their hooks and expose the bolts to impact.

Conclusion

Should you sell your existing stands and targets, and upgrade? Certainly not. They're still a great product, and after two years of regular use, mine may have the odd chip here and there, but they're still perfectly functional. Not a single gong, stake, or fitting has failed over that period. All in all, a great and innovative product line that's well worth the asking price. Very highly recommended.

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Precision Meets **AFFORDABILITY**



Join **Chris Parkin** as he examines the GPO Centuri, a scope that blends German design with practical functionality

The GPO Centuri has been designed specifically to capitalise on the American market, which also aligns it directly with the habitual preferences of many UK shooters, particularly those who think and operate with $\frac{1}{4}$ MOA clicks for zeroing and longer-range shooting. GPO is a newer name in the optical world, but they have continually supplied a quality product.

Marketing spiel

There is the usual abundance of marketing spiel: "Double HD Glass Objective Lens Technology," "PASSIONdrop hydrophobic lens coatings," and "GPObright lens coating technology." These are simple names that sugar-coat the optical design. No specific country of manufacture is stated on the tube, but the underside is engraved with "Designed by German Precision Optics," which adheres to company policy.

Regardless

Regardless of this, the tube is beautifully finished with a deep, matte black anodised lustre. At 30mm in diameter, it is simple to pair with scope rings for rifle mounting. There is 50mm of free tube space to the front of the central saddle and 60mm to the rear to accommodate the 95mm of eye relief, making the scope suitable for most rifles. The overall size has been kept modest, featuring a 44mm objective lens designed for daylight sporting rifle shooters who prioritise both weight savings and improved handling. It seems modern rifles, scope mounts, and Picatinny rails, along with generally large ocular bodies, limit how close the scope can be placed to the action. This leaves the objective size somewhat inconsequential, so you may as well go bigger for improved low-light performance. This scope wouldn't really go much lower as shown here, so why waste that space when light is key?

Adjustments

Staying in tune with the US market preferences, long-range hunting is where marketing is going, and this mandates an adjustable elevation turret for fast dialling. The 34mm diameter elevation turret lifts to unlock for turning, and there is also a zero-stop function. The turret provides 100 $\frac{1}{4}$ MOA clicks per rotation, equivalent to 25 MOA, and allows for two full



The reticle is in the second focal plane and has an illuminated centre dot

rotations. There is a small tactile and visual plunger that pops up to illustrate when you have passed 25 and are on your way to 50 MOA up. All the relevant info is laser-engraved on the circumference of the turret. Effective knurling is machined into the turret, and the clicks are well-defined and audible. The windage is similarly shown on the right-side turret, with left and right markings for fast dialling. Both turrets are easily loosened and slipped to mark zero when you have mounted the scope to your rifle.

Range-range

Parallax adjustment is featured on the left-hand side turret, from 15 yards to

infinity, making the scope appropriate for most rifle types. The tip of this turret offers illumination control, with an analogue dial that illustrates settings from 0 to 8, although there are no specific click intervals. There is an auto-off feature to save battery life after three hours, and when the battery capacity is seriously diminished, the dot will blink to remind you to change the CR2032 cell that fits below the end cap.

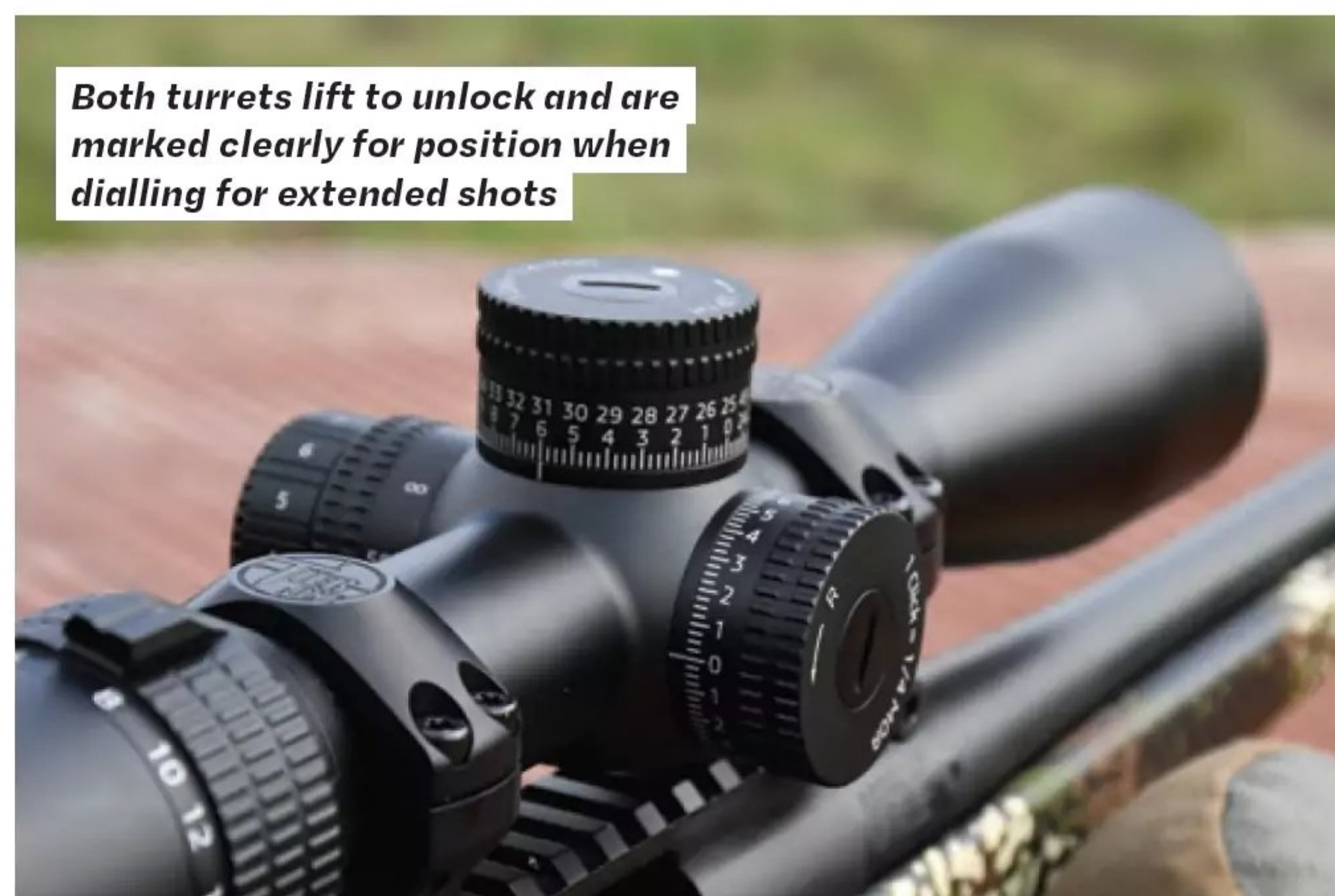
GPO's "Micro-Dot I-Control illumination" is ideal for hunting, with fast analogue intensity control. The second focal plane reticle shows a crisp, red dot in the centre, without any light bleed. The mechanics of the scope are covered by a 10-year warranty,



The parallax adjusts from 15 yards to infinity. Note the illumination control



Here you can see the ocular body and the fast-focus eyepiece



Both turrets lift to unlock and are marked clearly for position when dialling for extended shots



A tactile rotation indicator pops up when passing 25 MOA of elevation



A throw lever for the zoom ring is supplied

but it's worth noting that most manufacturers limit this to two years for electronics, and GPO is no different.

Throw lever

A throw lever is included and attaches to a dovetail rib positioned just below the 8x magnification mark on the zoom control dial, which rotates 180 degrees clockwise to adjust magnification from 3x to 18x. The internal mechanism operates with smooth, silent precision, and there is no noticeable change to the eye relief. The exit pupil is spacious, with variation from 8 to 2.4mm through the range, with a 13.6 to 2.3m @ 100m field of view. I shot with this scope on a rifle with a very short length of pull, and still found it very visually accommodating in awkward circumstances, which is a notable benefit to comment on.

Neutrality

In use, the scope complemented the rifle well and showed no real handling or usage caveats. The clicks were precise, albeit closely spaced, but modern turrets are designed to last for years unless subjected to continuous heavy use. The reticle is in the second

focal plane, so it maintains its size regardless of the magnification setting, but the windage and aim-off markers rely on an exact magnification setting, and a specific value is not quoted.

GPO advertises a 90% light transmission value, which seems entirely believable. I found the image both warm and welcoming. It seemed to amplify contrast slightly, with greens appearing more vivid than with other optics I had at the time, but this is a subjective statement as all our eyes perceive colours differently. Importantly, I found no specific steps in the light transmission through the zoom range, nor did I find that the optical capabilities dropped off suddenly in weaker light conditions. Instead, there was a gradual fade relative to the surrounding light conditions.

I would describe the scope as reliable, neutral, and excellent value for money. When I box-tested the adjustments, the click values were perfect, and this translated through all the distances you might engage a target at. The parallax and reticle control were crisp and repeatable, without unwanted backlash.

Conclusion

This scope does exactly what it promises at an attractive price. Most Centuri models come with a 44mm objective lens, but I would opt for the 2.5-15x50 model, as it is the only option with a 50mm objective that efficiently utilises the available space above the barrel. This spec makes it particularly well-suited for short-range snap shots and typical UK hunting distances for deer. If you would rather have a daylight optic tailored for small quarry, the 3-18x model might be the ideal choice.

TECHNICAL SPECIFICATION

Name: GPO Centuri 3-18x44i

Weight: 695gr/24.5oz

Eye Relief: 95mm

Click Values: ¼ MOA

Field of View: 13.6-2.3m @ 100m / 40.8-6.8ft @ 100 yards

Body Tube: 30mm

Minimum Focus: 15 yards to infinity

Length: 340mm/13.3"

Overall Adjustment Range: 90 MOA

Price: £599.99

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The PPU ammo feeds reliably, shoots accurately, and provides decent brass for reloading

LONG-RANGE ACCURACY FOR LESS

Bruce Potts explores the performance of PPU ammunition in a classic Mosin Nagant sniper rifle

The Prvi Partizan ammunition factory is situated in the southwest of Serbia, in the town of Uzice, hence PPU for the name of the ammunition. Since 1928, Prvi Partizan has been producing ammunition for the Serbian Army and Police, as well as many foreign armies, and it also produces hunting and sporting ammunition.

The company produces over 400 types of rifle, pistol, revolver and small arms ammunition. It is distributed in Britain by Henry Krank & Co, and has always been held in high regard, not only for its good price but also for its accuracy and consistency, which are equally well thought of. Additionally, the high-quality brass for reloading makes it a cost-effective choice for shooting your hunting or service rifle in these modern times.

Each calibre is produced with many bullet types, different weights, and very close tolerances, providing uniform quality in the

ammunition. In addition to standard expanding bullet types, PPU is perhaps best known for producing ammunition specifically designed for military or service rifles, including calibres such as .303, 7.92mm Mauser, and 7.62x39. The 182gr FMJ 7.62x54R ammunition on test today (at the time of writing) is priced at around £23.99 per box of 20 or £133.00 per case of 100.

The gear

I bought a Mosin Nagant 1944 sniper rifle from Holts Auctioneers, as I wanted to complement my Mauser K98 Sniper

PPU's ammunition offers excellent value for money and delivers consistently good results

for a few test reviews and videos. Kranks were the obvious choice for feeding such rifles, as they have a great reputation for actually stocking what they advertise! The prices are always appealing, especially if you're going to shoot 100 rounds or more, and the staff are both knowledgeable and helpful.

The 7.62x54R ammunition I purchased features a boat-tail design and demonstrated excellent uniformity. The ballistic data listed on the website corresponds to a rifle with a 610mm (24") barrel length, whereas the Nagant sniper rifle has a longer 29" barrel. However, based on experience, wartime barrels often vary significantly in quality, dimensions, and groove diameter, making it particularly interesting to observe how these PPU rounds performed during testing.

Testing

PPU quotes a velocity with the 182gr FMJ bullet of 800m/s (2624fps) at the muzzle, dropping to 744m/s (2440fps) at 100m, 690m/s





The FX True Ballistic chronograph helped me gather some good ballistic data



Recorded velocities of over 2500fps were a tad lower than the on-the-box figures, but the rifle is 80 years old

(2264fps) at 200, and 639m/s (2097fps) at 300m. This equates to 2242J (2822ft/lbs), 1708J (2407ft/lbs), 1278J (2071ft/lbs), and 1101J (1778ft/lbs) of energy, respectively.

I set up a full-sized steel IPSC target made of 500 Hardox from Tom's Targets at 100 yards, which proved excellent for testing bullets, as the visible impact and audible clang of each strike were most welcome. This is especially true when the recoil from the round obscures your vision, and a nice clang indicates a hit, especially when shooting over a 200 yard range.

I also set up the impressive FX True Ballistic chronograph, which utilises Doppler technology to calculate BC values downrange—a feature that proves invaluable for my reloading work and the wildcat rounds I frequently use. I had an average velocity reading for five shots of 2522fps, which equates to 2571ft/lbs of energy. At 50 yards, I had 2427fps|2381ft/lbs, and at 100 yards, it read 2339fps|2212ft/lbs. The average spread was only 31fps, which I thought was pretty damn good, and the BC value worked out at 0.446.

So, when zeroed at 100 yards, the velocity and energy figures at 200, 300, 400, and 500 yards were 2161fps|1888ft/lbs, 1996fps|1611ft/lbs, 1837fps|1364ft/lbs, and



We had groups of 1.5 to 2" at 100 yards, which I think is excellent

1686fps|1149ft/lbs, respectively. I ran the data through the Quickload and QuickTarget ballistic programs to ascertain the true trajectory of this bullet/BC combination.

So, sticking with a 100 yard zero, at 200 yards you'll be down 4.37", at 300 yards minus 16.17", then at 400 yards you'll be 36.72" low, and at 500 yards you'll experience a drop of 67.61". Wind deflection is the curse of all long-range shooting, and with a 10mph wind at a 90-degree angle, the bullet drifts 0.40" at 100 yards, 1.67" at 200, 3.91" at 300 yards, 7.23" at 400 yards, and 11.77" at 500 yards.

Accuracy

As shown in the pictures, the 1944 Nagant sniper rifle, an authentic model with all matching numbers and a well-maintained bore, delivered some acceptable groups at 100 yards. Having sighted it in, which was pretty easy with the PU scope thanks to its elevation and windage turrets (unlike the Mauser

K98, which has windage adjustment on the mounts), the rifle's 'German Type reticle'—a post and twin bars with points at the apex—was very easy to use. I found the fixed-focus PU to be clear in the centre but with obvious vignetting at the circumference.

Aiming at the centre, I achieved a three-shot group measuring 1.65", which I think is amazing. So, a good rifle and even better, consistent ammo! Headshots were a doddle, and again, I managed less than 2 MOA at 100 yards, which is more than acceptable. Future tests out to 500 yards on steels will no doubt prove fruitful as well.

Conclusion

I was thoroughly impressed not only by the construction and quality of each PPU round but also by their consistent performance downrange. Priced at approximately a quid per round, they offer exceptional value for money. I also conducted tests at extended ranges and compared the results with those from a couple of Mauser K98 sniper rifles, but that's a story for another time.

CONTACTS

Henry Krank - PPU Ammunition: www.henrykrank.co.uk

Toms Targets - Hardox Targets: www.tomstargets.co.uk

JMS Sporting - Quickload Ballistic Program: www.quickload.co.uk

Holts Auctioneers - Second-Hand Guns: www.holtsauctioneers.co.uk

Sportsman Gun Centre - FX Chronograph: www.sportsmanguncentre.co.uk

A 7.62x54R round on the left compared to a .308 Win round



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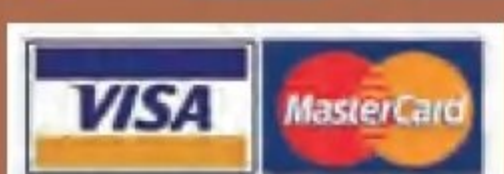


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RELOADING BASICS



Mark Underwood compares the pros and cons of using new or old brass for reloading



Although reloading is all about recycling cases, there are occasions when you have to treat yourself to some shiny new brass! They are undoubtedly expensive, and splashing out on new cases can be a bit of a shock to your pocket, but are new cases any better than old, previously fired ones?

New, second-hand, or older

Brand-new, unfired cases, straight from the factory, are manufactured to SAAMI dimensions and will generally fit most guns chambered for the specific cartridge. Second-hand cases come from fired factory ammunition, used once and fire-formed to the gun they were shot through. They will be of good quality, prepared and loaded in consistent factory conditions. Older cases, on the other hand, have been shot more than once, sometimes several times, and will also be fire-formed to the last gun they were fired in.

Sourcing cases

A lot of shooters source their brass from factory ammunition, using the factory rounds for either competition or stalking and then reloading them

for general shooting and target practice. Although this is initially expensive, with factory ammunition costing a fair amount, it is a good way to source brass. This ensures that you are using high-quality and consistent brass fired in your own gun and fire-formed, from new, to the dimensions of your chamber.

Buying brand-new brass might seem a bit counterintuitive to most reloaders, as the whole process usually revolves around using previously fired cases, but sometimes it is necessary. If your cases are worn out and need retiring, then new brass is required. However, new cases come with some particular issues which need addressing to make them ready for use.

The new cases need to get to know your chamber like the old ones on the right



Working with new brass

As new cases have been produced to SAAMI specifications, they should require little, if any, trimming to length. A lot of reloading data states a "trim to" length, which is slightly shorter than the SAAMI dimension, to allow for the stretching of the cases when fired, but this is not usually necessary. Basically, very hot loads that cause excessive case stretching can benefit from starting with slightly shortened cases. New cases do not usually require resizing and are pretty much ready to go, but they should still be carefully inspected first.

Depending on the brand and the packaging that the cases are sold in, new brass can often require a bit of work before you reload it. Case mouths can sometimes be dented during transit, flash holes may not have been properly formed, and other odd faults or poor finishing may be evident. So, new cases need to be treated in a similar way to once-fired cases. There are exceptions to this, with brands like Lapua and ADI selling very well-finished cases in good protective packaging that arrive in perfect, ready-to-use condition. There is nothing wrong with other brands,

IN ASSOCIATION WITH



BRAND-NEW BRASS IS NO DOUBT A TREAT, AND IF YOU GET IT FROM A HIGH-END BRAND, VERY LITTLE WORK WILL BE REQUIRED BEFORE YOU CAN RELOAD IT. "

MARK UNDERWOOD

but some can be more easily damaged in transit or may not have had as much time spent on finishing them. This is reflected in the price, and with brass, it is very much a case of "you get what you pay for." Premium cases, well-finished and well-packaged, come with a much higher price tag.

New cases should be individually inspected, the flash holes deburred, and if necessary, the cases should be trimmed to a consistent length. If any case mouths are dented or misshaped, you can put them through a resizing die, either full-length or neck-only, but it is important that if you need to do this, then all of the cases must be resized, so that they have all been stressed and processed in the same way. This will ensure that they perform consistently. Processing brand-new cases this way can be time-consuming and somewhat disappointing, but the lower cost of such cases makes the extra effort more palatable.

New versus old brass

New brass often does not perform as well as once-fired brass because it has not yet been fire-formed to the gun. When the case has expanded in the chamber and then shrunk back slightly as the chamber pressure drops, it may require some resizing to bump the shoulder back slightly and re-establish the correct neck tension. Other than that, it is perfectly shaped to function in that gun. By comparison, new brass is made to SAAMI dimensions, to be fired in any appropriately chambered gun, and this difference can have a critical effect on the accuracy of the ammunition.

As brass gets older and is fired more times, its ability to shrink back down to size after firing starts to diminish, as the metal becomes less springy and starts to thin. In time, the case mouth will not be able to provide sufficient neck tension to hold the bullet correctly, and this will affect chamber pressure

and consistency. This is when cases are at the end of their useful life and should be disposed of.

Other considerations

Many dangerous game hunters will not consider using reloaded ammunition, or even once-fired brass, because they feel more reassured using factory ammunition when the critical shot is needed. The theory is that they are avoiding the risk of ammunition not feeding because the brass wasn't resized properly. This is more of a reflection of a lack of confidence in their own loads rather than a realistic risk. When stalking any type of game, you should always ensure that your ammunition chambers correctly before heading into the field, so you can be confident it will feed when needed.

Conclusion

Brand-new brass is no doubt a treat, and if you get it from a high-end brand, very little work will be required before you can reload it. The important thing to remember is that it is only new once, and it might not perform at its best until after it has been fire-formed in your gun.

AFFORDABLE



EXCELLENCE

Bruce Potts delves into the EBA Blackthorn, exploring its features, performance, and why it's a bargain at £550

Edgar Brothers has formed a new collection of shotguns designed under the banner of Edgar Brothers Arms (EBA). They are economically priced and offer a blend of reliability and great performance.

First up on test is the EBA Blackthorn 12-bore semi-automatic, which I have to say, on first impressions, is rather good. It's a Turkish-made shotgun—surprise, surprise—but from the very well-thought-of Huglu firm. There are three versions of the gun available, including black synthetic, walnut bronze, and camo bronze. The latter is my favourite and is the version that we have on test.

Common to all is the discreet black bolt for non-reflective performance in the field, traditional sling studs, a 28" barrel, five multi-chokes, and a 3" chamber with steel proofing. You also get a twin-piston gas system, meaning you can change between field and magnum loads with ease. This makes the Blackthorn just as good for field use as it is for busting clays. The synthetic and camo bronze (Mossy Oak Bottomland) models both come sporting a 14.5" length of pull (LOP). However, included in the package is an optional shorter recoil

pad that provides a 14" LOP. You also get peace of mind with Edgar Brothers' enviable three-year warranty, all for a little over £550—a bargain.

Looking smart

The injection-moulded stock has an almost seamless quality, which is a great start to making the Blackthorn look good and also feel better put together than some 12-bore semi-autos in this price range. It features a fairly neutral cast, and while it doesn't include a set of stock shims, the 14.5" LOP is decent for a semi-automatic shotgun, especially when compared to many American models, which often come up short at around 13". The length of pull can also be altered by unscrewing a small screw at the base of the stock and replacing the recoil pad with a different profile/thickness. It's a very good recoil pad too, boasting just the right blend of tactility and ease of shouldering, without snagging on clothes, while the ventilated form helps to soak up those heavier cartridge weights. As such, its overall sporter-type low cast design feels very comfortable and is instantly easy and natural to shoulder, swinging well.

Simple, uncomplicated controls.
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The aluminium action has a simple yet effective bronze-anodised finish, which I think works rather well with the camo stock

I think this gun is superbly built, and it looks great too



The slotted loading gate was easy to use, and I had no hang-ups at all



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COMBINING EXCELLENT BUILD
QUALITY WITH AFFORDABILITY..."**

BRUCE POTTS

The low comb stock came with interchangeable recoil pad sizes to alter the LOP





The large extractor claw worked flawlessly in the tests



Detail of the knurled locking ring. The heavy piston has been fitted, and a standard-load piston is supplied as well



The furniture is further complemented by a long and nicely rounded fore-end (12.5" long and 1.75" wide), complete with faux exhaust ports, with extra grip provided by the raised stippled panels that are duplicated on the pistol grip.

Best of all is the very effective camouflage pattern that is applied to the complete stock, as it effectively breaks up the gun's outline. It's the Mossy Oak Bottomland pattern and it works well in most areas of the British countryside. It shows an almost tiger-stripe quality, combined with the soft blending of blacks, greens, and browns on a lighter grey base. Overall, it is very effective and looks smart.

Pattern producer

This model comes with a 28" barrel, and as previously mentioned, it is chambered for 3" shells. It is proofed for high-pressure steel shot too, as indicated by the engraved fleur-de-lys symbol under the barrel. I was pleased to see that the gun comes supplied with a decent set of flush-fit chokes ranging from cylinder to full, so all bases are covered. A single red DayGlo bead at the front is all that is needed to steer the shot pattern towards your game or clay, and the eight evenly spaced vents below the serrated rib give a nice low profile to this semi-automatic shotgun. The overall finish, as with the action, is a very hard bronze colour that I have to say looks superb

against the Mossy Oak camo finish. It gives the Blackthorn a truly earthy 'gun-from-the-woods' look.

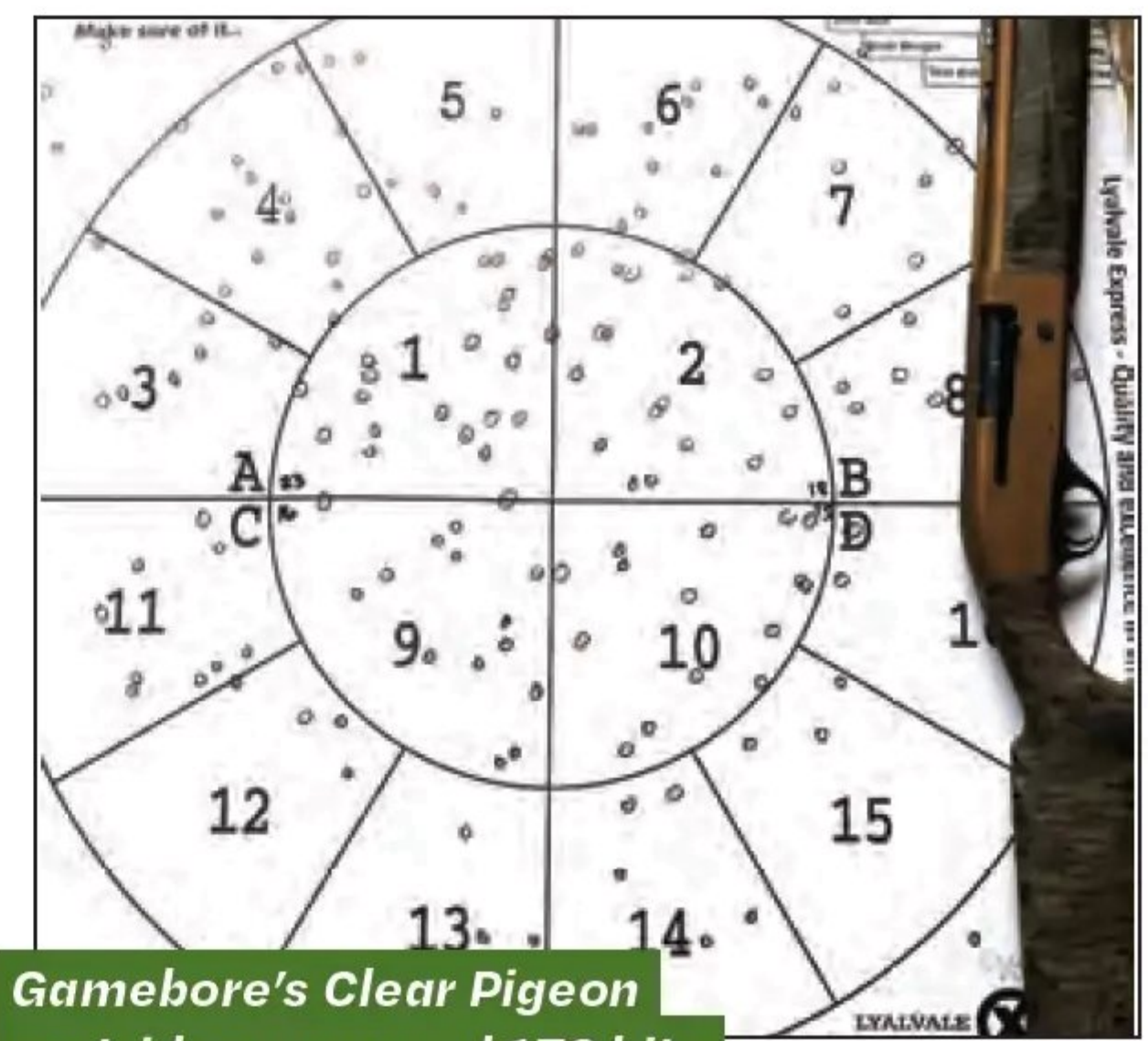
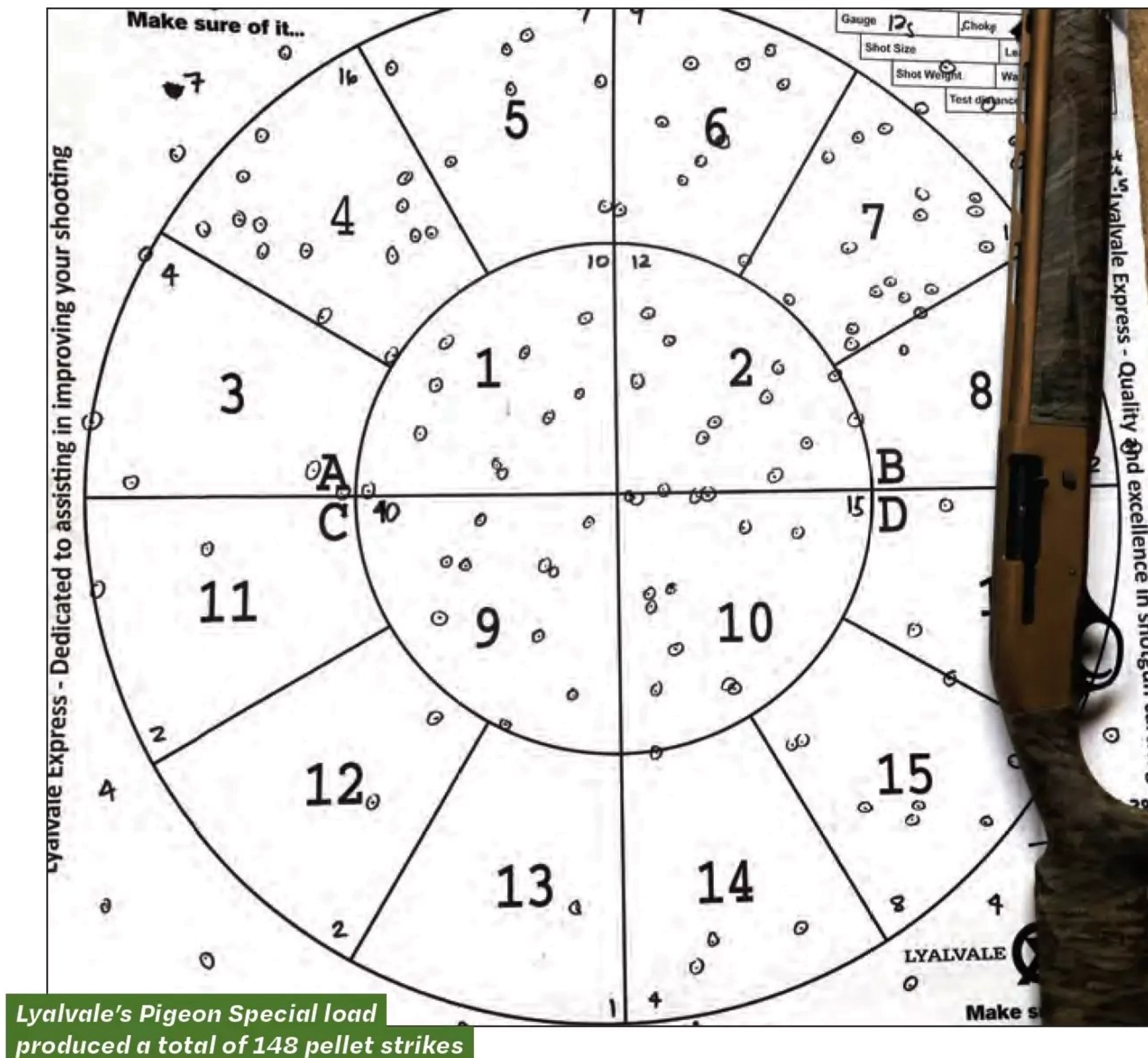
Interestingly, the Blackthorn has a secondary locking ring that secures the barrel in place when tightened against the piston housing. This gives a very secure and strong barrel-to-action union, and the fore-end can be removed regardless of whether this is in place or not. However, the fore-end has the usual twist-and-grip knurled end cap, plus an extra metal spacer that is not captive until tension is built up, so don't lose it. I did, and it took ages to find in the grass!

An interesting feature of the gas-operated system is the choice of two pistons: one for standard cartridge pressures and one for heavy loads. These can be swiftly exchanged when the barrel is removed, as they simply slot directly into the piston housing where the ports from the barrel bleed off the expanding gases as the gun is fired.

Action, trigger, and safety

As stated, the action features a durable bronze finish. The top of the action has 11mm scope rails for sight use, making it slug-ready. Other than the Blackthorn name and EB Arms branding on either side, the plain finish gives the action a clean, functional look.

Inside, the matte-black-finished bolt is of a single-piece construction, with a sturdy extractor claw fitted to the right-hand side.



The last round locks the bolt open, and it can be manually released by using the small black button that's positioned on the right-hand side of the receiver, just below the ejection port.

Loading is via a black anodised split loading gate. This design means that if a cartridge inadvertently pops out, causing a jam, it can be pushed back into the magazine with a screwdriver through the slotted ramp. The gate is not recessed or enlarged but provides ample room for loading two cartridges into this section two gun.

In the field

For testing, I installed the $\frac{1}{2}$ choke, set up three pattern boards at 30 yards, and loaded up some Eley Grand Prix HV, as I have always found these a very hard-hitting cartridge (32gr | No.6 | fibre wad). This load is good for game or vermin, and the extra velocity and energy ensure a pricked bird is downed cleanly. I had a dense pattern of 237 pellet strikes in total, with 94 inner strikes and 143 in the outer sectors. The recoil was minimal in the Blackthorn, and its function and ejection were very brisk.

Gamebore's Clear Pigeon cartridges are great all-round performers (30gr | No.6), and they performed very well in the Blackthorn, with mild recoil and great patterns. I counted a total of 176 pellets on the board, with 72 inner hits and 104 outers. It was obvious the test gun liked this load, as the pattern was dead centre on the board. The mild recoil ensured that a swift second shot could be administered if required.

Finally, it was the turn of Lyalvale Express' Pigeon Special cartridge (29gr | No.6), which I should use more often, as it's a great load. Even though it was a slightly lighter load than the others, and shorter too (2.5" case), it still functioned flawlessly, producing negligible recoil, making this cartridge perfect for decoyed or roosting pigeons. I had a total of 148 pellets, with 101 outer strikes and 47 pellets within the 15" inner circle. Overall, a lovely, even pattern.

Conclusion

The Blackthorn is superb value for money, combining excellent build quality with affordability, and the dense, even patterns rival premium guns that cost a lot more money. All in all, I strongly recommend taking a closer look at the new EBA range.

TECHNICAL SPECIFICATION

Name: EBA Blackthorn (Bronze Camo)

Type: Semi-Auto

Calibre: 12-bore

Barrel Length: 28"

Overall Length: 48.5"

Weight: 6lbs 8oz

Length of Pull: 14.5"

Options: Five chokes and a key supplied

Price: £550

Contact: Edgar Brothers -
www.edgarbrothers.com



BLACKTHORN

Designed to meet the needs of the UK market, the Blackthorn semi-automatic shotgun promises an unparalleled blend of performance, reliability, and aesthetic appeal. Featuring a 12G 3" chamber with a 28" barrel, Blackthorn uses a gas powered system and is offered in three distinct finishes, Black Synthetic, Bronze Synthetic, and Bronze Walnut.



BLACK SYNTHETIC
• 12 Ga • 28" Barrel • 5 Internal Chokes • LOP: 14" / 14.5"



BRONZE / WALNUT
• 12 Ga • 28" Barrel • 5 Internal Chokes • LOP: 14.75"



BRONZE / CAMO MOSSY OAK BOTTOMLOAD
• 12 Ga • 28" Barrel • 5 Internal Chokes • LOP: 14" / 14.5"

CLASSIC CARTRIDGES, MODERN PERFORMANCE

BRUCE POTTS EXPLORES THE CAPABILITIES OF GAMEBORE'S REGAL GAME CARTRIDGE FOR CLASSIC GUNS

Not everyone uses a 3" or even 2¾" chambered shotgun, as many prefer the older, more traditional shorter-chambered guns, mainly side-by-sides with traditional 2½" chambers. There's nothing wrong with that, as probably more game and vermin have fallen to this size of cartridge over the years. However, companies like Gamebore have recognised the importance of catering specifically to these shooters, ensuring they benefit from advancements in shot quality, construction, and powder technology. Hence, the Regal Game cartridge features a traditional paper-spun case measuring 2½" in length, which is packed with modern technology and the latest components.

In fact, whether or not you own an older classic gun, the Regal Game cartridges are such an excellent option that giving them a try in your usual over/under might deliver surprising results—they certainly did for me. Additionally, steel options are available, so there's no reason not to give them a try.

Priced at £411 per 1,000, this is a premium game load. As such, it commands a premium price and performs accordingly.

Everything you need to know

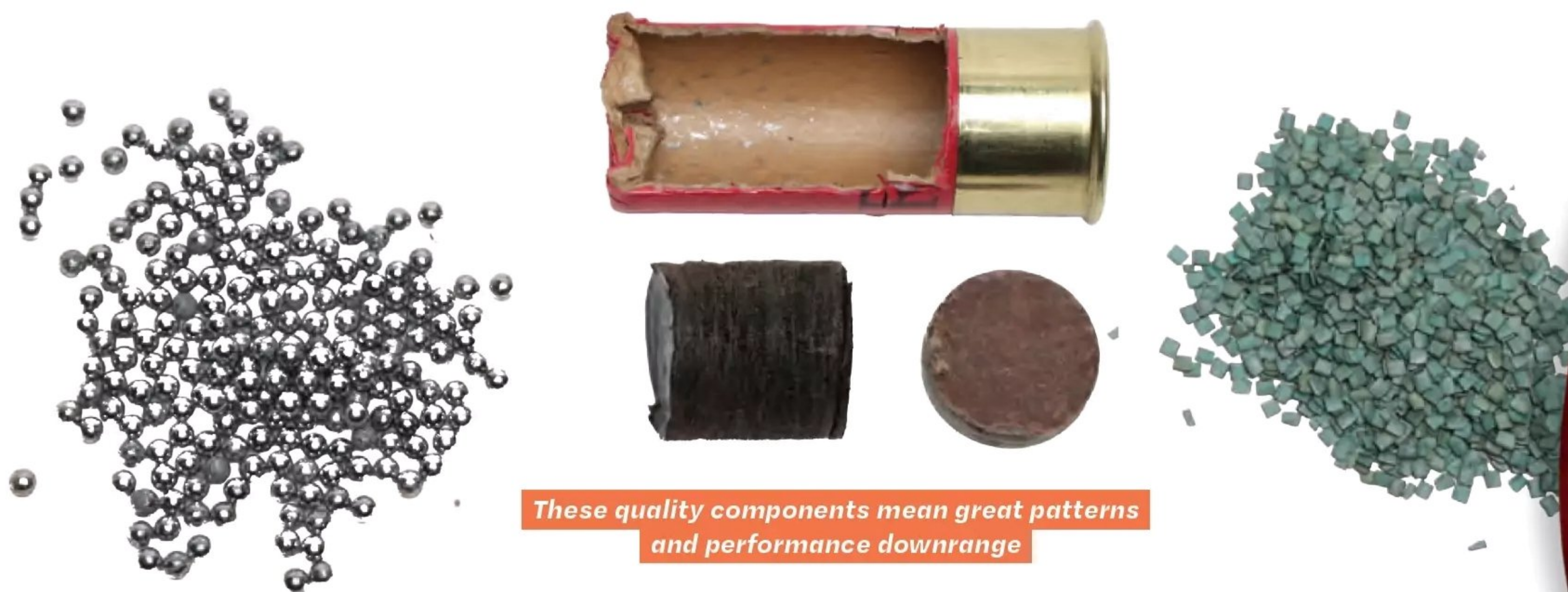
Gamebore's 12-bore Regal cartridge is a true 2½" (65mm) game cartridge, incorporating cutting-edge technology and delivering the excellent performance of its 2¾" counterparts. It instantly stands out with its short stature and beautifully made red paper casing with black load data around its middle. The large 16mm head makes the case even more stumpy-looking but is designed for smooth, clean ejection, and the six-star frontal closure is perfect. Gamebore has ensured that the shot size is precisely graded to English diameters, delivering true English sizes and, consequently, the perfect patterns expected from a specialised loading.



Combustion is initiated with a CX2000 primer, which is one of the most consistent and reliable primers available today, universally used by manufacturers in Britain. It produces not only a precise and even-burning flame but also an intensity that ensures complete powder ignition for maximum velocity (1,425fps) while leaving a cleaner bore afterwards.

The clean-burning F2 powders that Gamebore uses help as well. They have been chosen largely due to their consistent and outstanding performance, and they always provide smooth recoil in lightweight guns. The difference that a specific powder can make to the recoil you feel in your gun is truly remarkable.

As you would expect, Gamebore has gone all out with the shot that they use in this loading, using what are, in my opinion, unrivalled Diamond Shot lead pellets. Made from pure British ingots and riddled down (dropped down the only shot tower in Britain), the Diamond shot is graded five times for consistency in size and spherical shape. This not only achieves the best, most uniform shot, but it is also polished until bright like nickel (though it is not plated) to ensure outstanding patterns and ultimate performance. The antimony level means each pellet is individually harder, ensuring the shot does not deform or clump when fired,



These quality components mean great patterns and performance downrange

like standard shot would. You can choose between No.5 (2.8mm) and No.6 (2.6mm) lead pellet sizes, with load options of 28g, 30g, or 32g—all paired with a fibre wad.

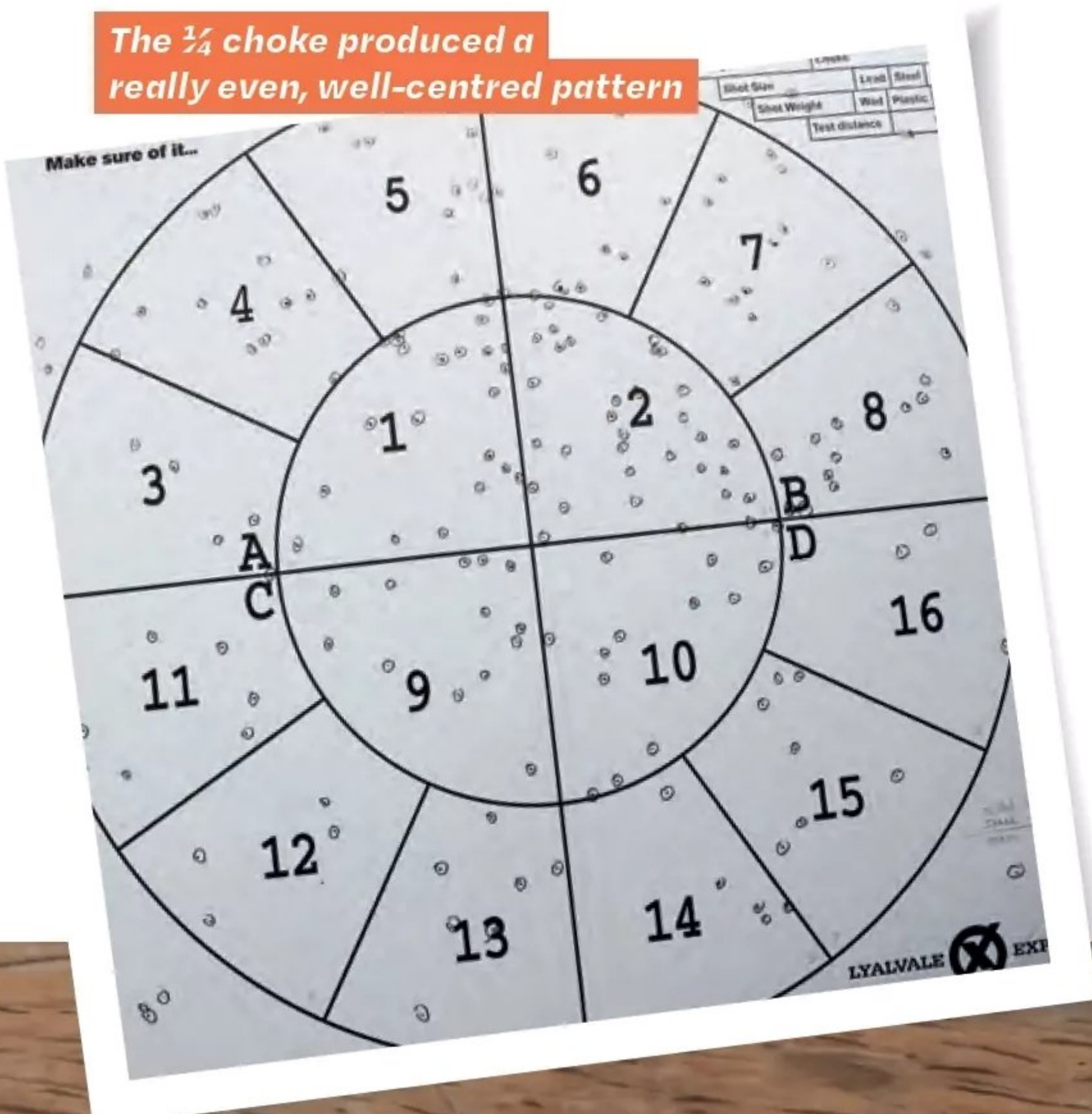
Again, the wadding is one of the key components in any shotgun shell, and this 100% fibre wad features a uniform construction and delivers an excellent gas seal after firing, initiating the smooth transfer of shot up the barrel and through the choke for excellent patterns—all while being environmentally friendly.

To the pattern boards!

I like quirky rounds, and these Regal Game cartridges certainly fit the bill. Unfortunately, I did not have a classic 12-bore with 2½" chambers to test them in! Therefore, I opted for my venerable Browning Black Shadow—my go-to 12-bore.

So, with the ¼ choke in the bottom barrel and the ½ choke in the top barrel, I set up some pattern boards at 30 yards and

The ¼ choke produced a really even, well-centred pattern



shot some loads to test pattern efficiency.

First up, I have to say how light the recoil was. Despite the 1,425fps velocity, the mild nature and very gentle recoil were down to great internal ignition properties and also the Browning's ergonomics—let's be honest.

With the ½ choke fitted, we had a total of 220 No.5 pellet strikes on the board, which is really good under any circumstances. The distribution between the inner 15" and outer 30" sections of the pattern board was nearly identical, containing 109 and 111 pellets, respectively. To me, this shows that the excellent components of the Regal Game come together seamlessly to produce a tight, dense, and really hard-hitting round—all from a 2½" case!

For closer or walked-up game, the first barrel may well have the ¼ choke fitted, which I prefer, as I tend to get in close in the dense foliage after vermin or game. Here, a wider but dense pattern is appreciated, so it does not tear up the game too much. Given this choke size, we still achieved 187 pellets on the board, with a distribution of 61 inners and 126 outers. Quite frankly, the patterns were excellent—very even and consistent overall.

Conclusion

Do not dismiss this cartridge as a 2½"-only chambered gun cartridge. Yes, it's great for classic guns, but its performance far outweighs the smaller dimensions. This is a great game cartridge in anyone's eyes.

Contacts

Gamebore - www.gamebore.co.uk

FA Andersons - www.faanderson.co.uk

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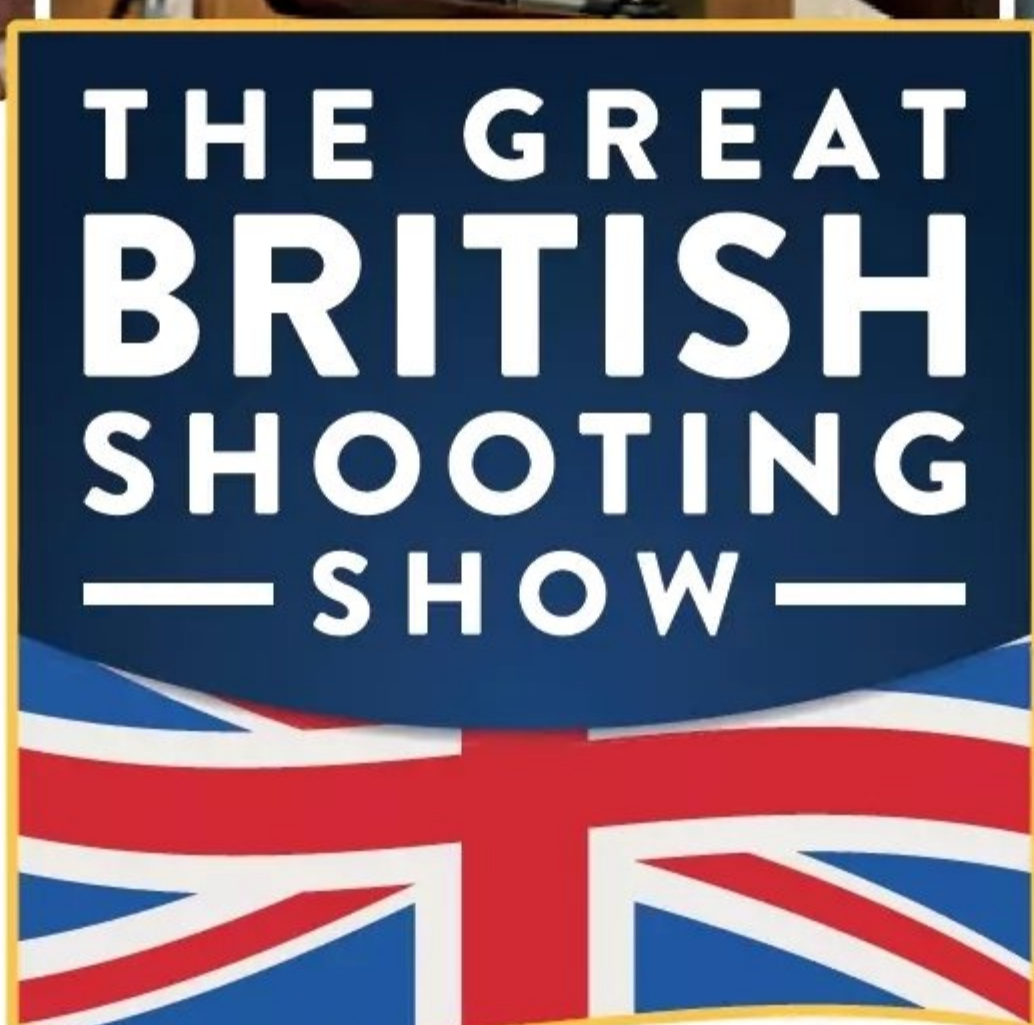
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QUIETLY DOES IT

Rob Speed shares his expert insights on the Mossberg .410 Hushpower, a serious tool for pest control



A lot of my shotgun shooting nowadays is for pigeon and crow control. Some of the areas I shoot in are noise-sensitive, and a 12-bore is too loud. In the past, I would have avoided these areas because it is not worth the hassle of public complaints. However, the Mossberg 500 .410 Hushpower has changed the game.

I have been using this little moderated shotgun for some time now, and it has become an incredibly effective tool. The 14" sound moderator, combined with 3" subsonic cartridges, reduces noise to the point where the shot is virtually inaudible from 200m away. Some of you may be thinking that a .410 isn't going to kill birds as well as a 12-bore, and this is exactly what I thought. But after using the Hushpower on quite a few outings decoying crows, I can tell you that this is absolutely not the case.

The gun

This gun is a pump-action shotgun that is available as either a wooden-stocked or black-composite model. It loads in a very similar fashion to a semi-automatic shotgun, so one cartridge in the chamber and two in the magazine underneath the barrel. It features a fixed full choke that throws a devastating pattern, and a fixed sound moderator that covers the barrel.

What I particularly like about this Hushpower is that the safety sits on the top of the receiver, rather than being positioned on the trigger guard like many semi-automatics. I find this a lot more practical, as it is in a similar position to most over-and-under shotguns, which I am used to.

The gun is very well-built and handles better than most of the .410s I have used, and it represents great value for

money compared with other shotguns in this price bracket. Even though it realistically won't have a lot of use, it isn't a lot of money sitting in the cabinet, and it is there for when it is needed. The large sound moderator on the end makes the gun very front-heavy, but I don't believe this is a bad thing. The gun only weighs 6lbs, and the extra weight at the front makes it a lot easier to control.

The biggest issue I have found with this gun is remembering to pump the fore-end after each shot. For those who don't know what I mean by this, a pump-action is cycled by manually pulling back the fore-end to eject the spent case. You then slide it forward again to load the next cartridge. I found this very off-putting to start with because it disrupts my movement onto the next bird, or a follow-up shot. I also quickly learned not to be too quick when pumping the empty shell out. The problem I found was that if I was too quick, the extractor claw would slip over the brass of the cartridge, and I was left with an empty case stuck in the chamber, which, as you can imagine, is very frustrating.

It has been a very practical gun for hide shooting, as it is easy to load, and

you do not need to break it over the hide like an over-and-under. A common issue that I, and a lot of others, have had with the chunky sound moderator, is that it blocks a lot of your view of the target.

As standard, this Mossberg has a very low comb height and a short stock, which meant it was a very poor fit for me. I resolved this issue by adding a rubber comb raiser, to increase the height, and a slip-on stock-extension pad. By doing this, I raised my eye over the barrel, giving me my desired point of impact, while also improving my view of the target. This is a really important point, as the .410 is an incredibly hard calibre to shoot effectively, and having good gun fit will help you perform to the best of your ability.

Out into the field

With the alterations I had made to the gun, I was happy with the fit and ready for action. Before heading out into the field to shoot crows, I tested a few different cartridges to see which performed best. I needed to find one that had a good pattern to dispatch the birds cleanly but also was quiet enough for the noise-sensitive areas.

The first cartridge I tested was the Eley Extra Long Magnum Subsonic (No.6, 18g, fibre wad), and it patterned really well at 30 yards. As for the noise, I genuinely could not believe how quiet these cartridges were. I would have liked to have tried another subsonic load as a comparison, but I couldn't find any.

Other Hushpower users I spoke with recommended Hull's High Pheasant (No.6, 18g, fibre wad) cartridges, and when tested, these patterned just as well as the Eley. However, because they





are not subsonic, they are much louder. Knowing that both cartridges were going to be a solid choice, I chose the Eley cartridges because they were the quietest. I didn't test any 2.5" loads, as I wanted as much lead in the cartridge as possible. If I was only using the gun to shoot clays, I would have tried some, but as I was intending to shoot live quarry, I wanted the densest pattern possible to dispatch them cleanly.

The first day on the crows with the Hushpower was on a failed crop of maize next to a dairy farm. Apart from not pumping to reload the gun on more occasions than I would like to admit to, it was a very successful trip. I managed to clear up 53 corvids for the farmer, who was working no more than 200 yards behind where I was shooting, and he didn't hear a thing. The Hushpower I had on loan for this review convinced me so much that it was going to be an effective tool for my shooting trips, that I bought one the following week.

Out again

My second trip out with the Hushpower was one I will remember forever. If I hadn't recorded the day, I doubt many people would have believed how amazing it was. You can check out the video on my 'Fieldsports with Speed' YouTube channel. I finished the day with 106 corvids and a magpie.

At the start of the day, I was cleanly dispatching birds at 20 to 30 yards to

great effect, and then began to increase the range to what I felt the combination I was using could manage. I actually dispatched some crows cleanly out to 40 yards, which I didn't believe was possible with this little calibre.

Based on my experience, I recommend starting with birds at no more than 25 yards when using a .410. These guns produce an incredibly tight pattern and a short string of shot, so beginning at closer range helps ensure clean kills and builds your confidence in the remarkable effectiveness of this small calibre.

Another key factor I have noticed when using the Hushpower is how the birds have continued to decoy for longer. Obviously, because the shots are so much quieter than the normal 12-bore loads I fire, the potential for birds staying in the area has been greatly increased. There have been multiple occasions where I have shot a bird over the decoys, and another group 100 yards behind continued on their flightline straight into the pattern.

Conclusion

This .410 Hushpower is an incredibly effective little tool for pest control in noise-sensitive areas. At £895, I think it is very good value for money and is guaranteed to put a smile on your face. The two drawbacks I've noticed are the need to take extra care when ejecting the empty cartridge to avoid

it becoming stuck in the chamber, and the stock dimensions, which are completely wrong for most adult shooters. It is important that you make all alterations necessary to the gun before heading out to shoot, as without a good gun fit, you might as well not bother. The .410 is an incredibly challenging calibre to shoot, and you need good gun fit for the best results.

I do like how the gun handles. The extra weight of the sound moderator makes the gun front-heavy and increases the ability to control it. It is a lot lighter than most shotguns, so you need to slow down your hand speed and see the same sight picture you normally would. Also, one last thing – remember to pump the fore-end to reload! It is incredibly annoying when you go to pull the trigger, and nothing happens. I know someone who has done this a few times.

TECHNICAL SPECIFICATION

Name: Mossberg 500
Bantam Hushpower

Calibre: .410

Barrel Length: 25"

Weight: 6lbs

Length of Pull: 13"

Options: Right-handed (left-handed available)

Price: £895.00

Contact: The Saddlery & Gunroom
– www.saddleryandgunroom.co.uk

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TOMMY GUN, VERY RARE auto ordnance thompson 1927/A3, 22cr have owned this for 24 years paid £900 in the year 2000, now open to offers. Email: alangreen0306@gmail.com

1911 GSG LONG BARRELLED pistol, 2 mags, gun bag, laser grips, adaptor to fit any 1/2 UNF moderator. £300. Call Alan on 07732767834

REMINGTON 700 RIFLE 308W Accuracy International stock, Leupold 6x50-20 scope, target trigger. 5 and 10 round magazine, and drag bag, £1750 Tel: 01132587636

KENTUCKIAN FLINTLOCK 45CAL RIFLE euroarms £100. Kentuckian percussion 45cal shotgun Armi Sports £100. Tel: 07732767834

RUGER OLD ARMY .44 stainless revolver. Second nitro proofed cylinder, very little use. Boxed excellent condition £750 ovno. Contact Box No: 5, contact vanessa. english@gunmart.co.uk or tel: 01206 506247

MEINDL DOUVRE EXTREME HIGH leg stalking boots, size 11 1/2, standard wide fitting, as new condition, only worn a few times. Cost new £400, asking £195 will post at cost. Tel: Gareth 07811271702 (Caerphilly)

UBERTI SHOULDER STOCK, IN walnut as new, with hammer screws and lugs. Fits cattleman .357 and others £80 - may swap. Phone Keith on 07435 129692

7MM - 08 M595 Tikka wooden stock. Steiner Ranger 4-16 x 56, 30mm tube scope, with sound moderator Atec maxim and swing £600. Contact Box No:5, email vanessa.english@gunmart.co.uk or call 01206 506247.

.223 CAL TIKKA M595 deluxe, with wooden stock, mint condition, with Meopta Artemis 200 scope, 7 x 50, 25mm tube, optical mounts, with sound moderator Atec maxim and swing £550. Contact Box No:5, email vanessa.english@gunmart.co.uk or call 01206 506247.

SWAP UBERTI NICKEL PLATED blank firing army revolver 7 1/2 inch barrel for Boker stag handled Bowie knife. John 07904 091186 Broadstairs

ANTIQUES

FAIRBAIRN SYKES COMMANDO KNIFE 3rd pattern with sheath. William Rogers Sheffield. Great condition Tel: 0749504130320

AVIATION, RAF, AIRPLANE ITEMS wanted. Books, diecast models, plastic kits, 12" action figures, military toys, airfix models etc. Tel 07973 885754 or email: davidsutton16@aol.com (Kent)

DENIX REPLICA 1873 COWBOY six shooter, the classic Army Peacemaker looks great in your office or den. The Single Action Army or "SAA" was made in several barrel lengths and each barrel length had a different name, this is the shortest barrel version at 4.75" long. This model has a gold and black colouring and has the body and barrel with decorative markings. macourt@sky.com

WW1 LEWIS MACHINE GUN & a bren light machine gun for sale, both have been deactivated and come with papers, POA 07949318364

DEACTIVATED .38 MK2 NO.1* Enfield Tankers Revolver. Top breaks, Barrel rotates and dry fires. 07495041303

BREN LIGHT MACHINE GUN WW2 for sale in excellent condition please contact me if interested. Tel: 07939318364

THE SALE OF A WW1 lewis machine gun, excellent condition Tel: 07939318364

REMINGTON ELLIOT 32 RIMFIRE, 4 shot double shot derringer pistol, made 1863 - 1888, gutha percha grips, great working order. £850. Remington rider 32 rimfire conversion pocket revolver, converted 1870s nice condition. £850. Remington 38 rimfire conversion police model revolver, converted 1870s 95% nickel plating, very nice! Tel: 07526 657737

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Macnab House, 14 Belford Road, Edinburgh, EH4 3BL Tel: 01371 851890

• VINTAGE AIR RIFLES and Air pistols wanted. Also old signs, pellets and related items, collections purchased, Antique flintlock and percussions. Guns also wanted. Will travel. Tel: 01908 526666 / Mob: 07831 398114. (P)

WANTED JAPANESE REPLICA COPY of Winchester 1873 .44/40 carbine, octagonal barrel, centennial model, fully working, Phone 01397 712747.

5 GREAT BOOKS ON Antique pistols/rifles, Sporting guns, 3 books printed in 1960's! Original Dustjackets on 4 books! £50 the lot! Guns of the World by D.R. Books, printed 1977, very large hardback, original dustjacket £20. Distinguished service-cross medal, 2nd highest USA decoration. £50 Tel: 075626 657737

MILITARIA WANTED: BAYONETS, SWORDS, knives, antique weapons. All WWI and WWII items wanted, single items or whole collections purchased. Tel: 01635 628624 or 07554444956

9 BACK ISSUES OF "The Armourer" magazine, 2 dated 2020, 7 dated 2021, £40 the lot, the hayes handgun omnibus book, antique and modern pistols, all colour photo's! Printed 2008, huge "Bible" sized book. £50. The English revolver, collectors guide, printed 2014, all colour photos! Large hardback book £35. Tel: 07526 657737

ARARE WILKINSON FLINTLOCK pistol, vgc. Full walnut stock, brass barrel, London proof and view marks. Buttcap has GPO Wilkinson mark. General post office only issued around 300 of these pistols. Have provenance regarding Wilkinson background £975. Contact Robert on 01362 694088 (Norfolk)

RUSSIAN MADE RPG7, UK deactivation certification comes with an original deactivated rocket with fins. £675 Please contact Jonathan on 07533 333606.





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