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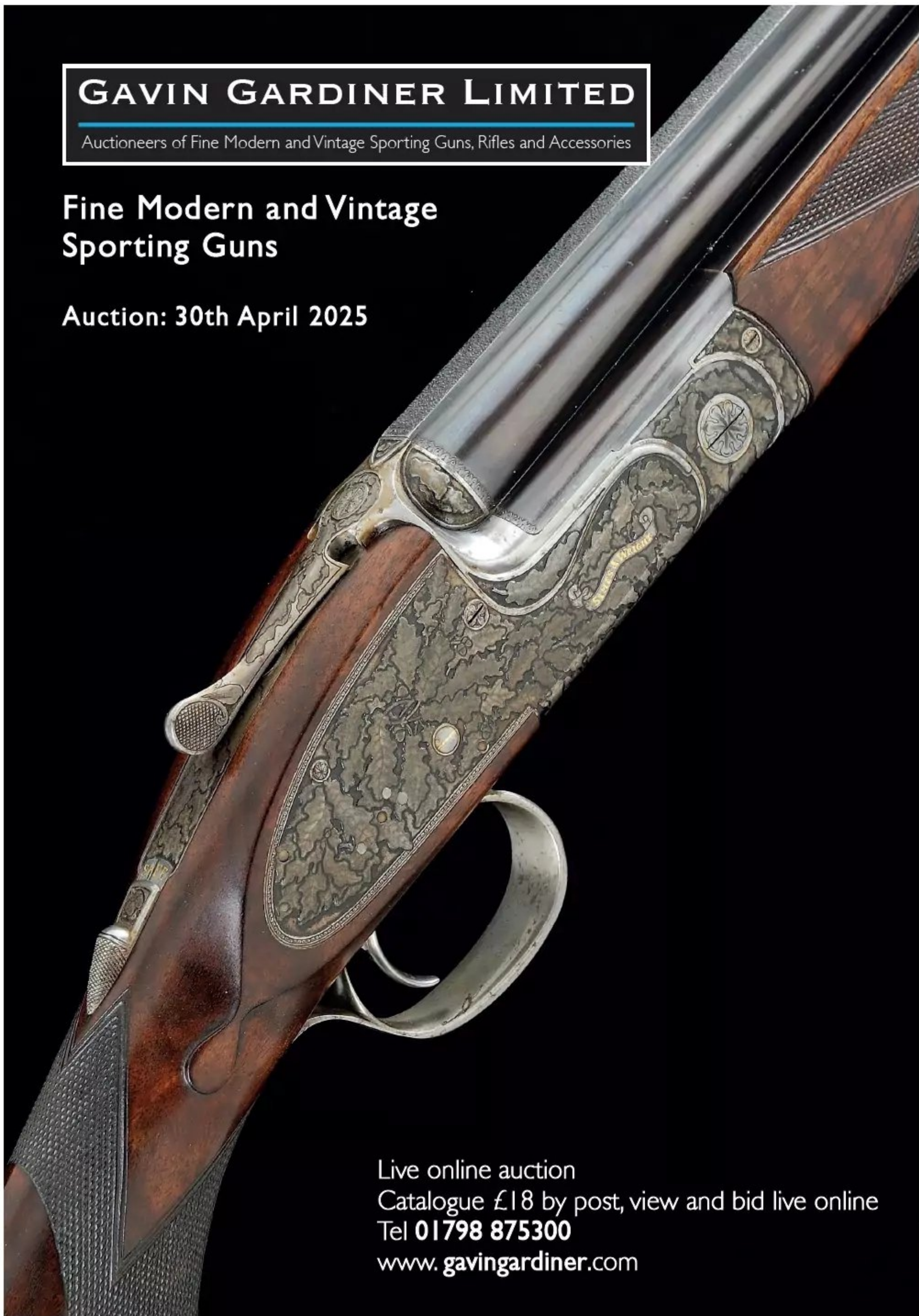


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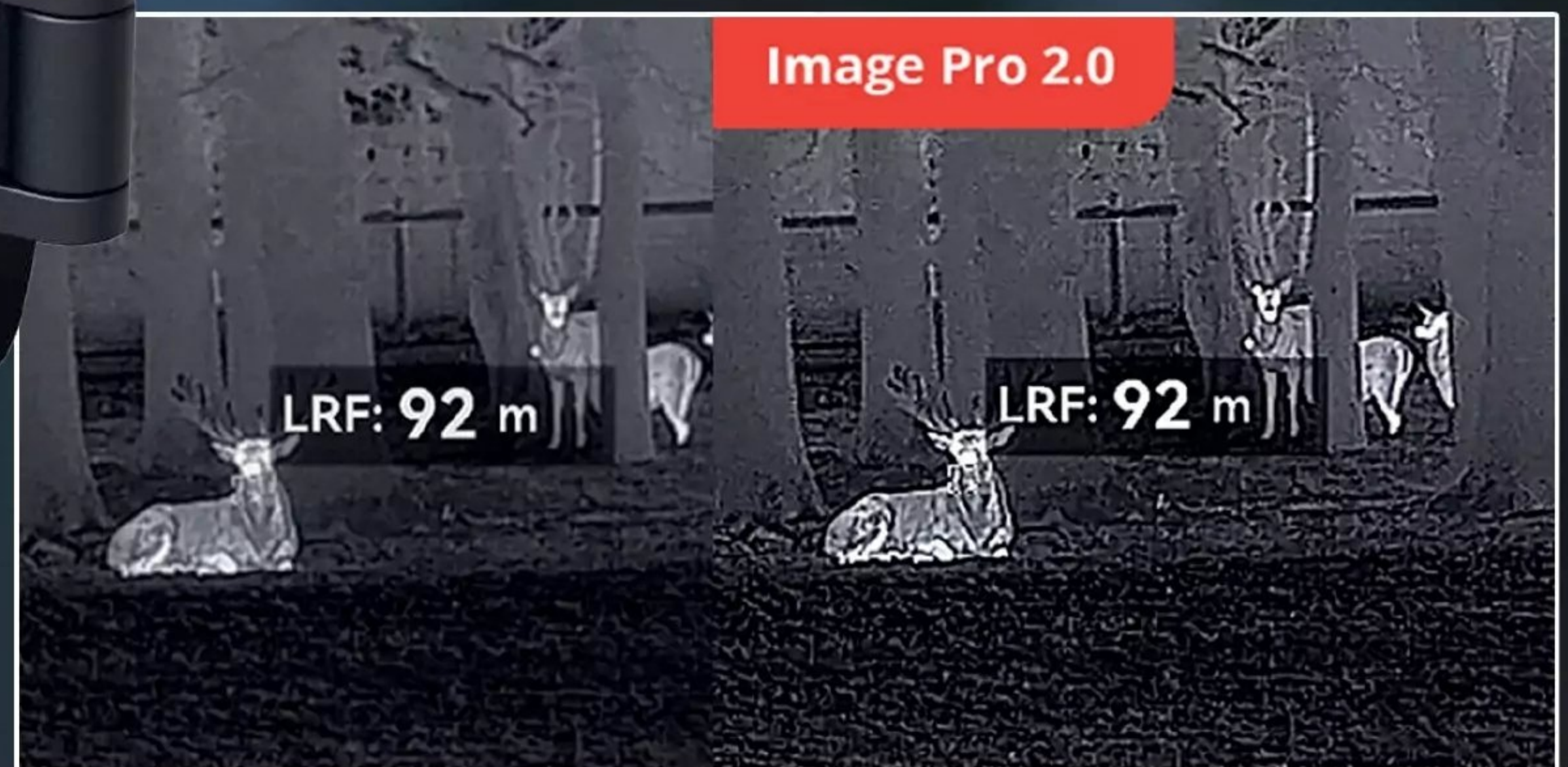


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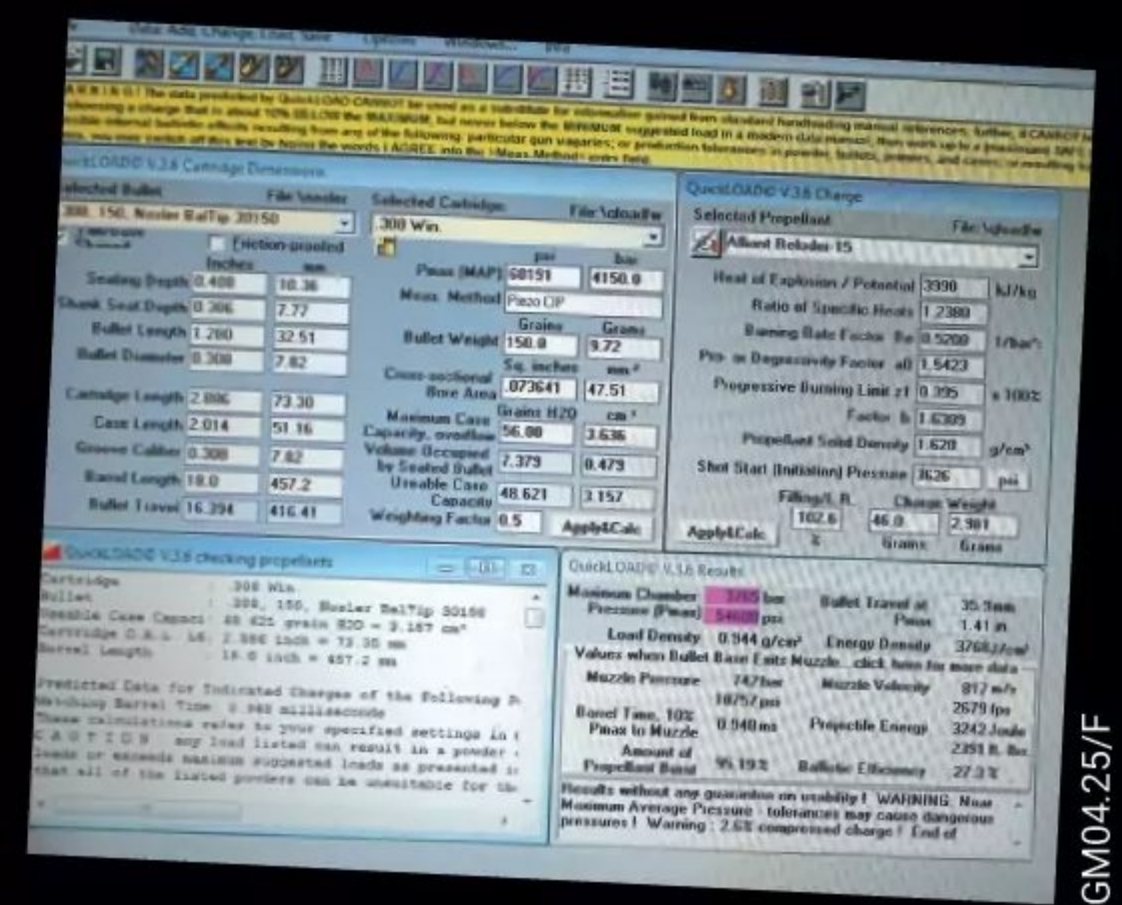
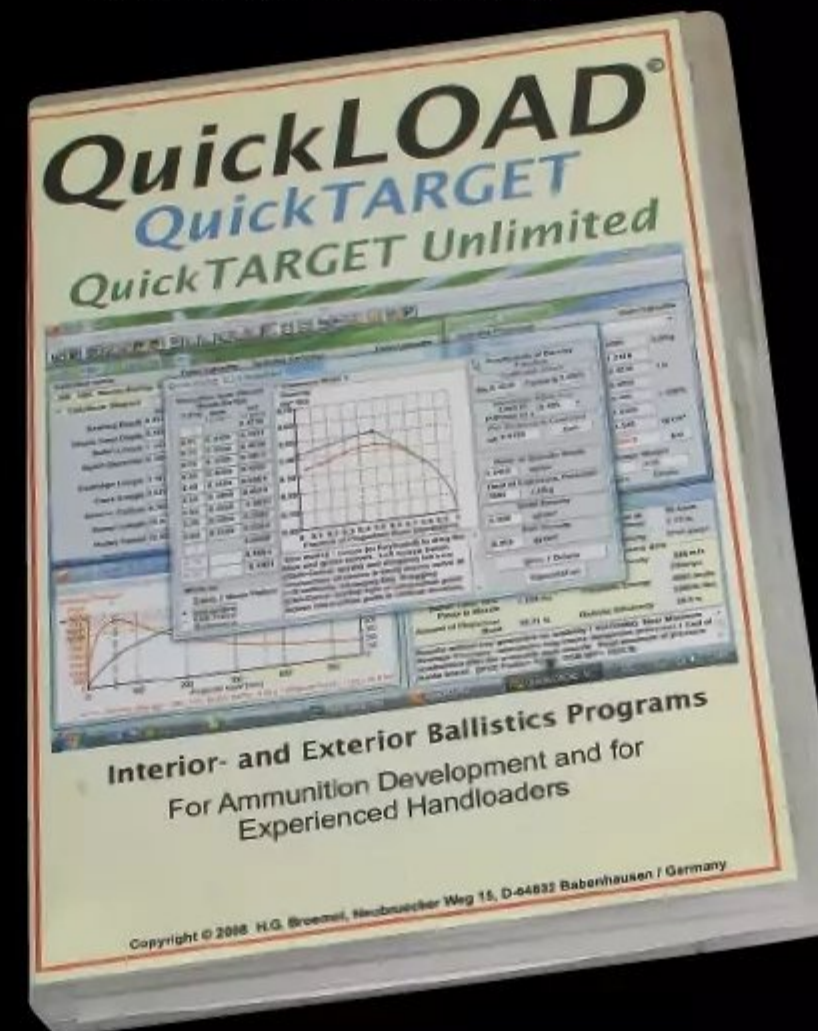
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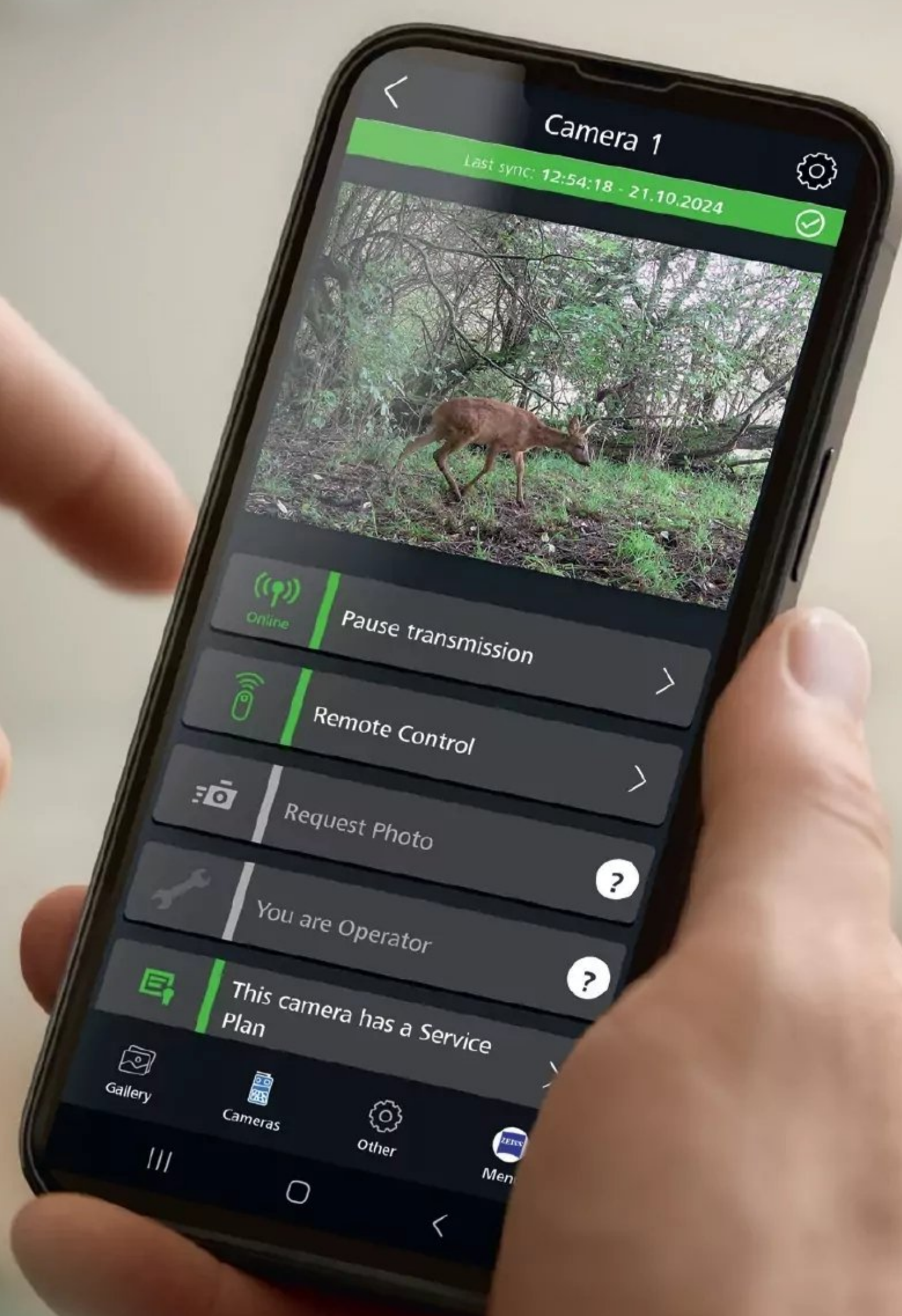
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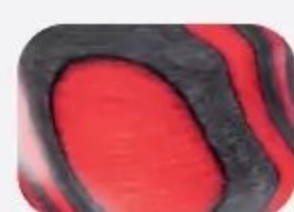


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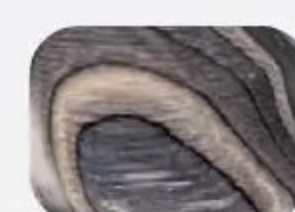
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EDITOR'S COMMENT

Here we are again, with the latest issue of Gun Mart. Inside, you'll find a fantastic mix of reviews and tests covering airguns, firearms, and shotguns. If you're interested in the latest kit, I have written a piece that covers just a few of my personal picks from this year's British Shooting Show, including the new Mauser 25, which is very exciting!

Over in the airgun section, Mark Camoccio rounds up the best rifles for rabbit shooting and puts the Precihole Sports Athena Karbin through its paces to assess its capabilities. He also reviews the Hawke Vantage WA 4-16x50 IR SF FFP riflescope for clarity and value. CO2 fans will enjoy his thoughts on the Beeman 1085, while the Reximex Accura Synthetic is put through a full test to determine its hunting capabilities.

Moving on to firearms, Chris Parkin takes a closer look at the Ruger American Ranch Gen II in 7.62x39, while Pete Moore reviews the Zero Compromise Optics ZC527 5-27x56 FFP scope and the Swiss Schmidt Rubin K31, a true classic. Mark Underwood explores reloading gauges for improved accuracy, and Paul Austin examines HikMicro's Stellar 3.0 SX60L thermal riflescope.

For shotgun enthusiasts, Bruce Potts tests the Chiappa Little Badger and the 9mm Flobert cartridge, as well as Lyalvale's English Sporter cartridges for clay and vermin control. Finally, Rob Speed heads into the field with the William Powell Prestige over-and-under shotgun, discovering how it balances tradition and modern performance.

Enjoy, and as always, safe shooting!

Ed Jackson

Managing Editor

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CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER

Selena Barr

EDITORIAL:**MANAGING EDITOR****ED JACKSON**

ed.jackson@twsgroup.com

EDITORIAL & ADVERTISEMENT OFFICEMacnab House, 14 Belford Road,
Edinburgh, EH4 3BL

Tel: 01371 851890

ADVERTISING TEAM:**GROUP ADVERTISEMENT MANAGER****VANESSA ENGLISH** 01315 730359

vanessa.english@twsgroup.com

SENIOR ACCOUNT MANAGER**SARAH COLLINS** - 01315 730356

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News

All the latest news and views from the shooting world

UK Government coming for the nation's shotguns

➤ The British Government has announced that it will launch a consultation later this year to determine whether to apply stricter licensing controls to shotguns.

In the recent government response to its firearms consultation from 2023, it committed to gathering further data from the public to determine whether or not to apply the same licensing controls that are currently in place for firearms to shotguns.

Currently, licences for firearms are more tightly controlled than shotgun licences due to the higher potential risk that firearms are deemed to pose to public safety.

To obtain a firearms certificate currently, a greater number of references are required than for a shotgun certificate, and applicants must also justify the need for each firearm.

Tim Bonner, Chief Executive of the Countryside Alliance, said: "On top of the big hike in licence fees that the government has already announced, this is clearly a policy that would reduce gun ownership by making it restrictive, expensive, and bureaucratic, which is why it has the support of anti-gun activists."



"The fact that this significant and unjustified burden on legitimate gun owners would have a huge impact on a sector that contributes £3.3 billion to the economy and supports tens of thousands of jobs—many of them in the most marginal areas of the countryside—is apparently irrelevant."

"However much ministers deny it, many people will see this as part of a wider anti-rural agenda."

The Government also announced that it has granted police automatic powers of entry into the homes of firearms certificate holders, which BASC has called an "unnecessary erosion of civil liberties."

The police already have powers of entry to prevent crime if life is in

danger. They can also get a warrant from a magistrate, and they can revoke a person's shotgun or firearms licence.

BASC's Director of Firearms, Bill Harriman, said: "This is a deeply concerning move that fundamentally undermines the principles of fairness and due process. The government is handing the police sweeping powers to enter the homes of certificate holders when the ability to do so to protect public safety is already enshrined in law."

"This is potentially a serious infringement on the human rights of firearms users. In addition, by removing the safeguard of judicial oversight, a law-abiding section of society has been placed firmly into the category of second-class citizens."

The Shooting Party adds a new scope to their range

➤ The Shooting Party have announced the launch of their first-ever 34mm-bodied scope, the PAO F1 5-30x56, which boasts a feature-rich specification.

The scope is rated for airguns and all firearms (rimfire and centrefire), and it has advanced lockable/resettable turrets with a 'zero-stop' function that prevents accidental loss of zero,

providing faster target acquisition and improved accuracy under pressure.

The new scope comes with the unique PAO lifetime "No quibble/replace-not-repair" warranty and has been machined from a single piece of 34mm aircraft-grade aluminium alloy with a hard-anodised matte finish to eliminate reflections. The scope will retail at £549.





Public safety concerns over copper bullet use

➤ **A Scottish Gamekeepers Association (SGA) survey has highlighted serious concerns among deer managers over the use of copper bullets for nighttime deer control in Scottish forests.**

The majority of respondents conveyed concerns about unpredictable bullet deflections, posing safety risks in public areas. Unlike lead, copper bullets retain their shape and can ricochet dangerously. Several professionals recounted incidents of bullets rebounding past their heads or striking unintended targets.

Mandatory copper use has been enforced by Forestry and Land Scotland and venison industry standards, yet most professionals oppose this transition. Animal welfare concerns include copper bullets passing through animals

without expanding, which can cause prolonged suffering and make it harder to track wounded deer at night.

The survey found that 73% of professionals use copper ammunition out of obligation rather than choice, while 68% believe lead is the safer option. With the UK phasing out lead ammunition, the SGA is calling for further field trials to assess copper's real-world impact before full implementation. Professionals urge a reconsideration of lead's role in nighttime deer management.

SGA chairman, Alex Hogg MBE, said: "Environmental care is, of course, important, as is human health, but ignoring the very real concerns from practitioners at the sharp end, who are using this ammunition regularly, could have fatal consequences."



Editorial credit: Jessica Girvan / Shutterstock.com

NGO calls for the creation of a task force to tackle poaching gangs

➤ **The National Gamekeepers' Organisation (NGO) has written to the Government urging action following the recent escalation of organised rural crime perpetrated by poachers and hare coursers.**

In December, a Wiltshire gamekeeper was brutally attacked by poachers, leaving him unable to work, and in January, hare coursing groups in 4x4s caused havoc and damaged property in Hertfordshire.

The NGO has written to Dame Diana Johnson, Minister for Policing, Fire, and Crime Prevention, requesting the establishment of a national task force to gather intelligence on these criminal groups.

The NGO is also seeking improved police response times, stronger enforcement, and increased sentencing for repeat offenders.

Director of Environment, Policy, and Politics for the NGO, Tim Weston, told GM: "When it comes to poaching and hare coursing, it is often gamekeepers who are at the forefront and end up dealing with these people face to face.

"We believe the police are trying their best, but the rural crime teams simply don't have the funding or the resources to tackle the issue properly. This is why we have asked the Policing Minister to establish a dedicated national task force, which we hope will ensure a coordinated approach across police forces."

Feral goats in Dumfries and Galloway to be culled

➤ **Semi-wild goats that roam Langholm Moor near the English border are set to be culled by a rewilding company.**

Oxygen Conservation, the Exeter-based firm, owns Blackburn and Hartsgarth farms in the area. Following a drone survey, the company says that 140 goats roam the moors and that this population level would put "incredible pressure" on proposed woodland and peatland restoration projects.

The team behind the community buyout of 10,500 acres of the Tarras Valley Nature Reserve (TVNR), which includes part of Langholm Moor, said they would not be taking part in the cull led by Oxygen Conservation.

Author and Galloway farmer, Patrick Laurie, told GM: "It's no great surprise that herbivores require a degree of management, and the goats at Langholm Moor and in the surrounding hills have been actively culled for many years.



"The obvious win-win solution is to manage goat numbers sustainably at levels that allow habitats to recover. It's encouraging that Oxygen is willing to engage with this work as part of a plan to keep goats on the land as part of a wider balance—from a land management perspective, it is not in the least controversial."

Sportsmarketing adds Remington models to their arsenal

➤ **Sportsmarketing (SMK), the country's largest importer and distributor of air rifles and pistols, now offers a range of Remington rifles and shotguns.**

The company is now offering the Remington 700 SPS rifle models in a very selective range of calibres. The Model 700 SPS is leading the way for the next generation of hard-hitting, fully featured, affordably priced rifles.

SMK is also delighted to offer customers the Remington 870

Wingmaster and the new 870 Fieldmaster, both pump-action shotguns, at competitive prices.

The Wingmaster features a custom-quality, high-gloss finish on both stock and fore-end, with handsome American walnut woodwork, while the Fieldmaster provides a ready-for-work, no-nonsense exterior perfect for pigeon shooting and pest control.



Image credit: Sonia BARCET

French arms manufacturer Verney-Carron files for bankruptcy

➤ **Verney-Carron, a French firearms manufacturer based in Saint-Étienne, near Lyon, will be forced to file for bankruptcy, its parent company Cybergun has confirmed.**

The company has stopped paying wages and suspended production due to a complete freeze on its finances. Despite a €12 million investment from Cybergun, Verney-Carron, which began making bespoke shotguns and rifles in 1820, still holds a debt of €1 million.

In 2023, Verney-Carron signed a €36 million contract with Ukraine's state arms exporter, Ukrspetsexport. The deal included the delivery of 12,000 rifles for the Ukrainian Armed Forces. The status of the contract is unknown, but final deliveries had been planned for early 2025.

Verney-Carron has two arms: Verney-Carron, which specialises in the production of sporting arms, and Lebel, the company's defence arm. Cybergun is now in search of an industrial partner who can help stabilise the company.

A Cybergun spokesperson said: "Cybergun has undertaken in-depth work on industrial restructuring. While the company does indeed have incomparable expertise in arms manufacturing and a recognized 'Made in France' industrial capacity, Cybergun considers that it needs the support of an industrial partner specialising in small-calibre arms."

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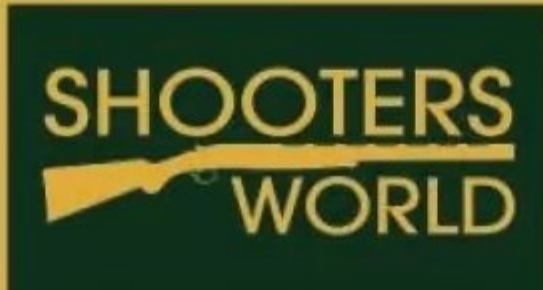
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LMBR Chronograph

➤ **Shooting airguns has to be enjoyable and fun, first and foremost, and an army of plinkers is a testament to the sport's continued appeal across the generations.** But with an abundance of more sophisticated, high-quality kit appealing to a new breed of shooter, the requirement for a chronograph to keep tabs on performance has never been greater.

Monitoring/testing

It is, of course, the individual's responsibility to ensure their gun stays below the legal power limit, and that's a key reason in itself to own a chronograph. But legalities apart, just being able to check a gun's consistency using particular ammunition or how the power fluctuates with different pellets requires a reliable electronic power-checking device to do the job properly.

Several different models are available, and for those who love their phones, there are app-based chronos. Some use radar, and some even use electromagnetic sensors. However, being somewhat old-school and considering the extensive testing I conduct professionally, I wanted a robust, free-standing unit that was easy to use and built to last. I still

own a Combro, which is brilliant and great value but a bit fiddly and reliant on good light. I also have a Shooting Chrony—it's given me good service, but once again, it relies on the level of daylight being just right. I bought a highly regarded Skan unit, which is not at all fussy on lighting, but it relied on shooting through a small plastic tube. I was assured the shooting tube was nearly indestructible, but then I proceeded to shoot it and break it! So, the search went on.

LMBR

Well, I'm pleased to announce that my search appears to have come to a close, as the chronograph on test here is my latest purchase. Welcome to LMBR, which makes chronographs in Poland. And I



The energy and velocity are clearly shown on the illuminated display

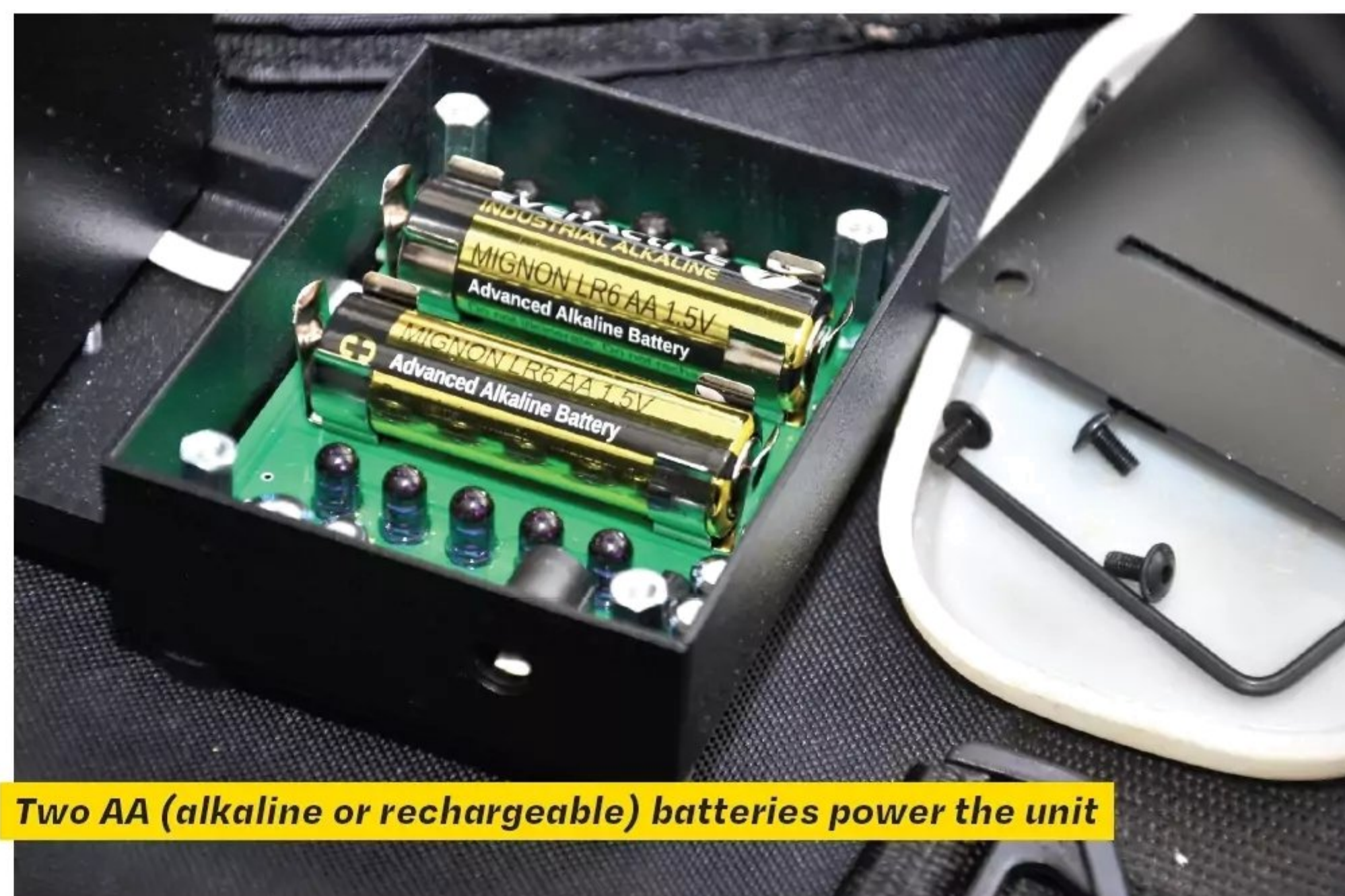


EITHER WAY, THE LMBR TESTED HERE IS A SUPERB TOOL AND THE BEST CHRONO I'VE OWNED"

MARK CAMOCCIO



The on/off switch is located at the rear of the top box, along with a cable port



Two AA (alkaline or rechargeable) batteries power the unit

have to say, they are produced to a very high standard.

There are three main models they make: the R2, which is a small, compact box with a central opening; the R2A, which is an open-sided unit; and then my model, the R2H. I've opted for the R2H since it has a much larger opening to shoot through, and whilst it comes recommended for airguns and firearms, the difference in price is negligible, given how easy it is to use.

Robust

First impressions of the LMBR are that it is a super-robust machine. An all-metal construction, except for the small plastic plate covering the base, means it should last for years. But the other key feature that hits home is that, with only one side support to worry about, it's pretty difficult to damage anything whilst shooting through the unit. As mentioned, the R2H model is the largest of the lot, and the extra height means an even

larger shoot-through area. In short, you would have to be very careless to damage the unit, which is a relief!

Features

The R2H is powered by two AA (alkaline or rechargeable) batteries, and these are stored in the base block. Just unscrew the four small screws, and the base plate slips off. Look to the back of the unit, and there's the on/off switch, as well as a serial port for computer connection. This unit features a backlight, so viewing the display in daylight is easy, but this feature can be switched off.

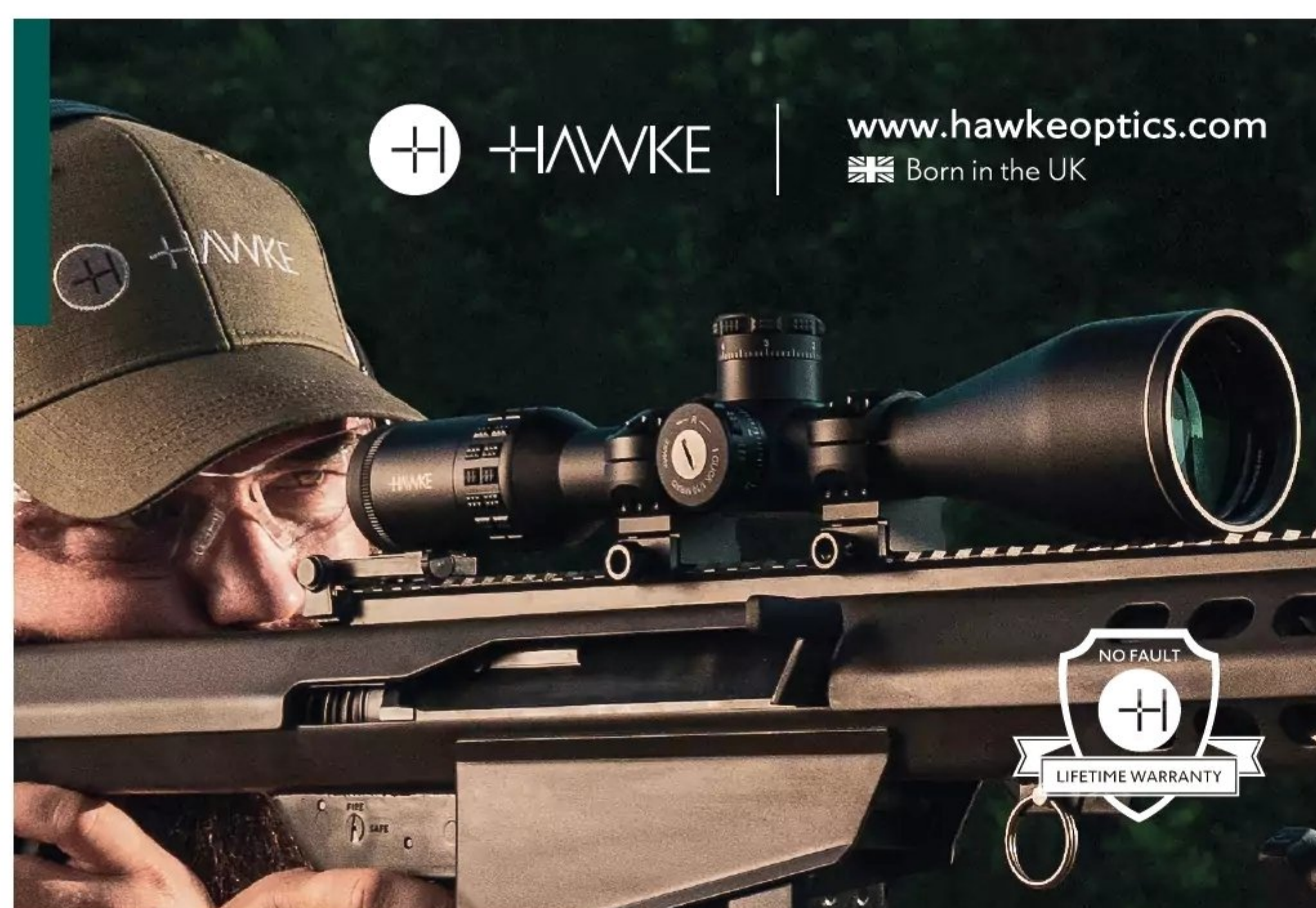
Three push buttons control functions and menus, and the unit comes with a flowchart to illustrate what's what. You can choose between imperial and metric figures, and velocity can be switched to show joules or fps. Also, the pellet weight can be grams or grains. To set the pellet weight, for example, press the left button, which shows the existing pre-set weight, then use the middle

button to lower the displayed figure or the right button to increase it.

This unit has a memory of 500 shots, and these can be stored on the computer if required. During a shooting session, while the unit remains on, press 'S2' (the middle button), and shot information can be cycled through, such as average energy, average velocity, minimum velocity, maximum velocity, and standard deviation. All this information can be stored if required as well.

So easy

Plenty of information at our fingertips, then. However, for me, the huge draw of this R2H model is the sheer ease of use. It has a nice amount of weight in the base and four rubber feet, so it's free-standing and stable. Obviously, a safe backstop is a basic consideration when using a chronograph, but otherwise, this LMBR is refreshingly straightforward. Just grab it, stand it where needed,



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GM04.25/20

and you're ready. Switch it on, and it shows velocity and energy after each shot. It also seems to work in any lighting, which is brilliant and in stark contrast to many rivals. No sky screens are needed here!

You'll notice two slots cut into the base, which serve as the sensors. The pellet passes through the first one to start the clock and then the second, which stops the clock. I tend to use a large, fairly firm cushion to rest a gun on when shooting through a chronograph, as I carry out regular testing, and this setup works perfectly. The key requirement is to shoot straight through the sensor area and not off at an angle. That said, I haven't had a single shot fail to register since I've had the unit, which suggests it isn't picky or overly sensitive in use, making it hard to fault.

Verdict

There are many reasons for owning a chronograph, and for those who take their sport seriously, it has to be a vital accessory. I mentioned the port at the back of this chrono so it can be linked to a computer for more in-depth analysis, but it can also link up via Bluetooth. It's even threaded underneath so that the unit can be mounted onto a camera tripod. All bases covered, then, allowing shooting enthusiasts to indulge themselves in more detail if they so wish. Either way, the LMBR tested here is a superb tool and the best chrono I've owned. Easy to use, super robust, and designed to give years of reliable service. **GM**

REVIEWER: MARK CAMOCCIO

TECHNICAL SPECIFICATION

Name: LMBR R2H chronograph

Dimensions: 10.2x3.9x3.75"

Weight: 2.3lbs

Velocity Range: 40 to 6,500fps

Bullet Max Weight: 600gr

Current Consumption: 100mA

Memory: 500 shots

Power supply: 2xAA

Price: £165 (plus p&p)

Contacts:

Blackpool Air Rifles (BAR) -
www.airgunbuyer.com

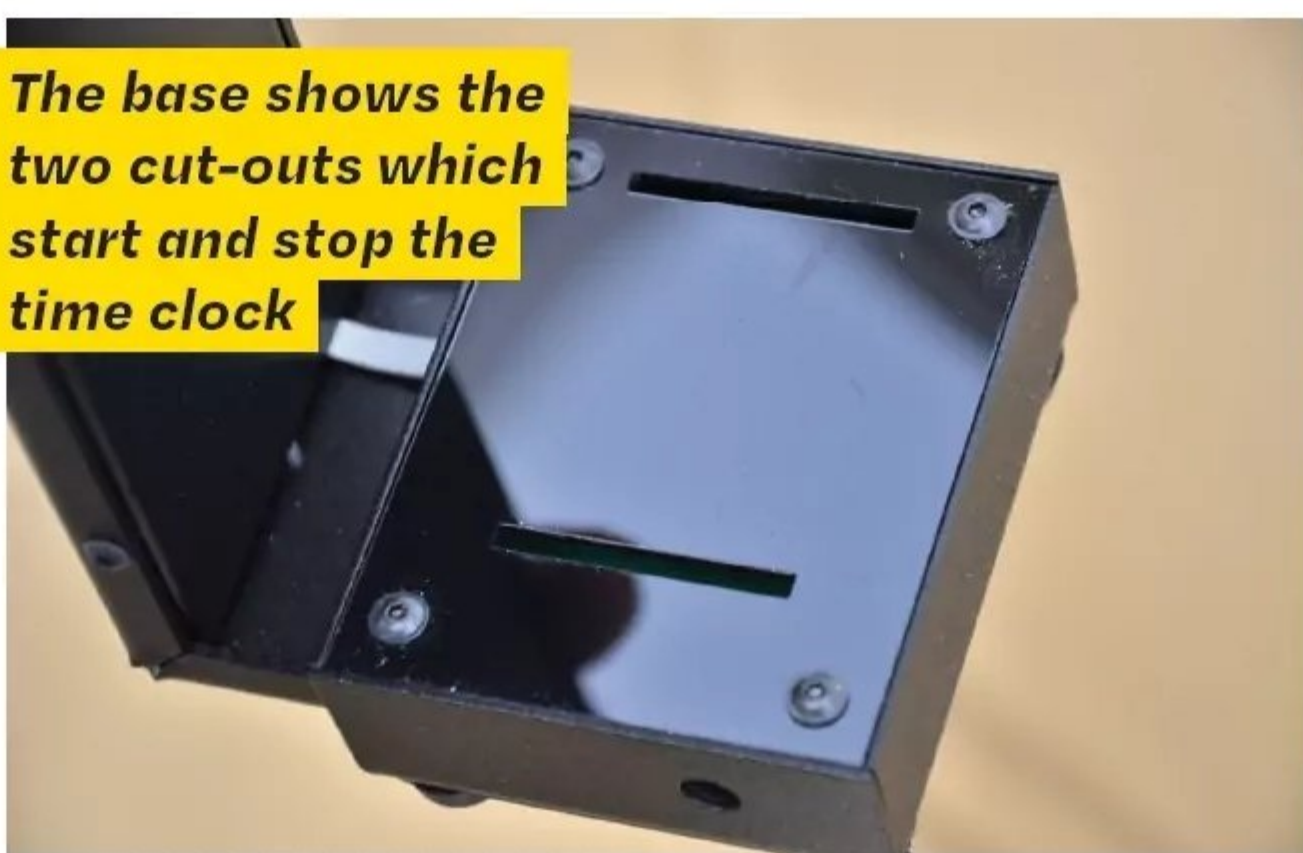
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Set up in a workshop setting;
the LMBR R2H proves a
robust and reliable unit



The base shows the
two cut-outs which
start and stop the
time clock



Rubber feet feature
in the weighted base,
so the unit remains
stable



ISOtunes Sport Caliber Hearing Protection



Light and effective hearing protection with Bluetooth connectivity

➤ **The IStunes Sport Caliber are Bluetooth-equipped earbuds that pack a lot of features into a tiny package.** They are dust, sweat, and waterproof, and the run time is approximately 13 hours between charges. In addition to the charge that the earbuds themselves carry, the storage case also holds a further power reserve, and it can recharge the earbuds twice before needing to be recharged. This means that you don't have to worry so much about being near a mains power supply to keep the earbuds topped up.

The built-in microphones can react to and block out gunshot noise in under two milliseconds

while allowing safe sounds to actively pass through. The earbuds block out 32dB of noise, reducing harmful sound levels to make them safer and more comfortable.

As well as blocking potentially harmful noise levels, the earbuds can also amplify other environmental sounds, like range instructions, so that you remain fully aware of your surroundings. Hard-to-hear sounds can be amplified up to eight times, so you can actually improve your sensitivity to lower-level noise while completely protecting yourself against harmful levels.

In addition to protecting your hearing, the earbuds are also equipped with Bluetooth so that

you can take phone calls or listen to music while wearing them.

With easy-to-operate controls, a high level of protection, the facility to amplify low-level noise, and Bluetooth connectivity, IStunes has packed a lot of fantastic features into these tiny buds, and although not cheap, they are very effective and offer good value. **GM**

REVIEWER: MARK UNDERWOOD

TECHNICAL SPECIFICATION

Name: IStunes Sport Caliber Hearing Protection

Price: £179.99

Contact: IStune - www.isotunes.co.uk

Stock accessories from Beartooth Products

➤ **Beartooth accessories are neatly made from neoprene and come in a multitude of colours and patterns to suit your style.** I tried out three products to get a feel for the quality.

The recoil pad kit stretches over the butt of your gun and comes with four foam spacers to fit internally, allowing you to extend the length of pull up to an inch and further dampen recoil. There are rubberised dots on the cover to aid grip, and this kit is ideal for shorter guns or for shooters wanting a bit more recoil absorption.

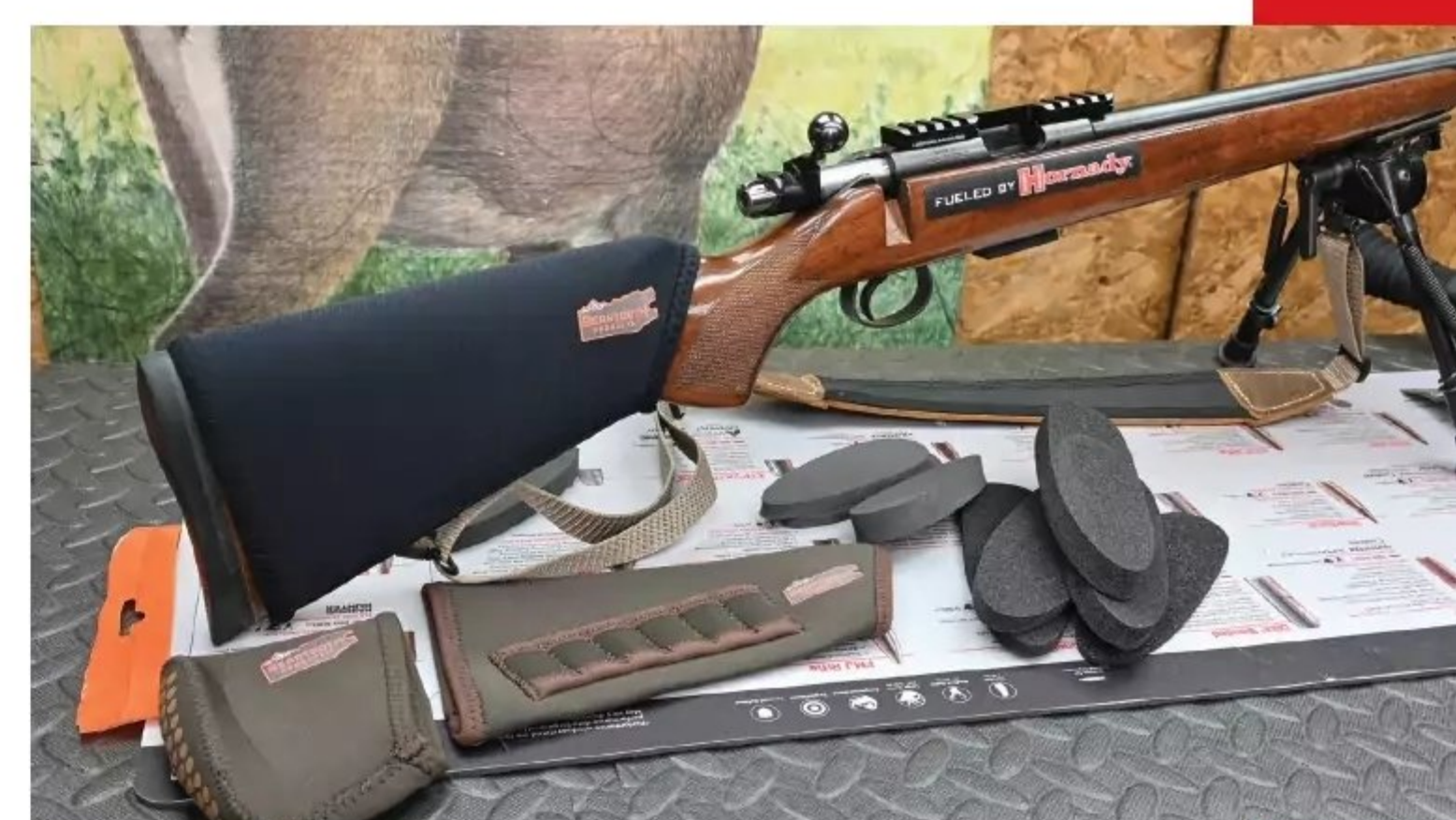
The Stock Guard and Comb Raiser kit share similarities and stretch over the entire butt of the gun. The Stock Guard protects the stock while also providing a warmer, vibration/sound-deadening layer between your face and the

firearm. Meanwhile, the Comb Raiser builds on this by incorporating six elasticated ammunition loops suited to centrefire cartridges and five foam spacers, which together can raise the cheekpiece by up to 1.5" for improved scope alignment.

All of the products appear tough and durable, with an inherent stretch and flexibility that allows them to conform to the contours of your gun. Their rubberised internal surface ensures they remain securely in place during use.

Fitting requires a bit of patience and effort to manoeuvre everything into place, but once secured, it is well worth it, as the products perform exactly as advertised without adding unnecessary bulk. **GM**

REVIEWER: CHRIS PARKIN



TECHNICAL SPECIFICATION

Name: Stock accessories from Beartooth Products

Recoil Pad Kit (BT111): £21.25

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

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The Great British Shooting Awards (GBSA) crowned its seventh set of winners at the British Shooting Show (BSS) on 14 February, with the Air Arms HFT 500 taking home the Airgun of the Year, the Savage Arms 110 Carbon Tactical securing the Rifle of the Year, and Beretta sweeping up both the Clay and Game Shotgun of the Year with the DT11 and the Silver Pigeon III, respectively.

First launched in 2018, the GBSA recognises the products, organisations, and people who are at the heart of the shooting community. HikMicro joined as the awards' headline sponsor

this year, and also picked up awards for Handheld Thermal and Thermal Clip-On units, as voted for by the shooting public. Elsewhere, Simon West OBE, the outgoing executive director of the GTA, won the Lifetime Achievement Award, while our sister title Shooting Times & Country Magazine won the Favourite Shooting Media Brand – well done to editor Ollie Harvey and his team.

Several awards were handed out during the opening day of the BSS at the NEC Birmingham, with a drinks reception and a wider awards ceremony, compered by Felix Petit, Time Well Spent's group news editor, held in the evening.

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THE WINNERS

**AIRGUN
OF THE YEAR**
Air Arms HFT 500

**CLAY SHOTGUN
OF THE YEAR**
Beretta DT11

**SHOOTING APPAREL
OF THE YEAR**
Härkila Pro Hunter Move 2.0 GTX

**RIFLE OF THE YEAR
SPONSORED BY NOCPIX**
Savage Arms 110 Carbon Tactical

**GAME SHOTGUN
OF THE YEAR**
Beretta Silver Pigeon III

**FOOTWEAR
OF THE YEAR**
Härkila Reidmar Mid 2.0 GTX

**INNOVATIVE PRODUCT
OF THE YEAR**
Garmin Xero C1 Pro chronograph

**GAME CARTRIDGE
OF THE YEAR**
Hull Cartridge: The Partridge cartridge



Thermal Handheld of the Year, the HikMicro Habrok HQ50L



Hornady picked up an award for Rifle Ammunition of the Year



Bruce Potts won Sporting Contributor of the Year



Well done, Beretta!

**RIFLESCOPE
OF THE YEAR**
Hawke Sidewinder

**CLAY CARTRIDGES
OF THE YEAR**
Baschieri and Pellagri F2 Flash

**RIFLE AMMUNITION
OF THE YEAR**
Hornady Precision Hunter

**BINOCULAR
OF THE YEAR**
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**RANGEFINDER
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OF THE YEAR**
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**THERMAL HANDHELD
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Photography Matt Kidd



Editor's Pick

Ed Jackson picks a few of his favourite products from this year's British Shooting Show



The 2025 British Shooting Show (BSS) at the Birmingham NEC was another fantastic event, packed with incredible products and a great atmosphere. I had an amazing time exploring the latest gear, chatting with industry experts, and soaking up the passion that makes this show so special each year. With so much to see, it was impossible to take in everything, but I came across some standout products that really caught my eye. So, without further delay, let's take a look at what I found.

DAYSTATE BLACKWOLF

Contact: Daystate – www.daystate.com

➤ I had the opportunity to see Daystate's latest mechanical PCP, the Blackwolf, firsthand at the BSS, and it was undoubtedly one of the most exciting products to be launched there. This is because it is essentially a platform that can be adapted by the shooter themselves to meet their specific requirements, and it has been designed from the ground up to achieve this. Several variations were on display, highlighting the Blackwolf's adaptability, including the choice between an air cylinder or a carbon-wrapped buddy bottle, as well as stock options in walnut, carbon grey, and laminate. Interestingly, there is even an upcoming tactical chassis. Prices start at £1,795, and the sub-12ft/lbs version comes in .177 and .22. Alternatively, at FAC power levels, you can order it in .177, .22, .25, and .30.

The 16 new and unique features include a 20-setting thumb-adjustable power wheel, a titanium firing valve system, an AR-style safety catch, and a new eight-point adjustable trigger that can be altered from 8oz to 3.5lbs. You can even change the barrel length and calibre in minutes. Anyway, unfortunately, I don't have the space to list all the features, so I will get a full review in the magazine as soon as I can!

TIPPMANN ARMS M4 MAGNUM ELITE

Contact: Shooting Supplies – www.shootingsuppliesltd.co.uk

➤ When I reviewed the Tippmann Arms M4 Elite-L Fluted .22LR, distributed in the UK by Shooting Supplies, I concluded that it was one of the best AR-type semi-autos on the market at the time. So, you can imagine my excitement when I spotted the Magnum Elite, chambered in .22 Winchester Magnum Rimfire (WMR). I've been fortunate enough to test



other AR-type rifles in this calibre and found that the extra punch and noise really enhance the semi-auto experience, making this new Tippmann an attractive proposition.

Unsurprisingly, the excellent controls are the same as the Elite-L I tested, and this rifle includes a lot of the same features, including an aluminium hand guard with M-LOK slots, a solid steel 16"

barrel, aluminium upper and lower, a full-length Picatinny rail, an adjustable stock, a threaded muzzle with an A2 birdcage flash hider attached, and adjustable flip-up sights. Of course, due to the larger ammunition, this rifle comes with two 15-round magazines. It is priced at £1,499, and you can expect a review in Gun Mart as soon as one becomes available. Happy days!



MAUSER 25

Contact: Blaser Group - www.blaser-group.com

➤ The Blaser/Sauer/Mauser stand was positioned right in front of the entrance to the hall, as usual, making it particularly easy for me to grab a handful of the new and very exciting Mauser 25. Now, it takes quite a lot to get me excited about a rifle these days, but this new bit of kit has a lot going for it. Firstly, it's, well, a Mauser, and that name carries a lot of weight in the world of firearms. Secondly, the rifle boasts a brand-new, super-slick, straight-pull action, which just exudes quality. Thirdly, the price, as the synthetic version, called the 'Extreme', has an MSRP of just £1,638! Meanwhile, the 'Max' (thumbhole laminate) comes in at £1,831, and the 'Pure' (basic wooden stock) costs a mere £1,735. Now, given how expensive everything seems to be these days, I think those prices are something worth shouting about.

Feature-wise, if we use the 'Max' as an example, the rifle shows a laminated beechwood stock, an adjustable polymer cheekpiece, a two-position safety catch, a thumbhole grip, a spacer-adjustable length of pull ranging from 13.7" (349mm) to 15.7" (399mm), an infinitely adjustable direct trigger for pull weights between 700 and 1,700g, a single-column polymer magazine with a 3+1 capacity, and an M15x1 screwcut muzzle! To top it off, there is a left-handed version at no extra cost, and the rifle will be available in .308, .243, 6.5CM, 6.5x55, 8x57, .30-06, 7mm RM, and .300 WM! Various mounting options are available, including Picatinny, and Chris Parkin will be writing a review for Gun Mart very soon!

HAWKE ENDURANCE 30 FD 4.5-27X56 SF

Contact: Hawke Optics - uk.hawkeoptics.com

➤ As you would expect, Hawke had a huge stand displaying their extensive range of optics, and it didn't take me long to find some new models in the Endurance range, all sporting a new illumination system. So, instead of a rotating rheostat that controls the brightness, there is a much sleeker push-button instead, reducing the overall width of the optics. You simply press it multiple times to adjust the brightness of the dot at the centre of the reticle.

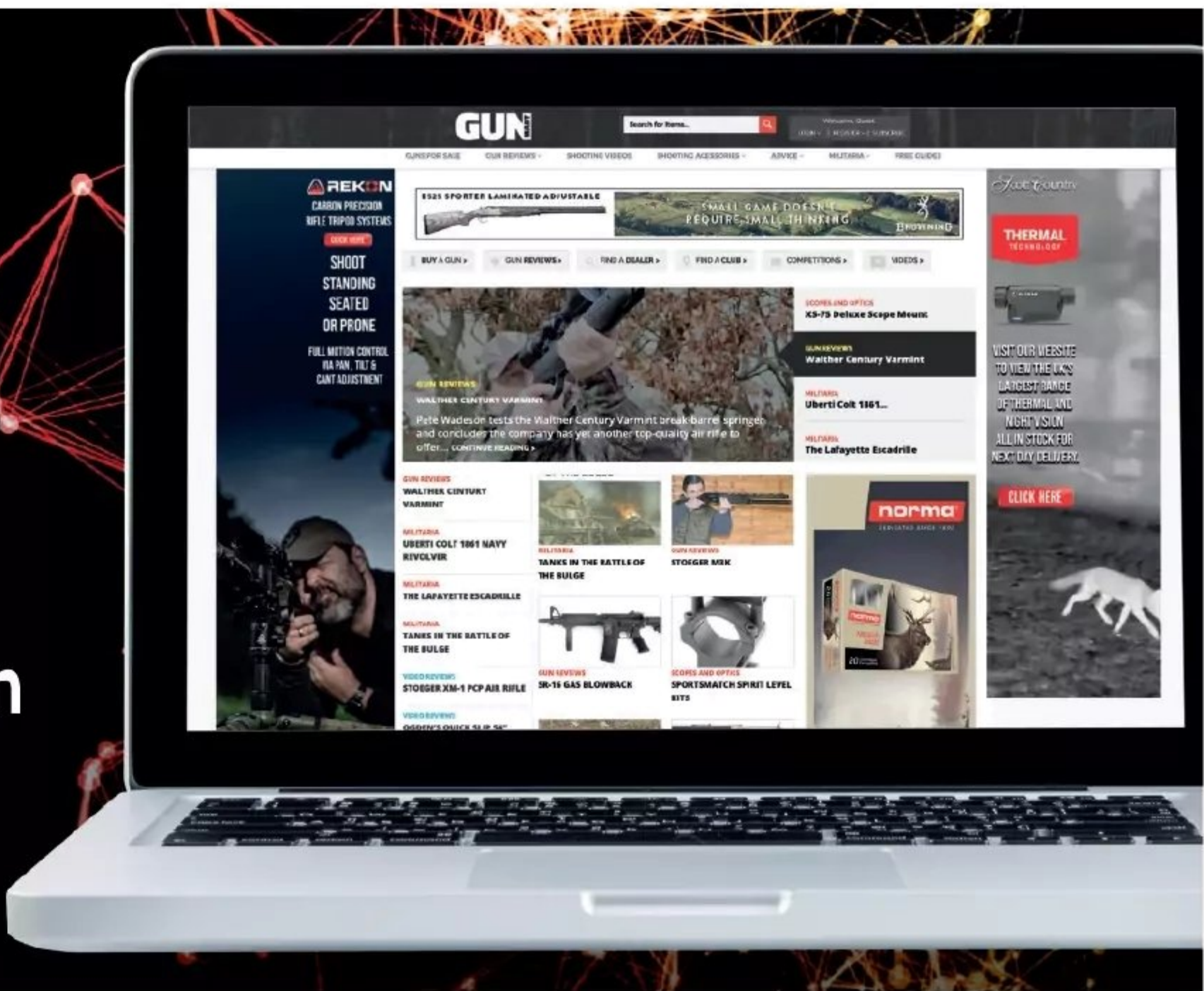
Looking more closely at the Hawke Endurance 30 FD 4.5-27x56 SF specifically, not only were the magnification range and objective lens size impressive, but I was also pleased to see a very nice push/pull locking elevation turret with a zero-stop mechanism up top to make the most of the spec. Priced at £749.00 and sporting a 30mm tube and side-focus system, I am looking forward to seeing how this scope stacks up against the competition.



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SVEMKO SOUND MODERATORS

Contact: Edgar Brothers – www.edgarbrothers.com

➤ I had a decent look around Edgar Brothers' stand and saw a lot of very interesting things, including some new and very flashy sound moderators from a Norwegian company called Svemko. There was a sectioned model showing a very shiny, intricately machined, exposed titanium core, and I think it was this that attracted me to the stand in the first place!

Now, the company offers a wide selection of premium moderators, ranging from £510 to a staggering £2,140, but I shall focus on the most relevant ones from the 1.0 series, which comprises six models, from the Nano (the smallest) to the Ultra (the largest). They use a 6082-T6 aluminium outer and a grade five titanium core construction that includes titanium blast baffles and a blast chamber. All the popular muzzle threads are catered for, and the moderators are calibre-specific for maximum sound reduction.

Given the price, it is highly likely that customers will want to use the moderator on multiple rifles, and this is supported by the fact that you can purchase modules that allow you to change the calibre. Alternatively, you could purchase a .30 calibre moderator, for example, and use it on any smaller calibre rifle via Svemko's Quick Mount System (QMS). This system is essentially a thread adapter that fits over your rifle's existing muzzle thread. So, with a quick 90-degree turn, you can unscrew your moderator and attach it to any rifle fitted with the QMS. Nice!

The fact that Svemko uses titanium makes these moderators very durable and lightweight, obviously, and the Hunter 1.0 Short over-barrel moderator, for example, measures just 183mm in length (103mm added length to your rifle), and it weighs a mere 245g! Still too heavy? Then look at the all-titanium 'Pure' series, where the similar-spec 'Pure S' weighs just 198g. Anyway, review inbound!

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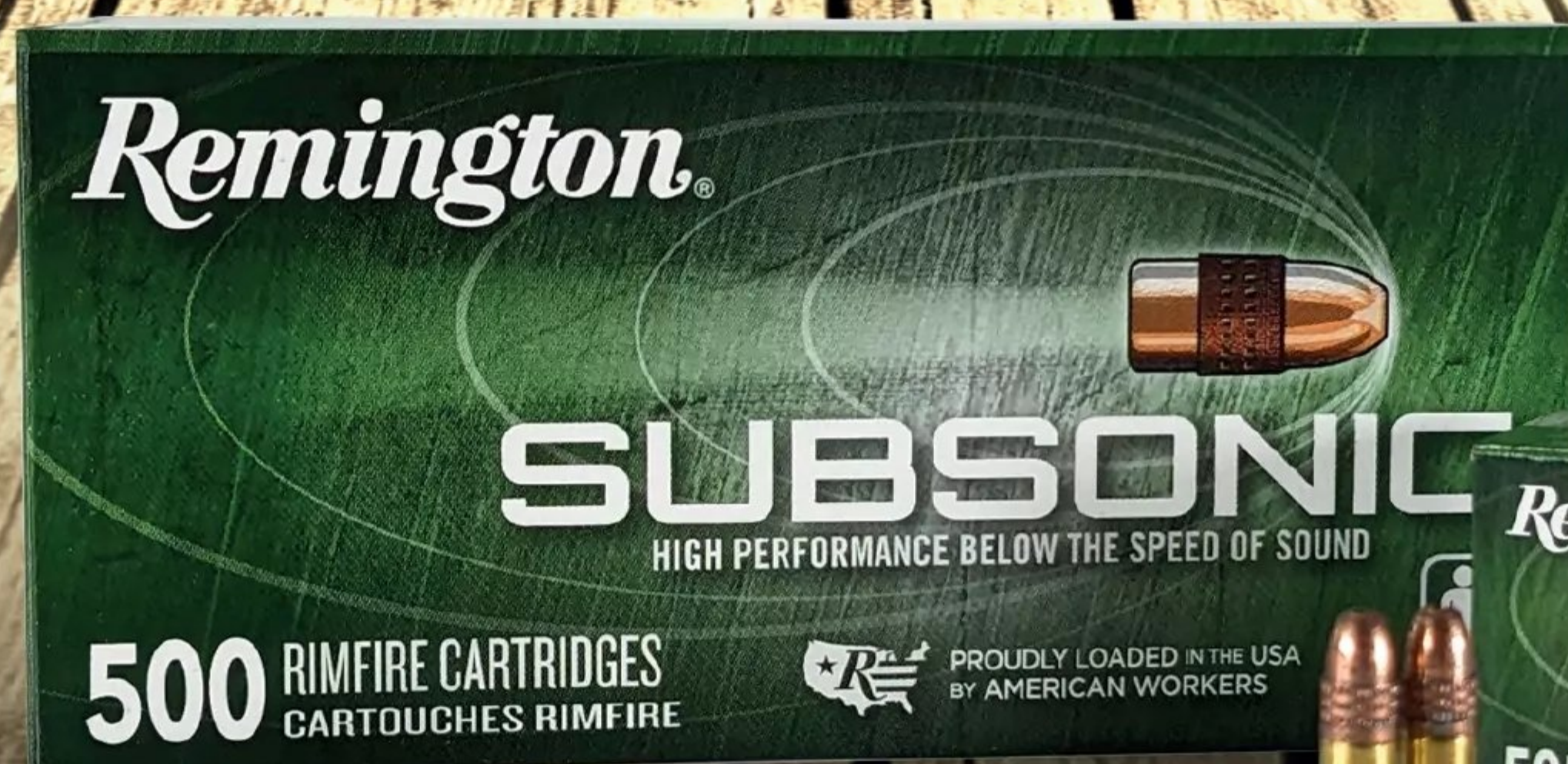
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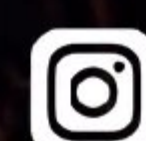
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AIR ARMS S510R TDR

PRICE: £1,319 AS SHOWN

CONTACT: AIR ARMS - WWW.AIR-ARMS.CO.UK

The concept of the 'Take Down Rifle' (TDR) is born out of necessity and holds real value for many, whether struggling to fit a full-length case into a small vehicle or wanting to keep a low profile on arrival at a hunting permission. Several manufacturers have dabbled in this area, but Air Arms blew most out of the water when they hit the market with their original TDR. Meticulous design and attention to detail made this model a firm favourite with savvy hunters from the start. However, when Air Arms upgraded the action to their side-lever S510 and added a factory regulator, the result was the stunning S510 TDR 'R'. Somewhat longer than the original TDR, the latest configuration comes snugly stowed in its dedicated hard case, and this stretches to just over 36", so it's still wonderfully compact and comfortably shorter than most full-length rifles. As for specifications, as mentioned, the S510 TDR 'R' gets a regulator, full-length barrel shroud, Q-Tec silencer, side-lever action, genuine two-stage trigger, pressure gauge, accessory rail, and two ten-shot magazines. Where the two-part stock is concerned, there's the Tactical Black as shown here, which gets the Black Soft Touch

finish (rather trendy as well as comfortable) or Walnut. Opt for the Black, and the process sees a thin coating of a rubber-type substance applied over hardwood (probably beech) and the end result is best described as cosy to the touch. It feels superb, although not immune to scratches in the field. In short, it's hard to fault this polished masterpiece of design. It's versatile, practical, and cleverly executed. **GM**





AIRMAKS KRAIT LITE

PRICE: £1,500

CONTACT: HAWKE OPTICS - WWW.UK.HAWKEOPTICS.COM

AirMaks is a Czech-based company, and they certainly look to be raising their profile, having recently appointed Hawke Optics as their UK distributor. One glance at the AirMaks product line-up reveals the company's preference for utilitarian/militaristic-looking hardware, and the AirMaks Krait Lite is a classic example of what they do best. It's a bullpup design, where the action sits right at the back of the stock, and the result is a super-compact PCP with bags of appeal. AirMaks produces a standard-length Krait with a larger bottle, but the Lite derivative shown here sports a smaller 300cc bottle—still plenty of shots though. It's a carbon-fibre buddy bottle for the record, and the stock is a neat, ambidextrous walnut thumbhole design. This is a hunting rifle crammed with technical features, including a HUMA-regulated action. Everything is ambidextrous, and in keeping with this ethos, the design even allows for the side-lever to be switched. A machined metal magazine comes supplied, with an impressive 16 shots in .22 calibre and 18 in .177! As for the full-length barrel shroud configuration, it's a great design, being entirely modular, and the principle of using all or just part of the assembly is great. The front piece carries

the ½" UNF thread. Thereafter, each section is threaded and effectively forms a mini expansion chamber and baffle in sequence. Three shorter sections, one slightly larger, and the main shroud tube are all utilised, and the possible combinations offer the potential for experimentation. Factor in the dedicated padded hard case that's supplied (with room for optics too) and this AirMaks starts to look like a tidy package. **GM**





BSA R12 CLX PRO CAYENNE EDITION

PRICE: £1,499

CONTACT: BSA GUNS - WWW.BSAGUNS.CO.UK

BSA's R12 CLX heralded a 12-shot action and a brand-new ultra-slick CNC-machined breech block. The Cayenne Edition is one of the special versions, and the stunning, fully adjustable laminate stock is simply dazzling. Raise the butt pad and tweak the soft-touch cheekpiece, and a perfect sight picture is assured. Look to the action, and the standard bottle fitted to the CLX Pro models is now a whopping 480cc carbon-fibre specification. There's also the latest side-lever configuration, with a revolving, drop-down biathlon-style handle and slick operation. A high-grade two-stage trigger unit features, as does BSA's cold hammer-forged barrel, a regulated action, and the Customer Configurable Shroud (CCS). A manual safety and sling swivel eyelets are fitted as standard, and this Cayenne Edition even comes in its own padded hard case that's roomy enough for accessories alongside the scoped rifle. The CCS allows the user to alter the profile via the shroud/silencer, and it works well. Two of the latest all-metal 12-shot magazines are supplied, and these are colour-coded for calibre—blue anodised for .177 and red for .22. Twenty-shot magazines are also

now available in .177 and .22, and a 16-shot version for .25 calibre is available as an optional extra. In its latest guise, the R12 CLX Pro has morphed into a truly impressive hunting tool that oozes class. Opt for the Cayenne Edition, and you're assured a genuinely stunning piece of machinery that can also deliver when it matters in the field. Whether you'll want to get it scratched is another matter! **GM**





WEIHRAUCH HW95K ADJUSTABLE

PRICE: £615

CONTACT: HULL CARTRIDGE - WWW.WEIHRAUCH.CO.UK

Early 2024 brought news that Weihrauch was to launch a new version of their popular HW95K, with an adjustable stock, and for disciples of this famous German brand, this was exciting news indeed. The HW95K is a well-established, top-quality break-barrel springer, and as a mid-weight, full-powered rifle, it's a firm favourite with many hunters. This new variant, as per the standard version, comes complete with the silencer as shown, and the matte black finish contrasts nicely with the chemically blued barrel and action. Weihrauch's well-respected Rekord trigger unit gets treated to a gold finish here, adding a further touch of class, but it's the new slimline yet purposeful hardwood stock on which we should be focusing. Whilst no rival to walnut, plenty of attractive grain pattern is on show. In addition, jazzy panels of laser-cut stippling feature on the fore-end and around the pistol grip, and whilst the patterns may not be to everyone's taste, there's no doubting the practical benefit and genuine grip on offer. The now familiar thin, tapered fore-end is here, and with a well-shaped pistol grip and rounded underside, the handling feels comfortable and

natural. The new adjustable cheekpiece system is super slick, utilising a large spring-loaded push button on the right side, so no tools required! Just push and hold the button, and the cheekpiece can be slid up or down to one of six anchor points, snapping into position as it locates at each stage. As for the butt pad, this is fully adjustable, both for height and offset angle. Brilliant stuff, and I have to say, perfectly executed. **GM**





REXIMEX LYRA

PRICE: £395

CONTACT: RANGE RIGHT - WWW.RANGE-RIGHT.CO.UK

Hard to believe, but Turkish brand Reximex is now in its tenth year of production. Their stock-in-trade is distinctive-looking PCPs that are great value and crammed full of features, and the Reximex Lyra is just that. Turkish walnut is sourced for the ambidextrous sporter stock, and with the pleasingly slimline profile and a raft of features built in, this model proved a winner on test, and it still represents astonishing value for money. The overall preparation and finish of the stock are maybe an area where savings are made at the production stage, and the metalwork lacks the deep lustre of some rivals. However, this makes sense at this price point, and with some beautiful figuring to the walnut on our rifle, it's churlish to nitpick at this stage. As for specification, the sporter stock comes with a properly supportive cheekpiece, laser-cut chequering, and sling swivel eyelets. There's a Picatinny accessory rail, a ½" UNF thread at the muzzle, a side-mounted manometer, Picatinny mounting, a two-stage adjustable trigger, a multi-shot magazine system (two mags supplied), a single-shot tray, and an in-guard manual safety. Side-lever cocking is here courtesy of the neat biathlon-style drop-down

lever, and there's even a power adjuster, which is always handy. Consistency on test was excellent, despite an unregulated power plant, and the accuracy was hard to fault, so don't be stumped by the surprising RRP. An ultra-compact Lyra K model has now been released, so for hunters who feel they may wish to trim a little weight from their rig, it's one to consider. Either way, expect to be amazed, as this is a lot of airgun for the money. **GM**



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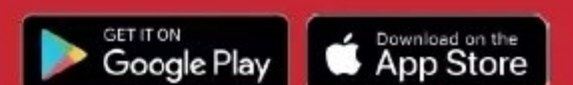


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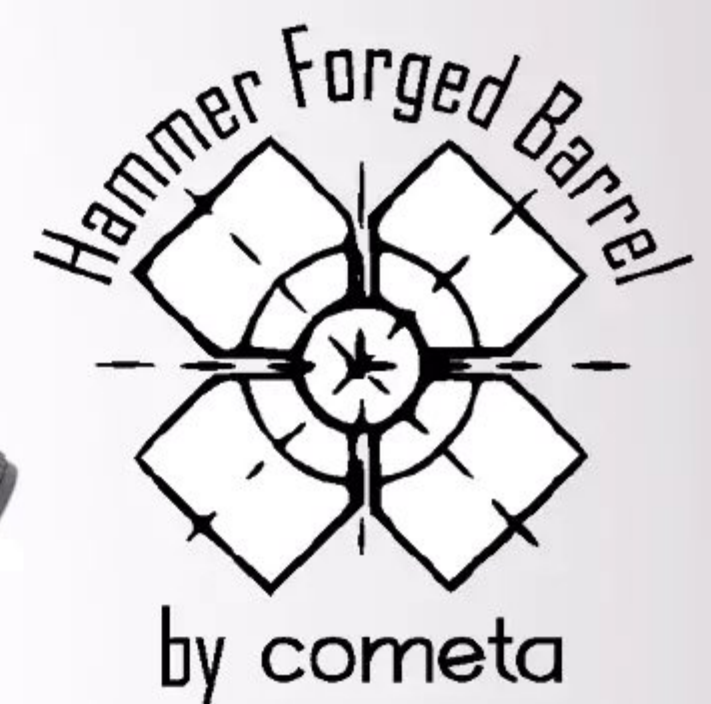
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ACCURACY *on a* BUDGET

Mark Camoccio takes a close look at the Precihole Sports Athena Karbin, a gas-ram break-barrel that promises power, precision, and value



Precihole Sports, for those who haven't been paying attention, is India's leading airgun manufacturer, and they are now enjoying global distribution through Air Arms. I've already tested their indoor match rifles, which proved highly capable and great value for money, but I have been keen to get my hands on the break-barrel models sitting in the line-up.

It's a gas

One of these is the Precihole Sports Athena Karbin, on test here, and when I heard it was winging its way to me for review, I was genuinely excited. The reason is the power plant, as the Athena Karbin sports a 'Nitro Piston' gas-ram instead of a conventional mainspring. I've had a soft spot for gas-rams ever since the idea was conceived back in the '80s by the Theoben boys, and whilst I'm the first to admit that many incarnations of their brilliant idea have proved somewhat crude, slightly defeating the point of the exercise, several have succeeded along the way. So, we'll see how the Athena shapes up in this regard shortly.

For those new to this game, the gas-ram principle simply sees the mainspring replaced by a sealed

chamber of gas or air. On firing, the gas in this sealed chamber rapidly expands, powering the piston, which then compresses air ahead of it to power the pellet.

First impressions

Precihole's packaging is comprehensive, and the Athena comes in a cosy foam protective box. It comes complete with a separately stowed silencer, Allen keys, an instruction/safety leaflet, and a padlock. First impressions are definitely favourable, and whilst the chemical bluing applied to the barrel and cylinder doesn't have as deep or rich a lustre as some rivals, the build quality, machining, and overall level of refinement are all pretty impressive, especially given this model's RRP.

The black synthetic stock looks smart and shows plenty of detail, with crisply moulded chequering around the grip and fore-end. It's a sleek little number for sure, what with that subtly arched fore-end and pleasingly thinned-down pistol grip. Indeed, the grip itself reminds me of my treasured FWB Mastersport grip—perfectly thinned but with a subtle palm swell. The stock is ambidextrous as well, making it easy

to handle by all, in theory, and if we're training novices, this is a big bonus.

Sighting up

The Athena Karbin is a full-powered break-barrel model that comes complete with open sights, meaning it is ready to go straight from the box. The all-metal rear sight has clearly marked finger wheels for windage and elevation, and the sights work well. However, whilst I would normally say stick with them initially, especially for youngsters and novices, in this case, we need to acknowledge that the carbine ('Karbin') has a short barrel, resulting in significant cocking effort. Therefore, I would suggest treating the Athena as an adults-only model and fitting the silencer from the outset, as this will significantly reduce the cocking effort thanks to the added leverage. I say silencer, but there are no baffles, and the barrel is only a couple of inches back from the rim, so consider it a cocking aid. The front sight comes straight off once the grub screw is loosened. Then, slide the 'silencer' into position and fasten the two grub screws along the body. Scoping up is easy, given the generous run of dovetails and the arrestor stud hole on the receiver.



THE FIRING CYCLE HAS THAT CLASSIC QUICK SNAP SO CHARACTERISTIC OF A GAS-RAM SETUP, AND WITH NO SPRING TO RESONATE, IT PROVED SATISFYING AND EFFICIENT."

MARK CAMOCCIO

In the shoulder

OK, let's get hands-on. Gripping the silencer and breaking the barrel open is fairly easy. The subsequent cocking stroke is classic gas-ram. Be half-hearted or stop halfway, and the effort seems greater. Complete the job in one positive sweeping stroke, and it's no big deal. Indeed, cocking the Athena proved super smooth, and with a pellet pushed home, flush at the breech, the barrel then locks back up with a satisfying click.

With the action cocked, an automatic safety engages, and this requires the silver tab to be nudged forward to free the trigger. On test, I found it a little stiff, so a gentle pinch of the tab against the trigger guard proved the way forward. As for the trigger, I love the broad, near-straight blade, and whilst it's not super light, it felt crisp and predictable on test. Where adjustment is concerned, there's no mention in the instructions. For the record, I did try a tweak of the main screw underneath, but it seemed a little slack, so I then left it well alone. That aside, this trigger is still way above average in this price sector.

Negative observations? Well, the cheekpiece, while well-defined,



This silencer/cocking-aid is included



Removing the foresight proved nice and easy

could be a little higher for scope use, and the inside edges around the moulded fore-end tip are just a little sharp to the touch. Overall, the Athena has a mature feel in the shoulder that belies its asking price.

Performance

On the range, I was keen to see what the Athena could do, and it did prove pellet-fussy. Precihole manufactures its own barrels, and this one seemed a little tight. That's not a criticism, simply an observation. Harder pellets, such as Weihrauch F&T Special, proved a bit tight, so pushing them flush at the breech wasn't easy. Switching to softer JSB derivatives soon had me smiling, though.

The firing cycle has that classic quick snap so characteristic of a



Everything looks well-made and precise

The Precihole Sports Athena Karbin



Plenty of grip up front, and it looks good, too



Crisp chequering enhances the grip



The smart badging is laser-etched on the cylinder

The Athena proved super accurate while using Air Arms Diabolo Express ammo



PELLET TYPE	HIGH (FPS)	LOW (FPS)	AVERAGE (FPS)	SPREAD (FPS)	ENERGY (FT/LBS)
AIR ARMS DIABOLO EXPRESS	823	807	815	16	11.6
RANGEMASTER SOVEREIGN PELLETS	778	770	773	8	11.1

Detail of the moulded cheekpiece



gas-ram setup, and with no spring to resonate, it proved satisfying and efficient. Yes, there's still plenty of recoil, but the internals feel surprisingly sophisticated.

Indeed, using Air Arms Diabolo Express pellets over 30 yards, groups of 0.25" c-t-c are hard to fault, shot from my old FT sitting position, I must add, allowing the action to recoil naturally. That's serious accuracy, and well up to hunting duties, making the Athena a great all-rounder.

Verdict

Satisfying results then - all from a rifle currently priced at around £235. As mentioned, I've always found the idea of gas-rams highly appealing in principle, and this Precihole Sports Athena Karbin is a great example. It's well-executed and slickly presented. **GM**

TECHNICAL SPECIFICATION

Name: Precihole Sports Athena Karbin
Type: Break-barrel, gas-ram
Calibre: .177 only
Barrel Length: 14.6"
Overall Length: 40"
Weight: 6.9lbs
Energy: 11.6ft/lbs
Price: £235 (guide)
Contact: Air Arms - www.air-arms.co.uk



Note the broad face of the trigger blade



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GM04.25/42

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Table with 2 columns: Model and Price. Includes BSA Lightning SE GRT, BSA Lightning XLSE, BSA Lightning SE GRT (Gas Ram), BSA Lightning XLSE Tactical, BSA Lightning XLSE GRT Tactical (Gas Ram), BSA Scorpion M/S Tactical, Gamo Maxim Elite M/Shot Break Barrel, Gamo Maxim Elite M/Shot Break Barrel Tactical, Gamo Phox, Gamo Coyote M/Shot, Weihrauch HW100, Weihrauch HW110, Weihrauch HW80, Weihrauch HW995, Weihrauch HW95, Weihrauch HW97 K Wood, Weihrauch HW97 K Black/Stainless, Weihrauch HW97 K/T Wood, Weihrauch HW97 K/T Synthetic, and Weihrauch HW30 Kit (Junior).

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PRECISION

meets Value



Mark Camoccio puts Hawke's Vantage WA 4-16x50 IR SF FFP rifle scope to the test, assessing its precision, clarity, and value for money

Hawke Optics continues to evolve its range of scopes, and it caters for a number of disciplines across the board. Looking at its latest price structure, the Vantage range represents what could be considered the value end of Hawke's product portfolio. Yet, that should take nothing away from what's on offer here. At £329, this Vantage WA 4-16x50 IR SF FFP is no bargain option, and first impressions on opening the box are of a big, bold scope. It looks and feels well made, and at 26.3oz, it's no lightweight either, representing a significant addition to any rifle setup.

Comprehensive

Alongside the scope itself, you get elasticated lens caps, a lens cloth, a battery, Allen keys,



At the rear, the fast-focus dioptre is rubber-armoured



BUT FOR MORE GENERAL DUTIES, THIS VANTAGE REALLY IS HARD TO FAULT. I THINK IT'S GREAT VALUE TOO, GIVEN WHAT'S ON OFFER. "

MARK CAMOCCIO



The high-torque zoom ring dials from 4 to 16x



Detail of the elevation and parallax turrets



This scope comes with push/pull turrets



Here you can see how wide the scope is. Note the parallax markings

and comprehensive instructions. I say comprehensive because there's actually a set of three mini instruction books. One deals with optical zeroing and alignment, one covers the reticle design and the relevant values, and the main one covers mounting, setting the ocular fast-focus dioptre, parallax adjustment, turret adjustment, zeroing, maintenance, and the difference between second and first focal plane scopes. So yes, pretty comprehensive, and Hawke should be congratulated on that score. If you're new to our sport, there's a lot of data to take in at the outset, and Hawke has broken it down into digestible elements—a thorough approach that should be applauded.

Tech spec

So, it's time to highlight the technical specifications on offer. For a start, this model sports a 30mm body tube and a monotube chassis construction for added precision and integrity. The matte black, non-reflective finish is ideal for field use, and the bold, target-style exposed turrets are clearly etched with elevation and windage markers. I'm not a fan of large turrets, as they create an unnecessarily wide profile, yet these feel precise, with 1/10 MRAD click values. Vantage scopes feature Hawke's System H2 glass, which means 11-layer, fully multi-coated lenses.

The sizable turret on the left-hand side of the saddle is the side-focus (SF) element of the model's name, as it controls the parallax adjustment, and it also features the illuminated reticle (IR) control on its tip. As usual, the battery sits under a screw cap.

Setup and handling

On the range, the first task was to adjust the rear dioptre/fast focus to bring the reticle in sharp along with the subject. The dioptre is rubber-coated and offers just the right amount of resistance, as does the 'high-torque' zoom ring. The parallax dial is marked with a minimum of 10 yards, then 15, 20, 30, 50, 100, 200, 500, and infinity. In use, this dial proved to be pretty stiff, but I am sure it is likely to ease up a bit with use.

The turrets feature a push/pull locking mechanism—pull up to open and make adjustments, then push down to lock. All adjustments proved positive and audible, which is always reassuring, and the standard around-the-grid test came in with repeatable precision. As for image quality, all I can say is that I had no complaints. This model is specified as having a wide-angle view, and along with the sizable field of view (FOV), the clarity and edge-to-edge sharpness are hard to fault, as is the vibrant image itself.

FFP

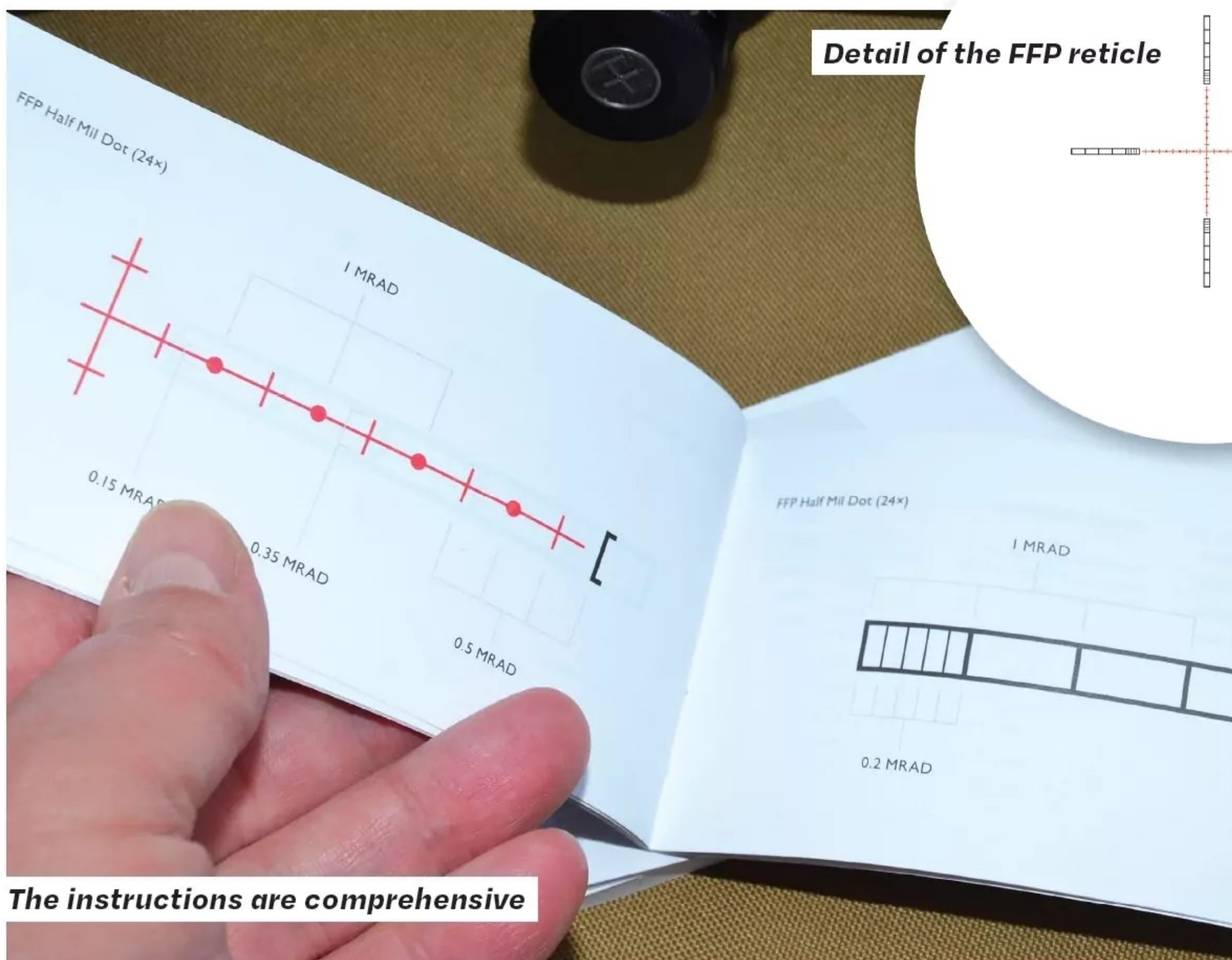
In this Vantage's specification, FFP denotes First Focal Plane, meaning the reticle's subtension



A coin-style battery powers the reticle illumination



You will need 30mm mounts here



Detail of the FFP reticle

The instructions are comprehensive



The clicks are positive and audible



Elasticated lens caps are included



The Hawke Vantage WA 4-16x50 IR SF FFP

values remain the same regardless of the magnification setting. As the name suggests, the FFP half mil-dot illuminated reticle has been specifically designed for FFP scopes, with half mil-dot markings out beyond 5 mil in each direction. The outer posts in the reticle design show main segments that are 1 mil and some smaller segments that are 0.2 mil, meaning plenty of versatility, and an incredible number of aiming/bracketing markers.

The reticle is glass-etched for added robustness, and as for the illumination, the rheostat is marked with five stages of brightness in red, then off, then five more stages in green. It all works well, making this a highly versatile tool in a hunting scenario.

Verdict

Standard guarantees are included, and this Vantage is specified as nitrogen-purged, shockproof, waterproof, and all-calibrated to boot. Don't forget Hawke's conditional lifetime warranty either, which, coupled with their respectable after-sales service, should ease any concerns. Back to the price differential, it's interesting to consider that a similar specification to that offered here, from Hawke's Frontier range, would come in at around the £900 mark. It's a classic case of the nth degree, as paying for supposedly higher-end glass and quality will buy you, on the face of it, a small benefit for a big outlay. Where glassware often comes into its own, and the differences show up, is when shooting in low-light conditions. But for more general duties, this Vantage really is hard to fault. I think it's great value too, given what's on offer. Indeed, whilst checking specifications, I happened to notice that this particular Vantage model actually shows a £50 price drop over the last year, so Hawke is obviously working hard behind the scenes to ensure that their line-up of scopes remains competitively priced. **GM**

TECHNICAL SPECIFICATION

Name: Hawke Vantage WA 4-16x50 IR SF FFP
Reticle: FFP, Half Mil-Dot, Illuminated
Weight: 26.3oz
Eye Relief: 3.5"
Click Values: 1/10 MRAD
Field of View: 10.8-2.7m@100m
Body Tube: 30mm
Minimum Focus: 10 yards to infinity
Length: 13.7"
Clicks Per Rotation: 60 on both turrets
Number of Rotations: 5.75 on elevation / 5.25 windage
Price: £329
Contact: Hawke Optics - www.hawkeoptics.com

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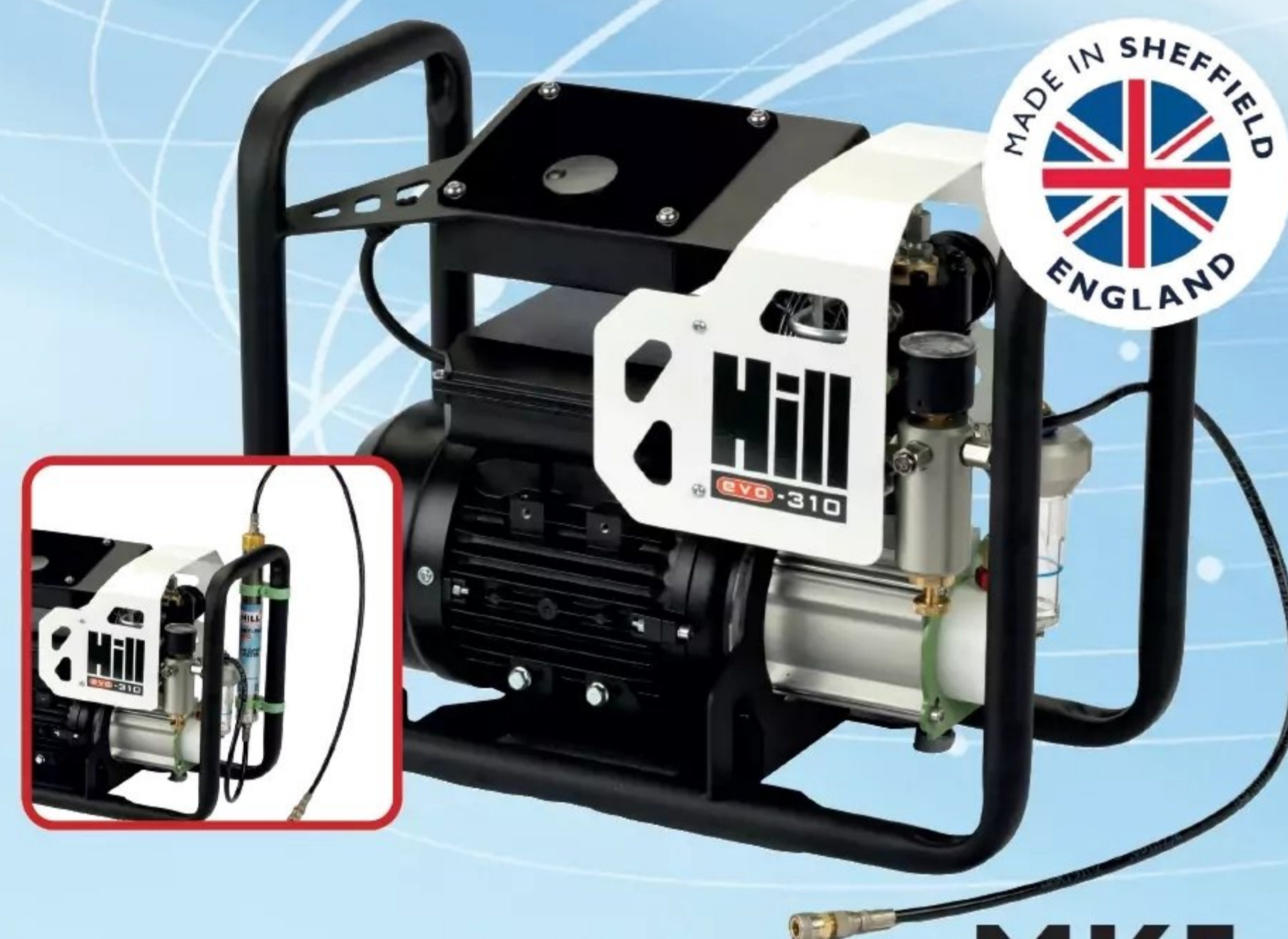
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Bolt-Action BUDGET BUY

Mark Camoccio takes the Beeman 1085 for a spin to see if this CO2-powered plinker delivers on performance and value



Beeman Precision Airguns is a respected name in the industry, inspired by Dr. Robert Beeman back in the '80s. Whilst the operation is somewhat different these days, the brand lives on as part of the Sportsmarketing (SMK) stable, and on test here is a stylish little number that's a lot of fun for under £200.

CO2 power provisos

The Beeman 1085 is a distinctively styled rifle that is powered by CO2. As can be seen, it comes with a snazzy black polymer sporter stock, which offers a thumbhole configuration, along with a good level of detail. It's a bolt-action rifle and comes complete with adjustable open sights and a manual safety catch. I would state at the outset that this is a general knockabout rifle that's ideal for plinking and fun shooting. The power plant isn't designed for super consistency, so despite curious claims in certain quarters to the contrary,

this is not a hunting rifle. What it is, though, is an enjoyable plinker with bags of style and character.

CO2 has a propensity for fluctuations in power depending on the ambient temperature, which can affect the shot count. Another consideration is that when handling capsules, if they have only just converted from liquid form and released any remaining gas, the capsule itself can be freezing to the touch. This is intriguing for those who haven't encountered it, but a characteristic of the medium.

Loading CO2

The model 1085 is designed to be compatible with the larger CO2 tanks, but many shooters will opt to use the conventional 12g capsules, of which it takes two at a time. First, unscrew the threaded cap at the front of the cylinder, and here I can't help but point out the irritatingly long thread on the cap.

Once removed, two capsules can then be dropped inside, the first one neck-first, then the second in reverse. Re-tighten the cap, and when it is finally nipped up to tension and pierces the capsules, you'll probably hear a small hiss as gas escapes.

Single or multi-shot?

If you go for single-shot, then the bolt needs to be pulled back and locked down in the rear cut-out, so that the bolt clears the breech and allows access. The single-shot tray snaps into position from the right-hand side. Once installed, a pellet is then rolled into the channel. I did find that guiding the pellet into the lip of the barrel was necessary periodically, but it worked OK. As for the ten-shot magazine, the plastic cover proved a little stiff to slide open on test, although I'm sure this would ease up with use. The cover needs to be wound clockwise all the way around against spring pressure, then a pellet is dropped



The Beeman 1085 offers competent performance

This Beeman is a stylish budget sporter



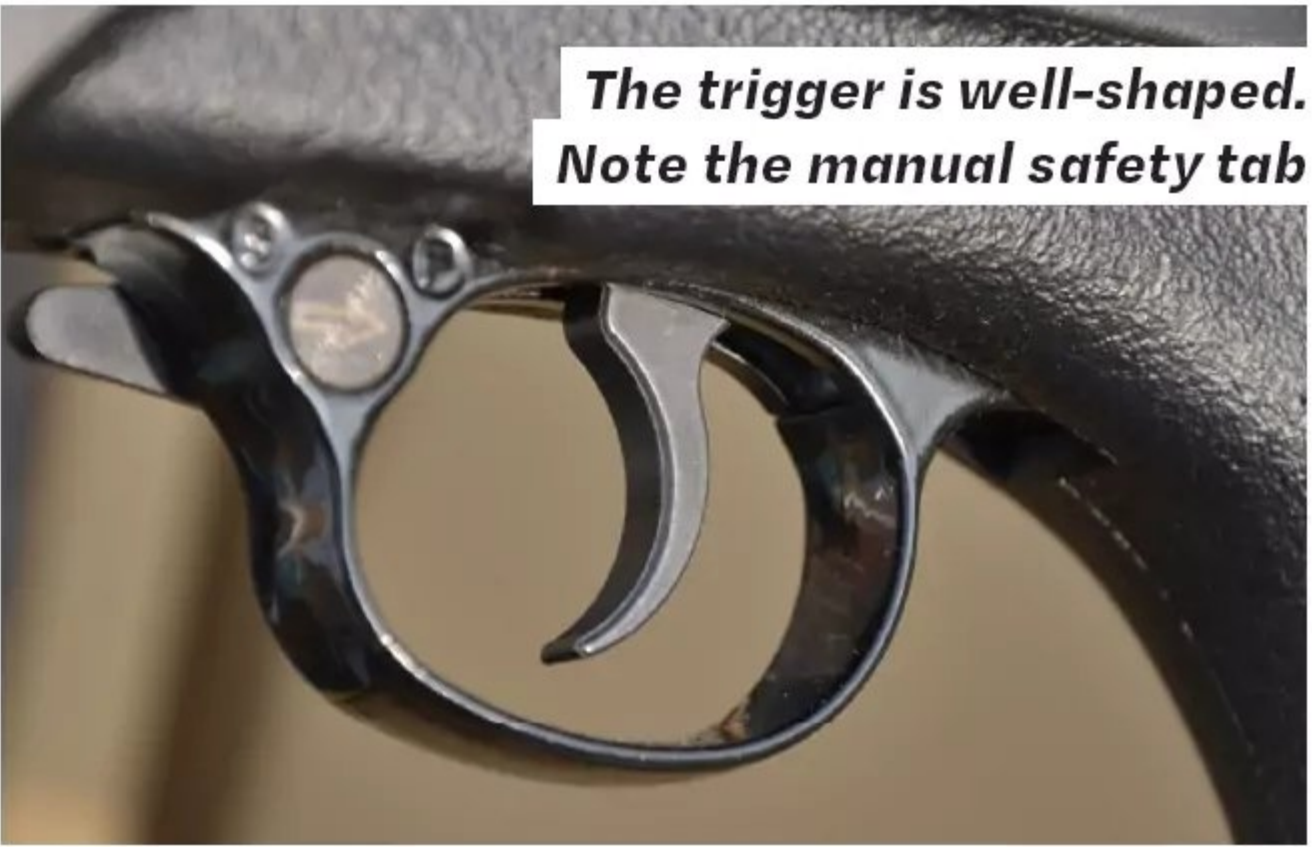
A well-shaped pistol grip always helps



Detail of the 10-shot magazine



The fibre optic foresight is red



The trigger is well-shaped. Note the manual safety tab



Note the fully adjustable fibre optic rear sight



A Picatinny accessory rail sits under the boxy fore-end



The two 12g CO2 capsules are inserted like this



This shows the bolt locked to the rear



The single-shot tray in position

I LIKE THE WAY THE BOLT LOCKS BACK TO GIVE FULL ACCESS TO THE BREECH AREA, AND OVER THE COURSE OF MY TEST PERIOD, IT CYCLED FAULTLESSLY.."

MARK CAMOCCIO

PELLET TYPE	HIGH (FPS)	LOW (FPS)	AVERAGE (FPS)	SPREAD (FPS)	ENERGY (FT/LBS)
BSA SILVERSTAR (7.25GR)	643	578	610	65	6

into the open chamber. This holds the drum against spring pressure, and then the cover can be wound back and each chamber filled in turn.

When filling the magazine, I found it best to seat the first pellet in order to get it cleanly into position. This then holds the spring-loaded drum in the usual way. It's not the best designed magazine, as the small, raised stud keeps catching when trying to rotate the cover, but technique plays a part. The magazine was also a little too snug in the breech, but on the plus side, there's a pleasing, positive click as either the tray or magazine slots into position.

Sighting in

This Beeman comes with a dovetail rail on top of the receiver, so glassware can be used. However, with fibre-optic open sights included, I really wouldn't rush to change. When adjusting the rear sight, I did hit the limit of adjustment for lowering the point of impact, but aiming slightly low isn't a dealbreaker on this grade of rifle.

Accuracy-wise, using the open sights, I managed groups of 0.5" (c-t-c) over 20 yards while using Air Arms Diabolo Express and BSA Silver Star pellets. This is very usable accuracy indeed. Scoped up, and over 25 yards, the Beeman still posted 0.75" clusters. So, overall, we are talking about competent performance that will reward technique.

To the chrono

This Beeman, as alluded to, is more about plinking sessions and casual shooting, so getting too hung up on technical facts and figures can often miss the point. That said, we all want some idea of what to expect, so here goes. During testing, I recorded 90 shots over a chronograph, and given that the power began to drop right off over the last ten, I've collated figures for the 80 usable shots. And very usable they were too. The maximum power was 6.7ft/lbs, using BSA Silverstar pellets, which is very similar to the claimed figures in

the supplied user manual. The total spread was 65fps, which shows a gradual drop-off through the charge.

With side-lever operation being in vogue at the moment, it was strangely refreshing to use this bolt-action Beeman. I like the way the bolt locks back to give full access to the breech area, and over the course of my test period, it cycled faultlessly, save for the odd pellet tumbling in the breech, which is possibly more to do with the pellet than with this Beeman. As for the model 1085 overall, the polymer stock feels good in the aim, and whilst a little hollow at the rear, the density up front adds a really robust feel to the proceedings.

Verdict

For fans of CO2, this model very much does what it says on the tin. It looks the part, and it's great fun for the money. **GM**

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

TECHNICAL SPECIFICATION
Name: Beeman 1085
Type: CO2-powered
Calibre: .177 on test, .22 available
Barrel Length: 21.5"
Overall Length: 38.6"
Weight: 6.2lbs
Energy: 6ft/lbs (average), 6.7ft/lbs (max)
Price: £199.95 (guide)
Contact: Sportsmarketing - www.sportsmk.co.uk

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A BETTER *kit*



Ready for the hunter and feature-packed, the Reximex Accura Synthetic gets a full test by **Mark Camoccio** to assess its real-world capabilities

Reximex continues to make a splash in the world of PCP airguns, and it's this Turkish manufacturer's knack for combining functionality with modern, eye-catching design that gets them noticed.

Same but very different!

On test here is a classic example of what this energetic brand is all about, and with a burgeoning feature list and a dramatic profile, we certainly look to be getting a lot of airgun for the money. I handled the walnut-stocked version a while back, but the synthetic model on test here elevates handling to new levels by virtue of the fully adjustable stock elements.

Modern airguns increasingly adopt such details, and it is thanks in part to my old friend Terry Doe and his constant banging home of the point, which has led manufacturers to take the message on board. The message is that the adjustable elements combine to allow the user to tweak and set the shooting position so the face, head, and hands all work together. Perfect eye/scope alignment, with no overstretching, straining, or muscle fatigue. The idea is that we mount the rifle, and the sight picture just falls into place effortlessly. Well, this Reximex Accura Synthetic delivers on that score, which gives it a great start in life.

Box of tricks

Alongside the gun, we get a sizable accessories box, which includes two magazines, a

single-shot carrier, spare seals, a bolt-on accessory rail, Allen keys, a filling adapter, an instruction booklet, and even some targets. There's also a printed test sheet showing a velocity string, which is encouraging.

Built as a hunting rifle, the Accura Synthetic features a sizable 425cc buddy bottle up front, meaning plenty of air and a high shot count. I like the way the front 'barrel shroud support bracket' doubles up as a grip for the fore-end, too, meaning it's unlikely the lead hand will need to touch the cold bottle while aiming. In fact, there's thoughtful design wherever you look with the Accura, including sling swivel eyelets front and back and a manual cross-bolt safety at the rear, just above the trigger.

Pre-charging

Reximex states that the maximum fill pressure is 250bar, but for most situations, 200bar is recommended simply because it offers plenty of shots and places the mechanism under somewhat less stress. The inlet valve is recessed on the underside of the action, along with a scaled-up manometer. The green section indicates the safe operating pressure, ranging from 100bar, where a refill is required, up to 250bar. Beyond this, the red high-pressure section serves as a warning. The usual advice is to go by the gauge on the charging gear, but it's nice to have all that gun-mounted info at our fingertips. The Accura's valve is Foster specification, and the appropriate adapter is supplied for those who



Stylish and truly functional — the Reximex Accura Synthetic



This affordable PCP boasts some decent ergonomics

need it. There's plenty of finger access—just remove the rather crude yellow cap first.

Multi-shot

Multi-shot systems are very much in vogue, and Reximex supplies two of its brightly coloured magazines. My test gun came in .177, which gets a 14-shot drum. Opt for .22, and it's a 12-shot. These spring-loaded, cassette-style mags are filled in the usual manner, and if properly maintained, they offer plenty of backup shots, avoiding the need to handle fiddly pellets out in the field.

So, magazine or single-shot mode? Either way, pull back the side-lever to cock the action and set the hammer and trigger. Then, slide either unit in from the right side of the breech, lining up the guide ridge with the groove in the breech. On test, I couldn't get the moulded single-shot tray to fit, but this should be an easy fix. As for the magazine, it proved a bit snug, but it did snap into place in a satisfying manner. Close the lever, and the system is ready to cycle.

Dry-fire

Now, before a shot needs to be fired in anger, it pays to get familiar with the trigger. The good news is that the second-stage release is adjustable. The bad news is that Reximex designed it so that the stock needs to be removed to allow that adjustment. How irritating! With the stock off, the first screw forward of the trigger mechanism/visible sears is the adjustment screw. My test gun came set with a fairly light trigger, so I didn't play with it. Outweighing the negative here is, of course, the inclusion of a match blade, and this is somewhat more user-friendly. Just slacken the screw, and it rotates and moves up and down its support pillar. Take your time, and a natural trigger-finger position will be arrived at, which all helps the cause.

Dry-firing the action during this process makes sense, which is a perk of the PCP system. At this point, though, you'll notice that despite the fitted shroud, the relatively short barrel results in quite a blast. So, for anyone



Detail of the side-lever and the dual rail system



There's a two-stage adjustable trigger



Detail of the moulded grip



This shows the magazine in position

contemplating hunting, or just not annoying the neighbours for that matter, make use of the ½" UNF thread up front and fit a silencer.

Dual rails

Reximex fits its dual rail mounting system here, and I have to say it is rather refreshing, as there are no restrictions. Either use dovetail mounts on the inner dovetail rail or fit Picatinny to the outside. Indeed, the only consideration is for mounts high enough to clear the magazine.

Stock adjustments

OK, time to play to the Accura Synthetic's strengths and spend some time getting the stock set just so. This is something that can be done safely without even firing a shot. The cheekpiece is perfectly shaped, and to alter the height, insert the correct Allen key into the hole on the right side of the stock. Next, slacken the screw and lift or lower the cheek to suit. Finally, re-tighten the screw, and you're ready to go. On test, the screw proved a little stiff, but I got there in the end.

The butt section features a well-shaped rubber pad that provides excellent grip in the shoulder. However, unlike the wooden-stocked Accura, this pad is height-adjustable and can be lowered by up to 1.6" in five stages, as needed. It can also be raised in three stages, and when adjusted in tandem with the cheekpiece, it becomes an invaluable asset. My go-to test is the classic 'closed-eye' method: once you believe the stock is correctly set, mount the rifle into your shoulder with your eyes closed. Relax, then open them—the sight picture should align perfectly.

Don't forget the small accessory rail that is supplied, which can be bolted on under the fore-end. You then have a Picatinny mounting point for a bipod. Admittedly, it sits where many will place their leading hand in the aim, which may spoil the fine handling on offer, yet it's great to have the option.

Business end

Time to move to the range, and just before I review performance, I need to highlight the power



Here you can see what comes in the box



A sizable 425cc bottle means plenty of air



Basic but functional — the valve cover and manometer



The cheekpiece can be adjusted using an Allen key



Sling eyelets are also fitted as standard



Fitting a silencer is easy



The usual Reximex power adjuster sits on the left side

adjuster, which features on so many Reximex models. Look to the right side of the action, and you'll notice a small silver lever just forward of the breech. This is a simple power adjuster using the Venturi valve principle, restricting airflow. Simply set it to maximum or dial it down to lower power. Medium power makes little difference, but when set to the lowest position, expect energy around the 4ft/lbs mark. It's a handy feature for informal practice—just set it to low, and the shot count will go through the roof. Cycling the lever takes little effort, and whilst positioning the magazine in its slot can be a bit fiddly, operation thereafter is smooth.

Back on full power, my brief was to record the first 100 shots over the chronograph to gauge consistency. From a 200bar fill on test, the first seven magazines were recorded using BSA Goldstar pellets (8.6gr). A 26fps total velocity spread over effectively 96 shots is fair performance.

Over 30 yards, using Air Arms Diabolo Field pellets, the accuracy was respectable.

Plus, moving back to 40 yards, sub-5p groups proved this model has what it takes as an all-round sporting/hunting rifle. I'm truly amazed at the difference this fully adjustable synthetic stock makes over the walnut version, and given the stylish modern looks and clever technical configuration, I can't believe I'm saying it, but it's an easy decision. **GM**

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

TECHNICAL SPECIFICATION

Name: Reximex Accura Synthetic

Type: PCP

Calibre: .177 on test, .22 available

Barrel Length: 14.9"

Overall Length: 35.5"

Weight: 7.7lbs

Energy: 11.2ft/lbs (average)

Price: £450 (guide)

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


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Mark Underwood offers advice on all the latest knives and tools

Leatherman Skeletool CX Multi-Tool

➤ **When it comes to multi-tools, one of the hardest combinations to achieve successfully is matching a comprehensive set of tools with a lightweight build.**

The Skeletool CX manages just that by packing the most useful and essential tools into a lightweight system that is easy to carry.

The regular and needle-nose pliers are as strong and well-made as ever, with no compromise on quality, and the built-in wire cutters are extremely effective on all but the thickest steel cables. The 2.6" long, straight-edged locking blade is made of premium 154CM stainless

steel for optimum corrosion resistance, and it is supplied razor-sharp and ready to go.

The Skeletool also features a bit holder with two Phillips and two flathead screwdriver bits stored in the handle, along with a carabiner/bottle opener and a large, removable pocket clip. As far as tools go, that's it, as it's very much a case of everything you need and nothing you don't.

The handles of the tool are well-shaped for a comfortable and effective grip, and the Skeletool CX has been designed for easy one-handed operation. Weighing just 5oz,

Leatherman has achieved an impressively light tool without compromising on strength, and when using the pliers to grip and twist, there is no flex or movement in the tool whatsoever.

For a simple but lightweight carry, without a multitude of tools that you might never use out in the field, this is an ideal piece of kit, and it is also very well priced. **GM**



TECHNICAL SPECIFICATION

Name: Leatherman Skeletool CX Multi-Tool

Price: £109.95

Contact: Whitby & Co. Ltd - www.whitbyandco.co.uk

Leatherman Bond EDC Multi-Tool

➤ **The Leatherman Bond is a lightweight multi-tool that manages to pack 14 useful tools into a very neat and compact design.** It also—very cleverly—has a short and non-locking blade, which makes it a legal everyday carry (EDC) in the UK.

Obviously, common sense dictates where you should and should not carry any sort of edged tool, but at least with a legal EDC like this one, it is less of a potential issue in any given situation.

The Bond's minimal design incorporates a full stainless-steel build and a highly functional set of tools into a workhorse

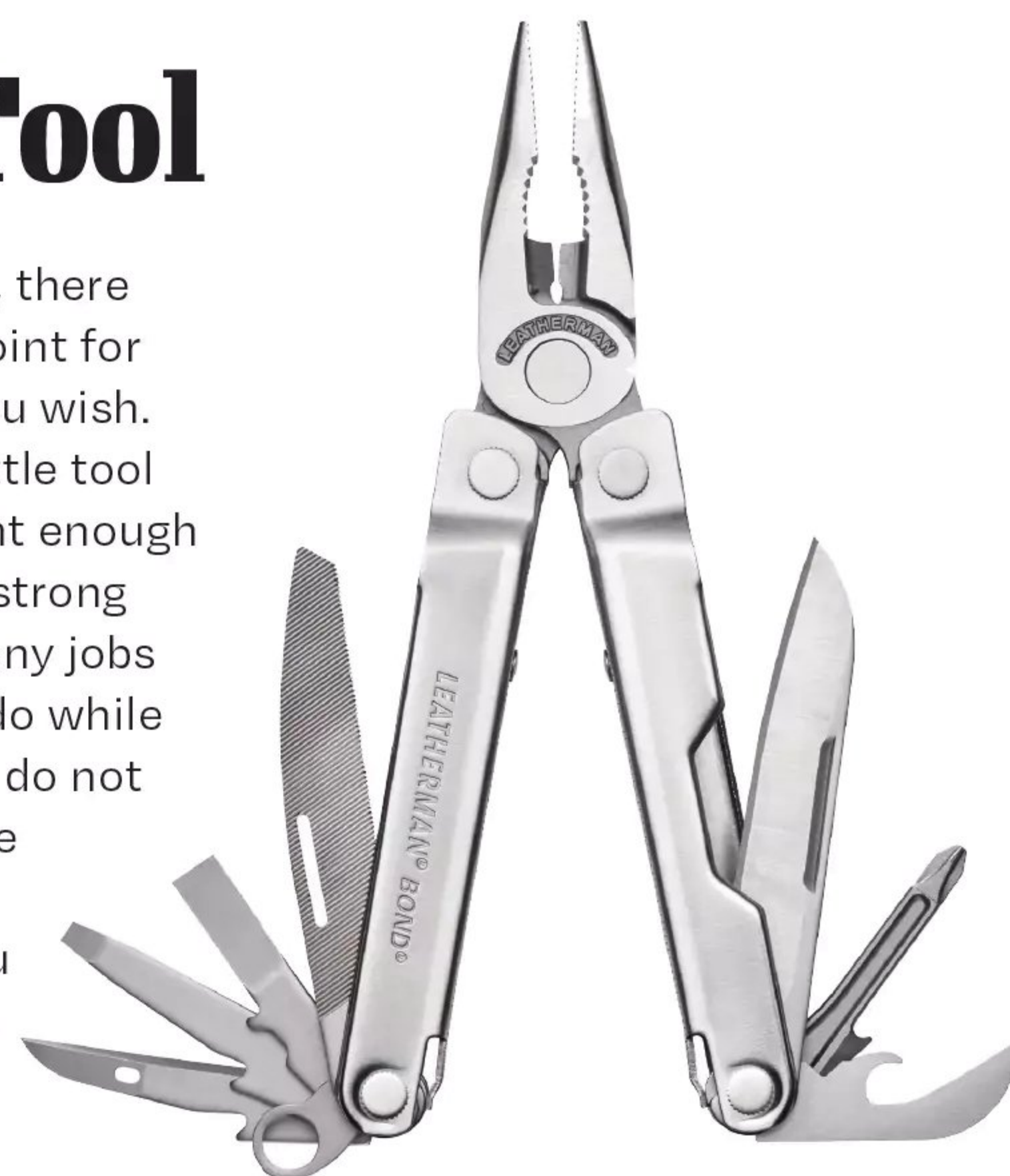
weighing in at just 6oz.

The tools are all centred on Leatherman's strong pliers, which have both needle-nose and regular sections, and the edges of the handles are nicely rounded to give a comfortable grip.

The 2.9" 420HC blade is supplied razor-sharp, and edge retention is very good. The other tools include a nice hardwood/metal file, three screwdrivers, can and bottle openers, wire cutters, and a very strong awl, all incorporated neatly into the handles. The Bond has a lanyard hole and is supplied with a good-quality nylon sheath, but if you

prefer a pocket clip, there is an attachment point for you to add one if you wish.

This is a great little tool that's small and light enough to carry easily, and strong enough to take on any jobs you might need to do while out shooting. If you do not want to carry a large multi-tool with more tools than you will ever need, then the Bond is well worth a look. **GM**



TECHNICAL SPECIFICATION

Name: Leatherman Bond EDC Multi-Tool

Price: £69.95

Contact: Whitby & Co. Ltd - www.whitbyandco.co.uk



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Ruger's Marksman trigger is a single-stage unit with a safety blade



Here you can see the free-floating, fluted barrel

COMPACT CAPABLE & CLEVER

Chris Parkin cracks a smile while testing the Ruger American Ranch Gen II in 7.62x39

Detail of the magazine

I must admit, reviewing a rifle with proven capability in a less common calibre is always a pleasure, as it offers a refreshing change from the usual .223/.308/6.5 selection. The Ranch is available in quite a few quirkier calibres, yet they all seem to make sense and fit the rifle's proportions, with 7.62x39 being one of the top choices.

The spiral tube

The Ranch comes with a Cobalt Cerakoted, cold hammer-forged barrel measuring 18.6mm in diameter, featuring elegantly designed spiral fluting that enhances the rifle's visual appeal. A matching pepper-pot muzzle brake is supplied, attached to the 5/8" screwcut muzzle. Crucially, the barrel remains free-floating within the fore-end in all conditions.

Short lift

This Ruger comes with a three-lug bolt that offers a 70-degree lift. It has a push-feed face with a plunger ejector, and there's a claw extractor in the lower-right lug. The stainless-steel bolt features multiple facets on its underside to aid smooth transit, and there is sufficient space to allow you to insert a fully loaded magazine into the rifle, even with a +1 already chambered. The bolt's shaft is 20mm in diameter and it includes an anti-rotation groove for the bolt stop catch on the left-hand side of the receiver.

In use, the bolt's 103mm of travel seemed smooth from new and has become even better with use, which is excellent. The handle features a dark Cerakote finish, measures 55mm in length, and includes a 22mm ball tip. While excessively long handles can lead to jamming, this well-proportioned design ensures smooth and reliable operation.

Feeding frenzy

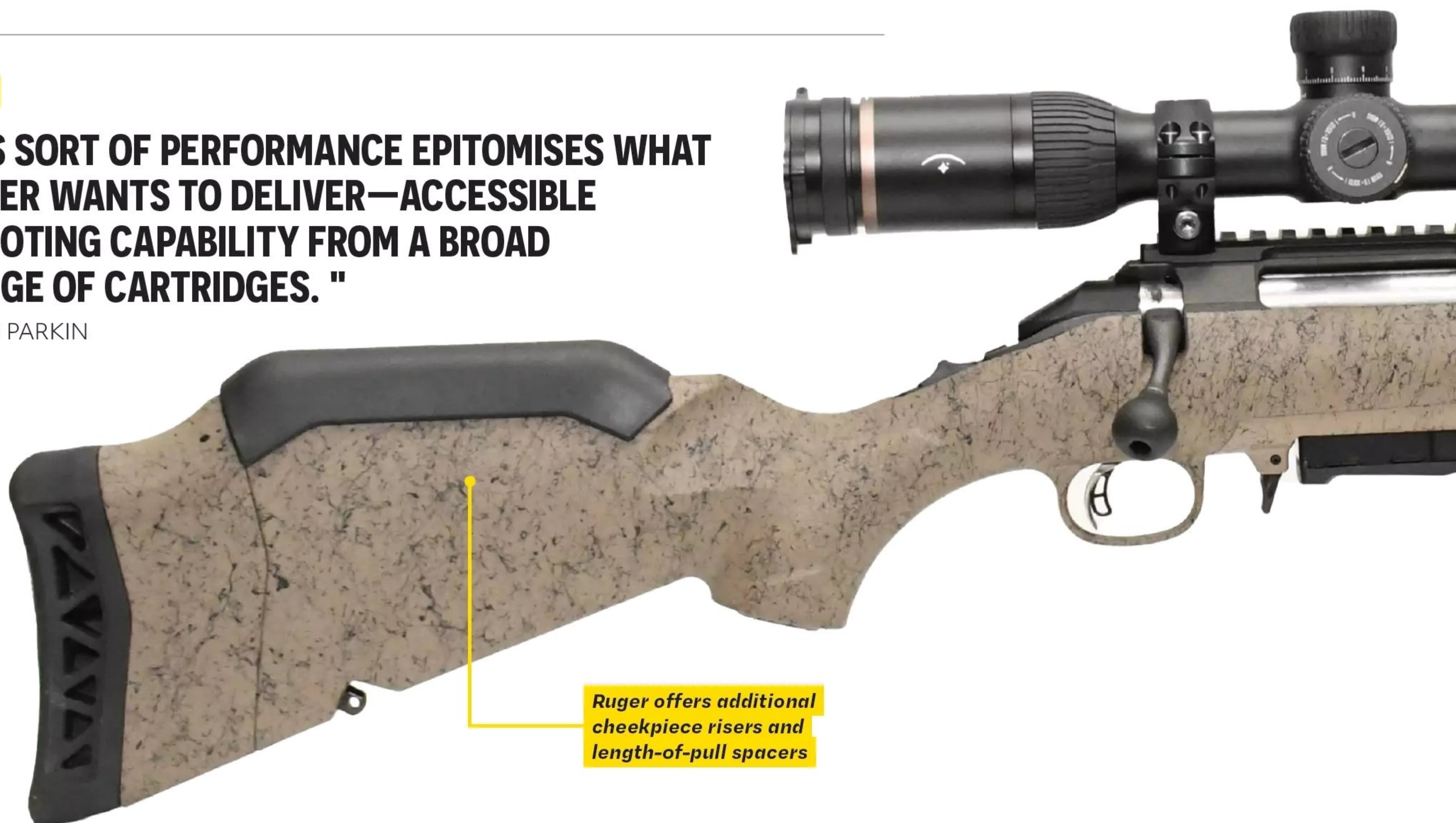
The rifle feeds from a 'Mini-30' detachable five-round magazine that has steel walls and a polymer follower. Rounds can be pushed straight in from the top, whether the magazine is inside or outside the rifle, thanks to its staggered twin-column design for compact size and easy loading. The follower has a small tab on its rear left-hand edge that blocks the bolt when empty, although it can sometimes snag on the action's underside and, therefore, isn't 100% reliable. This didn't really bother me, as I would cut it off anyway if the gun were mine. Feeding was smooth without hang-ups, and if I needed a backup shot, a cartridge dropped on top of the follower would feed directly into the chamber.

The controls

Ruger's Marksman trigger includes an inner safety blade that locks the trigger in place, striking what I see as an ideal balance to satisfy the US market's more aggressive legal eagles. In use, it feels like a two-stage trigger, breaking 95% crisply at 1,840g/65oz, with adjustability ranging from 48 to 80oz. This might sound heavy to some, but it felt predictable in use. Realistically, on a hunting-

THIS SORT OF PERFORMANCE EPITOMISES WHAT RUGER WANTS TO DELIVER—ACCESSIBLE SHOOTING CAPABILITY FROM A BROAD RANGE OF CARTRIDGES. "

CHRIS PARKIN



Ruger offers additional cheekpiece risers and length-of-pull spacers

oriented rifle designed to cater for shooters of all sizes and experience levels, it's quite appropriate.

The trigger guard is a polymer section of the injection-moulded stock, and Ruger's multi-size insert just ahead of it allows a single overall stock design to cater for multiple magazine inlet shapes depending on the chambering. The magazine release lever is ambidextrous and easily accessed with the thumb of the hand holding the magazine, which clips in and out securely.

The safety catch is on the tang, and it shows three positions: forward for fire, middle for safe with bolt operation, and rear for safe with the bolt locked. These three positions are well-defined, yet the safety is still quiet to operate.

Action fit

The barrelled action is held into the stock by two Allen screws that span the magazine inlet. These also secure the modular mag well to the underside of the rifle. When lifted out, you can see that the steel action has matching steel V-shaped bedding blocks within the stock's moulded pockets, ensuring a minimal amount of stress. The fore-end is especially impressive, showing a massive amount of reinforcement/webbing to ensure stiffness and no barrel contact.

The furniture

The Ranch features a Flat Dark Earth (FDE) stock with a splatter finish, providing a naturally tactile grip, and there are subtle yet comfortable finger grooves along the fore-end's length to aid contact. An underside stud is securely positioned for a sling or bipod, which I immediately utilised. The grip has an open radius with a slight ambidextrous



The magazine well insert is modular and depends on the calibre you choose



Detail of the Cerakoted bolt handle, the three-position safety catch, and the cocked action indicator



The Ruger American Ranch Gen II is well-proportioned

palm swell, and there are invisible but tactile moulded panels to aid security. There is a small, slender comb and riser in black polymer that can be removed if you are using a low-mounted red-dot sight instead of a scope. Also, cheekpieces of different heights are available from Viking Arms.

The butt features a fitted length-of-pull (LOP) spacer, providing a 13.75" (350mm) LOP, which can be removed to reduce it to 12" (305mm) for smaller shooters. Alternative spacers are also available.

The recoil pad is well-designed with an open radius and firm ends. It mounts to your shoulder without snagging yet will then centralise and maintain position with good grip through recoil. This again seems another nod to making the rifle comfortable and easy to shoot for novices, without the pad slipping in your shoulder, causing recoil discomfort. It's ventilated to control deformation, and I'm glad that this has been done without a vague, spongy feel.

How did it shoot?

Setting the rifle up for testing was easy, as the Picatinny rail on top of the receiver made scope mounting a doddle, and the screwcut muzzle accepted a moderator without issue. Edgar Brothers kindly sent me some Hornady "Black" ammunition to use with the rifle, which, with a 123gr SST bullet, seemed appropriate for the barrel's 1:9.5" twist rate. The published muzzle velocity is 2350fps, but given the short barrel, I kept an open mind.

Once at the range, the ammo managed 2250fps, which equates to 1383ft/lbs of muzzle energy, making this rifle and ammunition combo an interesting hunting option for muntjac or Chinese water deer. Importantly, this combination performed very well, with an average five-shot group size of 22.5mm (0.89") centre-to-centre at 100m. The largest group was 26.4mm (1.03"), so sub-MOA, and there was no appreciable zero shift over a 25-shot string.

Real value for money

This sort of performance epitomises what Ruger wants to deliver—accessible shooting capability from a broad range of cartridges. The Ranch seems particularly well-suited to some of the smaller, more modest chamberings it's available in, such as 7.62x39, .300 Blackout, and either .22 or 6mm ARC, making it a great choice for both target shooting



The patented V-block bedding system ensures reliable action-to-stock interaction



Note the Picatinny scope rail and the bolt release catch

The Ranch had no problem shooting sub-MOA with premium ammunition



and plinking, as well as hunting. The patented "Power Bedding" system certainly seems effective, as I didn't lose zero after removing the gun from the stock for photography, and it certainly got bumped around in its case in the back of the truck. Interestingly, you can add additional 1.6lb (730g) weights within the stock to offset heavier muzzle devices yet the super-short barrel offers superb intuitive handling with excellent pointability.

This is a rifle I thoroughly enjoyed shooting, and to be perfectly honest, I would love to own one, as it would make an excellent review platform for many of the optics I receive. I still want to take it foxing, and based on my experiences with the standard American, this rifle has further strengthened my confidence in Ruger as a forward-thinking US brand that continues to get rifles to our shores at a reasonable cost.

Smart design throughout

There are some neat design features, like the

recessed rear sling

stud that makes the stock easier to use with a rear bag, and again, there is less chance of a snagged supporting hand for a new shooter. Although this rifle is available in some chamberings that are rarely seen in the

UK, the short, hard-hitting cartridges, such as the .400 Legend, reflect the alternative purpose of this compact rifle and the reasoning behind the Ranch name—a fast-handling gun designed for close-range hunting encounters. I suppose it's only a matter of time until the ARC cartridges arrive more widely in the UK, and I see this rifle as an ideal base for one, as they embody the focus on compact efficiency.

Conclusion

What a superb rifle and fun chambering to shoot. Feed it premium or handloaded ammunition and it will deliver accuracy and precision for shooters of all sizes. This is a shooter's rifle, not a safe or range-queen, and I'm hugely impressed with its modest honesty and value for money, as these qualities will please any plinker or hunter, even a picky Parkin like me. **GM**

TECHNICAL SPECIFICATION

Name: Ruger American Ranch Gen II

Calibre: 7.62x39 (also available in .22 ARC, 6mm ARC, 5.56 NATO, 6.5 Grendel, .450 Bushmaster, .308, 6.5 Creedmoor, .350 and .400 Legend)

Barrel Length: 16.1" (409mm)

Overall Length: 37.4" (948mm)

Weight: 6lbs 2oz (2,778g)

Length of Pull: 13.75" (350mm) as tested

Magazine Capacity: 5

Price: £860

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| * 6.5 Creedmoor (LRP) | * 30-30 Win |
| * 308 Match (SRP) | * 243 Win |
| * 308 Win | * 30-06 (SRP) |
| * 300 Blackout | * 45/70 |
| * 6mm Creedmoor (LRP) | |
| * 6mm Creedmoor (SRP) | |

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Meeting their *objectives*



Pete Moore looks at a high-end riflescope from Zero Compromise Optics, the ZC527 5-27x56 FFP

There's an old saying: "Pay twice as much for your scope as your rifle!" It's an adage that's easy to follow, but for this test, your rifle would need to cost £2,150. I speak of Zero Compromise Optics, which claims to offer possibly the best glass on the planet. This is a bold claim, given competition from Kahles, Nightforce, Schmidt & Bender, and Vortex — all of whom know what the customer wants and how to build it.

Super scopes

The ZC527 5-27x56 falls into the 'super scope' category: high magnification, first focal plane (FFP), a 34 or 36mm tube, superior optics, and tactile, practical controls and reticle functions. Built for long and extreme long-range shooting, it's primarily a sniper optic but also appeals to well-heeled competition

shooters, like the precision rifle crowd, who spend serious money on guns and glass.

To compare, I selected four similar spec models: Kahles' K328i 3-28x56 DLR (£3,400), Schmidt & Bender's 3-27x56 PMII High Power (£4,450), Nightforce's ATACR 5-25x56mm F1 (£3,500), and Vortex's Razor HD GEN II 4.5-27x56 (£3,049). Only the Schmidt exceeds the ZCO's £4,300 price. So, who are you buying from, and what are you getting for your money?

Who?

ZCO produces a small, select range of speciality rifle scopes. All models are prefixed with ZC and a three-digit number. The ZC420 (4-20x50), ZC527 (5-27x56), and ZC840 (8-40x56), for example, all have a one-piece, 36mm body tube and feature FFP reticles. Components are made and

assembled in Austria or the USA, using renowned Schott glass with 92% light transmission.

Chunky boy!

My tester was a real 'chunky boy', at 2.4lbs and 15.4" long. It came with a ZCO one-piece mount, similar to the Spuhr design, with a swing-out bubble level and a slot-and-wedge system for reticle levelling. Designed for Picatinny mounting, it only has one lug, but the large claws ensure security. So, once fitted, you've got 3lbs on top of the gun, and before you get too excited, the mount costs an extra £445.

The finish is a pleasing flat black, with flat dark earth (FDE) also available. All markings are in white and contrast nicely for easy viewing.

Something old, new, and borrowed

Rear focus uses the old lock-ring system—retro but secure. The big magnification ring has angled slots for grip and a raised fin for easier dialling. There's no throw lever, which would help, as movement is a tad firm but smooth. With most scopes in this class featuring fast

focus and a possible throw lever, it shows what manufacturers consider important.

Plenty of adjustment

Now, moving on to the massive 36mm body tube and its huge saddle, which houses the usual three turrets: left (illumination and parallax), middle (elevation), and right (windage). All feature the same angled gripping slots as the magnification ring.

The 527 offers the choice of MRAD (on test) or MOA, with the former offering 0.1 MRAD click values, giving a quoted 35 MRAD of elevation and 20 MRAD of windage. What's confusing is that ZCO says both turrets are of the lift-to-unlock (LTU) type, but on this example, it was only the windage. Given the choice, I'd go for the elevation turret to have that facility, although having both would be best.

Pop-up

The elevation turret offers 3.6 rotations, with 100 clicks per turn, with each MRAD graduation showing two numbers above to indicate where



The ocular bell shows a locking focus, and the zoom ring features an integral dialling fin



The turrets are well marked and offer audible and tactile 0.1 MRAD clicks



Detail of the elevation turret and its rotation plunger

you are in elevation. For example, 0 has 10 and then 20 above to indicate the turret's overall position. Backing this up is a plunger that rises as you dial, marked with rings, so you have a tactile, secondary visual indicator. In the heat of the moment, it's all too easy to get lost in elevation, so this is a useful feature. I think it was Kahles that first offered this concept many years ago. Turret movement is firm but smooth, allowing individual clicks to be easily felt and heard.

Windage is the same, which makes adjustments easy. Notations are split 0–7 either way, indicated by R and L markings, which are again useful as a quick reference. Both turrets can be set to zero by loosening small grub screws, while the elevation offers a zero-stop function, too, if you like that sort of thing. As you can see, little has been left to chance.

Red or green?

Like a lot of scopes, the parallax turret also includes illumination. Range marks go from 25, 30, 40, 50, 100, 150, 200, 300, 500, 800, and infinity, with reference stadia in between. In testing, the figures stayed near the distances but should not be considered accurate for range-finding.

Powered by the usual CR2032 coin-type battery, the reticle can be selected in either red or green. There's also AIM (Automatic Illumination Management), which offers several shutdown options: after a two-minute run time, if the scope/rifle is moved outside set horizontal or vertical parameters, and a full shut-off after two hours. These two separate functions are easily accessed by removing the battery cover. When lit, even at its highest setting, the reticle does not blow out and get fuzzy, as some cheaper systems do.

The mount is big and solid, with the bubble level swinging out to the left, which is reversible for left-handers. At the front of the base, there is a vertical stud intended for the rear attachment of a mirage band, should you choose to use one. The mount also features an angled slot for a wedge that slides under the saddle to level the reticle easily and precisely.

Long

The length of the 36mm rings means that there is not a lot of front-to-back adjustment for initial eye relief, so this has to be taken up using the base. Chances are that your gun will offer a chassis system with a full-length Picatinny rail, along with adjustable length-of-pull and comb height, so there's no problem. When fitted, the scope sits quite high above the bore line as well. Overall, it's a practical design dedicated to this sort of high-mag optic.



ZCO's mount is an impressive design that comes complete with a mirage-band stud and a swing-out bubble-level



Bubble level deployed. Note the parallax and illumination drum markings

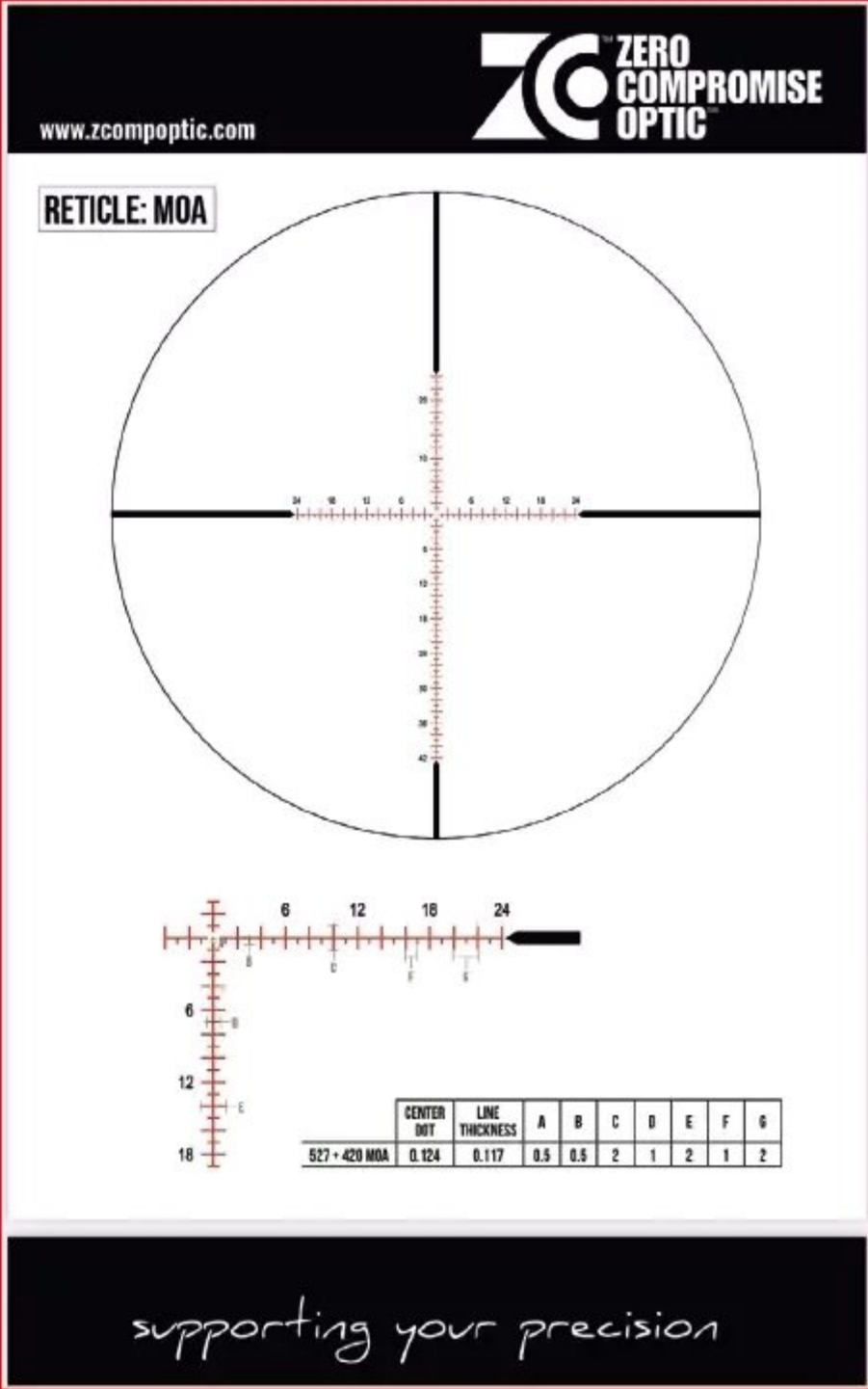
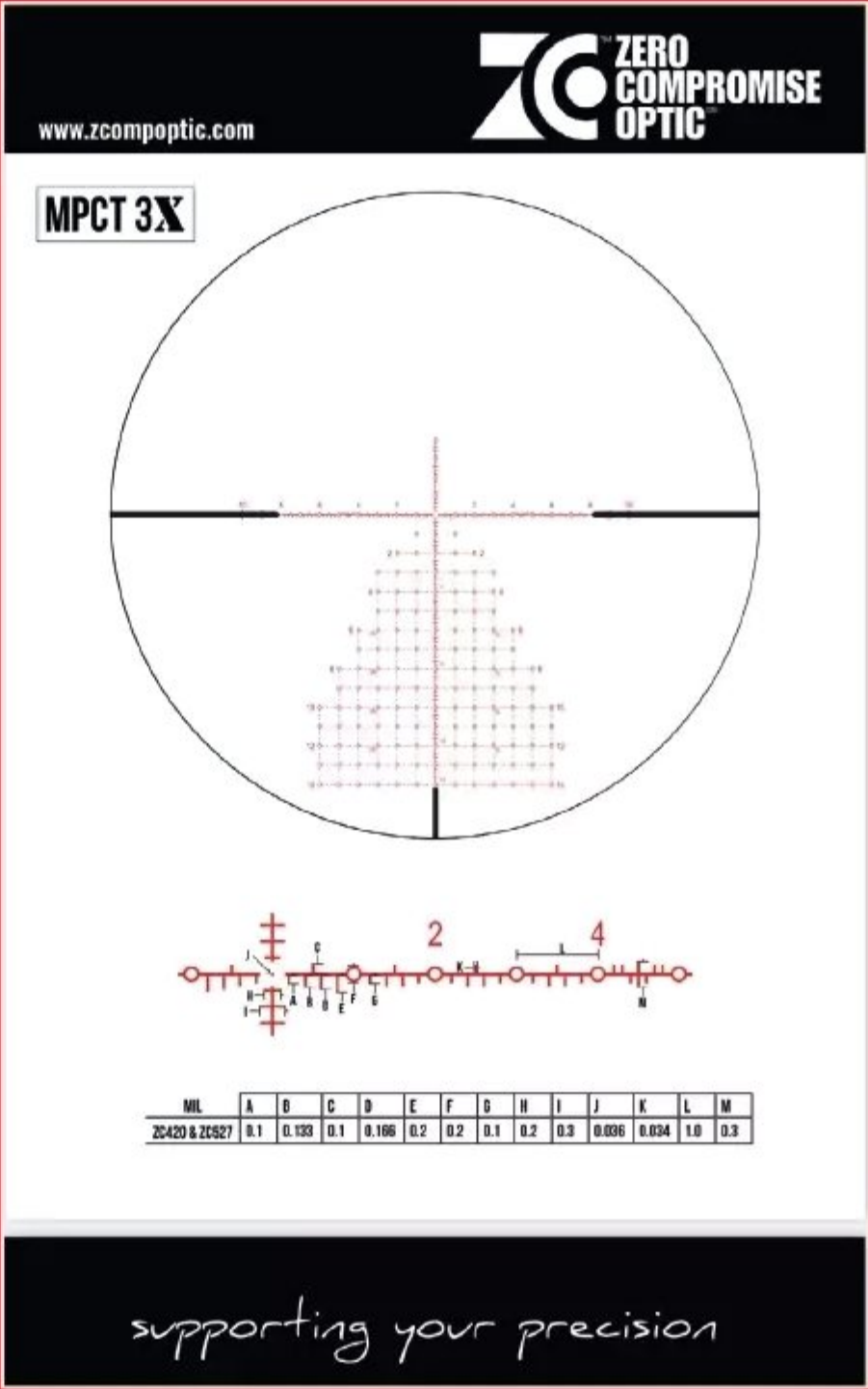
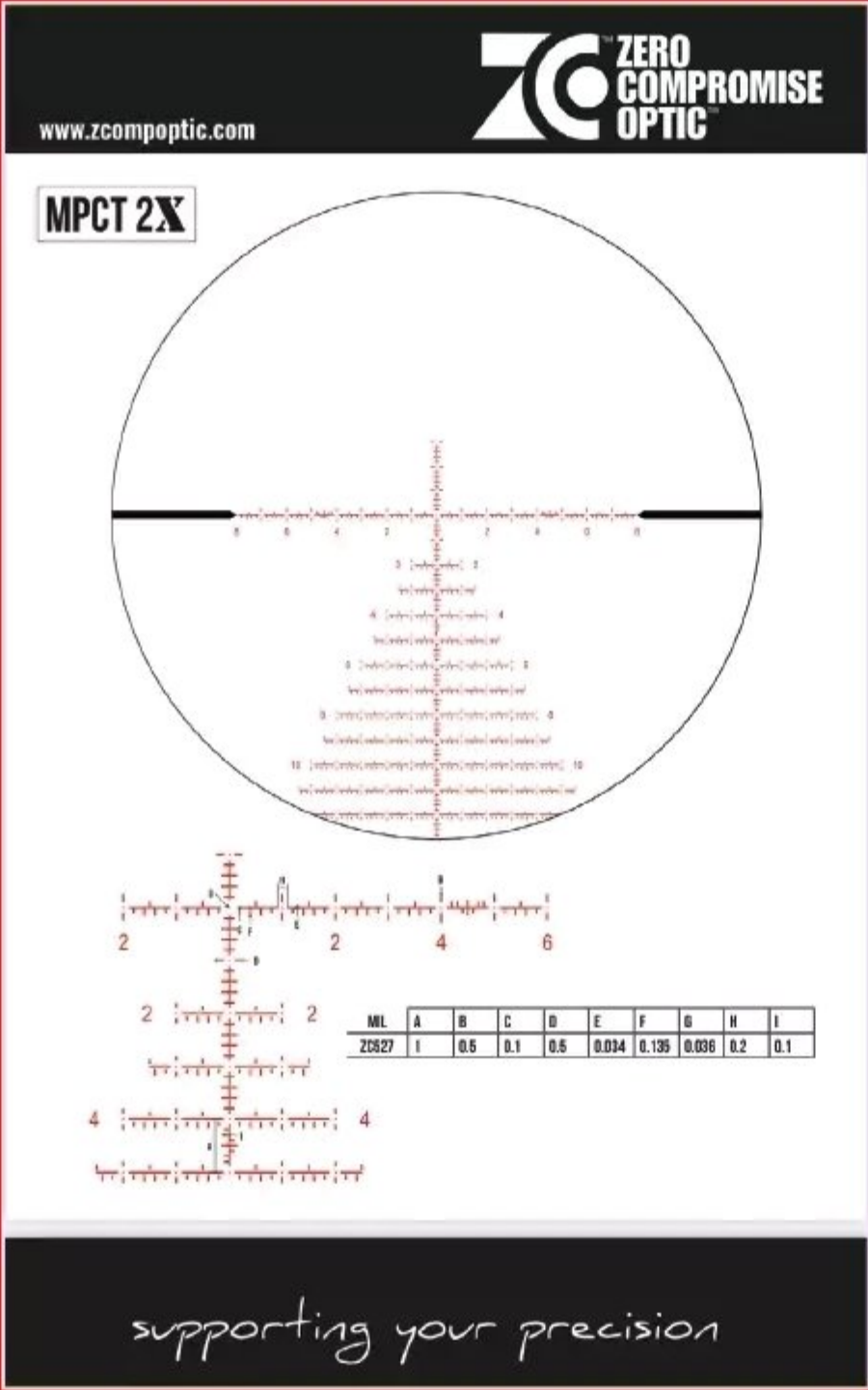
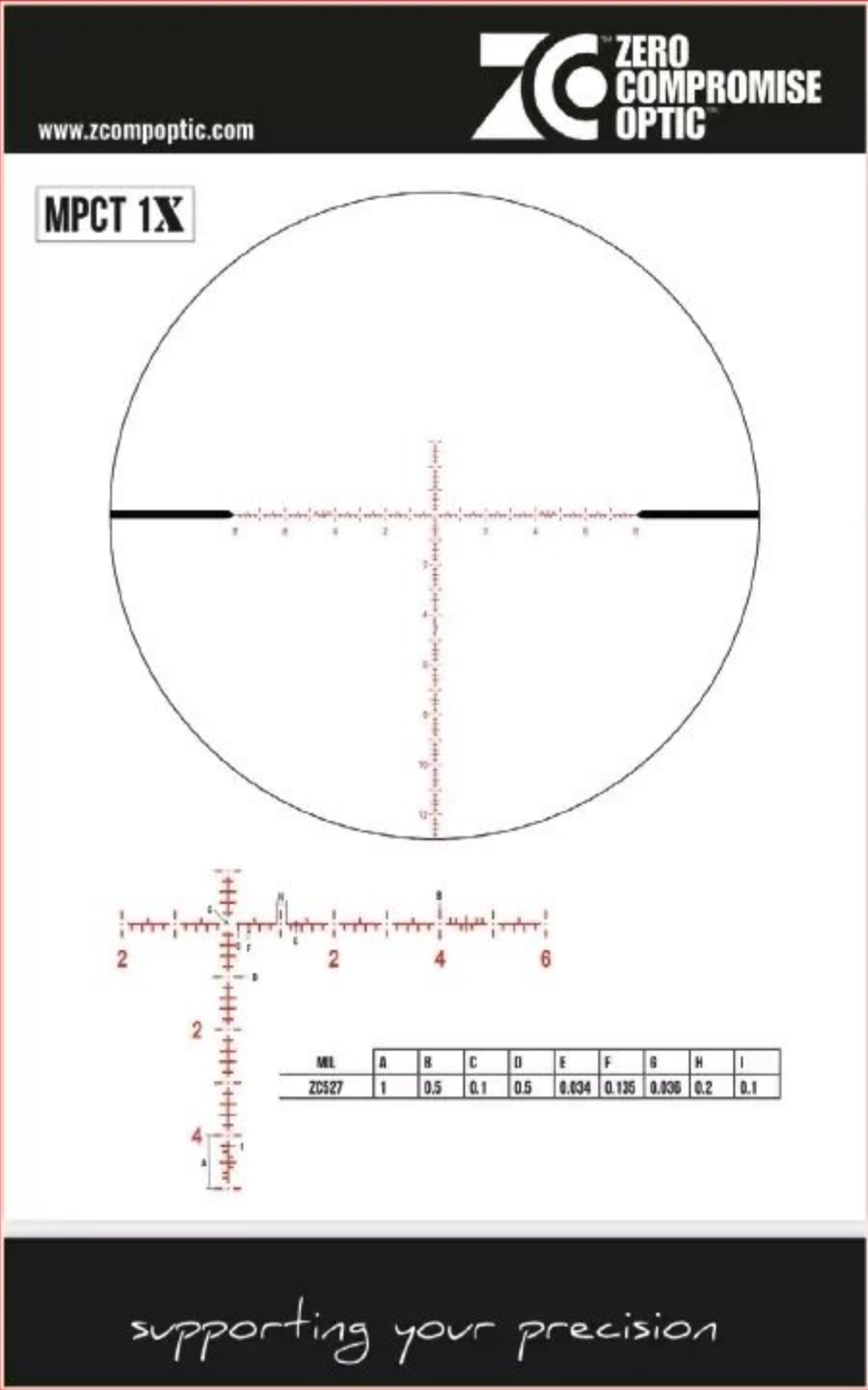
MRAD available

Although 35 MRAD of elevation and 20 of windage is generous, you must factor in how much is used for zeroing, so in real terms, these are purely top-to-bottom, side-to-side figures. I used Hornady's data for their 147gr ELD Match bullet with a BC of 0.351 in a 6.5 Creedmoor at 2,567fps. Setting zero for 100 yards with a maximum range of 1,000, I factored in a 20mph wind at 3 o'clock, too—a bit high, but we'll see.

At 1,000 yards, the figures were good: drop -342.54" (-9.51 MRAD) and wind 135.12" (3.75 MRAD). At the other end of the scale, Hornady's .338 Lapua 285gr BTHP Match at 2745fps gave -288.42" drop (8.01 MRAD) and 116.37" (3.23 MRAD) for windage. OK, these are theoretical figures based on optimal velocities, but it's clear that the ZC527 can push you beyond 1,000 yards with plenty to spare, even after zeroing.

With the promise of very generous windage and elevation—but the caveat of how much movement you use up for zeroing—I counted the clicks. From top to bottom, you get 360 in elevation, which works out to 3.6 rotations, with 100 clicks per turn, which, by my count, makes 36 MRAD. You get 140 in windage and a single

A few of the reticles on offer



turn, making 14 MRAD in total. So, you get one more than quoted in elevation and six less left-to-right. However, the ballistics above show a lot of spare adjustment range at 1,000 yards.

Reticles

ZCO offers a good choice of reticles, and the ZC527 gives you six options, all in the preferred FFP. The MPCT 1X is a simple crucifix with plenty of information, featuring a clear top section for improved target identification. However, there is no pyramid of lead marks in the lower section. The MPCT 2X is much the same but with the pyramid. The MPCT 3X offers a blockier, Horus-like style. The MOA is again plain but with enough hash marks for wind and lead calculations.

Then we have the two Tremor reticles. No.3 is USSOCOM's (United States Special Operations Command) choice. It uses the HORUS grid, which easily allows range and windage corrections using precise aim points, along with bullet time-of-flight dots that can be used easily without a ballistic solver or having to count multiple aim points. No.5 is aimed at competition shooting, such as PRS, and is a simplified version for a clearer field of view.

Worth it?

In truth, the ZC527 is nothing special in the world of super scopes, as the likes of Kahles, S&B, etc., offer the same, but that's what we expect from glass of this quality and ability. The choice, as always, is down to you, and to be honest, in this class, it's a difficult one if you're serious about competition. **GM**

TECHNICAL SPECIFICATION

- Name:** Zero Compromise Optics ZC527 5-27x56
- Reticle:** MRAD MPCT 2X
- Weight:** 2.4lbs
- Eye Relief:** 90mm
- Click Values:** 0.1 MRAD
- Field of View:** 7-1.5m@100m
- Body Tube:** 36mm
- Minimum Focus:** 25m to infinity
- Length:** 15.4"
- Clicks Per Rotation:** 100 elevation, 140 windage
- Number of Rotations:** 3.6 elevation, 1 windage
- Price:** £4,300
- Contact:** Edgar Brothers – www.edgarbrothers.com



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To use, simply insert the stepped end of the tool into the neck of your sized case, sliding it in until one of the diameters achieves a slip fit in the case neck. Use the resulting value to fine tune your case preparation. The picture shows the kit which has gauges for 223, 243, 264, 284 and 308. The gauges are available to buy individually if you do not want to buy the kit.

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S635	£1,729.95 Inc. VAT	640×512, 12µm	≤18mK	35mm F1.0	≥7.5h	1800m 
S650	£1,979.95 Inc. VAT	640×512, 12µm	≤18mK	50mm F0.9	≥6h	2600m 
S650D	£2,519.95 Inc. VAT	640×512, 12µm	≤18mK	25-50mm F0.9-F1.1	≥6h	2600m 



Shooting has changed significantly in the last few decades, with more equipment to choose from and greater expectations for performance.

Modern chassis systems combined with quality barrelled actions and advances in ammunition design, which allow for true long-range precision, are good examples. In fact, rifles of all calibres and types are far superior to what came before. However, there's a lot more to our sport than just advanced technology if you're looking for a different kind of challenge.

Mil-surp

Although not as relevant, popular, or prolific now as they once were, there is a class of equipment that always represented a cost-effective choice. I speak of the military surplus bolt-action service rifle, often encountered as a club gun for novices or among the more dedicated historical shooters.

In the UK, this is best typified by the Lee-Enfield No.4 and SMLE in .303 British in all their marks and models.

To be honest, and as a bit of a classic shooter myself, I've done the whole No.4 thing, got a bit bored, and have never been a fan of the calibre! I wanted something a bit more exotic, and for that matter, more shootable, and I found it in the Swiss Schmidt Rubin K31. I borrowed an example from Henry Krank & Co., as this sort of equipment is one of their specialities. Regrettably, I sent it back, and it was snapped up very quickly.

Straight-pull

Most significant is the fact that the K31 features a straight-pull action, a rare thing amongst the plethora of service rifles in its class. It is not unique, as there was also the Austrian Mannlicher, Canadian Ross, and American Lee 1895, none of which prospered long

after WW1, if at all. In Swiss service, it soldiered on until 1957, when it was replaced by the STG 57 self-loader. It is still popular in Switzerland to this day.

Rare

I suppose that being Swiss-made, I had high expectations of such a design, and I have to say that although the build quality is as good as a new No.4 or K98, visually, I was a little disappointed when I first handled it. The beech furniture is well-finished, the metalwork nicely blacked, and the wood-to-metal fit is good, but it's nothing out of the ordinary. Somehow, I was expecting the Rolex of rifles, but it felt more like a Timex!

Best of the rest

The K31 (Karabiner) is the last and best of the three standard Schmidt Rubin models, as it's the shortest and features the most efficient bolt design.

Rolex or Timex?

Pete Moore decides to look at the classic Swiss Schmidt Rubin K31

Locking is by rotating lugs, which are set on a collar that is cammed in/out of the action as the bolt reciprocates. It's a simple and efficient action stroke, which makes it one of the fastest around, certainly in comparison to a turn-bolt system. Some say that primary extraction is not particularly positive, but I never had any problems.

Nice mag

Like the No.4 and Lee SMLE, the Schmidt features a detachable magazine, but just like them, it was primarily intended to be run using stripper clips, as opposed to changing mags. The first model, the Repetiergewehr system Schmidt Modell 1889, offered a practical 12-round mag. But for some reason, this was reduced to six in the later 1911 and K31 variants. The magazine change is far slicker than the Enfield's, and a few spares would make the rifle really competitive.

The first problem is that spare mags are rarer than hen's teeth, so it's back to the stripper clips, which are pretty elusive too. Made from pressed/coated cardboard, they feature a metal base that gives strength and also holds the rounds in position. A friend of mine bought a mint K31 and, through a contact in a Swiss shooting club, managed to acquire a batch of stripper clips, which he hoards like a dog with a bone.

Unusual and archaic

For what is quite an advanced design in terms of military bolt-actions, the K31 is a rather unusual and archaic-looking rifle. It features a scant-style butt and a vestigial pistol grip, and at the front end is a piling hook—a definite hangover from prehistoric times. The receiver is tubular with just a cut-out for the ejection port on top. The operating handle sits on



Detail of the six-round stripper clip in position. Note the bolt release catch below



The K31 has a ring-ended striker which acts not only as a cocker/de-cocker but also as a safety catch



The rear sight is a fairly standard U-notch tangent design and is graduated up to 1,500m

the right and consists of a T-shaped plate, which you grip with your first and second fingers to pull and push. The striker ends in a big steel ring, which can be used as a manual cocker/de-cocker. It also acts as the safety catch—when pulled out, it rotates through 90 degrees to the 9 o'clock/safe position.

The magazine release catch is integral to the right side of the magazine box, and you just press and pull to remove it. With a few spares, you could easily compete without any problems. Below the bolt handle on the right is the bolt release catch.

The sights consist of a rear tangent/U-notch ranging from 100 to 1,500m. Up front is a medium-width blade protected by rabbit ears. Unusually, it's set in an angled path as opposed to a transverse one and is knocked forward and back to achieve windage correction, as opposed to side to side.



Handy piece

The barrel on the K31 is 25" long, and the whole gun is 44" from muzzle to butt. The furniture is beech and shows a full-length top handguard, with just the last 2.75" of the barrel protruding. Slings points are on the left side, with a swivel on the middle band and a fixed bar on the butt.

The trigger looks and feels very much like that of a No.4, and this example showed a long take-up, followed by a smooth 4lb release. The sights, though typically blocking the lower view of the target, are fine enough to offer a good line-up for this sort of system.

Loading is simple, as the bolt is automatically held open when the magazine is emptied. The stripper clip just drops into the ejection port, and

you press down with your thumb in the horseshoe cut-out in the centre to push the cartridges into the magazine, then remove it. Next, push the bolt forward to chamber and lock.

Despite their apparent fragility, the stripper clips are actually quite robust, as they are never under significant pressure, and with proper care, each one should last a long time. However, by the same token, they are not the sort of thing to be treated badly, unlike the metal ones used in a No.4.

7.5mm Suisse

Service ammunition is designated as the 7.5x55mm Swiss / GP11 and is typical of the full-size .30 and 8mm calibres of that period. Bottlenecked, with a slight taper, the service load uses a 174gr FMJ Spitzer bullet at a

quoted 2,560fps. The ammunition for the test was Prvi Partizan (PPU) and it was supplied by importers Henry Krank & Co. Please note: The greater pressure this load generates means it should not be used in earlier Model 1889 Schmidt Rubin rifles.

Unlike the K98 and No.4, the K31 is a smooth and recoil-friendly shooter, with none of the harshness of the other two. The action is fast, as the push/pull movement is easier to operate than the lift/pull and push/down movement of a turn bolt. There's a slight hesitation on opening as the primary extraction takes place and the action is cocked, but you learn to give it a bit of a harder pull as you do it.

The butt comes up reasonably short, and you have to be aware that your face is dead in line with

The push/pull movement is slick and fast, and I experienced no problems with primary extraction



THE K31 IS CERTAINLY DIFFERENT. THE FAST ACTION IS USEFUL, AND THE SIGHTS ARE SLIGHTLY MORE REFINED, WHICH INCREASES ACCURACY POTENTIAL."

PETE MOORE

Despite its advanced straight-pull design, the Schmidt Rubin K31 is an unusual and archaic-looking rifle, though it does shoot well



the ring end of the striker. Over-enthusiastic operation, combined with not moving your head, will result in a bang on the nose! I found that lifting my head slightly up and to the left alleviates this problem, causing minimal disruption to the cheekpiece-to-stock alignment and allowing for quick reacquisition of the sights. Ejection is straight up and back.

The finer sights and good trigger mean the K31 has the potential to shoot better in comparison to other service rifles. It would easily keep its shots in a 2x4" rectangle at 100 yards. The condition of the test rifle was not too bad; the stock was a bit dinged and dented but had been tidied up, though, in terms of handling, it had seen some heavy use. The metalwork was a bit worn, showing about 80% of its finish,

but overall, it was OK, and the bore was sound, which is the main thing.

Better than the Enfield?

Surplus military bolt-actions are not as prolific or as affordable as they used to be. However, there are several specialist dealers in this sort of equipment, like By Sword and Musket, for example.

Compared to other, more familiar military bolt-actions, the K31 is certainly different. The fast action is useful, and the sights are slightly more refined, which increases accuracy potential. What scores against it is the uncertain availability of the stripper clips and spare magazines. These problems notwithstanding, I consider it a better design than the No.4, as the

speed of action, slick mag changes, smooth clip loading, and user-friendly shootability make up for the lesser payload. I really wish I had bought this example at the time, as not long after, I acquired 15 stripper clips—but that's life! **GM**

TECHNICAL SPECIFICATION

Name: Schmidt Rubin K31

Calibre: 7.5x55mm Swiss

Barrel Length: 25"

Weight: 8lbs 13oz

Magazine Capacity: 6
(detachable magazine)

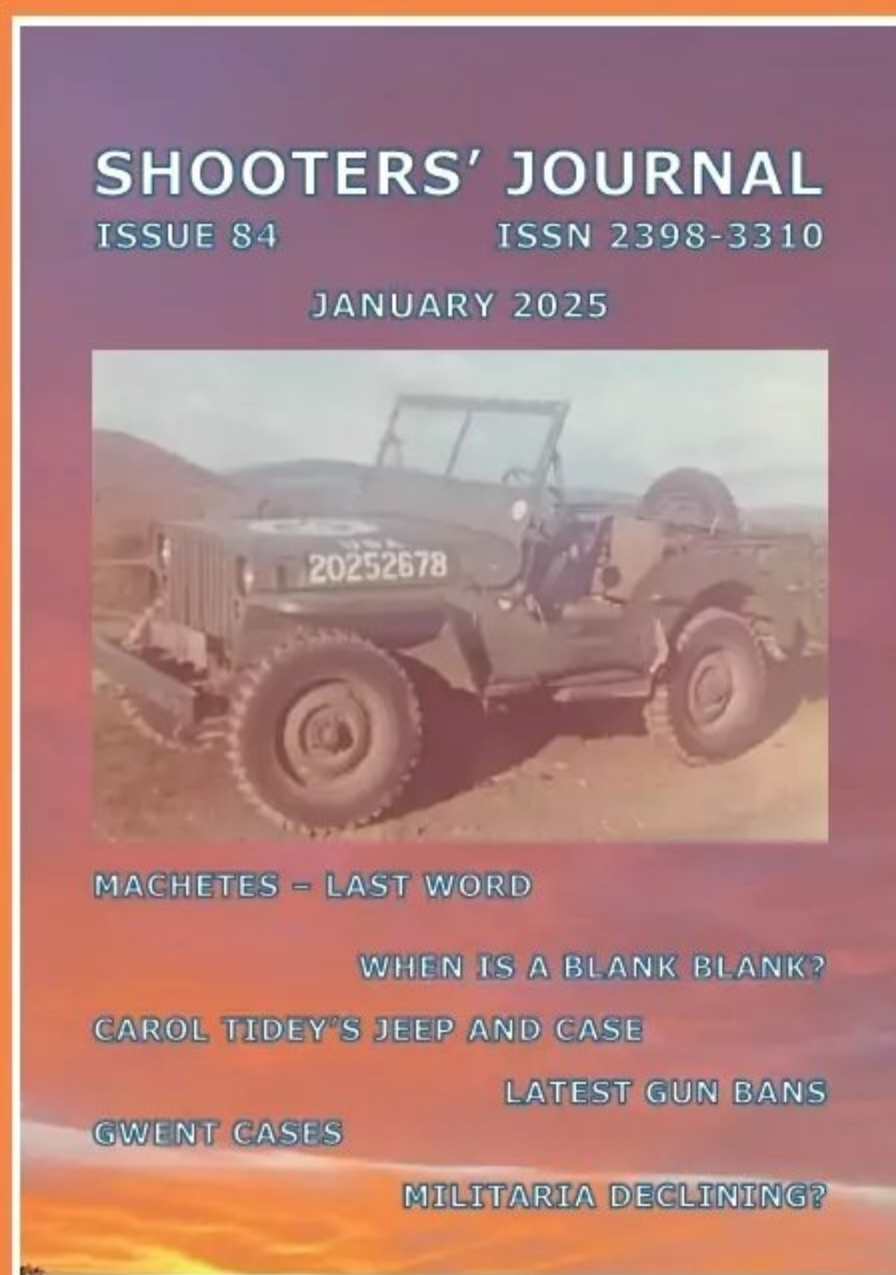
Price: £POA

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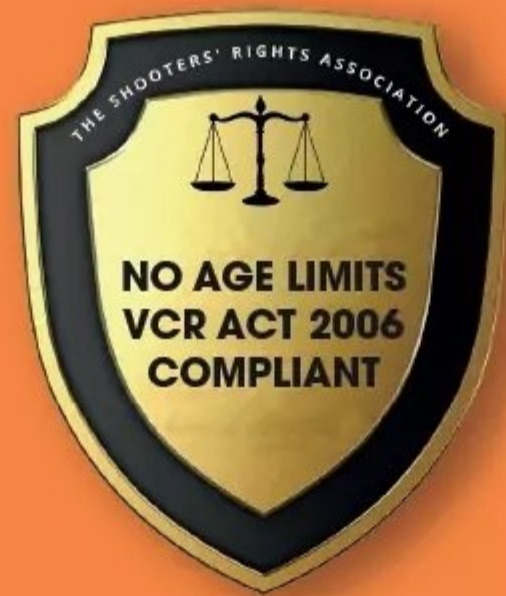
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Harris still produce quality bipods with fixed or swivel bases and smooth or notched legs, with some bipods now having a spring out leg feature. This means that the legs remain under tension to assist the shooter to get a level surface on uneven ground. Apart from Harris Engineering producing both swivel and fixed bipods various sizes are available. These are: 6"-9" 9"-13" 13.5"-23" 12"-25" 13.5"-27" sizes can vary between fixed and swivel bipods. Check our website for full details. **Prices start from £95.80**

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RELOADING BASICS

Mark Underwood takes a look at some of the gauges that can be used to improve the accuracy of reloaded ammunition

Reloading is a pretty precise process, and the more precise you are, the better your ammunition will be. There are numerous gauges you can buy to help check and even correct your ammunition, and it is definitely worth having a few on your reloading bench. Here is a small selection of the ones that I like to have close at hand.

The simplest of gauges

When you are making ammunition, it is always worth making up a dummy round without powder or a primer. You can then use this as a gauge when resetting your dies or checking whether your reloads are going to fit into a particular gun. Reloading dies can sometimes slip out of adjustment or might need disassembling for cleaning, and the dummy round makes resetting them much faster and easier.

Chamber minimum dimension gauges

These gauges mimic SAAMI minimum standard chamber dimensions, allowing you to check your reloads. You slip one of your complete rounds into the gauge, and if it fits smoothly, then your rounds will function in any rifle with a chamber built to SAAMI specifications. If it does not fit, then it may not have been sufficiently resized. If your rounds fit in the gauge but not in the gun's chamber, this suggests that your chamber is particularly tight, and you might have to revisit your reloads in order for them to chamber correctly.

Headspace gauges

When cases are fired, they stretch, and resizing them 'bumps' the length back down. Being able to measure the changes in length is very useful. You can set the resizing die to bump the shoulder of the case just enough to ensure it chambers correctly while minimising the amount of stress that you put on the brass. This will extend the life of your cases.



To measure this dimension as accurately as possible, a gauge that measures the length from the case head to the bearing surface where the ammunition headspaces, i.e., the shoulder of the case, is the best option. A headspace comparator kit contains calibre-specific bushings that sit on the shoulder of the case. The correct bushing is fitted to the comparator, which is then attached to a calliper. You then measure the length of both fired and unfired cases to determine the difference

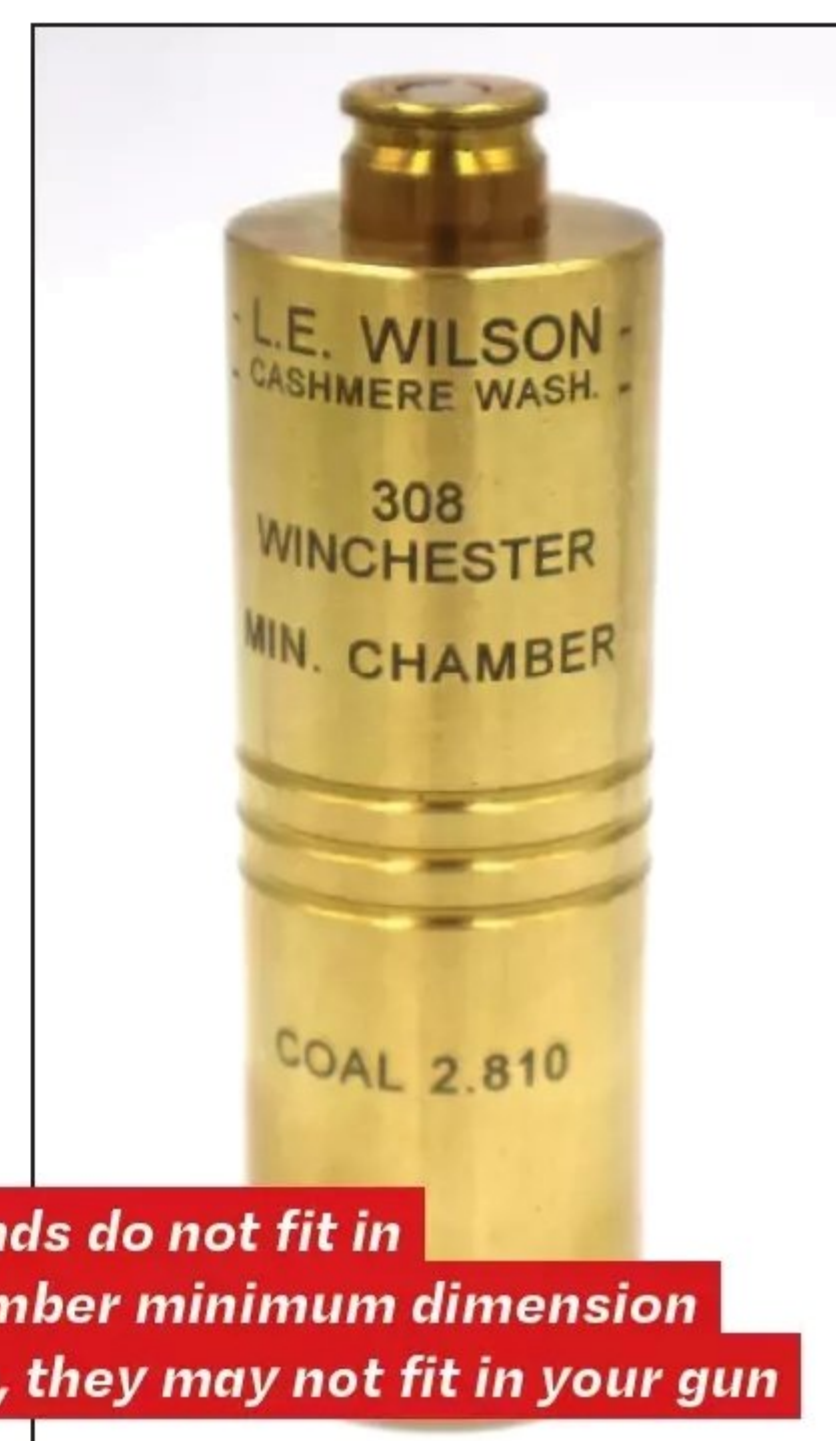
and set your resizing die accordingly. This is a particularly useful gauge.

Callipers

Although technically not a gauge, having at least one set of callipers on the bench is a good idea. They have many uses, including checking cartridge overall lengths, bullet diameters, and brass thicknesses. Reloading data comes in both metric and imperial units, so a micrometre that reads both, or having two different tools (one metric and one imperial), is a good idea.



Dummy rounds are the simplest gauges



If rounds do not fit in a chamber minimum dimension gauge, they may not fit in your gun

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These Wilson gauges are simple and very accurate

Bullet comparators and overall length gauges

A bullet comparator is a gauge that measures the cartridge length from the ogive of the bullet rather than the tip. This is considered more accurate and consistent, as measurements taken from the tip can vary due to tolerances in bullet lengths or damage to the bullet tip. The comparator attaches to a pair of callipers and uses calibre-specific, interchangeable inserts that engage with the ogive of the bullet to give more consistent and repeatable measurements. Taking measurements from the ogive of your bullets is a far

more reliable way of measuring, setting, and comparing your cartridge lengths.

The overall length of your rounds will dictate the amount of 'jump' the bullet has to travel before it engages with the rifling, and this has been proven to have a significant effect on the performance of ammunition. Being able to measure, adjust, and set the amount of jump is particularly useful, and gauges that do this are another worthwhile investment. The Hornady O.A.L. Gauge, combined with a modified case of the appropriate calibre (sold separately), uses one of your bullets to engage the rifling and secures it in place so that you can then measure the precise cartridge overall length (COL) that touches the rifling. You then set your bullet seating die to produce ammunition that is shorter than this by the precise amount of bullet jump that you require.

When you combine the bullet comparator tool with the O.A.L. gauge,

you get even better accuracy and consistency, and you can set up your bullet jump exactly the way you want it.

These particular tools are expensive and can take a bit of getting used to before you can use them properly and accurately, but they really do help you to get the best accuracy out of your ammunition.

Concentricity tools

These tools check the alignment of your seated bullets and can be used to correct them if necessary. Bullets that are not seated in proper alignment with the case mouth will enter the rifling at a skewed angle and need to be forced straight by the chamber pressure. This can have a detrimental effect on the bullet and also create inconsistencies between rounds. The concentricity tool holds a round so that it rotates against a probe attached to a gauge, which measures how far the bullet is out of alignment. A thumb turn is then used to push the bullet into alignment and reduce the amount of run-out. This is one tool that really does work, and ammunition that has been 'corrected' with it will certainly perform better than a batch that has not had concentricity addressed.



WHAT YOU BUY IS UP TO YOU, AND WHILE THEY CAN BE EXPENSIVE, THEY HAVE ALL PROVEN TO BE A WORTHWHILE INVESTMENT"

MARK UNDERWOOD



A headspace gauge allows you to work out how much to 'bump' the case's shoulder

Conclusion

These are just a few of the gauges that are available to the reloader, and they all contribute to better and more consistent ammunition. What you buy is up to you, and while they can be expensive, they have all proven to be a worthwhile investment. **GM**

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www.edgarbrothers.com

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Wilson Products - Reloading Solutions Ltd -
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The race is on to be crowned the

'King of the Ultra HD Thermals'. The two front-runners are the all-new Stellar 3.0 SX60L and the equally impressive InfiRay Tube TS60. I have tested the TS60 and was very impressed, so the new arrival from HikMicro has a lot to live up to.

The SX60L is clearly the flagship product in the Stellar 3 lineup, featuring a 1280x1024 thermal sensor paired with a 60mm lens, a base magnification of 2.5x that extends to an extravagant 28.5x, and a 25.6m field of view at 100m.

I won't bore you with all the details, as the tech spec box at the end of this review should answer any lingering questions. In short, the flagship Stellar offers all the bells and whistles of its competitor – or at least all those that actually matter.

They are essentially very similar – stunning imagery, amazing tech, and an eye-watering asking price. The Stellar 3.0 SX60L is priced at £4,999.99, while the TS60 comes in at a slightly more palatable £4,500.

In terms of image quality and performance, the two are almost indistinguishable. We're reaching a point similar to that of classic alpha glass from the likes of Swarovski, Leica, Schmidt & Bender, and Zeiss. Each has its merits, but optically they're nearly identical, and a buying decision comes down more to personal preference and brand loyalty than to any tangible improvement in image quality.

On close inspection

Equipped with a new high-sensitivity detector (NETD of <18mK) combined with HikMicro's new Image Pro 2.0 processing algorithm, there are absolutely no complaints about image clarity, with fine detail captured on both prey and the environment. It's all very well balanced.

One of the standout features of the Stellar is the new HikMicro Shutterless Image System (HSIS), which eliminates the need for a mechanical shutter, so there are no more screen freezes at inopportune moments. However, the flip side is a frame rate reduction to 25Hz rather than the 50Hz typically seen on most systems. To be fair, I didn't notice any adverse effects from the

frame rate change, and it's a compromise I'm happy to accept if it's a requirement of the HSIS.

As you'd expect, there's an integrated laser rangefinder (LRF) included, capable of pinging targets up to 1,000m and feeding its findings directly to the impressive onboard ballistics calculator.

An obvious change is the incorporation of the LRF module into the main body of the scope; it's no longer top-mounted in the style of the Alpex but rather integrated into the objective. Sacrificing perhaps 20% of the objective for the sake of aesthetics seems an odd choice for HikMicro to make, given that there's no torch to contend with on a thermal. However, it's a layout that's already been adopted by other manufacturers and doesn't seem to impede performance.

A 1.03" AMOLED display with a resolution of 2560x2560 provides your window onto the world, while shock resistance can handle up to 1,000g/0.4ms. No matter which high-end thermal you opt for, it's worth limiting yourself to a maximum calibre of, say, .243, as the eye relief isn't particularly great on any of them. Nobody enjoys scope eye, and that's a potential issue with heavier calibres unless you're extra careful.

Like the Alpex, it provides extended battery life via a combination of internal rechargeable and external replaceable 18650 batteries, providing a claimed nine hours of continuous operation. You can expect less in cold conditions, so carry a spare just in case.

Along with the LRF and ballistic calculation, recoil-activated recording also comes as part of the package, with videos stored in the local album for quick preview via the scope. Zeroing and freeze-frame functions are well implemented, aided by the extra resolution and image quality. There's no need for thermal patches on warmer days – traditional high-contrast 'shoot 'n' see' targets should do the job with a 100m zero.

After a fox

Demand for review samples of the new 'super Stella' was high, so I didn't get quite

ULTRA HD

Paul Austin takes a detailed look at HikMicro's flagship thermal riflescope, the Stellar 3.0 SX60L



TECHNICAL SPECIFICATION

Name: HikMicro Stellar 3.0 SX60L

Image Sensor: VOx uncooled focal plane arrays

Maximum Resolution: 1280x1024

Frame Rate: 25Hz

Pixel Interval: 12µm

NETD: <18mK (@25°C, f# = 1.0)

Lens Focal Length: 60mm, f1.0

Minimum Focusing Distance: 6m

Magnification: 2.5x to 28.5x (supports 1x step value of continuous zooming)

Field of View: 14.6° x 11.7°/25.6m x 20.5m@100m

Display: 2560x2560, 1.03" OLED

Palettes: Black-Hot, White-Hot, Red-Hot, Fusion, Red Monochrome, Green Monochrome

Exit Pupil: 6mm

Eye Relief: 45mm

Diopter (range): -4D to 4D

Image Pro 2.0: Yes

Record Video: On-board video recording

Audio Recording: Yes

Recoil-Activation: Yes

Storage: Built-in EMMC (64GB)

Picture-in-Picture (PIP): Yes

Hot Track: Yes

Distance Measurement: Yes

Zeroing Profiles: 5

Freeze Zeroing: Yes

Maximum Recoil: 1,000g/0.4ms

Ballistic Calculation: Yes

Battery Type: Two rechargeable lithium batteries, one replaceable 18650 battery

Battery Operating Time: 9 hours continuous running (@25°C, LRF on)

Price: £4,999.99

Contact: Elite Optical Distribution - www.eliteoptical.co.uk

This flagship thermal has a traditional day-scope layout



The new Stellar is very easy to use, with buttons and functions following a familiar pattern



as many trips out as I'd have liked, thanks to a combination of a compressed timeline and some terrible weather. However, one trip with my shooting buddy Al stands out.

After a fruitless wait in one of my usual haunts, we decided to move about five miles down the valley to a large field of cut maize that rises to a wood – often a hotspot for the local fox population.

With a caller deployed, the wait began. Initially, there was no sign of activity, but shortly after we had settled in, a fox started calling from the direction of a large dairy farm about a mile further up the valley. A dilemma: do we wait for the hotspot to bear fruit or chase the sound of the distant fox?

Luckily, the decision was made for me as Al whispered that three-letter word I'd been waiting for. The mouse squeak had done its job. The fox was interested but edgy, sitting about 150m out and staring towards the sound emanating from the dash of the ATV.

I slipped out, grabbed the rifle and sticks and, with fumbling, frozen hands, attempted to set up for the shot. The fox wasn't keen on the metallic sounds and started trotting off towards the wood. At a safe distance, it stopped again, as expected. I lined up in the scope and – click!

In my desperation to keep the noise down, perhaps I hadn't closed the bolt properly. Cursing my incompetence, I racked another round, just in case it had been a faulty primer. The fox moved further away while Al, still sitting in the ATV, was no doubt puzzled by the lack of an expected bang from the Blaser.

By now, I was seriously cold, my hands shaking as I frustratingly lined up on the fox once again before squeezing the trigger. Click! Something was definitely amiss. It was all user error, I was certain, as I'd never experienced any problems with my trusty Blaser before. But this was no time to turn on a head torch to investigate. I poked a gloved hand around the action, looking for obstructions, and then slammed a third round into the breech.

By now, Charlie had made it all the way to the edge of the wood, sitting just in front

of the track that divides it from the maize field. After ranging it at 238m with the Stella, third time was the charm. The report of the .22-250 was quickly followed by a familiar thud.

After a rather perilous attempt at extraction down the heavily rutted track, there was my vixen. The Stella, with its built-in ballistics, had done its job on a fairly distant shot, even though I'd done my best to make a complete hash of the opportunity.

All very familiar

In terms of ergonomics and interface design, there are no complaints. Everything is logically

laid out, and for anyone who has used HikMicro scopes in the past, it's all very familiar, with an almost identical user interface to the rest of the HikMicro range – thermal-specific options notwithstanding, obviously.

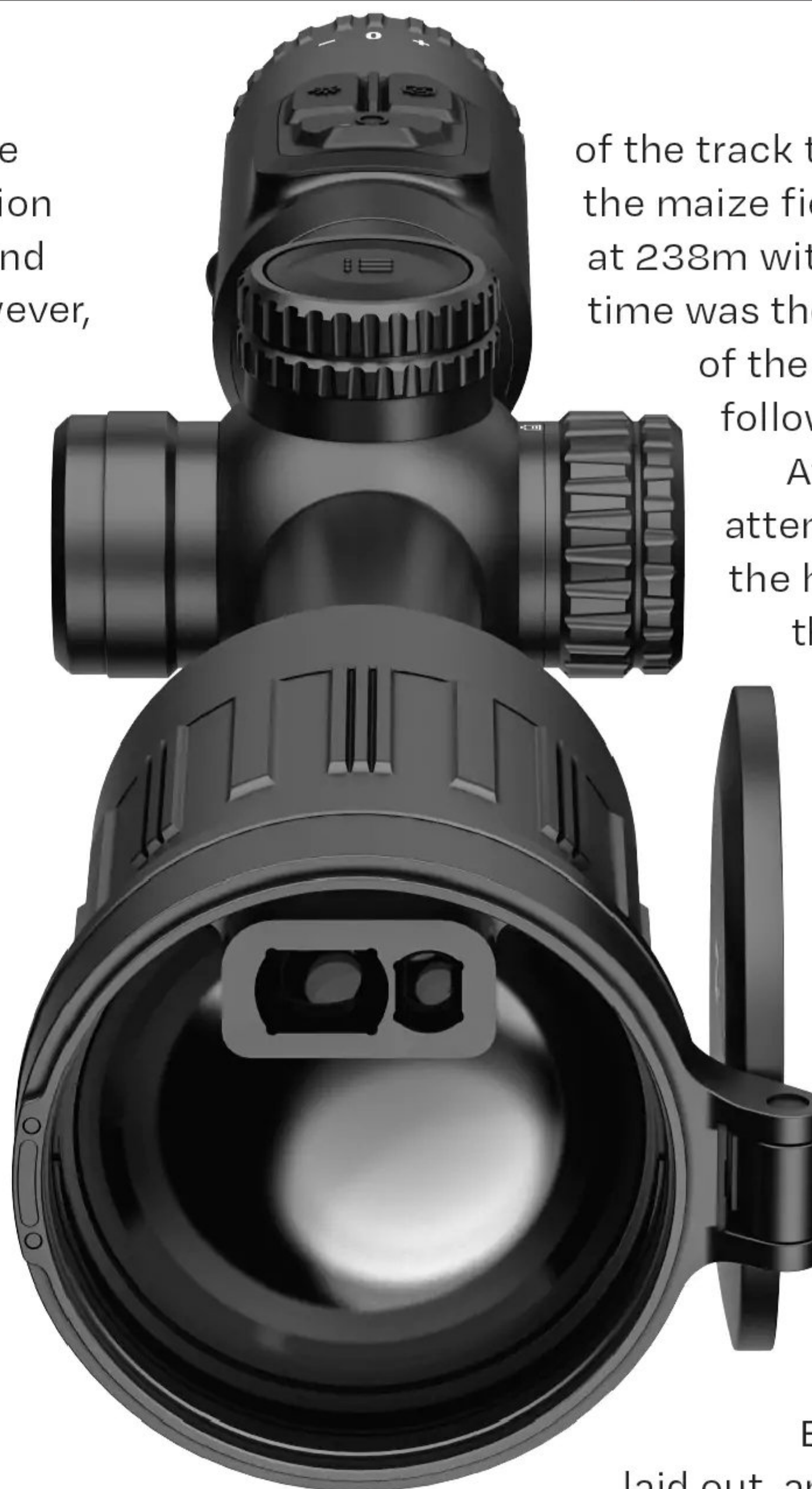
In short, there are no unpleasant surprises with the new Stellar. It's very easy to use, with buttons and functions following a familiar pattern. Essentially, you're paying for the fourfold gain in resolution, which you get from a 1280 sensor over the 640 of the previous generation of high-resolution thermal optics.

Verdict

If you're a dedicated HikMicro/Alpex fan (and a recent lottery winner), the Stellar SX60L is a no-brainer. You'll love the familiar interface and the leap in image quality that the larger sensor delivers. I also prefer the 2.5x base magnification over the 2.0x on the Tube TS60.

The integration of the LRF is a nice aesthetic touch but it is not a game-changer in terms of field performance. As illustrated by my recent foxing trip, there were no issues with the LRF and ballistics integration.

If you're not automatically inclined towards HikMicro, I'd advise trying the Tube TS60 and Stellar 3.0 side by side. In my opinion, there's very little to choose between them in terms of image quality, features, and performance, although the sleeker on-board LRF of the Stellar does give it a more traditional day-scope look. **GM**



Here, you can see the LRF module incorporated into the objective





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Flobert in **ACTION**

In this review, **Bruce Potts** takes a deep dive into the Chiappa Little Badger and the 9mm Flobert cartridge, exploring their practical performance in the field

Small-calibre shotgun cartridges have always interested me, as you have to have a real purpose to use them, and when used correctly, they can actually be very effective. They fall down when people try to stretch their limits, though. One such cartridge is the diminutive 9mm Flobert round. It's a rimfire shotgun cartridge that's only 1.5" long, and it usually holds a payload of 6.9g of No.6 pellets. It was originally designed for very close-range vermin work, where a normal shotgun would over-penetrate and be too noisy.

The gun on test is the Chiappa Little Badger in 9mm Flobert. It is a great lightweight and low-cost shotgun that folds down for easy transportation. Interestingly, this model is also manufactured in rimfire rifle calibres, including .17HMR, .22LR, and .22WMR. Distributed in the UK by ESR Distribution, Chiappa offers a really nice array of shotguns and rifles for shooters.

For those who don't know, Chiappa Firearms is an Italian group specialising in all types of firearms, and it was founded in 1958 in Brescia, an area that has been involved in the production of firearms for centuries. The company offers a vast and constantly developing catalogue of pistols and rifles, which includes copies of historic American and muzzle-loading firearms, as well as lever-

action hunting rifles. I like that it's still a family-run business, allowing them to produce a more diverse range of firearms. They have the freedom to create what they like, and they tend to buck the trend somewhat.

Teeny, tiny, and simple

Well, there's not a lot to this Little Badger from Chiappa, and that's the beauty of it, as there is

nothing to go wrong, and even an idiot can operate it. The overall length is only 38.5", and due to its pivoting, fold-up construction, it can be folded to nearly half that. That's why this type of gun was very popular with poachers—say no more. There is a small cut-out in the fore-end that allows the trigger guard to insert itself out of the way and thus complete the low-angled, folded-up configuration.

Open the gun, and you will see the very large manual extractor that engages the cartridge's rim



Here, you can see the cutout in the fore-end for the trigger guard when the Little Badger is fully folded

The barrel has a very slim profile, a matte-blued finish, and what looks to be a full-choke configuration at the muzzle end. Being 24" long, with a plain barrel profile and no rib, I would also be tempted to fit a small sound moderator, like the ones from The Saddlery & Gun Room, and then it would be seriously stealthy. Although aiming is largely instinctive, the small bead at the front is handy to help you draw a bead on your chosen quarry.

There is a small lever in front of the trigger guard that has to be pulled back to release the barrel, allowing it to tilt forward and open. It's very simple and foolproof, and actually very safe and strong too, although the 9mm is not a high-pressure round. Instead of an ejector, you have a sizable extractor that pushes the cartridge up when the barrel is opened, with its lip catching the rim of the 9mm case. It can then be easily removed manually, allowing a new one to be inserted.

On the rear tang of the action is the external hammer, which has to be manually operated. It is very easy to use, clicks nicely to the rear, and allows you to see the trigger blade setting itself against the sear. The trigger pull is quite heavy at 4lbs 10oz but predictable, and there is a decent amount of space around the blade in the generous trigger guard. There is no safety as such, just a half-cock on the hammer that acts as a safety, blocking the trigger movement.

Furniture and finish

The Little Badger is available with either a skeletonised frame/stock or, as seen here, a

more traditional two-piece beech stock. Yes, it's very simple, featuring a matte-varnished finish with no chequering and, as previously mentioned, a cut-out under the fore-end to accommodate the trigger guard.

The rear stock has a very low comb, ensuring your head aligns nicely with the single sighting bead, and the short 13" length-of-pull is very comfortable. The plastic recoil pad is okay but a little slippery. The stock, however, is clearly ambidextrous, making it easier to shoot from either shoulder in the field. The overall finish is a matte blue on the metalwork and a dull matte finish on the woodwork, making the Little Badger well-suited for use around the farmyard.

Field test

My first impression was, "What a superbly lightweight, dinky little shotgun this is!" I had forgotten how much fun and how pure shotgunning can be—wandering around the farmyard, taking the occasional shot at a feral pigeon in the rafters, and later in the evening, at a scurrying rat. The gun is also very safe to use, as it can be carried fully open with a round chambered. Even with the action closed, the external hammer must be cocked to make it ready. It is also so light and nimble that it can be brought up into the aim in an instant, making it very handy in tight spots around the farm, such as near bales, tractor windows, or when wedged between grain sacks after rats!

I remember the 9mm Flobert as an underpowered round, as I had an Anschütz 9mm bolt-action, but if you use it correctly,

The Fiocchi 9mm Floberts used for the test feature a brass casing and contain nearly 7g of No.6 shot



The simple yet effective beech sporter stock is all that is needed. Alternatively, you can opt for a metal skeletonised option if that's your bag



...USED PURELY AS A VERMIN CONTROL TOOL IN AREAS WHERE MINIMISING COLLATERAL DAMAGE IS ESSENTIAL, IT CERTAINLY HAS ITS PLACE. IT ALSO ENABLES PEST CONTROLLERS TO SAFELY SHOOT MOVING VERMIN AT CLOSE RANGE, WHICH IS SOMETHING AN AIR RIFLE SHOOTER WOULD NOT DO"

BRUCE POTTS

its benefits as a close-range vermin control tool quickly become apparent.

I only had a box of Fiocchi 9mm Floberts for the test, and these were loaded with nearly 7g of No.6 shot in a brass casing. I was in Scotland, so I set up a thin, 8mm-thick piece of plywood at 20ft, 35ft, and 45ft.

The recoil, of course, was minimal, and even the muzzle blast from the 24" barrel was mild. Yes, there is a noticeable lock time as the trigger is pulled, the hammer falls, and the primer ignites to initiate the powder burn, but being a shotgun, the spread compensates for any movement that might cause a single bullet to stray from the aim.

The spread on the board at 20ft was a mere 6.5", and it was really well confined, with

Detail of the plain action and the large swivel pivot, designed to ensure the smooth opening of the barrel

Fully folded, the Little Badger becomes easy to carry and store

Detail of the slender barrel profile, the matte blued finish, and the single bead

The Fiocchi shot pattern at 20ft was a tight 6.5" and showed a total of 65 pellet strikes

a good, dense pattern. I counted 65 pellet strikes on the board, and very few had actually penetrated fully through to the other side.

Stepping back to 35ft, the spread opened up. Again, the pattern was really circular and dense, with the pellets forming a tight inner pattern. Only a few outliers widened the pattern to 9". I counted a total of 62 pellets and two off-target strikes, but again, no penetration.

The 9mm Flobert round was never designed to perform at 45ft, but for the sake of completeness, I decided to test it at this distance anyway. Unsurprisingly, the spread measured 19", and the pattern developed a few gaps, making it significantly more dispersed than those at closer ranges. The total pellet count was 50, with seven straying from the main pattern and some drifting off the board entirely. I also set up a small pumpkin at 35ft and shot it, and although the flesh was penetrated, it did not explode, as I predicted.

So, in what situations is the 9mm more useful than an air rifle or a .22LR? If kept to close ranges and used purely as a vermin control tool in areas where minimising collateral damage is essential, it certainly has its place. It also enables pest controllers to safely



shoot moving vermin at close range, which is something an air rifle shooter would not do.

Conclusion

Well, it's not your usual shotgun, but nonetheless, it's still a credible performer for those of us who like lighter, smaller firearms and appreciate the 9mm's limited performance. At under £300, it is good value, although ammunition is limited. **GM**

A swift tug on the action opening lever and the barrel drops to allow a new round to be chambered



TECHNICAL SPECIFICATION

Name: Chiappa Little Badger
Calibre: 9mm Flobert Rimfire
Barrel Length: 24"
Overall Length: 38.5"
Weight: 3.6lbs
Length of Pull: 13"
Price: £295
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WINNING FORMULA

BRUCE POTTS ANALYSES THE PERFORMANCE OF LYALVALE'S ENGLISH SPORTER CARTRIDGES, ASSESSING SHOT PATTERNS, RECOIL, AND THEIR SUITABILITY FOR BOTH CLAY SHOOTING AND VERMIN CONTROL

With so many options for a good clay load on the market these days, it seems interesting that the industry standard 1oz loading of No.7.5 shot can have so many variations and new features.

Well, Lyalvale Express is not a company to sit on its laurels, with its Express Excel load being the only British-produced shotgun cartridge to have won an Olympic gold medal, and these English Sporter 12-bore loads are just the ticket for practice to help you reach that standard.

Established in 1983, Lyalvale manufactures shotgun cartridges for both game and clay, and its team members are all keen shooters, passionate about the sport. A combination of the best components from all over the world, plus Lyalvale's rigorous testing processes, ultimately delivers a perfectly engineered cartridge that you can trust to give unrivalled performance with every shot. All cartridges undergo rigorous testing to guarantee consistent ballistics and patterns across each individual range, ensuring the same high levels of power and precision every time you pull the trigger.

The English Sporter is a competitively priced, highly consistent cartridge that delivers good quality in a general, all-round cartridge specifically engineered with the club shooter in mind. It's Lyalvale's best low-recoil, great-value clay cartridge, and the typical price is £297 per 1,000.



Case, powder, wad, and pellets

The English Sporter is designed as an economical load for clubs, offering high-volume shooting sessions at minimal cost without compromising performance. In other words, the wallet won't feel it, but the clay will!

You have a fairly standard 12-bore cartridge with a generic all-red 70mm (2¾") case featuring black lettering to indicate the contents.

At the base is a 10mm brass head that is precision-made with tempered brass caps to ensure perfect ejection every time. The six-star crimp is very uniform, as one would expect from Express, and the whole cartridge is very concentric in its form.

Inside is 28g of No.7.5 shot and either a plastic or fibre wad. We had the fibre-wadded load on test. The wadding includes a card-type divider between the powder and the main wad column, ensuring even pressure for consistent ignition. The one-piece 9.45mm wad tightly fits the bore and cushions the pellets as they make their way down the barrel and through the choke. This fibre wad arrangement ensures an efficient burn and consistent shot patterns.

You don't have to stick to the No.7.5 shot size if you don't want to, as No.8 and No.9 sizes are also available, making this cartridge very useful for all forms of clay competitions and, dare I say,



Here, you can see the various components used in each cartridge

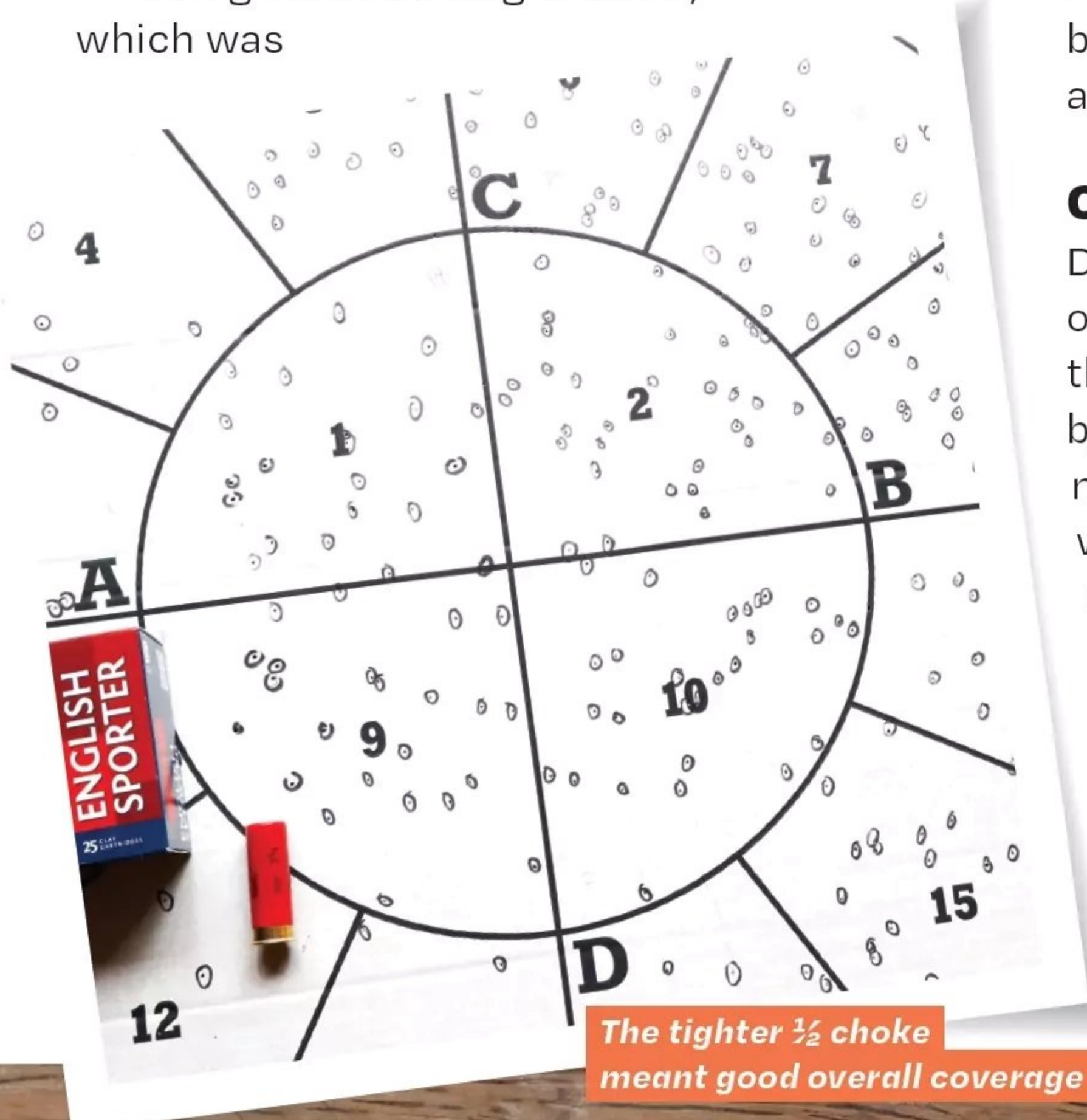
vermin control. The lead shot is very uniform and shiny in appearance and specifically engineered to Lyalvale's specification, ensuring excellent patterns, even at longer ranges.

Instead of a one-size-fits-all approach, Lyalvale carefully blends powders to ensure consistent ballistics across its entire cartridge range while also minimising recoil for a softer feel on the shoulder. The factory-indicated speed is approximately 1,350fps, which is achieved with a green flake-powder loading, which Express also uses in its Power Red and Blue cartridges.

Pattern boards

I used the English Sporter in several shotguns and found, as stated, that the recoil was very modest, as were the noise levels, so this is definitely a cartridge that one could shoot for prolonged periods of time. Maybe even on a simulated game shoot, where you may need a little more oomph for longer shots.

Using the Browning Shadow, which was



The tighter 1/2 choke meant good overall coverage

fitted with 1/4 and 1/2 chokes, we had some very tight and evenly spread patterns when the boards were set up at 30 yards. Ejection was brisk and smooth, with no sticky cases, and the recoil was mild and very straight in line, so muzzle flip was reduced to a minimum.

With the 1/4 choke fitted, we had a very respectable 243 strikes on the board and, as previously mentioned, good overall distribution, with 93 inner hits and 150 outs. There was no bunching and only a few, if any, holes in the pattern.

Next, the 1/2 choke, and again, a really good, quite tight pattern from the English Sporter cartridges. For clays, you really don't want any holes in the pattern, as some of those minis or even normal-sized clays have a troublesome knack of slipping through even the best patterns when you least expect it. Now, the pellet count shot up to 301 total strikes, with 117 inner hits and the remaining around the circumference of 30". There was a slight right-hand bias, but the wind was a bit gusty, which can affect the small, light No.7.5 pellets.

Conclusion

Designed to be economical and mild on the shoulder for clubs to use on their clay ranges, I would say, judging by their performance, Lyalvale has met this brief admirably. Personally, I would also use them for squirrels and rabbits, but that's just me, as they are a great patterning and performing cartridge at a good price point. **GM**

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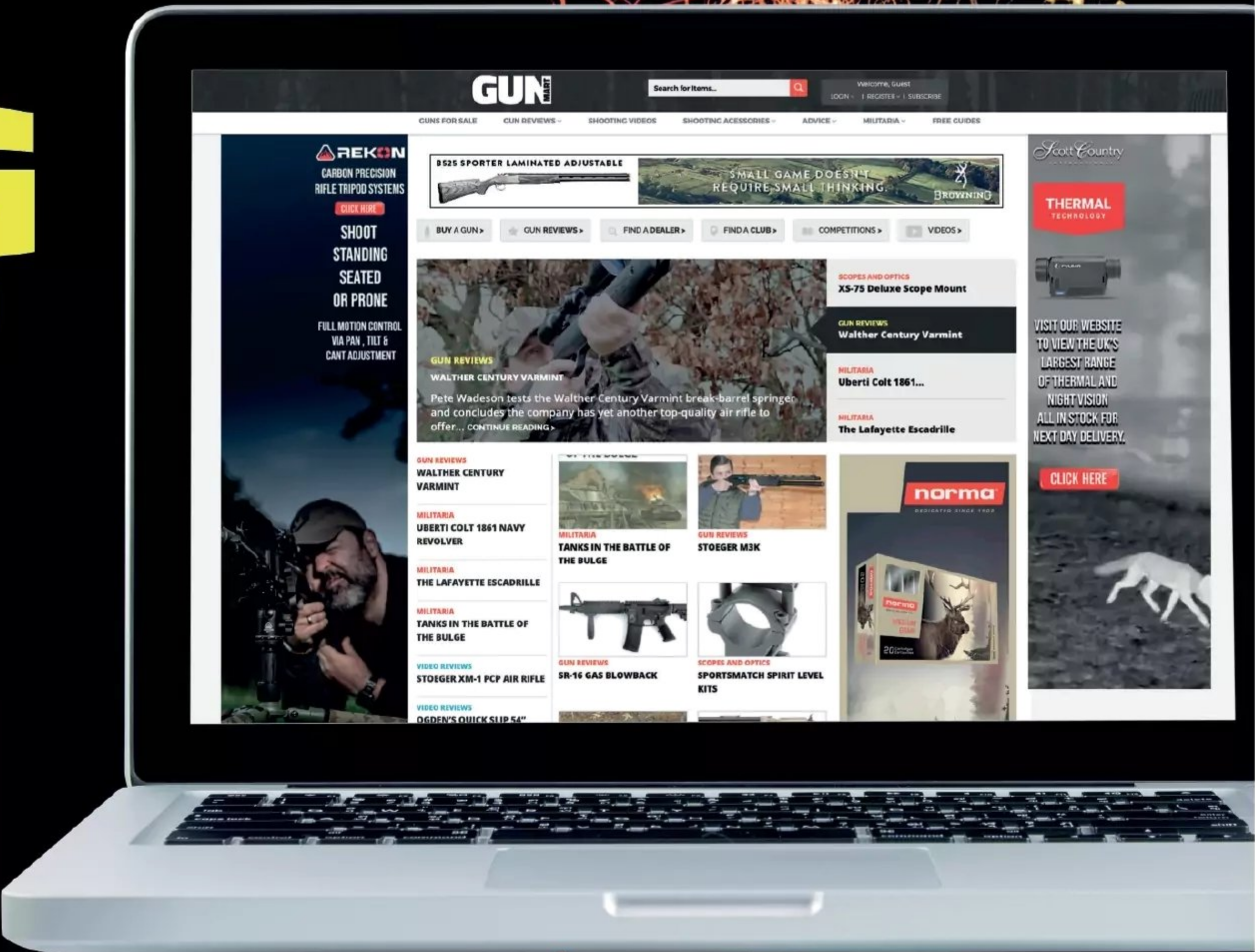
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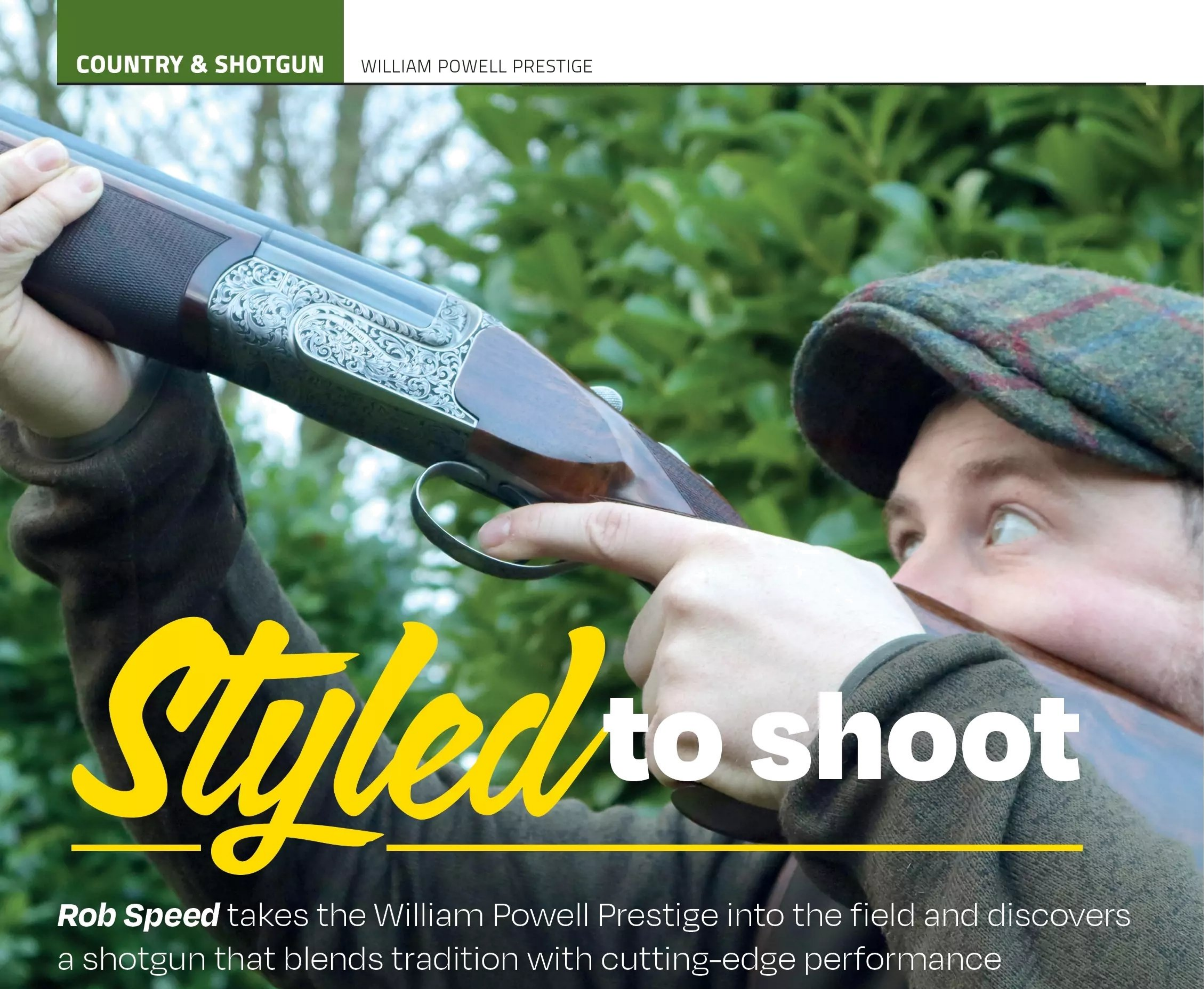
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Styled to shoot

Rob Speed takes the William Powell Prestige into the field and discovers a shotgun that blends tradition with cutting-edge performance

There are many shotgun manufacturers worldwide, and William Powell is a name I had heard of but had never had any dealings with. I hadn't even held one in my hands until Tom Peachey of William Powell kindly sent me a demonstrator to review.

For those like me who are new to this manufacturer, here's a little of its history. William Powell and Joseph Simmons established a gunmaking partnership in 1802. A few years later, in 1812, William Powell became an independent gunmaker in Birmingham. Powell continued as a gunmaker all his life and passed the business on to future generations until 2008 when it was purchased by J. M. Osborne & Co. Then, in 2010, a partnership with Rizzini of Italy was formed, and now all William Powell guns are made by this partnership.

Rizzini is at the forefront of modern gun machining and production techniques, using the

latest technology and state-of-the-art machinery to enhance the gunmaking process, creating guns that excel in strength, performance, and reliability. These technological advances have seamlessly blended with William Powell's rich heritage and love of traditional craftsmanship, ensuring that its guns are both classically beautiful and fit for the future of shooting.

It was no surprise to me to discover that William Powell has a very select range of shotguns available on the market: five over-and-under shotguns and two side-by-sides, to be exact. All seven are very high-end and bespoke, which is refreshing to see. The model I was sent for review was incredibly beautiful to look at and very well suited to the field test I had planned for it.

The gun in question

The Prestige has been specifically designed for shooting high game birds, and certainly has the looks

to suit most shooters. I cannot imagine anyone not having a smile on their face while standing on a peg shooting game with this gun. It has stunning floral engraving with a ribbon that embellishes the maker's name and an incredibly eye-pleasing high-grade oiled walnut stock.

This particular gun is only available in 12-bore with either 30" or 32" barrels, and the one I am reviewing came with 30" barrels and fixed 1/2 chokes, which is my preferred constriction. However, if someone wants multi-choked barrels, there is the option of having Teague chokes. The barrels have 3" chambers and are proofed for high-performance steel-shot.

As for the build quality of the Prestige, it appears to have been executed to a very high standard. It has been built on a Boss-style action, which is extremely strong and reliable. The trigger pulls are extremely crisp, with



The Prestige performed really well with the Eley Zenith cartridges that I was using



The incredibly eye-pleasing, high-grade oiled walnut stock



The finish found on the wood and metalwork is excellent

no drag, and the overall finishing of the wood and metalwork is excellent, which should be expected for a gun in this price range. I particularly like the safety catch, as it looks great and is very chunky, making it easy to engage and disengage. This is especially helpful in cold or wet weather.

As mentioned, the Prestige has been designed as a high-bird gun, so it has an overall weight of 8lbs 6oz, which is very similar to that of a sporting shotgun. The extra weight will help the shooter maintain the correct line and a smooth swing on a high target. The tapered rib is extremely pleasing to look down, and there is a small brass bead at the end of the barrel that does not obstruct the target you are trying to acquire.

The Prestige sat very comfortably in my shoulder and handled exactly how I like a shotgun to. It is well balanced on the hinge pin, and I was surprised at how controlled I was while swinging

the gun as I mounted it, as I am very much used to using 32" barrels.

Most important to me were the stock dimensions, and it was a relief to be able to see over the barrels, as I was expecting to be looking into the top lever, which is often the case with most game guns, as they generally have very low dimensions. The comb height was very similar to sporting dimensions, giving me a good cheek weld, a clear sight picture, and the hope that I would shoot the gun well.

Particularly attractive is the option to have the stock made to measure. If you know your gun fit measurements, a stock can be made to your exact requirements at no extra cost. William Powell can also arrange a gun fitting with a professional fitter upon request. I think this is an incredible service and makes the Prestige fantastic value for money, as it is unique to every customer.

The fun bit

It was time to put the William Powell Prestige to the test. I had a driven partridge shoot planned at the Widdington Shoot in Wiltshire and decided to take this gun, which I had never even fired before. This was a big risk, but I was confident that the gun was very well built, and I was happy with how it felt, so I was very much looking forward to pulling the trigger for the first time.

I drew my peg number, found myself in the middle of the line, and was told to get ready for some fast partridges. With my first few shots, I had very little success, but I wasn't worried, as I knew what I was doing wrong. The Prestige handled faster than I initially thought, and I was trying to stop it from moving so fast, which resulted in me missing behind. Once I started to embrace the fast-moving nature of the gun, I began to have much more success.

“WHEN COMPARING THE PRICE OF THIS GUN WITH OTHER MAKES OF SIMILAR QUALITY, I WOULD CERTAINLY CONSIDER THE WILLIAM POWELL PRESTIGE TO BE VERY GOOD VALUE FOR MONEY”

ROB SPEED

Detail of the top lever and the safety catch

The first one

What became very clear from the moment I shot my first partridge of the day was how incredibly well the Eley Zenith 32g No.6 fibre cartridges performed through the ½ chokes. The recoil was very light, with no muzzle rise, and my overall first impressions of the Prestige were that I liked it – a lot.

On the second drive, I found myself as a walking gun, where I didn't have much shooting, but the few birds I had presented to me consisted of long crossers and a single relatively high partridge. After these few birds, which I took cleanly, I had a massive smile on my face, and I was confident that the Prestige was a great all-round game gun. I had taken fast-moving, traditional driven birds and some distant birds that I would have been happy to take with my own gun — one that I have used for years.

The Prestige attracted a lot of interest from my fellow shooters, and a good friend of mine asked if he could give it a go on the next drive. I was very impressed to see the handful of birds he took

comfortably with it, and he was surprised by how similar it looked, felt, and handled in comparison to his own Perazzi MX12. Although they are mechanically very different shotguns, it is worth mentioning that if you are a fan of Perazzis, you might find it worthwhile to look at a William Powell Prestige, as there is a considerable difference in price.

I ended the day's shooting on a drive that I can only describe as one of my best performances. I was absolutely thrilled with how the Prestige shot, and I will remember the experience forever. Considering this gun was from a maker I had heard very little about, I was genuinely impressed with it.

Conclusion

For someone like me, who prefers a slower-moving shotgun, the 32" barrels would add a bit more forward weight, which would suit me better. If you are looking for a faster-moving game gun, the 30" barrels would be the better option.

When comparing the price of this gun with other makes of similar

quality, I would certainly consider the William Powell Prestige to be very good value for money. Not only does it have incredibly attractive engraving and beautiful wood, but the option to have a custom stock made at no extra cost is an offering unmatched by any other maker at this price.

If you are a fan of Perazzi or Rizzini, then I believe you will also like the William Powell Prestige, as it closely resembles them in appearance and has similar handling characteristics.

I thoroughly enjoyed my experience with this gun, and I am intrigued by the other shotguns William Powell offers. Watch this space. **GM**

TECHNICAL SPECIFICATION

Name: William Powell Prestige

Calibre: 12-bore

Barrel Length: 30" (32" also available)

Weight: 8lbs 6oz

Length of Pull: 14 7/8"

Price: From £9,250

Contact: William Powell – www.williampowellgunroom.com



RIMFIRE REFINED

AT CCI®, WE UNDERSTAND WHAT YOU WANT AND NEED. WHEN IT COMES TO RIMFIRE AMMUNITION NO ONE BEATS US AT OUR GAME. WE OFFER THE BEST SELECTION IN ALL SHOOTING SPORTS. WHILE OTHER COMPANIES SIT ON OLD TECHNOLOGY AND PERFORMANCE, WE'VE REFINED RIMFIRE INTO WHAT IS WIDELY CONSIDERED THE WORLD LEADER IN HIGH-PERFORMANCE RIMFIRE AMMUNITION.



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AIRGUNS

FOR SALE: DAYSTATE ALPHA Wolf Safari - Pristine condition, owned from new, barely used. Includes all fittings (except moderator, scope & rings), plus extras worth £1000. Minor scratches on sling kit clasp. £1,995 ovno. Located in mid Cornwall. Tel: 01326 376931.

2 AIR RIFLES. SMK xs 38 very good underlever 0.177. No scope. £80 Bsa meteor mk 1 1949. No rear sight. Spares but works and shoots 0.177 £50 collection only Pr18ea Lancashire. Tel: 07757635338

WEBLEY VULCAN .22, IN REASONABLE CONDITION. A Few minor scratches, including suppressor, 6x40 scope and case, powerful break action, right handed great value at £160 Tel: 07989728024

UMAREX 850 M2 EMPIRE Kit 177 CO2 Air Rifle. Very little used. Excellent condition. Few scratches around the bolt action knob. Kit includes quality Walther 3-9x40 scope, mounts, bipod, 1 x metal magazine, 2 x polymer magazines, 'O' Ring seal kit, Allen key. £349.07858308089

DAYSTATE LIMITED EDITION 1/200 Rosso Laminate, New and used in original box .177 with custom supressor Tel:07970161088

TX200HC WALNUT .22, COMES with hawke scope, mounts, q tec moderator and scope cover Excellent as new condition. Tel: 07851239605

USED HW110 CARBINE IN black pepper stock 1.77 with 5 magazines,carry bag ,scope,filler probe and brand new larger cylinder to be installed increasing shot +ount to around 80 good shots. All in excellent condition . Very light weight gun excellent for pest control. Collect in person or will post.07411355956

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AAR LIMITED EDITION 4 magazines ,vector optics veyron scope, srouded and Andrew nugget silencer ,certificate,mug ,hard case Absolutely perfect condition. £999.00 Tel 07411355956

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BRK GHOST PLUS DEEP black Brand new with form stock and BRK extended rail 07519713606

AIR ARMS S510 .22 FAC used condition but working perfectly. 2 x 10 shot multi cartridges FAC. £500.00 I'm retiring from Pest Control job. See my other items for rimfire and HMR, night vision scope and pulsar thermal.07779271680

A RARE AND VERY collectible Webley Tempest .22 air pistol. Excellent condition and good working order. Black. Including tin of pellets. Photo's available. 0780 191 6894

.22 BSA LIGHTENING SE GAS RAM AIR RIFLE AND GUN BAG 2 x Nikko Stirling Scopes and Mounts 3.9/40 and 3.9/50 1 AAA 29 8/40 zoom monocular for range sighting 1 target mount for send and retrieve indoor range plus approx 50 assorted targets 2 tins of .22 pellets approx 650 total Rucksack to carry extras Will not split to sell For sale £250.00 07305956768

HAMNERLI BLACKOUT .22 AIR rifle with scope never used not had a pellet through it .07745184554

TITAN MANITOU, PCP , FAC .22 , sound moderator,Nikko Stirling Gold 3-9x40 wide angle scope, air tank and valve included but tank out of test. Very good condition. £120. Tel: 01527 540558

ORIGINAL MODEL 50 .177. £120..22 M16. £120 Both Immaculate. Air pistol reproductions. all excellent. .9mm boxed Luger; 3inch barrel. £100. .357 Smith and Wesson; 4 inch barrel. £120 . 7.62. boxed Walther. £95. Tel: 07717042899

SELLING UP AS NEW in box AEA HP with Donny FL silencer 2x mags .25cal £1000 BSA airsporter.22 with period scope and aluminium tuning piston.£225ovno Weihrauch HW80.22cal Nikko sterling scope mint condition £300ovno Webley eclipse.22cal bushmaster scope near mint condition £300ovno Collection Northwest area. Tel 07956947882

STOEGER XM1 177 WITH 9x50 sights ,2 mags, gunbag and a water-cooled compressor for refilling gun all in excellent condition. Tel 07359305661

WANTED. .25 BARREL FOR BSA r10 Tel 07563627264

AIR ARMS S510 TDR FAC .177 WITH CASE. 2 X 10 Shot magazines adjustable power(7 to 32 ftlbs) fully adjustable 2 stage trigger accessory rail fully shrouded Lothar Walthar barrel with moderator perfect for field target shooting Excellent condition £599.00 Tel: 07720427449

AIR ARMS TX200HC .177 calibre with Walnut stock. Selling with Hawkeye Fastmount IR scope, gun bag, Diablo and JSB pellets, barrel cleaners, Allen keys and spare battery for the scope. Its three years old, hardly shot and immaculate condition. £750. Tel: 07871268846

WEIHRAUCH HW90 GAS RAM AIR RIFLE, brand new in box Tel: 01672516099

THIS AIR RIFLE WAS brought in the summer. Not really used. Comes with fast mount 3-12x50 scope and 2 pots of pellets. Comes with case and receipt if needed or wanted. Tel: 07720777397

FOR SALE BSA ULTRA CLX Multi Shot PCP Air Rifle Excellent condition. Tel: 07907720004

WEIHRAUCH HW100 THUMBHOLE STOCK excellent condition choice of 2 open to swap or cash Tel: 07976789957

FOR SALE WEBLEY "PREMIER" Air Pistol (.22) Tel: 07766302094 for more details.

AN EARLY S200 PCP pre anti tamper model..177single shot with a Hawke 6-18x44 scope and screw fitted detachable silencer. Very good condition.Tel: 07917341458

DAYSTATE WOLVERINE B TYPE .22 fac Come complete with nikko Stirling 4-12-50 ao scope, hugget mod and bi-pod divers bottle also available at extra cost. Has just had a full service new regulator and hammer spring. Currently running at 30ft/lbs with 16gr pellets. £1250 Ono Tel: 07880316099

CROSMAN 2240 AIR PISTOL, barely used. 3years old, less than 500 shots, selling as no space to shoot. Comes with 40 CO2 cartridges, almost full pellet tin, stack of targets. Tel: 07507882827

FOR SALE UMAREX SWITH and wesson 586 6" .177 cal CO2 Revolver £125 location SG18. Tel: 07721020438

CROSSMAN PHANTOM 2 AIR Rifle With Scope Only used a few times Almost New. Comes with gun bag and original box. Tel: 07549309432

WALTHER CP88, 177 AIR pistol in original case with additional magazines, needs a service. Gaming 25, fires 177 air pellets and ball bearings in good condition and working good. Tel: 07718237728

BRAND NEW SYNTHETIC STOCK for FX DRS Classic for sale £250 OVNO. Happy to supply Photos if required. Collection preferred or postage will apply. Tel: 07834683215

WEBLEY CLASSIC RAIDER. 22 with sights silencer and gun bag in good condition 12ft pound with jsb heavies recently serviced. Tel: 07583937511

WANTED WEBLEY TRACKER DELUXE preferred. 07938627129

GAMO PHOX CAL.22-5.5MM PRE charged. Gamo sights 3-9x40 and a adjustable black aluminium bipod plus webley foot pump max 310 bar. Hardly used looks new all boxed. The gun has a soft gun case. £385.00 pickup only.(Norfolk) 01692670676

SPEC OPS SNIPER MKII Air Rifle Set .22. Complete with 3-9x40 Scope and bi-pod. New and boxed - unused. Collection from Welwyn Garden City or Bradford. Purchaser must be aged over 18 and

Photo id (driving licencer or passport) is required on collection.07570962906

KALASHNIKOV AK47.5MM CO2 Powered Air Rifle by Cybergun - New - £249.95. In perfect new boxed unused condition. Collection from Welwyn Garden City or Bradford. Purchaser must be over 18 - photo id (passport or driving licence) is required on collection.07570962906

SHOTGUNS

WINCHESTER SELECT ENERGY 30" O/U. With full case & accessories Tel: 07720668708

WEBELY SCOTT SPORTER 1000 12g, comes with hard case, soft slip and chokes Excellent as new condition Tel: 07851239605

BROWNING A5 SEMI AUTO 12g £150 Cooeey 410 sb with silencer £45 Little sbs hammer 12g £120 07778 401828

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I HAVE TWO SHOTGUNS for sale. Beretta x trap high rid 692, 30 inch barrel& kots junior 28 inch barrier. The Beretta comes with a equipped with its case and all its accessories , The kots comes with the original box. Both guns are in very good condition, Can supply photos. Tel: 07444866471

I HAVE A SELECTION of english 10ga/8ga hammer guns in vgc plus loads of reloading gear never been used bought as a collection. Tel: 07740867593

CLEARANCE BARGAIN . ANSCHUTZ 9mm shotgun single barrel , bolt action . Same owner 50+ years . £125 ONO. Telephone 07791 666893 Stafford

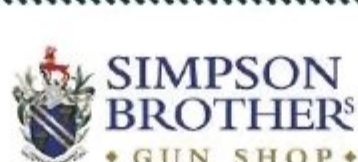
BINGHAM SQUIRES 3 SHOT pump action 28" barrels, works well , decent condition cycles fine £85 ono Tel: 07757677716

12 BORE BAIKAL OU IZH-27EM-1C Single selective trigger ejector , 28" barrels, multichoke, comes with 5 , good condition outside, barrels clean, £100 Tel: 07757677716

WANTED - VINTAGE BRITISH shotgun cartridges. Per 1960 rolled-top Gunmaker, Ironmonger brands in any quantity. Also pre 1920 proprietary brands, and advertising samples. Cash waiting, clear out those cupboards before the lead-ban. Tel:01501 741 714



SATURDAY 12th & SUNDAY 13th APRIL 2025



Submit your classified here GUNMART.NET/CLASSIFIEDS



BROWNING MAXUS PREMIUM SEMI-AUTO 12bore shotgun multi-choke Steel proof owned from new VGC. £695 Belgium double hammer 410 3"chambers Fair £200 Essex 07798632960

AS NEW BUT USED .223 ruger mini 14 with sound moderator, .22 ruger rimfire wooden stock, Hatsan escort 7+8 shotgun, Rimington shotgun 3 shot, Call for more details Tel:07405 654978

2 BERETTA SHOTGUNS, 1 x 12-gauge, 1 x 20-gauge 1 Remington rifle 243 full equipped Gun safe, cartridges and much more. Job lot selling up.Tel: 07778122350

FOR SALE 20 BORE Browning shot gun over/under. Tel:07935375911

12 BORE DOUBLE BARRELLED muzzle loading shotgun by Navy arms co. Very little use, excellent condition £295. Phone Philip on 01624 896150.

LEATHER LEG OF MUTTON gun case owned by Captain Paddy Mayne, dated 1943 with his name inside, renowned with his SAS service, in good condition, open to offers. Tel: 07511348854

YILDIZ 410 SHOTGUN, SIDE by side, single trigger. 28" barrels, walnut stock, mint condition £450 plus carry case and cleaning kit. Tel: 07708056148

BLACK ESCORT 3 1/2" magnum with all chokes. In excellent condition as only used as a spare gun on Wildfowling expeditions £300 ono. Contact dbillbrough46@gmail.com for photos and offers.

.410 S/S SHOTGUN 28" barrels, single trigger, walnut stock, mint condition £450 Tel: 01942 877583

FIREARMS

RIFLE RELOADING EQUIPMENT FOR Sale: Lee Hand Press Kit (£20), Lee Case Trimmer (£4), Lee Primer Pocket Cleaner (£4), Lee Case Deburrer/Chamfer Tool (£3), Lee Perfect Powder Measure (£23), Redding Model 5 Powder Trickler (£13), RCBS Loading Block (£5), Safety Glasses (Free), Moore & Wright Electronic Calipers (£60), Frankford Arsenal Case Tumbler (£47), Bag of Walnut Sawdust (£5), RCBS Fi Die Set .270 (£28), Lee Die Set .30-06 (£30), Redding Model 2 Powder Scale (£52). Contact: 01285 720342.

SIG ASP20 BREAK BARREL air rifle FAC for sale £200 only fired about 200 shots Tel:01612485508

UBERTI SPECIAL SPORTING RIFLE 44/40 24" Oct Barrel as new condition £500 Tel 07774325726

TIKKA T3X SUPER VARMINT 6.5 x 55 24" Barrel As new condition £600 Tel 07774325726

CZ 455 17HMR, SYNTHETIC Stock. Had about 60 shells through it. Moderator. 2 x 5 shot magazines Good condition. FAC. £300. I'm retiring, see my other items 07779271680

CZ 452 .22 RIMFIRE. Old but silky smooth and spot on the dot. synthetic stock well used condition, working perfectly 2 x 10 shot magazines. leather sling £200.00 FAC. I'm retiring from Pest Control, see my other items. 07779271680

243 REMINGTON RIFLE COMES fully equipped with moderator, scope, bipod and spare all weather stoke. Good condition £500 Tel: 07778122350

SAKO TRG-22-30CAL RIFLE. SAKO stainless steel barrel,muzzlebrake. 10 round magazine. QR fixed scope mount. Leupold vari-xiii. 6.5-20 x50mm European scope. Reticle fine crosshairs. This rifle is in very good condition. Price £1995.00 ONO plus any transfer costs. Tel: 07890558743

SCHMEISSER AR15 M4 NEAR new condition in .223 straight pull - £1900 Heckler & Koch; MP5 Brand New .22 Semi Auto - £1200 Tel: 07547155888

WANTED - VINTAGE BRITISH shotgun cartridges. Per 1960 rolled-top Gunmaker, Ironmonger brands in any quantity. Also pre 1920 proprietary brands, and advertising samples. Cash waiting, clear out those cupboards before the lead-ban. Tel: 01501 741 714

LEUPOLD MK4 4.5-14X50 SCOPE now only available to Police/Military with Leupold flip-up lens covers which (retail £260) £695 Ruger Precision rifle 6.5mm Creedmore £1200 Long range Vortex scope and mounts available Essex 07798632969

CZ BRUNO .22 BOLT WITH CLIP MAZ ACTION,IDEAL GUN FOR PEST CONTROL RABBITS, PIGEON ETC. £120. Tel: 07957739453

DAYSTATE WOLVERINE B TYPE .22 fac. Come complete with nikko Stirling 4-12-50 ao scope, hugget mod and bi-pod divers bottle also available at extra cost. Has just had a full service new regulator and hammer spring. Currently running at 30ft/lbs with 16gr pellets. £1250 Ono Tel: 07880316099

DAY/NIGHT VISION RIFlescOPES. INIRAY TD50L, high image quality, infinite zoom, 50mm lens, photo/ video recording, IR illuminator, scope mounts and battery charger. New and unused. £400 Tel: 07721744229

WULF REAR SCOPE ADD on, 400m zoom, IR illuminator, 32 GB memory card, USB cable, adjustable mounts and eyepiece, battery charger. New and unused £250 Tel: 07721744229

AS NEW BUT USED .223 ruger mini 14 with sound moderator, .22 ruger rimfire wooden stock, Hatsan escort 7+8 shotgun, Rimington shotgun 3 shot, Call for more details Tel:07405 654978

2 BERETTA SHOTGUNS, 1 x 12-gauge, 1 x 20-gauge 1 Remington rifle 243 full equipped Gun safe, cartridges and much more. Job lot selling up.Tel: 07778122350

ANSCHUTSZ MATCH 54 TARGET rifle fitted with laminated stock. An accurate, precise .22 produces consistent results. Serial No. 80886. 01524781013

DEACTIVATED 1939 DATED .38 Mk2 No.1 Enfield Tankers Revolver. Top breaks, Barrel Rotates and Dry Fires. With deactivated certificate. 07495041303

FOR SALE PULSAR TELON XP50 LRF thermal monocular 07764904987

.22 SEMI AUTO RUGER with Scope For Sale: £375 07974936380 4 High Moors HP22 5NY

BROWNING X-BOLT .243 IN its' lovely grey laminate Norwegian stock. If you cannot find a comfortable position with this stock you must be a very weird shape. All complete with TAC Vector Optics 8-32x50 scope, barrel band (to minimise mirage), folding bipod and wildcat moderator it's ready to shoot. Includes a set of loading dies and some ammunition components. It will break my heart to part with this rifle, but sadly increasingly poor health means it has to go. Hardly been used and not at all for over three years. It can be viewed in West Wales, call to arrange a viewing. £1,000 o.n.o. Tel: 01570 481549

65 BRASS CASES IN .45/120 calibre, 3 1/4 brass for 45-120 rifle. £160 which includes postage. Tel: 01757 704585.

TOMMY GUN, VERY RARE auto ordnance thompson1927/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

All advertisement copy must be received prior to the date shown below.

COPY DEADLINE FOR THE MAY 2025 EDITION IS 27TH MARCH 2025

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

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

ANTIQUES

BREN MK1 LIGHT MACHINE gun for sale with deactivation certificate POA Tel:07939318364

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



GM03.25/31



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WILLIAM POWELL LTD15

The image shows a Gun Mart magazine cover with a shooter in the foreground. Overlaid on the right side of the cover is the text "SUBSCRIBE TODAY SEE PAGE 119". The magazine cover itself has several headlines: "5 AIRGUNS FOR RABBITS", "Don't know what to get? Check our selection guide", "TOP AIRGUNS", "Precision Sports Airguns", "William Powell Prestige", "Boomer 1000", "A SHOOTER'S Rifle", "A compact, feature-packed bolt-action rifle that delivers the goods", and "INCREDIBLY QUIRKY THE LITTLE BADGER A folding shotgun from Chiappa that's remembered in 9mm Flakobert".



AIM FOR THE NEXT LEVEL

The Reximex Zone bullpup is a great choice for all shooters who want a quality PCP air rifle with a regulator for a reasonable price. The stock is available in Turkish walnut and synthetic and is very comfortable and lightweight. The synthetic version has an adjustable rubber butt pad to give the shooter an opportunity to adjust handling & comfort. The gun boasts a 260cc air cylinder to allow for a greater shot count. The shroud is fitted with a 1/2" UNF thread to allow a silencer to be fitted.

Key features:

- Ambidextrous cocking lever
- Regulated PCP
- Screw cut for 1/2" UNF
- 260cc air cylinder
- Comes with 2 x multi-shot magazine and single shot tray
- 4 way adjustable trigger
- Manual safety



RRP
£585.00
INC VAT

WALNUT

Fixed Butt Pad

SYNTHETIC

Adjustable Butt Pad

RRP
£535.00
INC VAT

- Calibre: .177, .22 & .25
- Magazine capacity: 14 in .177, 12 in .22, 10 in .25
- Overall length: 900 mm
- Barrel length: 580 mm
- Power: 11.3 Ft/Lbs
- Weight: 3.3 kg

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KRAL ARMS



Puncher-K

The new Puncher-K PCP air rifle from Kral, made exclusively for the UK market, offers a powerful, lightweight, and ambidextrous multi-shot design. It features a robust and easy-to-operate biathlon lever action for smooth and reliable performance.

This versatile rifle is available with a choice of a premium Turkish walnut stock or a durable synthetic stock. The shroud adaptor is screw-cut to 1/2" UNF allowing for the attachment of compatible accessories. It also includes a manual safety and an adjustable trigger for enhanced precision and user control.

For those seeking additional power, an FAC version is also available. The rifle is equipped with a 200 cc air cylinder and an easy-to-load magazine system for quick reloading.

Each Puncher-K comes supplied with two multi-shot magazines and a single-shot tray is also included. Magazine capacities are 14 shots for .177 & 12 shots for .22.

Walnut



RRP
£399.00
INC VAT

Synthetic



RRP
£385.00
INC VAT

- Calibre: .177 & .22
- Overall Length: 860 mm
- Barrel Length: 407 mm
- Power: 11.3 ft/lbs
- Weight: 3.2 kg

PLEASE NOTE: SCOPES NOT INCLUDED

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