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STALKING SHOW REPORT

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REVIEWED

Beretta A400
Xtreme Plus

Nocpax Quest H50R

SABATTI ROVER

Hunter Classic Pro

THEOBEN RAPID

Ben Taylor Limited Edition

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NETD: ≤15mK
Lens: 35mm F0.9
Magnification: 5–20x
Detection Range: 1800m
LRF Range: 1000m
Battery Life: 6 Hours

QUEST H35R

Sensor: 640 x 512px 12µm
NETD: ≤15mK
Lens: 35mm F0.9
Magnification: 3–24x
Detection Range: 1800m
LRF Range: 1000m
Battery Life: 6 Hours

QUEST H50R

Sensor: 640 x 512px 12µm
NETD: ≤15mK
Lens: 50mm F1.1
Magnification: 4–32x
Detection Range: 2600m
LRF Range: 1000m
Battery Life: 6 Hours

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R/H, multi-choke

£10,750



S/H

Perazzi MX12 Sporter Adj

12g, 28" barrels, 14 5/8" stock,
R/H, multi-choke

£2,950



S/H

John McNab Highlander

12g, 29" barrels, 14 3/4" stock,
R/H, multi-choke

£1,895

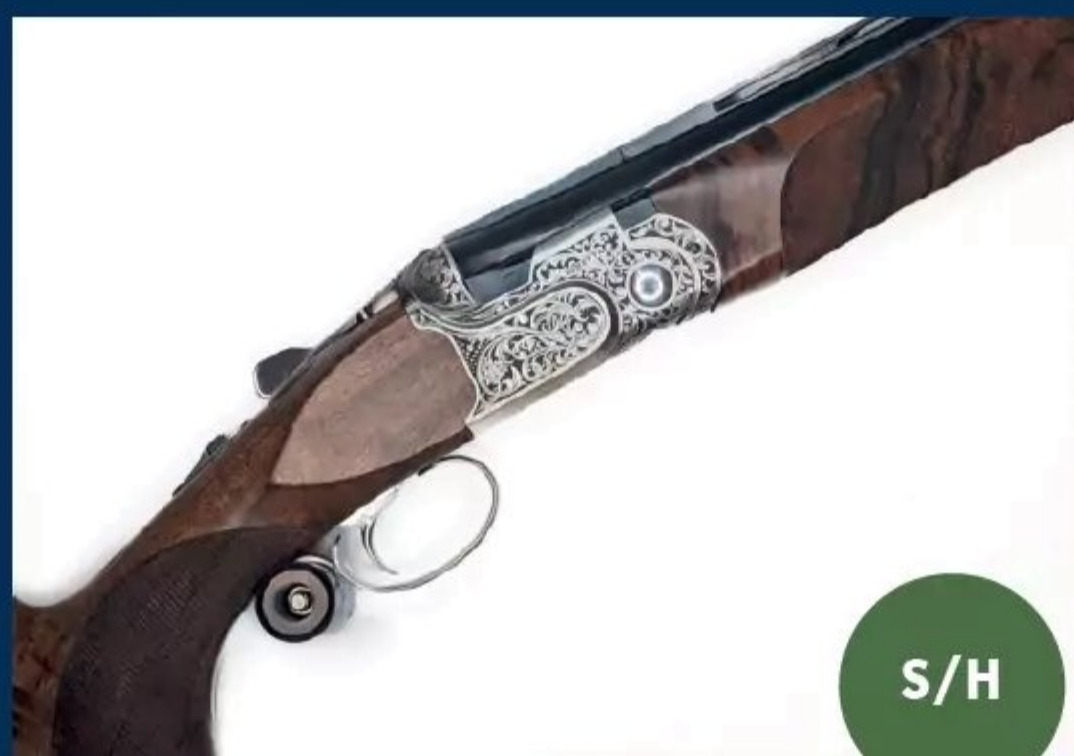


NEW

Browning B825 S3 Adj

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R/H, multi-choke

£3,850



S/H

Beretta DT11 L

12g, 30" barrels, 14 3/4" stock,
R/H, multi-choke

£9,750



NEW

Browning Ultra XS Pro Dark

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R/H, multi-choke

£3,995

Beretta 20g 687 EELL 30" M/C	£3,750
Beretta 12g 687 Classic 30" M/C	£1,695
Beretta 12g DT11L 30" M/C	£9,750
Beretta 12g 694 Adj TSK 32" M/C	£3,850
Blaser 12g Custom Flash 32" M/C	£8,950
Blaser 12g F16 Grade 5 32" M/C	£2,950
Blaser 12g F16 Heritage Game 30" M/C	£6,450
Blaser 12g F3 Super Trap 32" L/H M/C	£4,950
Browning 12g Ultra XS Crown 30" M/C	£3,950
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Browning 12g B25 B2G 30" Teague	£3,950
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Caesar Guerini 12g Invictus III Ascent 30" M/C	£5,450
Caesar Guerini 12g Ellipse Evo Sport 30" M/C	£2,950
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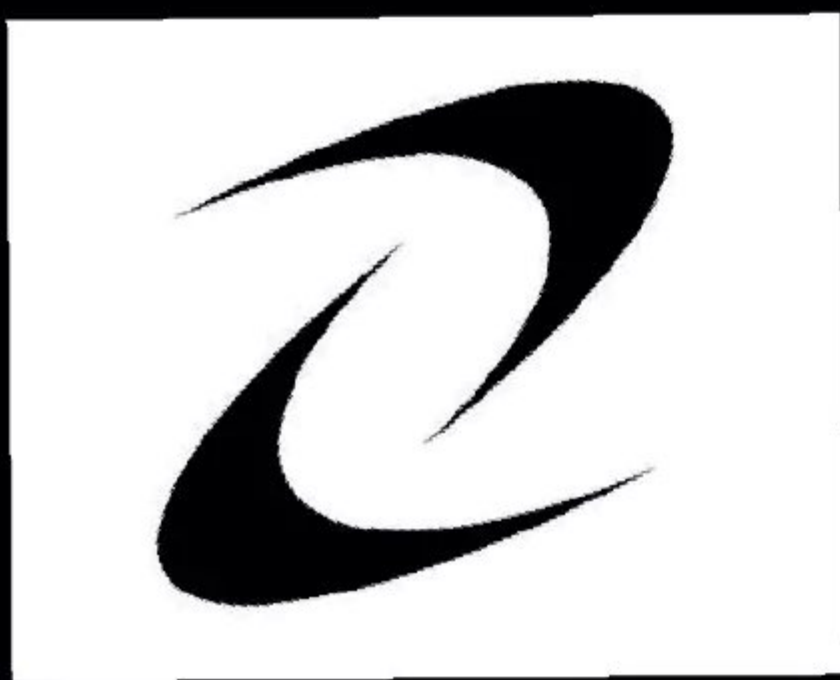
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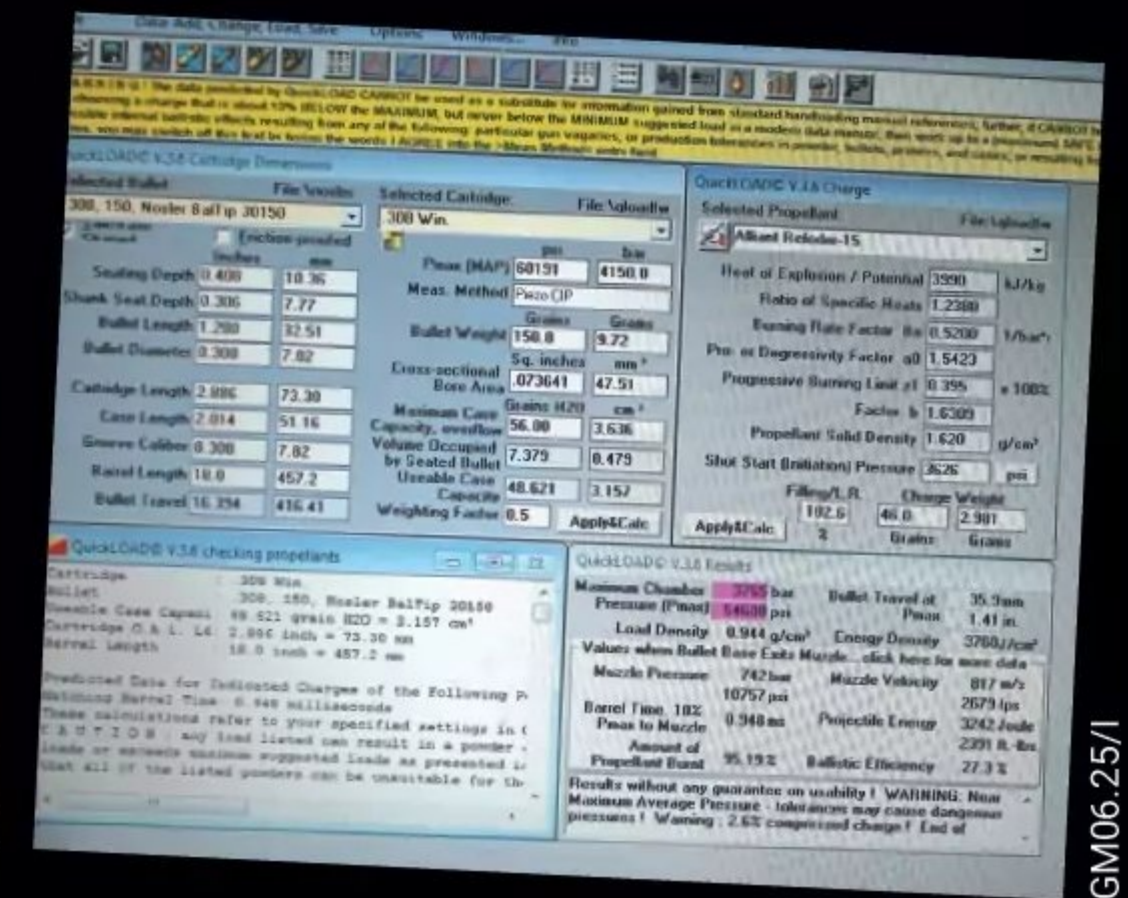
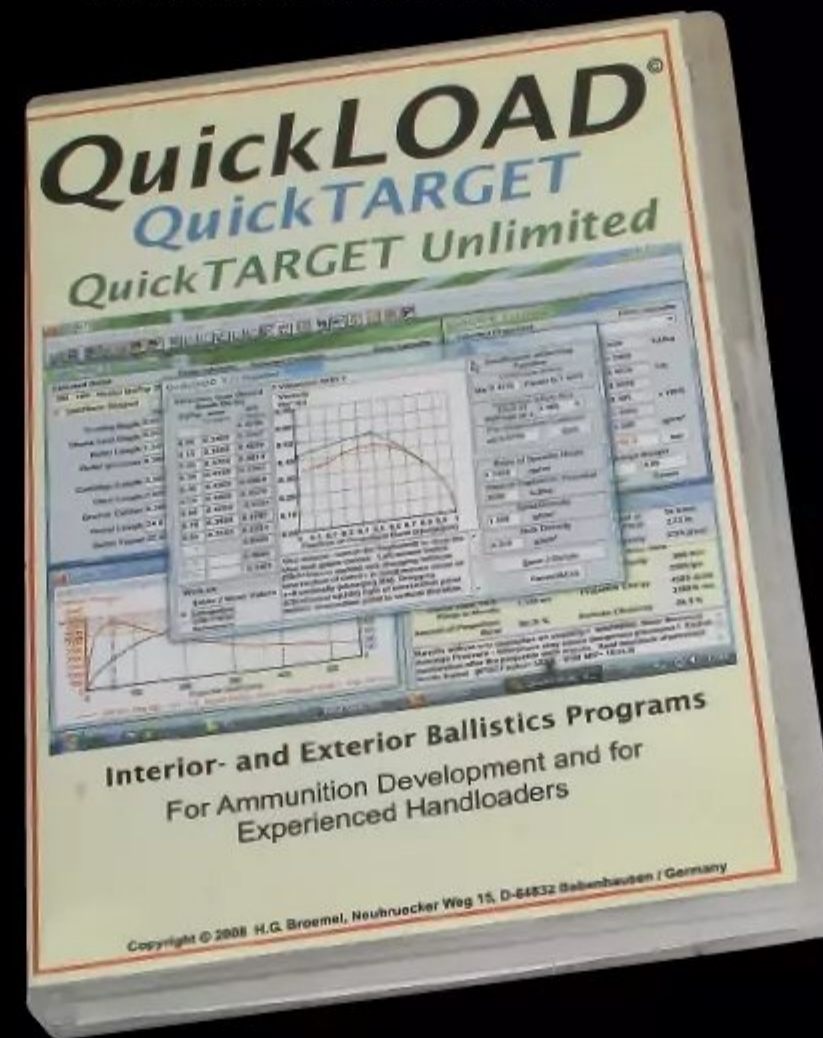
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Thermal Imaging Monocular

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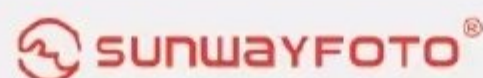
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You can have this rig with a matching grain out belt at the same cost.

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#BF-78 Buck's CHEYENNE

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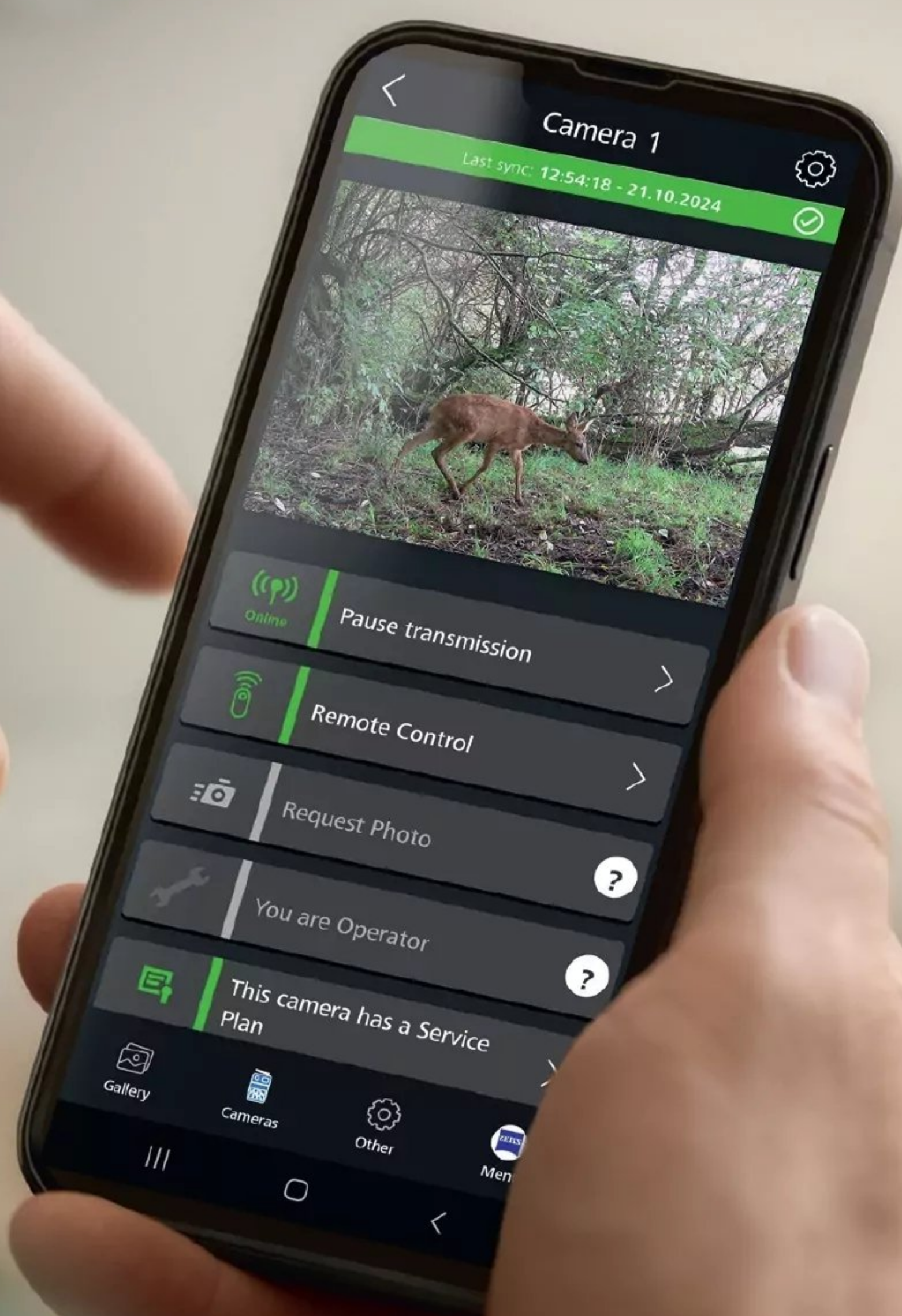
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Model featured: HW100 KT Laminate Adjustable

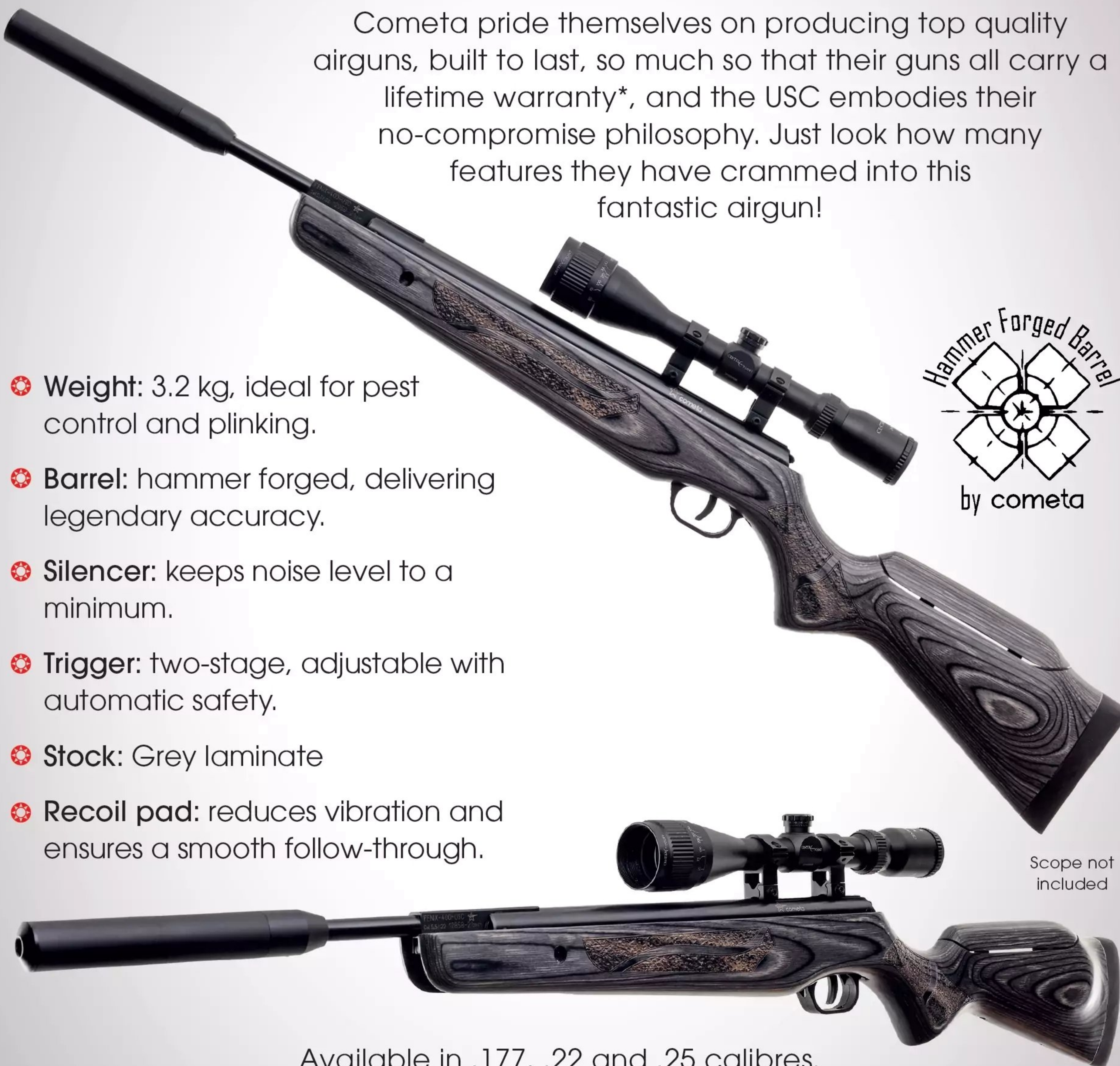


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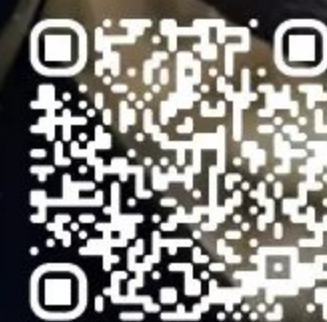
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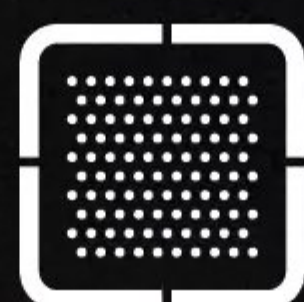


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EDITOR'S COMMENT

There's a real mix of highlights in this month's Gun Mart, with something to suit every kind of shooter. To start, Jules Whicker heads to the Stalking Show and brings back a full report on all the latest from the world of deer stalking and countryside kit.

Over in the airgun section, Mark Camoccio takes a close look at the BSA Lightning CLX, breaking down everything from cocking effort to stock design in his usual thorough style. He also gets hands-on with the revived Theoben brand, testing a limited-run rifle that blends classic lines with modern performance. Meanwhile, Dave Barham reviews the ultra-adjustable Skout EVO, which is ideal for precision work, whether you're using slugs or pellets. For those comparing ammo options, we've also got a pellet test featuring Crosman Premier Ultra Magnums and Remington Express lead-free pellets.

The firearms section sees Chris Parkin giving the Masterpiece Arms rimfire rifle a proper workout, uncovering its serious target credentials. He then shifts focus to the Sabatti Rover Hunter Classic Pro, a rifle that balances style and accuracy with ease. Thermal technology fans will enjoy his glowing write-up on the Nocpix Quest binoculars. There's also a helpful feature on bullet sizing and lubrication from Mark Underwood, plus Chris's report from Aimpoint's Swedish hunting event.

Rounding things off, Bruce Potts finds real value in the Webley & Scott 912 XSL and tests Winchester's AA Lite Handicap cartridges, while Rob Speed gives the Beretta A400 Xtreme Plus a glowing review as a top-end semi-auto that really delivers.

Enjoy, and as always, safe shooting!

Ed Jackson
Managing Editor

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NEWS

- 022 News:** The latest information from the shooting industry
- 026 Kit Box:** We look at some of the latest gear and equipment to hit the market
- 030 Show Report:** Jules Whicker reports back from this year's Stalking Show
- 038 Best on Test:** Our expert reviewers bring you a selection of shooting's top new products

AIRGUNS

- 046 Gun Test:** From cocking effort to stock design, Mark Camoccio assesses every detail of the BSA Lightning CLX in this comprehensive hands-on test
- 052 Gun Test:** The Theoben brand returns in style, and Mark Camoccio gets hands-on with a limited run rifle that blends history with high performance
- 060 Gun Test:** Equally adept with slugs or pellets, the highly adjustable Skout EVO offers exceptional precision for competition or field use, as Dave Barham discovers
- 068 Pellet Test:** Crosman Premier Ultra Magnum and Remington Express Lead-Free Pellets

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FIELD CUTLERY

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

FIREARMS

- 074 Gun Test:** Chris Parkin puts a finely tuned Masterpiece Arms rimfire rifle through its paces and explores its serious precision credentials
- 082 Gun Test:** Chris Parkin takes the Sabatti Rover Hunter Classic Pro to the range and discovers a stylish rifle that delivers real-world accuracy
- 090 Product Test:** Giving his 'Picky Parkin' seal of approval, Chris Parkin praises the inherent usability and performance of the Nocpix Quest
- 100 Reloading Basics:** Mark Underwood takes a look at the different options for sizing and lubricating lead bullets

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News

All the latest news and views from the shooting world

AirMaks Arms to launch Krait Pro PCP air rifle in the UK

➤ The AirMaks Arms range of airguns, distributed exclusively in the UK by Hawke Optics, is set to expand in May 2025 with the arrival of an exciting new model – the Krait Pro.

This lightweight and comfortable PCP air rifle is engineered for uncompromising accuracy, featuring a Huma-Air regulator, CZ barrel, a rock-solid Arca rail, an extended Picatinny optic rail with an integrated bubble level, and a finely tuned two-stage match trigger, ensuring every shot is a testament to precision.



Shooters will have a choice between the Pro Standard (400mm barrel) and the Pro Long (520mm barrel) in either .177 or .22 calibre. Whichever version you choose, the rifle comes partially FED Cerakoted for enhanced durability and a

striking aesthetic. You also get an oversized cocking handle and a fully adjustable buttstock, ensuring a perfect fit and unparalleled control.

Prices start at £1,899 for the Standard and £1,979 for the Long. Visit www.airmaksarms.co.uk

Another licensing blow for shoots on or near SPAs

➤ Salisbury Plain Special Protection Area (SPA) is among dozens of SPAs where shoots will be “highly unlikely” to receive an individual licence from Natural England to release game birds in 2025.

This news comes in the wake of the announcement that GL45, the general licence which, in 2024, regulated gamebird release on or within 500m of the Salisbury Plain SPA and 84 other SPAs, has been withheld by Defra for 2025.

Natural England stated that the reason for withholding GL45 was due to the Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) risk level. Instead of GL45, shoots wishing to release gamebirds on or within 500m of a SPA will be required to apply to Natural England for an individual licence.

Ahead of 22 April, when Natural England will open individual licence applications, it has published a bulletin providing advance notice of



the likelihood of licence application success for shoots based on location.

The bulletin splits SPAs into three groups. The first group consists of SPAs where applications are likely to be successful with standard mitigation methods – this group features only one SPA: Falmouth Bay to St Austell Bay.

The second group, which features 17 SPAs, consists of those where applications are likely to be successful if releases are delayed until 1 September or 1 October.

The third group is for SPAs on which “gamebird release is highly unlikely to be permitted for the coming season unless there are exceptional circumstances that could reduce or avoid the risk of HPAI transmission”.

Shooting campaign manager for the Countryside Alliance, Roger Seddon, said: “After several years of licensing tumult, this is the latest blow to shoots in or near SPAs. Natural England’s approach is putting jobs, livelihoods, and family homes at great risk.”



NatureScot to enact compulsory deer cull on Sutherland estate

➤ **The Scottish government has used a legal power for the first time to force the owners of a Highland estate to cull red deer on their land.**

The compulsory deer management control scheme could see Scotland's nature agency, NatureScot, step in to reduce the number of animals on the Loch Choire Estate in Sutherland.

There are concerns that grazing by deer is damaging mossy peatland called blanket bog at four Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI).

NatureScot said the action was approved by the Agriculture Minister, Jim Fairlie, and taken after a voluntary agreement on a cull could not be reached.

The estate's Shropshire-based owners, More Works Holdings, have 28 days to lodge an appeal against the control scheme.

NatureScot culled 160 deer on the estate in 2023 because it said the owners failed to manage their numbers. NatureScot has said further action is still needed.

Technical adviser to the British Deer Society (BDS), Charles Smith-Jones, told GM: "The BDS would always prefer to see voluntary, collaborative agreements to manage herding deer at a landscape scale, but we recognise that this has not been possible in this case. We acknowledge the support that the local Deer Management Group and ADMG have given this course of action."



Sport-hunted trophies exempt from new U.S. import tariffs

➤ **The American Government has confirmed that personal sport-hunted trophies shipped to the U.S. are exempt from the new raft of tariffs recently imposed by President Trump.**

The clarification came in the 2025 Harmonized Tariff Schedule recently released by the U.S. International Trade Commission.

Safari Club International (SCI) advised hunters with pending trophy shipments to contact their shipping agents to inform them of the tariff exemption on trophy imports. SCI also warned that purchased trophies that had not been personally hunted may not be exempt from tariffs.

Author and firearms expert, Diggory Hadoke, told GM:

"Whatever Trump's motivation, I think it will be a relief to many safari operators who do excellent conservation work and rely on American hunters for the bulk of their business. That business, in turn, is crucial to protect at-risk environments from poaching and encroachment.

"We must, however, look at recent U.S. developments as a whole. Trump's recent defunding of USAID has put countless conservation and anti-poaching initiatives from South America to Africa at risk. That will have a far more negative impact on conservation than the withdrawal of import tariffs on hunted trophies will have a positive one."

Antis win battle to outlaw wildfowling in Chichester Harbour

➤ **The hunting of wild ducks and geese at Chichester Harbour has now been banned.**

Members of the Chichester Harbour Conservancy Board (CHCB) have voted not to renew the ten-year licence application for wildfowling and have given a one-year termination notice from 19 May 2025.

The decision was made at the annual general meeting held at Eames Farm, Thorney Island, following representations from the Chichester Wildfowlers' Association and from West Sussex Wildlife Protection.

Following the debate, the CHCB said they found wildfowling on the land they manage to be: "incompatible

with the organisation's primary strategic focus on the conservation and restoration of nature."

Wildfowling has been recorded in Chichester Harbour for over 350 years, and the Chichester Wildfowlers' Association was formed in 1956.

Mike Swan, senior adviser to the Game and Wildlife Conservation Trust, told GM: "This is such sad news; Chichester Wildfowlers have a long and distinguished history of doing great conservation works in and around Chichester Harbour, so practical conservation in the area will undoubtedly suffer. Sadder still, they seem to have lost out to campaigning by West Sussex Wildlife



Protection, an animal welfare and protection organisation which has no track record in real conservation."

Richard Purdey passes away

➤ **Richard Purdey, who was Chairman of high-end gunmaker, James Purdey and Sons, from 1994–2007, has died.**

Richard was the sixth generation of the founder's family to be involved in the company and was renowned for his leadership in the boardroom as well as his passion for the countryside.

He was key to the success of the Purdey Awards for Game and Conservation, whose administration Purdey took over from Laurent Perrier in 1999. The awards recently celebrated their 25th anniversary and are still playing a central role in preserving the beauty of the British countryside.

Richard also served as Master of the Worshipful Company of Gunmakers from 2008–2009 and was instrumental in helping to set up and establish bursaries for apprentices, ensuring support for future gunmakers.

Richard's daughter Annika said: "Richard was a decisive man to whom the details always mattered, and who was always extremely amusing company. One always felt



better and more enthused about life whilst in his orbit, and if you ever heard someone roaring with laughter in the Long Room, you always knew Richard was nearby!

"He was always interested and appreciative of other people and their efforts and achievements. He treasured everything about Purdey, and he had the highest respect for its depth of heritage and illustrious history."

Charles James Richard died peacefully on 12th April 2025, aged 83. He was the loving husband of Margaretha, father of Annika and Kristina, and grandfather of Cosmo, Octavia, Matilda and Otto.

Study finds pheasant link to Lyme disease germ

➤ **New research has shown ticks are more likely to carry the bacteria that can cause Lyme disease in areas where pheasants are released.**

Researchers studied ticks in 25 woodland areas with released pheasants and 25 nearby control sites without them.

They found the bacteria that can cause the infectious Lyme disease, *Borrelia* spp., was almost 2.5 times more common in ticks in the pheasant-release areas.

Director of Environment, Policy and Politics for the National Gamekeepers' Organisation (NGO), Tim Weston, told GM: "Any gamekeeper working in rural Britain will know that ticks are becoming more prevalent, and so are the diseases they carry.

"There are many factors contributing to this increase, notably a changing climate and the fact that ticks are no longer decimated by winter weather. Other factors may be at play too, and the NGO welcomes all research into ticks and Lyme disease, as these affect those of us working in rural areas disproportionately."





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Jules Whicker gives his pick of the fantastic range of products and experiences at The Stalking Show 2025

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Benelli, perennial innovators in firearms design, have scored another first with the Alpha, a striking 1,000-unit limited edition of their already-accomplished Lupo bolt-action. The standout feature is a biomimetic stock inspired by natural structures like bird bones that combine strength and lightness, produced through generative design and 3D printing. An aluminium lower receiver brings the Alpha in at a dainty 2.6kg. Specifications also include a 51cm fluted Crio barrel with BE.S.T. finish, a five-round double-stack magazine, an adjustable trigger (650–1,650g), an ambidextrous three-position safety, an interchangeable Combtech comb, and a Picatinny optics rail. Chambered in .308 Win only, it's priced at £1,956.99.

www.sportsmanguncentre.co.uk



Already an impressively advanced design, Benelli has taken the Lupo to a new level with the limited-edition Alpha



Tom's Targets' new sticker muntjac is perfect for adding realism to a simulated stalk

DEVANA HUNTING / TOM'S TARGETS

Three new designs from Tom's Targets stood out: the Sitting Fox (£150) and Muntjac (£280) feature lifelike vinyl stickers, ideal for simulated stalks. Each sticker (£14.95) withstands around a dozen hits before needing replacement. Also new is the Roe Doe Follow-Up (£320), with a reactive neck hit zone for practising dispatch shots. All targets are laser-cut from AR500 Hardox 500 steel and are available exclusively from Tom's Targets. Meanwhile, sister company Devana Hunting showed off a compact folding gambrel (£24.95), tough enough for any deer but small enough for a pocket or rucksack. A quick shackle adjustment sets it up for use, eliminating the bulk and sharp edges that make conventional gambrels a pain to carry.

www.devanahunting.co.uk | www.tomstargets.co.uk

DNT – ELECTRO-OPTICS

I hadn't crossed paths with Day-Night Technologies (DNT) before, but UK rep Andrew Dickinson quickly brought me up to speed with an impressive whistle-stop tour. First up was the Thermnight TNO series, offering true multispectral performance — thermal, digital day/night, and laser ranging — plus onboard ballistic compensation, all in a compact, lightweight build priced from £1K to £2.5K. Also of note were the similarly compact Zulus HD day/night scope (with or without LRF), the versatile Hydra (a triple-duty thermal monocular, weapon sight and front add-on), and a lightweight pre-production 4K digital riflescope that's well worth watching out for. Just some of the bases covered by a brand with real momentum.

uk.dntoptics.com



DNT offers an impressive variety of advanced but affordable electronic (and conventional) optics for shooters



FSA's Stalker's Piece Bag, undoubtedly the classiest way to carry a packed lunch up a hill



GAIM's shooting simulator lets you practise your favourite shooting sports in the comfort of your front room

FINE SHOOTING ACCESSORIES

Fine Shooting Accessories continues to set the benchmark for traditional field gear, blending elegant design with rugged functionality. Their Stalker's Piece Bag (£85) is a thoughtfully engineered companion for hill stalking—compact and lightweight at just 750g (unloaded), yet equipped to carry enough to keep you fuelled in remote terrain. It comes complete with a small thermos flask and a plastic sandwich box, offering practical comfort without excess bulk. Also worth a look is the Small Bullet Pouch (£60), crafted to hold four rounds up to .375 H&H, or .416 Rigby in the express version—robust, discreet, and built to last.

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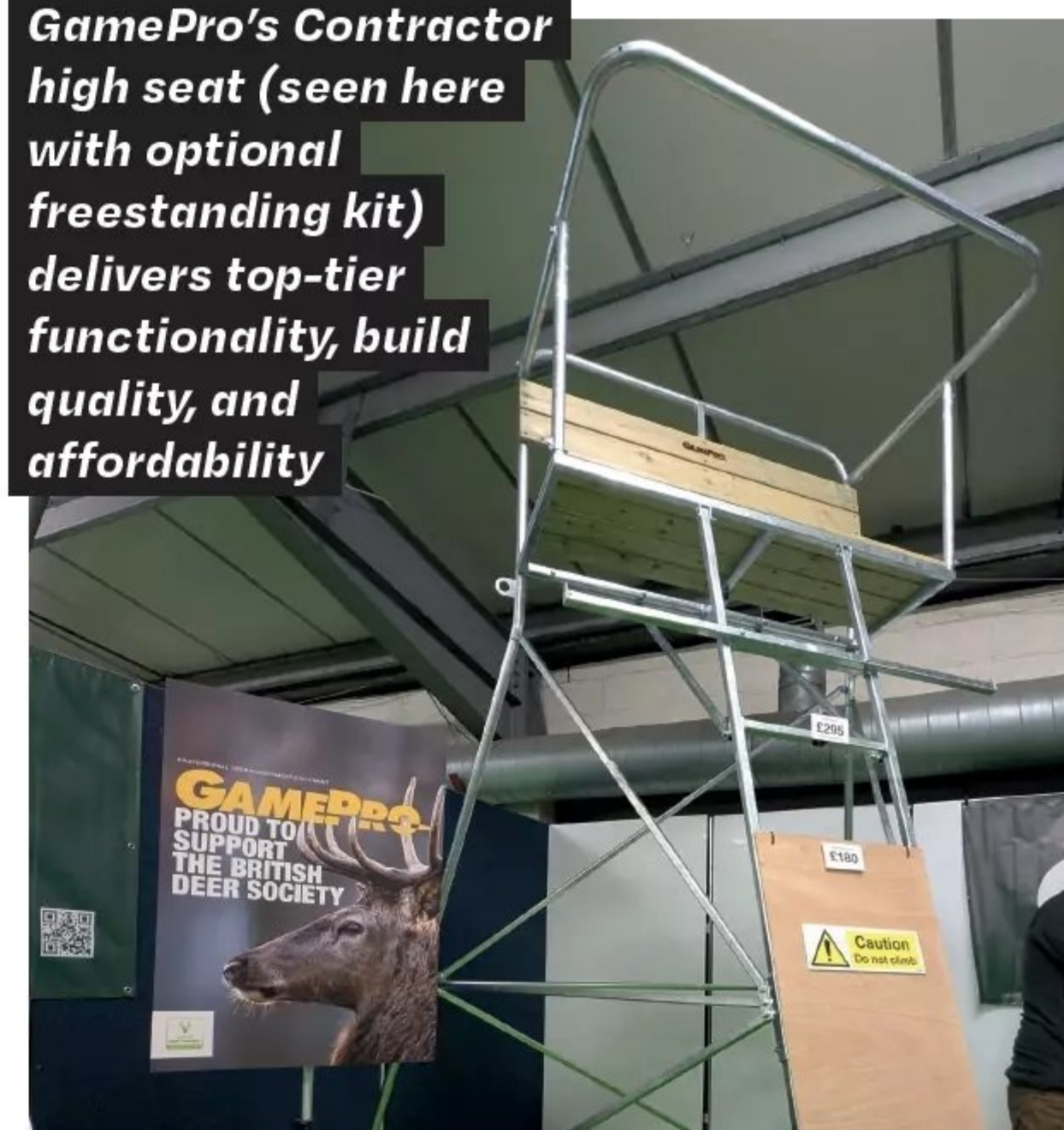
GAIM SHOOTING SIMULATOR

GAIM drew plenty of attention with a huge screen and full-height hunting stand, challenging visitors to top the leaderboard on a race-tuned version of their classic Hunting Lane driven boar scenario. Since its UK launch in 2022, I've logged hundreds of hours with GAIM, my benchmark for VR-based training in practical shooting and driven ground game. The system integrates three elements: a Meta Quest headset and controllers; GAIM's custom hardware, which includes lifelike trigger modules that replicate the feel of real firearms; and a growing suite of immersive software scenarios. Features like range customisation and multiplayer are already live, with major updates expected in Q2 2025.

www.gaim.com



GamePro's Contractor high seat (seen here with optional freestanding kit) delivers top-tier functionality, build quality, and affordability



GAMEPRO HIGH SEATS

Unusually in this sector, GamePro's high seats are precision-engineered for stability, comfort, and ease of use. Developed in the Peak District by a company rooted in both deer stalking and fabrication, these seats are field-tested by professional and recreational stalkers and independently assessed for safety. Both the deluxe Vantage (£360) and the economical Contractor (from £265) offer exceptionally solid, spacious, and ergonomic platforms that optimise the stalker's experience and outcomes. Constructed from corrosion-resistant galvanised steel with reinforced joints and adjustable mounts, they're fully compliant with Countryside Stewardship grant requirements and designed for quick transport and set-up anywhere in the UK or Europe.

www.gameprooutdoor.co.uk



Expertise and experience are evident in every detail of GamePro's fully featured Vantage high seat

HARKNESS ET AL – STEEL ACTION RIFLES

Alistair Harkness is an avid hunter, with a taste for the Teutonic and a keen eye for quality. He imports Steel Action rifles, and they are gorgeous. Made in Cologne, they combine a rotating triple-lug head (for bank-vault integrity) with a straight-pull bolt (for compactness/speed). Dual-stack magazines hold 5 or 10 rounds. Metal is blued/nitrided or nickel-plated. Picatinny bases are integral and complemented by a neat QD mount. Stock options include practical polymer with tactile inlays (green, black or orange), warm walnut (classic, thumbhole or multi-adjustable), and a high-tech Akila chassis. Chamberings (17) currently span .223 Rem to .338 Win Mag. Prices run from £2.75K to £4.3K.

www.instagram.com/harknessetal



A beautiful top-of-the-range Steel Action rifle from Harkness Et Al. They also supply S&B scopes

Bending gambrels - under appropriately close supervision! - at the Midcounties Blacking stand



MIDCOUNTIES BLACKING

Lichfield-based Midcounties Blacking (MB) returned with a broad selection of powders (Hodgdon, Vihtavouri), projectiles (Hornady, Nosler, Sierra), ammunition (you name it!), and other in-demand items. True to their ethos of making as well as selling, master gunmaker Darren Hartshorne spent the day bending gambrels and S-hooks on his custom-made jigs, pausing only to advise me on a restocking job and coach me through making some myself. It's only when you try it that you realise just how skilled he is. Their hands-on ethos, commitment to practical shooting needs, and sheer friendliness make visiting MB's stand one of the great pleasures of the show.

www.midcountiesblacking.co.uk



MME CUSTOM RIFLE BULLETS

MME Custom Rifle Bullets is the creation of Pete Watson, a lifelong shooter and hunter, who has dedicated himself to creating innovative bullet designs tailored to meet individual shooters' needs. These include hunting projectiles with unique polymer-ball tips for enhanced expansion, and bullets designed to combine excellent terminal performance with smooth feeding, even in vintage rifles. The company continues to expand its range of calibres, while maintaining a strong focus on quality and precision. Pete collaborates closely with clients to solve design challenges, ensuring each bullet is crafted for optimal performance and reliability.

www.mmeriflebullets.co.uk



Whatever cartridge you load for, there's a very good chance MME will have the bullets you need. If they don't, they'll make some

Pixfra's Volans 4K day/night laser-rangefinding digisight is a highly capable, user-friendly unit with a groundbreaking price point



PIXFRA VOLANS V850 LRF DIGITAL DAY-AND-NIGHT SCOPE

Debuting at the show, the Pixfra Volans V850 LRF is a brand-new digital day-and-night riflescope aimed squarely at the market dominated by the Hik Micro Alpex 4K LRF. It features a 4K CMOS sensor, adjustable aperture, and a new circular display designed to echo the feel of traditional optics. A built-in laser rangefinder offers readings out to 1,000m, while an onboard ballistic calculator supports long-range precision. The user interface is especially clear and intuitive, with a fluid menu system that enhances ease of use in the field. It's priced at £789.95, so £60 less than its main rival.

www.pixfraoutdoor.co.uk

The new Oryx thermal monocular from Pulsar features a new control layout, including a focus wheel by the eyepiece



PULSAR ORYX LRF XG35 THERMAL MONOCULAR

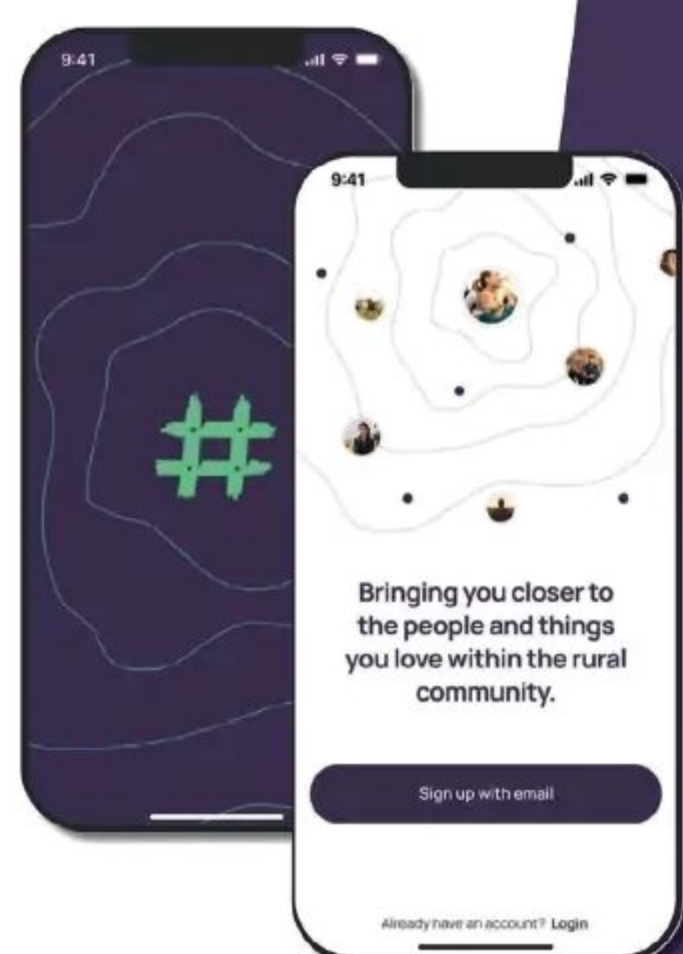
Set to replace the long-serving Axion, Pulsar's new Oryx LRF XG35 refines the compact thermal monocular with improved ergonomics and full one-handed control. A redesigned interface places the focus wheel behind the eyepiece and adds a rocker-style menu button for swift setting changes. The fully integrated laser rangefinder now sits flush under the lens, offering $\pm 1\text{m}$ precision out to 1,500m. A 640x480 <20mK sensor and 35mm f1.0 lens give crisp detail to 1,800m, with digital stabilisation, 2.5–20x mag, and built-in video recording. Power comes from a dual-battery system — one fixed, one removable — offering up to 12 hours. £2,189.95 RRP.

www.thomasjacks.co.uk



Fed up of social media blocking your content?

Ever-enterprising, Ian Sweetman and partner Rachel have created Stile: a social media platform dedicated to connecting the countryside



Try stile...

A NEW social media app that celebrates and promotes fieldsports and country life.



STILE SOCIAL MEDIA

Pausing to admire Ian Sweetman's classic custom rifles, I discovered he'd branched out into social media, launching Stile, a new platform dedicated to rural life. With the strapline "Connecting the countryside" and the cheeky hook "No bias, no trolling, no vegans (only joking, vegans)," Stile offers a safe and supportive space for those passionate about the countryside. Members can promote local events and rural businesses, share knowledge, connect with others, and post without fear of judgement. Crucially, Stile lets its users shape what they see, giving a voice to rural communities often misrepresented in mainstream media.

www.stile-country.com



Wapiti manufactures a wide range of non-lead bullets and ammunition here in the UK

WAPITI PROJECTILES AND CARTRIDGES

UK-based Wapiti Ammunition manufactures loaded rifle cartridges and loose projectiles. Their products feature premium components and undergo rigorous testing in OIP-accredited facilities. Key USPs are proprietary non-toxic projectiles (in solid, medium-expansion, and high-energy-transfer formats), and services that include bespoke ammunition design, manufacture, and packaging. Plus, load pressure testing and brass case reconditioning. Wapiti also prides itself on its in-house R&D capabilities, allowing for rapid development of new calibres to meet growing demand. With a focus on precision, innovation, and customer service, Wapiti's offerings cater to a comprehensive range of shooting needs, with prices varying based on calibre and custom specifications.

www.wapiti.co.uk

CONCLUSION

For all the outstanding kit on display and for sale, the Stalking Show delivers so much more: an invaluable opportunity to meet and learn from expert chefs, hunting outfitters, rifleshooters, countryside organisations, and even regional firearms licensing departments. You can get potential medal heads CIO measured, compete in challenges, and enjoy delicious food. In short, it's an unmissable event for anyone passionate about deer and the countryside.

Contact:

www.thestalkingshow.co.uk



A man with long dark hair and a beard, wearing a fur garment, stands in a sun-dappled forest. He is holding a large set of antlers. The text 'THE STALKING SHOW' is overlaid on the image, with a crosshair symbol integrated into the letter 'O' of 'SHOW'.

THE STALKING SHOW

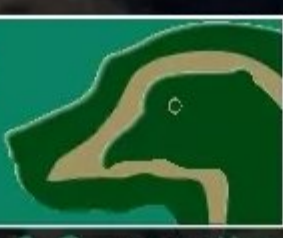
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Lee Precision Ultimate Turret Press Kit

➤ It is not often that something new and different in the way of a reloading press comes out, so when Lee Precision introduced the Ultimate Turret Press Kit, it was bound to be interesting. The press is available on its own or in kit form, as tested here.

Turret presses

Turret presses are for people who enjoy reloading on a single-station press, where they can focus their attention on just one operation rather than having four or more all going on at once, like you get on a progressive press. But they also want the convenience of having all of the dies already set up on the press. This is where the turret press shines, as it rotates the next die into place over the case with each stroke of the lever, making it quicker than a single-stage press, but easier to control and watch than a progressive tool.

The Ultimate Turret Press

This latest tool from Lee Precision definitely takes the turret press to the next level with an extremely heavy and rigid build. The base, columns, linkage, and ram are all constructed out of steel, with the ram being over an inch in diameter. The actual turret that holds the dies and rotates on the top of this type of press has been replaced with a 'tool carrier', which is also made of steel. The kit is supplied with a five-hole tool carrier, but it can be switched out for a three, four, or even six-position version to suit your needs. The three and six-position options are actually provided by the same carrier, with a different indexing rod supplied to alter the degree of rotation required for either option. The tool carrier can be changed by simply removing three bolts with the supplied wrench.

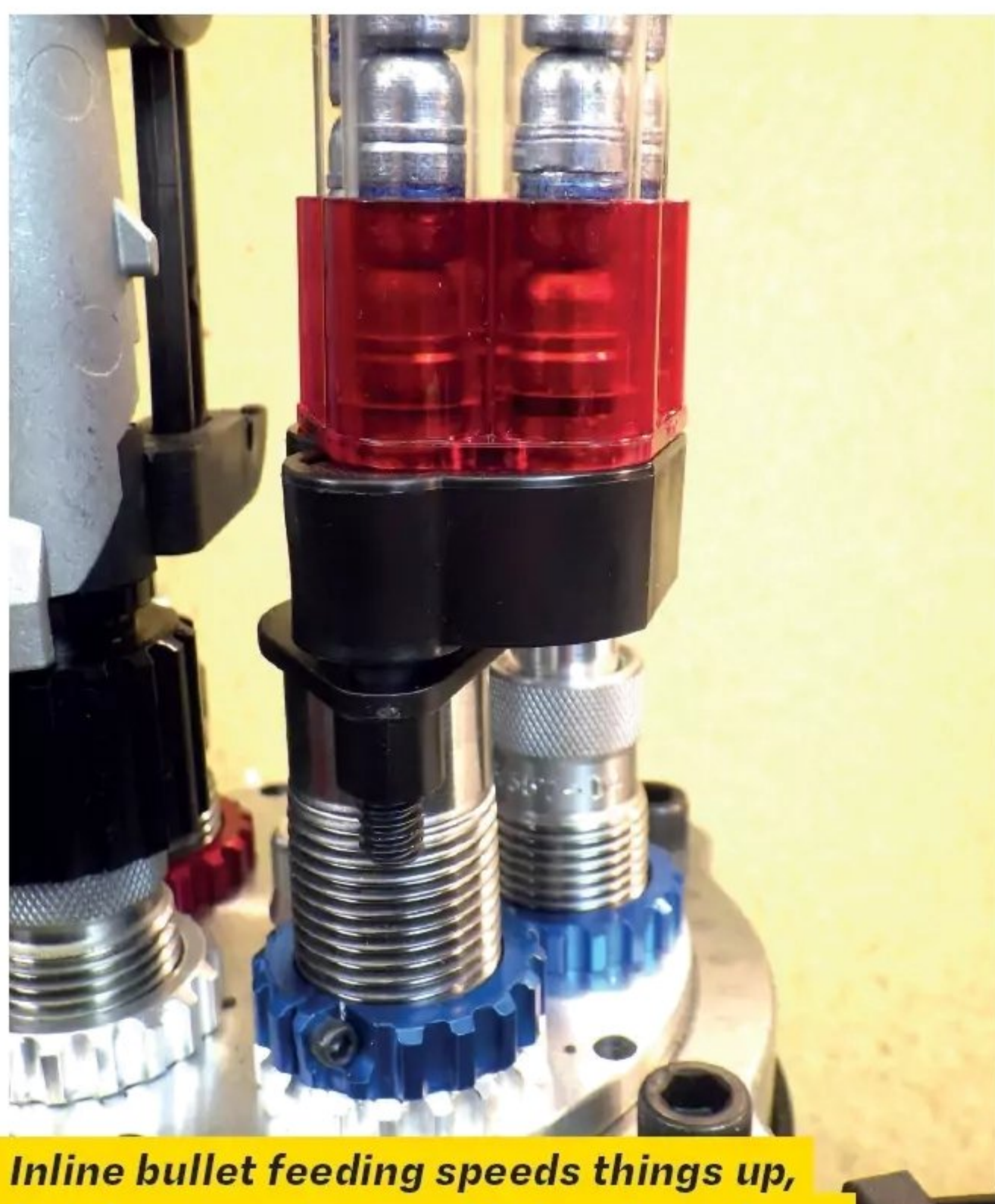
The tool carrier is precision-machined and has several perimeter support lugs, which lock into the surrounding support ring to ensure it is rigidly held in place to prevent any die-tipping for optimum precision. Each die position offers a quick-change facility, by using the Lee Breech Lock system, so that they can be removed or inserted without disturbing their settings.

Also included

The kit includes several additional items needed to get you up and running: a Breech Lock three-die set (available in a limited number of calibres), a Deluxe Auto Drum Powder Measure, a Safety Powder Scale, a Safety Prime, a bin and bracket for catching completed rounds, and an Inline Bullet Feed Magazine. Each item is supplied with full instructions.

Having a press-mounted powder measure and a scale to check your powder charges is really useful, although this particular powder measure does take a lot





Inline bullet feeding speeds things up, but does require an additional purchase

of time to bed in and get set up to ensure it works consistently.

The Inline Bullet Feed Magazine can only be used with Lee's Inline Die, which is not included in the kit, oddly, so you have to spend another £45 to be able to use it. That said, the Inline Die and the Magazine are very useful, and they work extremely well. It also makes great use of the fifth die position. Not having to insert bullets manually really speeds things up and also ensures that bullets are all started straight and consistently.

Setting up

The actual press is very easy to set up, and the length and angle of the operating lever are adjustable. The roller handle grip is well-sized and comfortable to use, and the press operates very smoothly despite the large size of the ram and the tool carrier. It is actually smoother to operate than the Classic Cast Press.

The process of inserting and setting the dies and powder measure is just like that of any other press, and once



Having five die stations allows you to do all the stages of reloading on one press

secured in the Quick Change Bushings, they are held firmly in position.

Operating

Once the dies are all set up, the press is really easy and smooth to operate. With five dies all in one carrier, you can carry out each stage of the process smoothly, quickly, and of course, individually. Completed rounds are pushed out of the shell holder and into the collecting bin, and spent primers are dropped down through the ram into a disposal tube, keeping the dirt and grit away from the press base and ram.

Any complaints?

Lee Precision is using more and more plastic parts in their presses, and their durability is something that might be a concern. On this particular press, the completed rounds are pushed out of the shell holder by a Case Ejector, which is a curved and 'springy' plastic part. The shell holder is also retained by a small C-shaped plastic part. As a bit of a cynic when it comes to plastic,

these parts were tested extensively, and although they seemed flimsy at first, they did exactly what they were supposed to do and did not malfunction at all. The thing to remember is that the function they perform is only possible because they are plastic, and the material has the required characteristics. Some jobs done by plastic cannot easily or economically be done with metal, and their presence on the press should perhaps be considered a positive and not a negative.

Conclusion

This is a great piece of kit and represents a significant step forward for turret presses. The strength and rigidity are very good, and the tool carrier moves smoothly while being held firmly. Lee Precision's equipment is always well-made and good value for money, and this is no exception.

Although it is not included in the kit, the Inline Die makes a worthwhile addition, and having bullets fed directly into the case alone makes the switch to a five-hole carrier worthwhile.

The kit is not cheap, but it is worth every penny, and with additional tool carriers with different numbers of stations available, you can set one up for each calibre you reload. The press will auto-index with cartridge overall lengths up to 4", and manually index rounds up to 5". **GM**

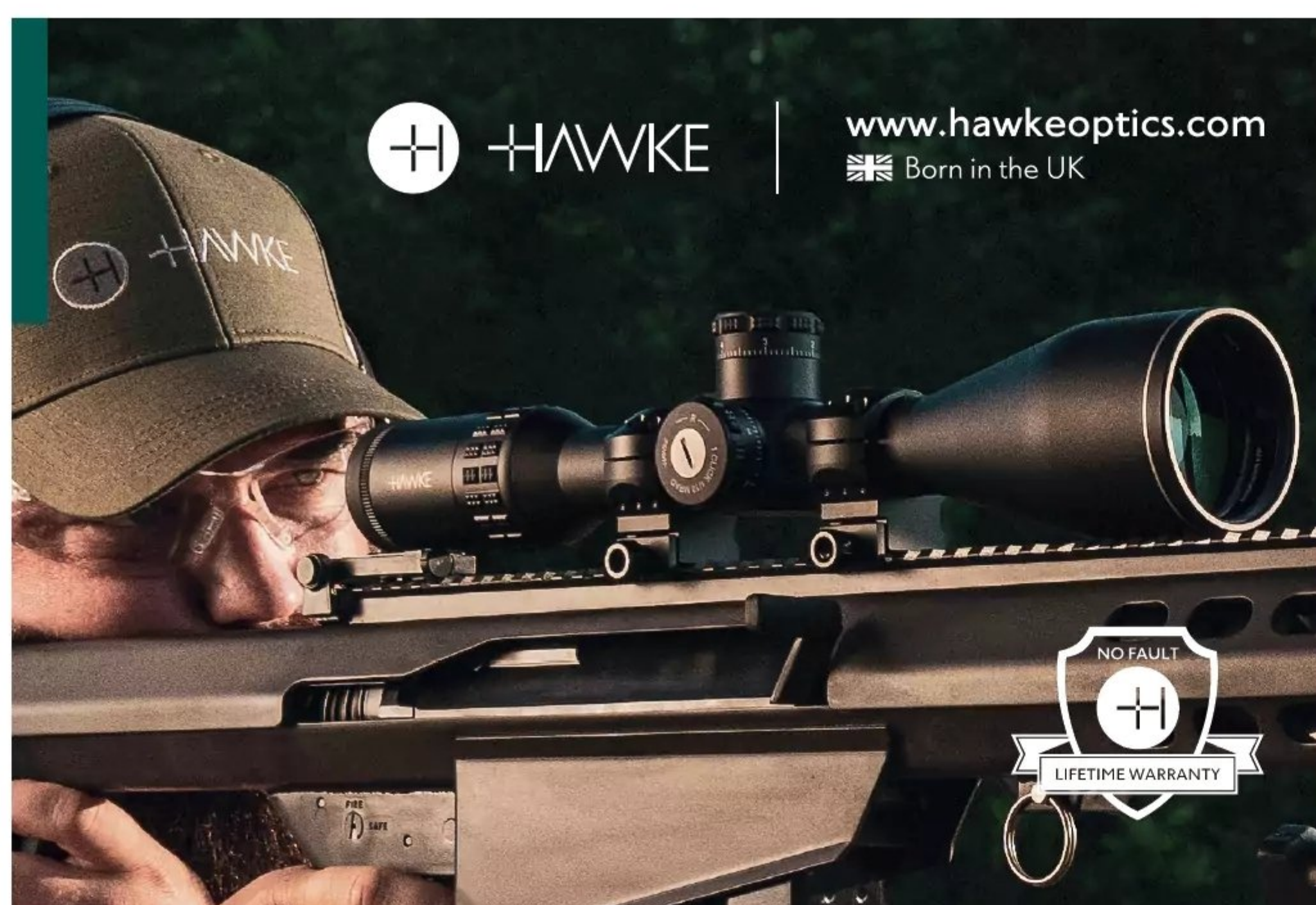
REVIEWER: MARK UNDERWOOD

TECHNICAL SPECIFICATION

Name: Lee Precision Ultimate Turret Press Kit

Price: £368

Contact: Henry Kranks - www.henrykrank.com



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GM06.25/19

Plano SE Series Single Rifle/Shotgun Case



There is plenty of room inside for a long rifle or shotgun

➤ **As a devotee of the shooting sports, I came to realise at an early age the benefits of a hard case.**

Sometimes a gun needs to be left in a workshop or locked kit room (I'm talking airguns, where the legalities are covered), and just knowing your pride and joy is in a hard case brings peace of mind. You may be leaving it to be worked on by a gunsmith, but whatever the scenario, a hard case means the gun cannot easily be knocked or damaged.

Transportation

Transportation of our specialised tools to and from a shoot/competition is where a hard case really comes into its own, and if you have ever travelled to an event with a couple of friends, the car can soon be a jumble of valuable equipment, which has to be handled and moved at various intervals. With a gun inside a soft gun slip, anything being placed on top runs the risk of knocking the scope or damaging the

stock. With the same gun securely stowed in its own padded hard case, we can relax. In short, if you want to know the gun has maintained a perfect zero and has not been damaged en route, then the 'hard shell' approach is a prerequisite.

SE series

On show here is the Plano SE Series Single Rifle/Shotgun Case, and at a little over 4lbs in weight, it's wonderfully light, yet extremely functional. At 48" long, it's big enough to take a multitude of guns, and with eggshell-style foam padding inside, the contents are nicely protected. The main central moulded handle is very comfortable, and there are four secure latches. Added versatility comes with the inclusion of padlock tabs (for airline travel) at all four corners, and also around the central handle.

I was sent this case as an example of the Plano range, and whilst it's specified for scoped rifles (up to 50mm in diameter), this SE Series Single Rifle Case is aimed at fairly slimline sporting rifles, conventional air rifles, or shotguns. If you are looking to

house a bulbous custom stock for Field Target shooting, for example, then look at Plano's larger models. Likewise, with 3" of internal depth to play with, another consideration is overly wide tactical scope turrets, as these may be too snug a fit, which then defeats the object of a hard case. It's all about the right-sized case for the job; go too large, and I know from experience it's a drag trying to fit it into a conventional car, let alone lift it!

As intended

So, for many standard guns, this case will be perfect, and it remains one of Plano's best-selling items for good reason. Caveats aside, use this case as nature/Plano intended, for a conventional rifle/scope combo, and it is indeed "solid protection at entry-level prices", to quote the advertising. Well made, reassuringly protective, and smart to boot. **GM**

REVIEWER: MARK CAMOCCIO

TECHNICAL SPECIFICATION

Name: Plano SE Series Single Rifle/Shotgun Case

External Dimensions: 48.38" x 11" x 3.38"

Internal Dimensions: 47.87" x 10.44" x 3"

Weight: 4.2lbs

Price: £42.95

Contact: Cadet Direct - www.cadetdirect.com

Caldwell Hunter's Blind Bag

➤ When shooting from a high seat, blind, or box hide, you often get the opportunity to take some relaxed, precisely aimed shots which benefit from the height, weight, and solidity of the structure itself. The Caldwell Blind Bag is a simple, pre-filled package that drops over the windowsill, ladder rung, or front rail of your location and, with long legs hanging down, remains in position without slipping. The green Cordura construction features a conventional rabbit-ear rest bag on top, and there are also twin laces if you want to tie it even more securely in position.

The overall weight is 1,423g (51oz), and the 230mm (9") height provides a stable anchor for the 130mm (5.25") wide upper rest. The bag will expand to fit over a 38mm/1.5" sill, and because the filling beads are soft with some malleability, you can position it as desired. The rest prevents all noise transfer from the supporting surface as you position and

aim your rifle. Importantly, the soft bag avoids any bounce when firing, allowing precision bullet placement without zero shift, as well as a continually accessible scope picture throughout the recoil and reloading cycle while watching quarry reaction.

If you opt for a different filling, the filler tubes are folded and tucked beneath the main rest, allowing the bag to be emptied and refilled with heavier or lighter media. The rest will accommodate a rifle with a fore-end measuring up to 50mm (2") wide, but a change of media can help the bag accommodate wider fore-ends. **GM**

REVIEWER: CHRIS PARKIN

TECHNICAL SPECIFICATION

Name: Caldwell Hunter's Blind Bag

Price: £27.99

Contact: Sportsman Gun Centre - www.sportsmanguncentre.co.uk



Milbro Star Plate Target Hanger

➤ Airsoft has exploded in popularity, and the amount of kit now available to the enthusiast is truly bewildering. Sportsmarketing (SMK) carries an extensive array of accessories in its burgeoning product portfolio to cover this side of our sport, and on show here is a neat little target system that should prove a whole lot of fun.

The Milbro Star Plate Target Hanger takes the form of a small frame, a shade under 8" high, and, as the name suggests, is shaped like a star.



Everything comes flat-packed, and the set consists of the base, two arm sections, seven disc targets, and assembly screws.

Assembly is quick and easy, and just requires the side arm sections to be slotted into place, and then secured with the small bolts. A small spanner is included, although this must be used along with an Allen key. With the frame assembled, it's a simple matter of hanging the disc targets in position, and then the action can start! The unit is free-standing, but can also be screwed down if required. **GM**

REVIEWER: MARK CAMOCCIO



TECHNICAL SPECIFICATION

Name: Milbro Star Plate Target Hanger (Airsoft only)

Price: £17.99

Contact: Sportsmarketing - www.sportsmk.co.uk

The logo for Pro-Shot features a stylized target with a red bullseye and concentric black and white rings. The target is positioned over a background of horizontal red and white stripes, with a blue field of white stars on the left side, resembling the US flag. The text "Pro-Shot" is written in a large, white, cursive script with a black outline, slanted upwards to the right.

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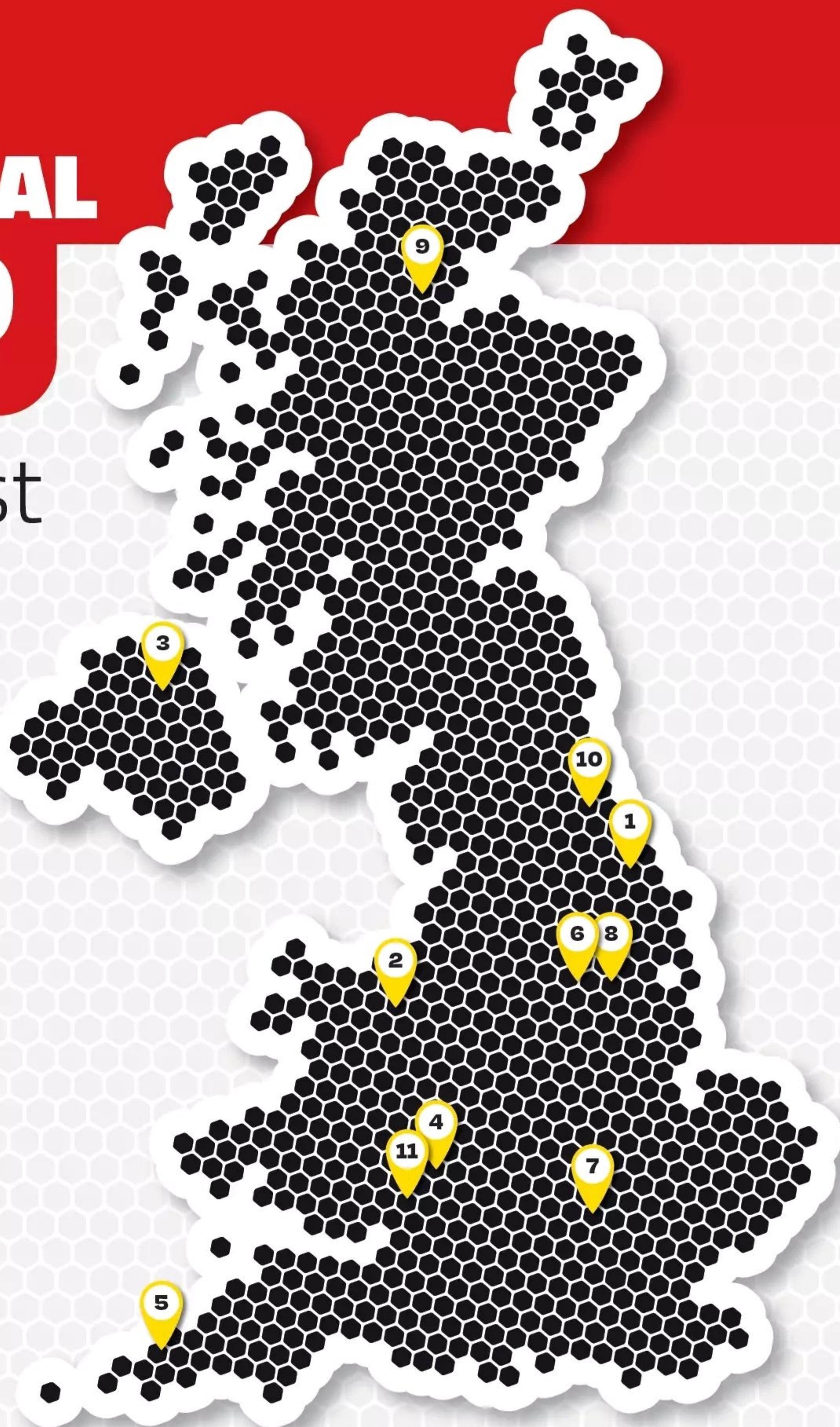
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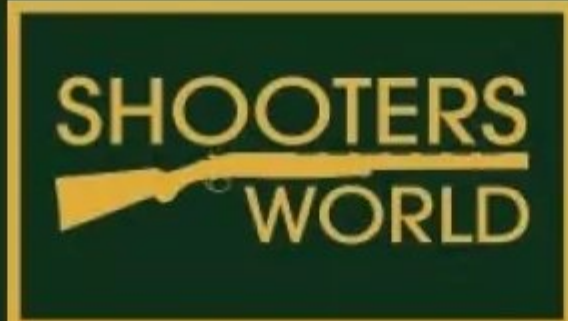
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From cocking effort to stock design, **Mark Camoccio** assesses every detail of the BSA Lightning CLX in this comprehensive hands-on test

THE *Homecoming*



This shows the progressive grip pattern on the Minelli furniture



Neat branding is laser-cut into the butt



Note the new rocker-style manual safety catch at the rear of the cylinder

Many of us have a soft spot for good old Beeza, and they've been a huge name in the industry for many years. So when they announced that some of the spring-powered models would once again be manufactured in Birmingham, it was welcome news. One such model is the BSA Lightning CLX, a revised version of their popular break-barrel Lightning, which was previously made by Gamo in Spain.

Slick profile

The first obvious difference is the rather beautiful, sleek sporter stock, and with the CLX specification incorporating a carbine-length barrel, finished off with a factory-fitted silencer, the end result is a highly attractive sporting airgun that's virtually guaranteed to turn heads down the local club.

Usual suspect

Let's take a closer look at the woodwork first, and all the tell-tale signs are here, that this sporter stock is in fact the work of Italian stockmaker, Minelli, made to BSA's specifications. The overall configuration follows the lines of the sporter first introduced on the revamped Meteor Super, and the execution is superb. Subtle panels of laser-cut 'patterning' cover both the fore-end and pistol grip, and looking to the base of the grip, the small 'm' can be seen – effectively their signature. I'm careful not to call it chequering, and it isn't stippling in the true sense of the word either, but the grip pattern follows BSA's other models, with a series of graduated raised dots, rather than conventional diamonds. It looks distinctive, and certainly does its job. I probably prefer conventional deep chequering, but BSA's approach is certainly different.

In fact, I'd say the stock design works well all round. I love the thinned-down, graceful, yet angular fore-end tip. The curvaceous flare through the fore-end is now classic BSA across their model range, and the shaping and detail around the grip area is also hard to fault, right down to the rear thumb shelf, which is perfect for a relaxed handhold. A prominent cheekpiece features on each side, as the stock is ambidextrous, and with the inclusion of a sling swivel stud on the underside of the butt, a satisfyingly soft rubber pad at the shoulder, and the BSA logo neatly cut into the stock at the heel, attention to detail is laudable. Overall, then, it's hard to fault the woodwork, as it's highly functional and visually stunning in equal measure.

I have the standard beech model on test here, but the Lightning CLX can also be specified with an even more beautiful walnut handle, for those who want to splash out further.

Further revisions

The new CLX spec isn't just about the woodwork, though, as this model has also seen further revisions to the action. For those who like



**IN SHORT, IT'S CAUSE FOR
CELEBRATION SEEING ANY
MANUFACTURING COMING
BACK TO THE UK, SO WELL
DONE, BEEZA. "**

MARK CAMOCCIO





Unmistakably BSA, with the classic breech configuration

Detail of the fore-end



A raised arrestor scope rail comes as standard



A revised trigger mechanism features

More progressive patterning features around the pistol grip



The new BSA Lightning CLX is stylish and effective

to see a safety catch, there's a new silky-smooth manual rocker switch at the rear of the cylinder. It's easy to operate with the thumb, and is marked in red to denote 'live'.

The new model name features across the cylinder, laser-etched in gold, and this had me double-checking my photos for clarity, as the lettering actually gives the impression of seeing double. It's an optical illusion and just the design, and it's all very neatly done.

A rather more significant upgrade is the all-new two-stage trigger, which is of all-metal construction, and it can be adjusted without removing the stock for length of pull, sear engagement, and second-stage pull weight.

Scoping up

BSA sticks with its raised scope rail for this model and incorporates the familiar two-part rail and arrestor buffer feature, which helps to deal with any recoil imparted to the optics. This effectively presents conventional dovetail rails, with an arrestor stud hole at the rear.

My test rifle came fitted with one of the new-generation BSA Armoury 6-24x44 tactical-style optics, which looked the part and offered a pleasingly fine reticle into the bargain, so I was more than happy to leave it in place for the duration.

Handling and feel

Pick up the new Lightning CLX, and it's immediately obvious that much thought and planning have gone into its design. The balance and poise feel spot on, and that's the result of a short barrel matched perfectly with the BSA silencer, which comes factory-fitted as standard.

BSA famously still manufactures its own barrels, unlike the vast majority of the industry, and this means they can keep a full check on quality and specification throughout the production stage. They use the 'cold hammer-forged' process, and I've seen this fascinating operation first-hand at the factory a few years back. Intriguingly, BSA fits different-length barrels for each calibre, in order to generate much the same energy across the variations. The barrel is 14" in .22 calibre, and 12" on my tested .177 version. Physics then takes care of the rest.

So, what can we expect in terms of cocking effort? Well, initially breaking the breech open proved easy, then using the silencer as a cocking aid, cocking the action and compressing the mainspring thereafter was perfectly manageable – significant effort for sure, but a very smooth operation.

Look through the gap underneath the fore-end, and the robust articulated cocking linkage is why such a small cut-out is required in the woodwork. Increased strength and solidity are the result.

The cocking stroke is smooth, but significant effort is required

This BSA was seriously accurate with the right ammo



Shooting from a kneeling position, handling the stock with the extended fore-end, just feels natural and comfortable, with the trigger hand incredibly well supported. My favourite hand position, thumb up, sitting in the groove, perfectly positions the trigger finger, and it's details like this that make such a difference.

Range time

The breech configuration is classic BSA, with the exposed lip of the barrel on show, and a chunky detent all part of the design. The lock-up feels super positive, yet the barrel opens without any real force required. Correct pellet selection is so often important, and in the case of this CLX, the BSA Goldstar pellets that were supplied proved a very tight fit in the barrel. The Goldstars are manufactured by H&N, and they are a harder mix of lead and antimony, which won't suit every barrel. We're not just talking accuracy, as having to press hard just to chamber a pellet into the breech is tiresome. Switching to softer JSB pellets (in this case Air Arms Diabolo Fields) did the trick, and you could feel the pellet mate with the rifling at the outset, and sit perfectly flush. Accuracy was better, too. BSA Goldstars over 30 yards printed $\frac{3}{4}$ "

groups, but making the tactical switch to AA Diabolos soon had satisfying clusters sub- $\frac{1}{4}$ ", which is hard to fault. So, yes, seriously accurate with the right ammo. In use, the revised trigger feels good, with a super light first stage and a predictable second-stage release.

I would say the Lightning is fairly noisy, even with the sizable silencer in place. The firing cycle is quick, with plenty of recoil and some spring resonance. Quality spring-powered airguns invariably benefit from a tuning regime involving a full strip-down, polish-up, re-lubrication, and rebuild, often with a slightly softer spring. This level of attention and aftercare is something the factory process simply doesn't allow for when producing guns at a set price point. All I would say is the Lightning CLX is capable of serious accuracy and is sufficiently well put together to warrant specialist attention. So I can see some competition-minded shooters modifying this model and getting it to perform at its optimum for Hunter Field Target shooting, as well as hunting. This is praise indeed, in a roundabout way.

Verdict

Clever, thorough design and ergonomics are all part of the end

product, and with BSA's pedigree and know-how coming to the fore here, it's no surprise that this BSA Lightning CLX is proving such a popular model already, by all accounts. In short, it's cause for celebration seeing any manufacturing coming back to the UK, so well done, Beeza. I still think there's a market for a full-on, more sophisticated, tuned action, but this new CLX goes some way to satisfying the clamour for a quality home-produced break-barrel. Incidentally, if my pricing is correct, and there really is just a £20 difference between the beech on show here and an upgrade to the walnut-stocked version, I reckon that's a no-brainer too. Either way, BSA should have a winner on their hands. **GM**

TECHNICAL SPECIFICATION

Name: BSA Lightning CLX

Type: Springer

Calibre: .177 on test, .22 available

Barrel Length: 12" (.177), 14" (.22)

Overall Length: 43.3"

Weight: 7lbs

Energy: 10.8ft/lbs on test

Price: From £439

Contact: BSA Guns - www.bsaguns.co.uk



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The test model came with added appeal,
carrying the serial number 007

Ben Taylor's signature is even laser-etched
into the base of the grip





A collector's **DREAM**

The Theoben brand returns in style,
and **Mark Camoccio** gets hands-on with
a limited run rifle that blends
history with high performance



*The trigger may look basic,
but don't be fooled*



*Wow! We are talking about
very high-grade Turkish walnut here*



*Detail of the
pistol grip*



The boldly styled biathlon side-lever



The inlet valve gets a neat cap, but don't lose it!

A revisiting of the Theoben brand has been on the cards for some time, and I first got wind of this exciting news in mid-2024.

International Sports Brands (ISB) has become the UK distributor, and I've been in communication with their affable MD, David Stapley, for some time, eager to be kept in the loop about developments.

Special celebration

Well, now it really is happening, and on show here is the special Theoben Rapid Ben Taylor Limited Edition model, and my God, just look at the stock! OK, there's rather more to this specialist piece of machinery than the glorious Turkish walnut, but it's undeniably the stock that stops us in our tracks.

David's plan was to produce a limited edition 'special' to celebrate the return of Theoben to the market, and I think we can safely say that he has well and truly hit the brief! But before we get too up close and personal, let's remind ourselves of just what Theoben was all about. Ben Taylor was part of the duo, along with the late Dave Theobald, who created the Theoben brand back in the early '80s, and as pioneers of the gas-ram concept, where a sealed chamber of gas or

air replaces a conventional mainspring in a spring-powered airgun, they enjoyed many years of success before their patents expired and everyone else jumped on the gas-ram bandwagon.

Once PCPs began to dominate the market, Theoben cleverly switched their attention, and as ever, led the way in design and innovation. It was Theoben, don't forget, who brought us the first buddy-bottle-fed, multi-shot PCP air rifle, with their famous Rapid 7, and this new special on test here is effectively a modern incarnation of that landmark classic.

Quality components

ISB's vision with this celebratory model was to marry top-quality components with top-class woodwork, and I think we can agree that the end result is visually stunning. The action is manufactured in the USA by Rapid Air Worx/Theoben, but for this Rapid Ben Taylor Limited Edition, the stock was specially commissioned through Form Riflestocks in the UK.

Produced as a limited edition, each rifle will be issued with a small certificate confirming its number within a production run of just 100. Since my gun was sent from the distributor

for this review just after the Great British Shooting Show, the certificate wasn't ready, so it's not shown here. Each gun comes supplied in an incredibly robust padded hard case with four solid snap-down catches, and alongside the rifle, there's a Theoben-branded silencer, two magazines, and a Foster-style filling adapter.

Action and features

Whilst fans of the original Theoben brand may be wondering why there's no rich chemical bluing on show, the matte-black finish applied to the metalwork is well executed and highly practical, given this is ostensibly a hunting rifle. The Lothar Walther barrel is carbon-fibre-wrapped, and this contrasts well with the Theoben moderator up front. Where the original Rapid would have been bolt action, this slick upgrade gets the latest biathlon-style side-lever, which is a feature very much in vogue, and a technical improvement if I may say so. The breech area gives wide access, so single-shot loading is easy. But for lovers of multi-shot, the magazines are no less than 17-shot in .177 (on test) and 12-shot in .22.

Unsurprisingly for such a prestige model, we get a regulated action here, a



sizable 500cc buddy bottle up front, a two-stage trigger, manual safety, hammer spring adjuster at the rear, and a side-mounted manometer to keep tabs on pressure levels.

Exhibitionist

So let's talk about timber. Exhibition Grade or not, all I can say is that the quality of the hand-selected Turkish walnut that Form Riflestocks have sourced here is simply mouth-watering. Form normally works with laminates, but a recent conversation with their top man, Peter McGregor, revealed that they will indeed undertake projects in walnut, and here's the evidence, in all its glory!


 This Theoben Rapid is stunning and classy

 Seriously accurate,
as it should be

Flare and functionality in equal measure. Unusually, the configuration is right-hand dedicated, and that means no compromise, with full-on support around the grip area. I love the prominent rollover Monte Carlo cheekpiece, and, unlike the original Rapid 7, the extended fore-end here means we aren't left holding a cold buddy bottle mid-aim. Look at the beautifully sculpted thumbhole grip, and it doesn't get better than this. A full drop-down target configuration and a generous thumb shelf spoil the trigger hand, but add in rosewood capping and a maple slice between, along with subtle laser-cut chequering, and this Rapid becomes an overload on

the senses. Look under the pistol grip, and you will find Ben Taylor's signature laser-cut into the wood. Nice.

Hands-on

An interrupted Picatinny rail runs across the top of the chunky receiver, and with a scope bolted in place, it's time to play with the quality adjustable Wegu butt pad, to get head position just so. Charging is easy via the snap-fit Foster valve on the right side of the action, meaning my charging kit was usable from the off. Just try not to lose the neat cap, which was a bit of a loose fit on my test gun.

Cocking the side-lever is a smooth process,

and staying with single-shot, thumbing home a pellet is satisfying.

Now, at this point, let's talk about triggers. The classic Theoben/RAW design of the blade here may all look fairly basic, but don't be fooled. Internally, this unit may use fewer components than some of the top match systems, but from experience, I can say it works superbly in use, offering both sensitivity and an impressively light pull when needed.

As for the muzzle report, the Rapid is super noisy without the Theoben silencer but incredibly quiet with it screwed into position, so a no-brainer, as they say.

Stat attack

Over the chronograph, I chose to monitor the first 50 shots for consistency, and using Air Arms Diabolo pellets straight from the tin, the gun achieved a total spread of 17fps. That's impressive consistency, and in the real world, you'll have trouble detecting any impact shift downrange with that performance. I started at the recommended 200bar fill pressure, and after 50 shots, the gun's manometer showed a residual 170bar, so it's safe to say we're probably looking at between 150 and 200 shots.

On to the range, and after a satisfyingly textbook zeroing session, I soon had the pellet falling near the crosshair at 30 yards. But



The side-mounted manometer is clearly marked and easy to read



A Theoben silencer is included



The thumbhole configuration includes a thumb-up shelf

an airgun of this class needs to be pushed further, of course. Given the Ben Taylor special's configuration, I'd say we're primarily looking at a hunting rifle, and here the realistic outer limit distance-wise, in all but special circumstances, would be 40 yards, to be fair to live game. I moved back to this distance and set about fine-tweaking the zero. A few clicks and we were there. Air Arms Diabolo Field pellets, made by pellet supremos JSB, feel soft enough to easily mould with the rifling, and given this model's easily accessible breech, thumbing home the pellet directly into the lip of the barrel lets us know instantly if a pellet is too tight or too loose a fit, and this is a great bonus.

Groups a fraction over a $\frac{1}{4}$ " c-t-c at 40 yards are hard to fault, and that's casually over a test period.

Spend time batch testing and tweaking, as we all do with our favourite gun, and this classy specimen is in the $\frac{1}{2}$ " at 50 yards sector all day long.

It's one of those guns where it's not so much about the results as how it arrives at them, with handling and ergonomics bang on the money. Sumptuous visuals and a satisfying level of refinement are what this limited edition Rapid is all about, after all.

Nit-picking negatives? Well, I'm not so sure about the rather lacklustre new Theoben logo, and the hard case supplied necessitated the removal of the silencer before the Rapid could be stowed away—a mild irritation, but hey.

Verdict

Now, all this talk of a hunting machine begs the

question: who in their right mind, having invested in such a mouth-watering creation as we see here before us, is then going to risk carrying it around in a field scenario? Keen eyes will have noticed my test rifle has added appeal, given that it carries the serial number 007, so definitely a collector's piece. Guns do need to be used, but I can

see a fair few of this limited production run of just 100 being hung on the wall, or added to a display case, never to see active service!

Stunning and classy are two words that sum up the Theoben Rapid Ben Taylor Limited Edition, so congratulations to all involved in its creation, and to the lucky 100 that end up owning one! **GM**

TECHNICAL SPECIFICATION

Name: Theoben Rapid – Ben Taylor Limited Edition

Type: PCP

Calibre: .177 on test, .22 available

Barrel Length: 16.75"

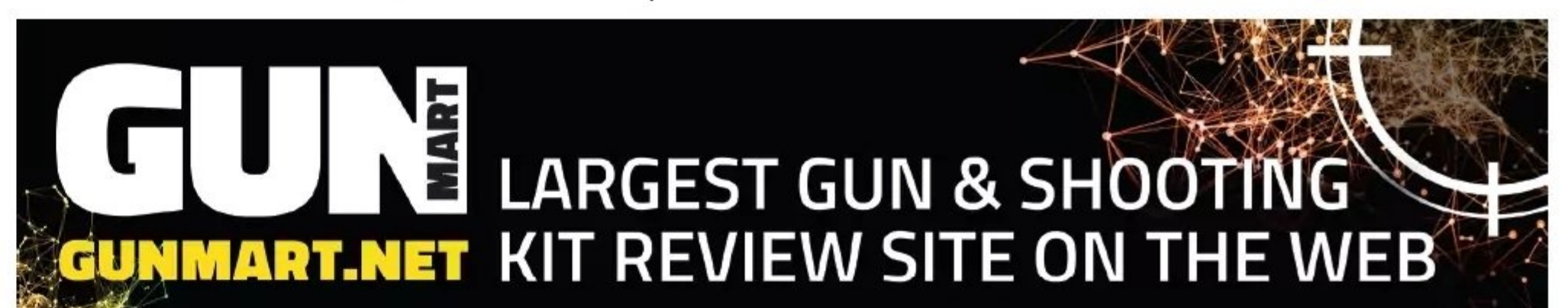
Overall Length: 36.25", plus 6.75" silencer

Weight: 7.5lbs

Energy: 11.3ft/lbs (average)

Price: £2,800

Contact: International Sports Brands - www.isbrands.com



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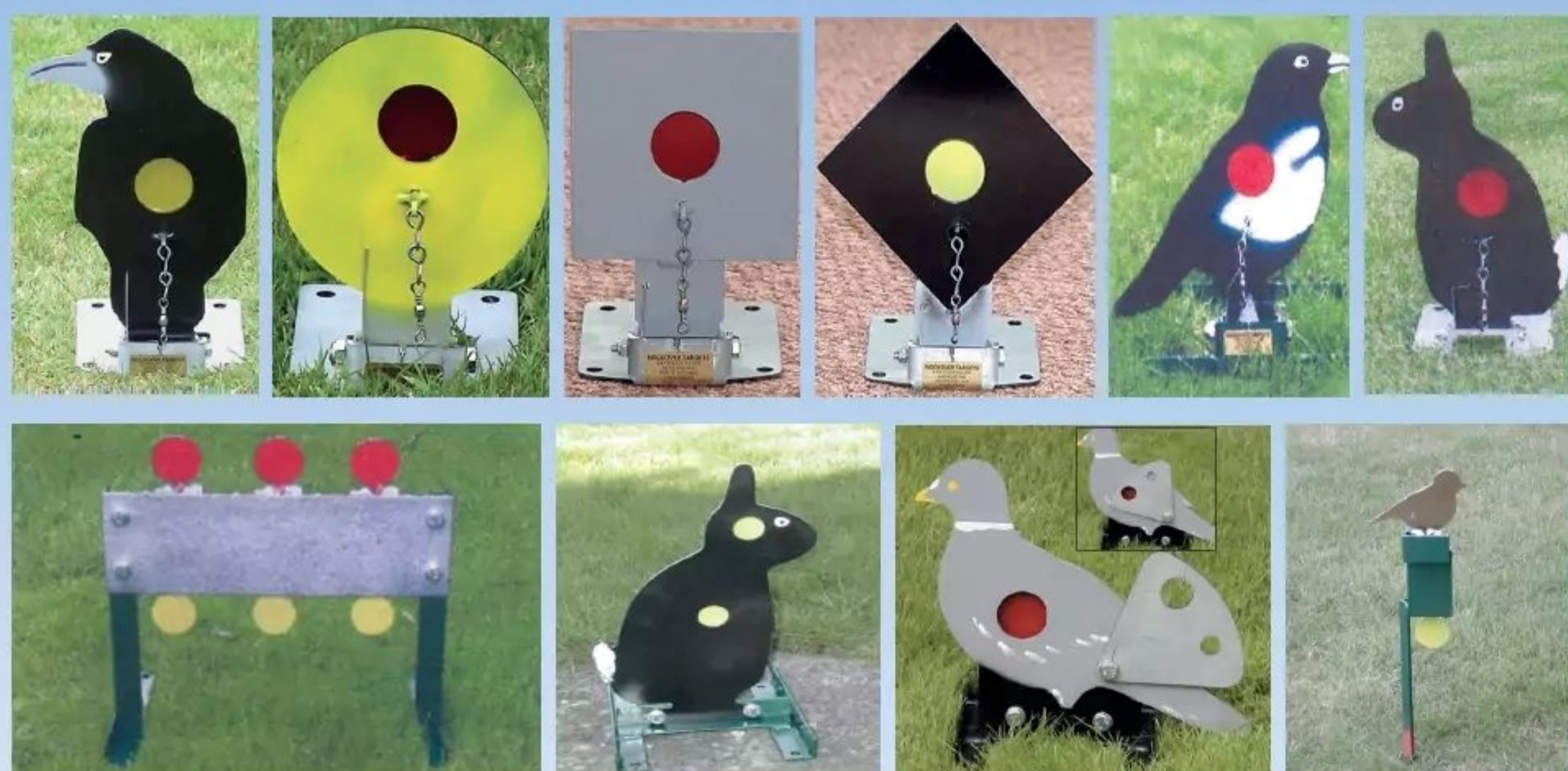
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A while back, I reviewed the revolutionary Skout EPOCH, which Skout claimed: "The EPOCH is not just an air rifle; it's a game changer designed to propel you to the pinnacle of competitive shooting. Whether you're a seasoned pro or a rising star, this competition-ready masterpiece delivers unmatched power, precision, and adaptability." That statement pretty much summed up the rifle perfectly. It had obviously been designed for competitive shooting, and the price tag reflected that.

Now there's a new model in the form of the EVO, which, although promoted as a rifle for shooting slugs, is equally at home with pellets. The main difference between the two models is their size — the new EVO is much more compact, plus there's an upgraded electronics package inside, complete with a full-colour, touchscreen OLED display.

The build quality is superb, and this truly is one of the best-made rifles out there. The tolerances of the machined components are unbelievable — we are talking fractions of a fraction of a millimetre here, folks.

Processing power

I recommend that you read the accompanying instruction pamphlet from cover to cover if you buy one of these rifles, and also watch the many YouTube videos that Skout has produced. It just makes life easier in the long run while getting to know this rifle inside out.

With fully customisable shot cycles and pre-fire sequences, multilingual voice feedback, OLED data display, and a commitment to lifelong software upgrades, the EVO is technically brilliant.

The new user interface provides an easy-to-understand and navigate menu system that allows you to customise valve dwell, cycling modes, safety parameters, and guidance cues. Don't think for one second that you need an Einstein-esque IQ to work this rifle, you don't. You just need to know which buttons to press and what they do. It took me all of 20 minutes to get every feature of this rifle ingrained into my brain.

As far as battery life goes, you'll get thousands of shots out of the EVO before having to recharge the



The display takes a little time to master, but is customisable

internal battery, which has a standby time of weeks. There are four shooting modes to choose from, too:

Limit mode: In this general use mode, switching from "Safe" to "Fire" by pressing the safety button will begin a "Fire Countdown" on the display. Every time the airgun is fired or the timer reaches zero, the EVO's digital safety will automatically re-engage. Please note, the EVO leaves the factory in Limit mode by default.

Match mode: In this benchrest competition mode, the digital safety must be disengaged with the safety button from "Safe" to "Fire", but the digital safety will not re-engage until the "Fire" timer has expired or it is re-engaged manually. Multiple shots may be fired without leaving "Fire" mode.

Release mode: In this benchrest competition mode, the EVO will fire upon release of the trigger. You can cancel this function by pressing the safety button during the trigger pull, which will engage the safety.

Like Match mode, the digital safety must be disengaged with the safety button to enter

"Fire" mode. However, the digital safety will not re-engage until the "Fire" timer has expired or it is re-engaged manually. Multiple shots may be fired without leaving "Fire" mode.

Hunt mode: This mode is focused on minimal noise when in use. Otherwise, the order of operations is identical to the "Limit" mode. Voice feedback will be silenced by default, and the digital safety will re-engage after every shot, requiring the shooter to press the safety button to enter "Fire" mode for the next shot. As this mode uses the least number of sound outputs, "Hunt" mode is also the most battery-efficient mode of fire.

Benchrest chassis

The EVO also features a Benchrest Chassis (BRC), which has been proven around the world in competitive, hunting, and recreational use. A wide variety of adjustments, including length, shoulder pad height, and cheekpiece elevation, are available. These provide a massive range of options to offer you the perfect gun fit.



This rifle has twin regulators, which will really suit FAC owners



This little dual-ended gizmo allows quick-changing of air bottles between shots



The side-lever action is silky smooth

Skout's new Skeletonised Shoulder Rest (SSR) butt pad helps cut down on the weight and provides somewhere to attach a sling, should one be required.

Air capacity

Filling the rifle is easy. If I had one gripe, though, it's that the fill port is a protruding male nipple type that a 1/8" female Foster probe attaches to in order to fill, and there's just a tiny piece of flimsy rubber that you push on to protect it. I know it's designed for big-bore benchrest shooting, where competitors often sit at the bench with the rifle permanently hooked up to a 7-litre tank of air, but a better cover wouldn't go amiss.

The air supply system of the EVO consists of an on/off bottle adapter, which threads into the chassis, and a stainless steel pin valve that threads into the air bottle. This system provides a robust mounting point, eliminating vibration or wiggle that could result from an improperly secured tank.

This two-component configuration also provides long-term maintenance of the air supply

system. Each component can be independently repaired or replaced, and each sealing surface component is serviceable for the life of the airgun.

The carbon air bottle attached to the EVO is 500cc, but there is also a 580cc version available, both of which have been tested to over 6,000psi. Indeed, the pressure gauge goes up to 6,000psi, but Skout stresses that it shouldn't be filled to more than 4,500psi – that's a lot of shots in a sub-12ft/lbs airgun! Skout doesn't say how many shots you're going to get, but I'd guess it's well over 400 in the sub-12ft/lbs .22 version.

This rifle is twin-regulated, with both high-pressure (HPR) and low-pressure (LPR) regulators. For us sub-12ft/lbs airgun users, we don't really need to touch either of them, but for anyone shooting FAC, you're going to have endless hours of fun tuning this rifle even further.

Interchangeable barrel system

Just like the EPOCH, the EVO features a unique interchangeable barrel system, catering to every



You can customise the EVO's trigger to meet your requirements



In Dave's eyes, the fill port cover could be improved

popular calibre. Your rifle comes perfectly configured for your chosen calibre from the factory, eliminating the need for extensive modifications. However, should you wish to swiftly change from, say, .22 to .177 in under 60 seconds, it's really easy to do. Simply push down the silver release lever on the right-hand side of the rifle, then push the silver knob on the left side up. You can now unscrew the barrel and the barrel-locking collar at the front end to remove the complete barrel set-up and insert another.

This rifle is available with numerous barrel configurations, including the traditional bull barrel, which is manufactured from steel in various lengths. However, there's also a composite hybrid bull barrel, which uses a thick carbon outer wall, permanently bonded to an alloy liner. The solid carbon-fibre wall provides similar relative stiffness and dampening properties compared to a solid steel bull barrel, but at a reduced weight. The revised barrel lock system of the EVO allows you to index the barrel without removing it from the airgun. The EVO barrel-lock offers infinite adjustment, precise alignment, and secure retention.

Indexing your barrel is as simple as loosening the two barrel-securement locks, rotating the barrel, and then locking it back down. For precision shooters, this allows rapid adjustment. The barrel itself is marked with indexing numbers, providing the ability to return the barrel to its previously indexed position after service or transport.

The factory-integrated sound moderator is meticulously designed to harmonise seamlessly with the EVO's valve system. This innovative feature is all about making your shooting experience as quiet and hassle-free as possible.

What sets this sound moderator apart is that it's not just an add-on, as it's custom-designed for the EVO platform. This ensures the perfect fit and performance that you expect from a top-tier shooting system.

You can choose from a wide range of calibres, including .177, .22, .25, .30 and .35, allowing you to adapt your rifle to your specific shooting needs, including FAC. Obviously, the UK sub-12ft/lbs model comes in .22, but Skout has taken it a step further by ensuring each calibre is catered for.

Magnetic

Everything about the EVO magazine is magnetic, and the self-aligning and retaining magnetic design is engineered to optimise feeding using pellets and slugs.

Featuring a durable aluminium and polymer construction, it is built to withstand the rigours of shooting, ensuring lasting performance for the user.

It's a real doddle to use, too. Simply pry off the top cover via the small lip provided, which is held in place by three super-strong magnets. Next, rotate the inner core twice before dropping your



first pellet in nose-first to lock it in place. You can then fill the remaining 35 slots with pellets – yes, this magazine holds a whopping 36 shots in .177 and 30 in .22. When you're done, just hover the top back over the magazine and the magnets do their thing, and it all clicks back into place with ease.

Loading the magazine into the rifle is equally satisfying. Pull the cocking lever back, slide the magazine in from the right-hand side, and more magnets snatch it from your hand and lock it in place with a very solid 'click'.

As you would expect from a rifle of this quality, the side-lever operation is smooth and quiet. It cycles through the magazine with little effort.

Attachments

The EVO platform features an improved ARCA rail, which is slightly longer than the one found on the EPOCH. It embraces the industry-standard M-LOK system, a widely adopted and military-proven design that enhances the versatility of your firearm. With M-LOK, you gain access to thousands of accessories, making your setup fully modular to meet your specific shooting needs. This system offers military-proven securement, ensuring your accessories stay firmly in place, even in the most demanding shooting scenarios.

Make some adjustments

The EVO is fully customisable straight out of the box, which is itself a custom-built Plano hard case, complete with a massive toolkit inside that contains full sets of Allen keys, a tub of grease, a segmented box of spare seals, a charging lead, and loads of other stuff.



The new pistol grip design is thinner than its predecessor

THE CARBON AIR BOTTLE ATTACHED TO THE EVO IS 500CC, BUT THERE IS ALSO A 580CC VERSION AVAILABLE"

To kick off, you can adjust the length of pull by unscrewing the locking thumb-screws at the rear end and turning the large knurled knob. This gives you a good 25mm of extra length adjustment. Likewise, the carbon cheekpiece can be adjusted by unscrewing the thumb-screws on either side and pulling the riser up by up to six notches. The butt pad, too, is fully adjustable, again by unscrewing the locking thumb-screws on either side.

Electronic trigger

The original EPOCH featured one of the most adjustable, unique, and lightweight triggers on the market. Unmatched in its versatility, reliability, and user experience, much of the trigger system remains intact on the EVO.

Simple changes like micro-switch position, pivot point, and angle of attack have all been utilised to refine the EVO trigger. These changes increase the range of adjustment and provide a cleaner break feel to the trigger. The ways that you can customise the trigger are as follows:

Trigger shoe: A lock screw in the side of the shoe secures it to the trigger. The shoe itself can be adjusted up or down and biased with a twist to the left or right, before being locked into place with its set screw. The shoe may need to be re-centred to access some of the other trigger adjustment points.

Post-travel: This adjusts the rear limit of the trigger's swing. The trigger should stop just after it breaks (activation of the micro-switch). Turning the adjuster clockwise brings the post-travel limit forward, while counter-clockwise moves it back.

Pre-travel: This adjusts the forward limit of the trigger's swing. Turning the adjuster clockwise

moves the pre-travel limit back, while turning counter-clockwise moves it forward. The pre-travel limit must be set far enough forward that the trigger can reset after each shot.

Magnetic return force: Turning this adjuster clockwise brings it closer to the trigger return magnet, increasing the weight of the trigger pull, while turning it counter-clockwise makes the trigger pull lighter.

Conclusion

I think I have covered just about everything that the EVO experience encompasses. I could go on for page upon page, if the truth be told – there's so much more to this rifle than what I have written here.

To sum up, the EVO is not only insanely accurate and good fun to get to know, but it is manufactured to a quality that is rarely seen in the world of airguns. It's just one of those rifles that you want to keep shooting from dawn until dusk, and then some if you fit a night-vision scope. Whether you're a licensed pest controller, club shooter, benchrest competition enthusiast, or regular club shooter, this rifle really does fall into each and every category with ease. **GM**

TECHNICAL SPECIFICATION

Name: Skout EVO

Type: PCP

Calibre: .177 and .22

Barrel Length: 25" (635mm)

Overall Length: 34" (865mm)

Weight: 10.1lbs (4.6kg)

Energy: 11.6ft/lbs

Price: From £2,835

Contact: ASI - www.a-s-i.co.uk

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- 3 All models feature free-floating barrels for excellent barrel harmonics which aid accuracy.
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- 5 They also feature an under fore-grip weaver rail for the addition of a bipod.
- 6 There is also a special limited edition Nero Rosa SE model with a stunning black/red Cerakote finish.
- 7 A classic bolt action with a wide breech makes magazine loading simple and un-fussy.
- 8 The pistols are fitted with micro-adjustable rear sights and a steel blade foresight but also feature 9/11mm dovetailing designed to make fitting a PAO® pistol scope, a swift and straightforward task.
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PELLET TESTS

Mark Camoccio takes a look at some of the latest pellets

CROSMAN PREMIER ULTRA MAGNUM PELLETS

➤ The American brand, Crosman, which is part of the Velocity Outdoors group, has gained quite a reputation for high-grade airgun pellets over the last couple of decades.

The Crosman Premier has won more than its fair share of Field Target silverware over that time, and on show here is the Crosman Premier Ultra Magnum. In .177 calibre specifically, the increased weight gives this round more of a punch, and possibly makes it more resistant to wind. The downside will, of course, be a more curved trajectory, given the added weight, which is mainly in the solid domed head. However, this perceived disadvantage is less of an issue for FT competition shooters, as they are permitted to use range-finding scopes with parallax adjustment systems. Equally, many modern hunters utilise laser rangefinders and the like, so the effects of a more marked trajectory suddenly become fairly irrelevant. That goes some way to explaining the popularity of this traditional dome-headed pellet. Super-consistent weights and precise formation are a big part of Crosman's winning formula, so it's no surprise these Premier Ultra Magnums feature on the shortlist of many serious enthusiasts.

These pellets are available in handy tins of 500 in both .177 and .22 calibres, and are distributed in the UK via Range Right's dealer network.



TECHNICAL SPECIFICATION

Name: Crosman Premier Ultra Magnum Pellets

.177 / 10.5gr / 500 / £11.99

.22 / 14.3gr / 500 / £13.99

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

REMINGTON EXPRESS LEAD-FREE PELLETS

➤ Like it or not, environmental considerations are having a huge impact on our lives, and when the powers that be focused their attention on the shooting world, we all froze in the headlights. However, when airguns were debated, it was clear to anyone with an open mind that the humble airgun pellet had little to no impact on the environment. Common sense dictated that airguns be given dispensation from any sweeping changes in the law, and the dust settled. That said, if the thought of handling lead airgun pellets really doesn't appeal, or for those that insist on being ahead of the game, so to speak, lead-free alternatives now exist in greater numbers than ever.

Remington Express lead-free pellets are one such product that offers a modern alternative, and they certainly look radical; constructed using a two-part assembly process, in much the same way as the famed Prometheus pellet. They feature a boat-tail profile, with a synthetic body and a pointed head made from non-toxic metal alloy. Weights were admirably consistent over a test batch, although a touch heavier than specified, with a .177 sample varying from 5.8gr to 6gr. As usual with airguns, barrel suitability will vary, but definitely one to try, and a possibility for close-range hunting, with superior penetration a big selling point.

Available in handy tins in both .177 and .22 calibres, these pellets are distributed in the UK by Sportsmarketing.



TECHNICAL SPECIFICATION

Name: Remington Express lead-free pellets

.177 / 5.7gr / 150 / £11.99

.22 / 10.3gr / 125 / £11.99

Contact: Sportsmarketing - www.sportsmk.co.uk

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Field Cutlery

Mark Underwood offers advice on all the latest knives and tools

Casström Lars Fält Slip Joint Knife

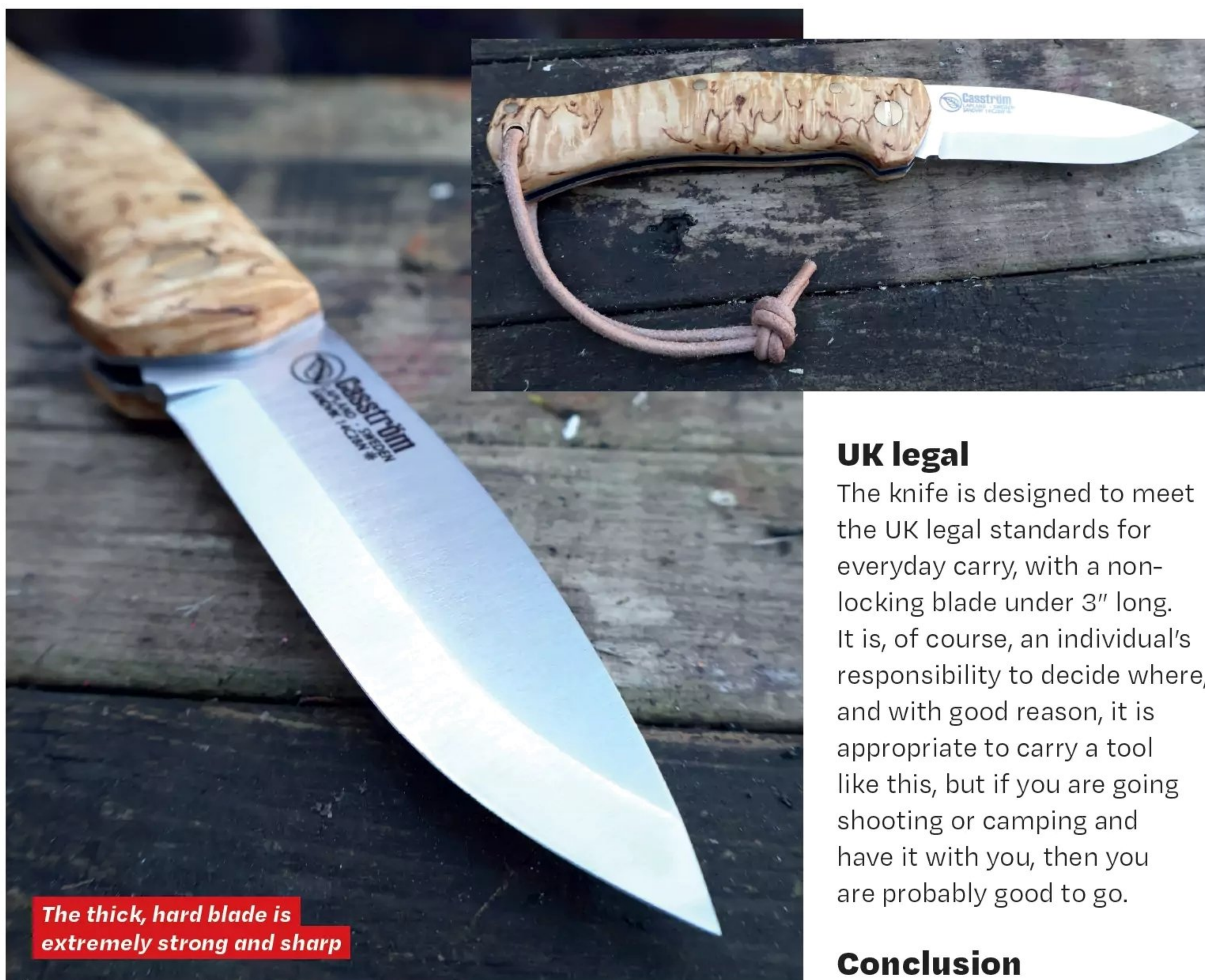
➤ Created in collaboration with world-renowned Swedish survivalist Lars Fält, the Casström Lars Fält Slip Joint knife is a particularly sharp and strong tool, far exceeding the normal standards of non-fixed-blade knives.

When it comes to non-locking folding knives, the most common shortfall, compared to fixed-blade alternatives, is the lack of rigidity and strength, but this slip-joint tool really bucks the trend.

Opening the knife is stiff, but not to the point of being difficult, and when the sturdy slip-joint mechanism engages, you immediately feel that the hold is strong and firm. The steel at the joint is 3mm thick and therefore provides larger bearing surfaces, which contribute to the firm hold. There is no play in the mechanism, and the knife can be used for cutting, carving, and food preparation without the mechanism slipping. Closing the knife is again stiff, but not difficult, and the blade folds away securely without any play.

Large for a folder

At 176mm long when open, this is not a small knife. The handle makes up the greater part of the length, yet remains well-proportioned and in balance with the rest of the tool. As a result, the knife feels larger in the hand and is capable of tackling much bigger tasks than you might expect.



The thick, hard blade is extremely strong and sharp

The Scandinavian curly birch handle is large and nicely shaped to give a firm hold, and it is comfortable for extended use without any issues with your fingers getting tired or your grip slipping.

If you have large hands and avoid folding knives because they are often smaller than fixed-blade tools, then this could be the folder for you.

The blade

The 71 x 20 x 3mm thick blade is made from Alleima (formerly Sandvik) 14C28N, premium recycled Swedish stainless steel. The optimised chemistry provides a top-

grade knife steel with a unique combination of excellent edge performance, high hardness, and good corrosion resistance. As with all Casström knives, the blade is cryo-quenched, which enhances wear resistance to fulfil the true potential of the steel. The steel hardness on the Rockwell C Scale is approximately 60, which is particularly hard for a knife of this style.

UK legal

The knife is designed to meet the UK legal standards for everyday carry, with a non-locking blade under 3" long. It is, of course, an individual's responsibility to decide where, and with good reason, it is appropriate to carry a tool like this, but if you are going shooting or camping and have it with you, then you are probably good to go.

Conclusion

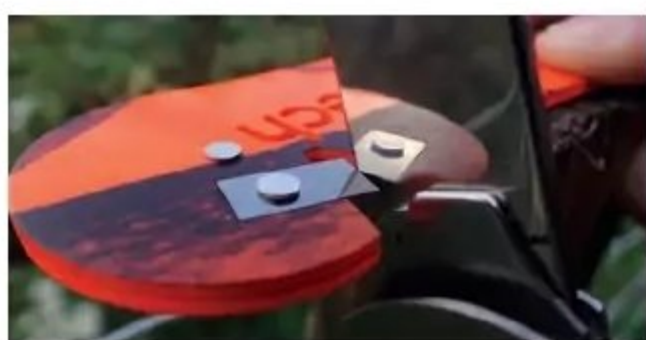
This is a great knife, and it sets a new standard when it comes to UK-legal everyday carry tools. With the steel being recycled and the wood coming from sustainable forestry, this knife is responsibly sourced, without any compromise on quality, so it is good for the environment in addition to being well-made. It also carries the Casström 25-year warranty for added peace of mind. **GM**

TECHNICAL SPECIFICATION

Name: Casström Lars Fält Slip Joint Knife

Price: £129

Contact: Casström - www.casstrom.co.uk



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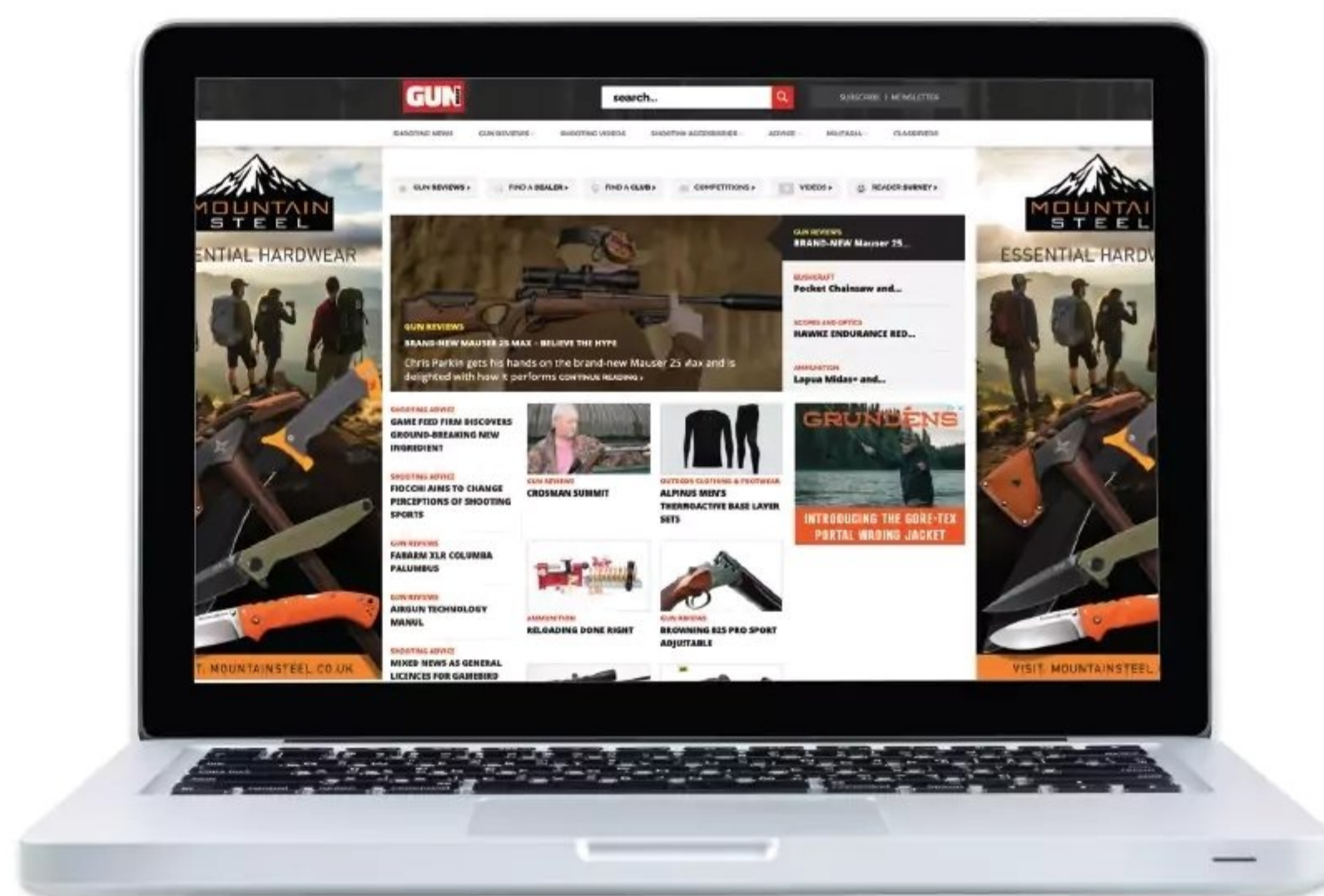
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COMPETITION READY

Chris Parkin puts a finely tuned Masterpiece Arms rimfire rifle through its paces and explores its serious precision credentials

Masterpiece Arms is well known for their PRS chassis systems in the centrefire world, but they also produce their own rimfire rifle. PRS shooters typically have highly specific and personalised requirements for a competition rifle, and will therefore adjust stock ergonomics to an extremely fine degree. This particular MPA rifle belongs to Josh Martin and serves as his personal competition rimfire, offering an interesting insight into what top-level shooters look for in their own equipment.

C2 Precision

Josh runs C2 Precision and sent me the rifle. It was all set up and ready to shoot with a Zero Compromise Optic on board, and the first thing that strikes you is the weight, as all up, this MPA indicated 8.3kg (18.26lbs) on the scales, with the rifle itself coming in at 6.8kg (15lbs).

The test rifle featured the 23" (584mm) option, one of several available barrel lengths, and the hand-lapped MPA/Spencer 416R stainless barrel comes with a 1:16" twist rate, although a 1:12" twist is also offered. An ATS barrel tuner came clamped around the external barrel profile rather than threaded to the muzzle, and I had to leave this alone. The gun was supplied meticulously tuned and batch-tested with Eley Tenex ammunition, also

supplied by C2. The barrel diameter measured 30.4mm at the action with a straight taper down to 29.7mm at the muzzle. It is, of course, fully free-floating within the fore-end, and it shows a crisp 11-degree crown.

More than Voodoo

MPA's Rimfire Elite action is also brightly polished stainless steel, and it conforms to the Remington 700 footprint. There is a recoil lug

sandwiched between the barrel and the action face, with a Picatinny rail screwed in four places above. The rear left side of the action shows a black bolt release catch, with a familiar two-position safety catch opposing it on the right, with forward for fire and rear for safe (without bolt locking).

The bolt is 17.6mm in diameter and shows three lugs for a 60-degree lift. These are set just rear of the ejection port within the rear action bridge. The



Adjustable cheekpiece and length of pull. Note the bag rider



The Masterpiece Arms Matrix Pro Rimfire



bolt face shows twin extractor claws, and like most rimfires, the manual ejection strength is reliant on bolt speed. The bolt handle is 70mm long with a serrated 24mm teardrop for grip. The action is designed exclusively for .22LR, so bolt travel is just 41.6mm, and operation is delightfully smooth.

Feeding the beast

A 10-round AICS-sized, rimfire-specific polymer magazine was supplied, feeding rounds from a single column to the bolt face. There is a manual slider to relieve spring pressure for fast loading, and the follower itself is red for visual contrast. The ambidextrous release lever is on the front of the spacious trigger guard.

The rifle features an interesting grip and trigger arrangement, with grips available in various sizes that typically include a right-side thumb rest. MPA's Elite single-stage trigger is a unique design made by Bix'n'Andy. It's adjustable from 4 to 32oz (275–2200g) and was exquisite, even at the lightest weights.

Show-off

Multiple colour options are available for the Matrix Pro II Competition Chassis,



Detail of the trigger guard, magazine release, and thumb rest



The magazine well is part of the chassis and allows fast changeovers

THE MPA AND AMMUNITION OUTPERFORMED ME, BUT IT WAS A PLEASURE TO USE AND ALLOWED ME TO SEE WHERE I WAS GETTING THINGS RIGHT OR WRONG"

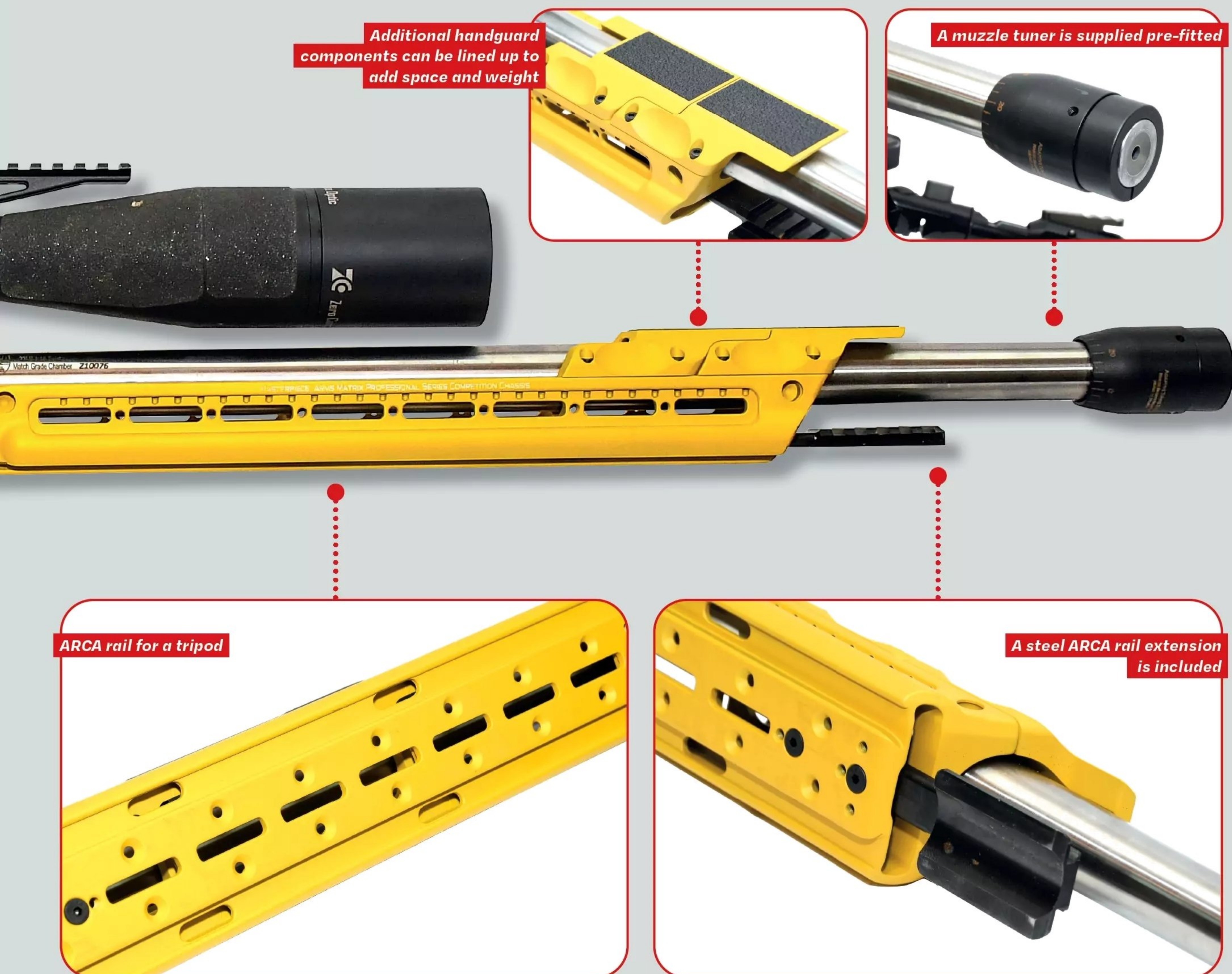
and in vivid yellow Cerakote, this one certainly stands out. The fore-end is 39mm tall, boasts a 14" (370mm) ARCA rail on its underside, and measures 71mm wide for ultimate stability when used with a rest bag. There is also a plethora of M-LOK slots on the underside and side walls.

The tip has a top guard fitting, allowing you to put downward pressure on the stock without affecting the barrel, and this is a modular component that

interlocks, so it can be stacked in line to increase the covered area, which also adds additional weight. Grip panels are inlaid here.

Barricade stop?

The underside swoops down towards the magazine well without a specific square-faced barricade stop. The mag well is incorporated as part of the chassis and allows for smooth insertion and extraction of loaded magazines at speed.



Finger grooves visually break up the flat walls of the chassis, and there is a significant cutout in the base of the integral trigger guard to allow access to adjustment screws.

The vertical grip is heavily stippled and seems to be a proprietary MPA unit, available in several profiles to fit precisely on the stock and screw in place without any wobble. There is an inlaid anti-cant bubble behind the bolt shroud/tang area, and the chassis then splits above and below the thumbhole cutout, although it seems most PRS shooters now favour pinching their thumb onto the side of the stock anyway.

A similar finger groove/fluting style continues to the recoil pad, which shows an adjustable length of pull. This model has grub screws, but you

can have thumbscrews as an option. The underside has a slender bag rider which is spring-loaded to pop out when the left-side button is pressed. It offers 25mm of vertical extension to stabilise the gun. There is also an adjustable cheekpiece on the top, and this is again a slender profile, so it fits neatly under your cheekbone without displacing your jaw laterally.

Infinite customisation

My main aim with this rifle was to assess the precision of the barrelled action, rather than to shoot PRS, where I knew I would be the weak link. The Voodoo 360 action used by MPA is exceptionally well made to the finest tolerances and is highly regarded for its smooth bolt operation, featuring a 60-degree lift that speeds

up cycling and minimises positional disruption to the entire rifle.

Interestingly, as heavy as this gun is, you feel the recoil pulse through it more than other rimfires, which feels a little odd at first, but I think it's because the weight of the gun maintains such a solid position, your personal influence is minimal, with only a very delicate grip required. This effect is likely enhanced by the fact that you are merely pinching the grip between your index finger and thumb, just behind the trigger, with only slight fingertip pressure needed to fire the shot.

On my belt buckle

I shot the rifle mostly from the prone position to maximise my precision potential, and found it very easy to shoot with near-perfect consistency.



The Voodoo action ensures that bolt operation is light and therefore won't disturb your position

Note the Picatinny scope rail and the bolt release catch



There's an integral bubble level to avoid any canted shots



Your head position remains undisturbed on the stock as the bolt is cycled, as it is so light to lift.

MPA includes a steel ARCA rail extension, which is less prone to marking than Cerakote when a bipod is attached. It also provides increased linear extension from the bag rider to the bipod feet, helping to maximise the stability that is essential for precision shooting.

This rifle is chambered specifically for premium Tenex ammunition, and I shot at 100m, which is a serious starting point for a .22LR. Once I got used to the rifle, kept out of the crosswinds, and perfected the trigger, I averaged 28mm for all the groups, with one 5-rounder measuring 10.3mm. I won't deny that the smallest error on my part could ruin a group, and the wind offered a constant test of my skills, but it was impressive to see such a small cartridge perform so well. Most importantly, its reliability makes it clear when you've let the team down, and with a rifle this heavy, it's fascinating to see the

reticle move slightly with nothing more than your heartbeat.

The MPA and ammunition outperformed me, but it was a pleasure to use and allowed me to see where I was getting things right or wrong.

Conclusion

The 23" barrel produced 1,083fps, equating to 104.9ft/lbs with this 40gr bullet, although the most significant figures are the 71fps extreme spread and 9.42 standard deviation. This data came from a 60-round string, shot outdoors in breezy conditions, rather than a five-round group in a tunnel range, making the figures all the more impressive in real-world terms. All the groups punched into paper displayed circular shot dispersion, indicating average elevation and windage variance from my point of aim and, realistically, the level of performance I would expect from a precision rimfire rifle, where single-figure extreme spreads—like those seen with centrefire benchrest rifles—are an unrealistic goal.

This rifle won't suit everyone, and it's an unusual test piece, as any purchaser

is likely to modify it extensively to suit their needs. However, the fundamentals of the barrel, action and chassis are solid, providing a reliable foundation for success in the growing PRS market. **GM**

TECHNICAL SPECIFICATION

Name: Masterpiece Arms Matrix Pro Rimfire Rifle

Calibre: .22LR

Barrel Length: 584mm/23"

Overall Length: 1085mm/42.75"

Weight: 6.8kg/14.96lbs

Length of Pull: 349mm/13.5"

Magazine Capacity: 10 rounds

Price: £4,895

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SMOOTH *Operator*

Chris Parkin takes the Sabatti Rover Hunter Classic Pro to the range and discovers a stylish rifle that delivers real-world accuracy



Sabatti's Rover Hunter Classic Pro makes an immediate impression with its striking appearance, featuring a walnut stock that has been synthetically finished to bring out the detail vividly. The rifle action is

offered with a range of stock, chassis and calibre options, but it's clear the Hunter Classic is designed to blend modern mechanics with traditionally shaped, form-fitting furniture.

Mechanics

This rifle utilises a cold hammer-forged barrel with the usual land and groove rifling style, rather than the multi-radial type used in their larger bore sizes. A pepperpot muzzle brake is added to the neatly crowned, 14x1 screwcut muzzle. The barrel diameter starts at 15.9mm and tapers gradually along its 560mm (22") length to 32mm at the reinforce, where it meets the aluminium action, which is hard-anodised black to match the barrel. Picatinny bases are machined into the upper surface, but there is a small secret below the stock line. The bolt is bright stainless steel and has three lugs for a 60-degree lift to open and

cock the action. The lugs lock directly into abutments within the barrel, as this is itself clamped into the action, so it is technically interchangeable.

Feeding frenzy

Sabatti uses a push-feed bolt face with a claw extractor and a sprung plunger ejector. The bolt has a diameter of 22.1mm and a 90mm stroke, which suits the .223 chambering shown here without introducing unnecessary overtravel. The bolt handle is 55mm long and tipped with a conical aluminium knob. The rear shroud is a faceted, conical shape and shows a cocked action indicator at the rear, which is essentially the striker extending proud when the gun is cocked ready to fire. The bolt removal catch is on the left of the rear action bridge, with the two-position safety catch opposite on the right. Move the safety forward for fire and rear for safe. It's quiet in operation, but the bolt handle doesn't lock in place.

Detachable magazine

The magazine capacity is four, and you can fit an additional round in

the chamber if needed. It's a single-column polymer unit that loads with rounds slid in from the front when it's out of the rifle. The release catch is within the front of the trigger guard, and the magazine stands about 12mm proud of the stock's underside to allow easy manual removal, even though it will drop free under its own weight. There's a steel spring inside to lift the follower, which is made of polymer, as are the magazine body and the trigger guard/bottom 'metal'.

Disassembly

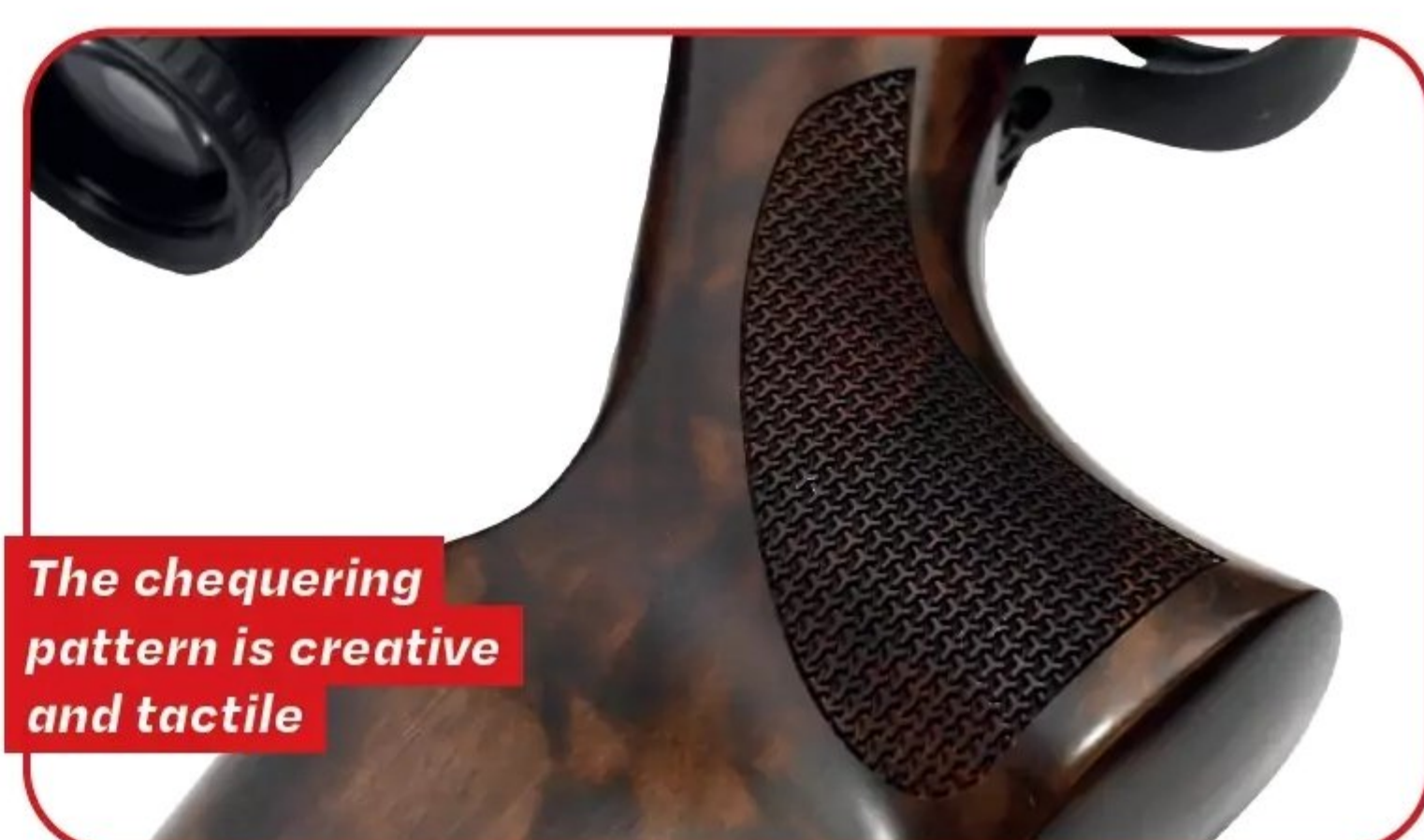
Twin T25 Torx screws pass through the trigger guard/magazine well assembly to secure the barrelled action in place. Once removed, the components can be separated, and they fit together neatly with minimal free play. The hidden secret of the Sabatti is that twin M5 Allen screws clamp the barrel in place, with just a 6mm Allen key needed to release them. There is a brightly machined extension that interacts with the clamp, and the square shoulder and rotation rebate mean it rotates smoothly back into position and clicks in place before



Note the bolt handle and the two-position safety catch



Detail of the adjustable trigger and the magazine release lever in the front of the trigger guard



The chequering pattern is creative and tactile

you re-tighten the action's Allen screws. This shoulder ensures correct headspace, and I found it to be a simple and reliable mechanism. The bolt itself locks into the barrel anyway, so the receiver is merely a foundation and not a pressure-bearing component. This is a similar system to that used by Sauer and CZ, which I find more than acceptable. The action shows a flat bottom that appears to mate well with the stock inlet, where the traditional wood grain from the walnut is evident.

The single-stage trigger is adjustable with tools and shows a pull weight of 2322g (82oz). This can be reduced, but the break was exceptionally crisp, with 4mm of clean overtravel. Although initially heavier than some, it proved predictable in use and, on a cold day with gloves, was much appreciated within the spacious trigger guard expected of a true hunting rifle.

Enhanced

The walnut stock is finished with what Sabatti calls an "enhanced" wood-graining coating, but I wonder how durable it will be. The barrel channel is internally coated, like the rest of the

inlet, so it should remain reasonably water-resistant. The fore-end is stiff, so it maintains the free float. When shot from a tripod/clamp head, the point of impact remained constant, so there was no pressure-induced zero shift. Similarly, it was stable from a bipod, and there is a secure stud fitted, as well as a short section of M-LOK rail, which gives an additional modern nod to the now commonly found mechanical fixing format.

Ergonomics

The stock's ergonomics make it very comfortable, while the black polymer cheekpiece contrasts with the finished walnut. Additional units are also available to adjust the height to suit your preference. It fastens securely in place with one screw on the right side, and there is also the ability to use spacers to increase the length of pull (LOP), which measured 349mm/13.6" as supplied, including the 10mm medium-firm recoil pad.

My thoughts

Sabatti says there is a Picatinny rail integral to the receiver, although, if I

were being pedantic, I would call them separate bases, as they don't run the full length of the action. Generally, this isn't a problem now, as both day scopes and night vision/thermal optics are all settling on the conventional tube format, so it's easy to mount scopes with correct eye relief.

I fitted a bipod and left the rifle as it was, with the brake on, as it had been ages since I last shot a braked .223, and I felt it would make a change from the norm.

Handling dynamics

Removing the bolt provided easy access to bore-sight the rifle, and zeroing was straightforward. I used my two regular Hornady loadings: the ultra-popular 55gr V-Max and the 50gr CX copper bullets, both of which I have found to be highly effective, offering consistent performance when needed. Loading the magazine was simple, and the ballistic-tipped V-Max rounds fed into the chamber without issue. However, the open hollow-point meplat of the CX rounds caused them to snag on the feed ramp, so they were set aside as unsuitable.



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A muzzle brake is included

The Sabatti Rover Hunter Classic Pro in .223



There is a short length of M-LOK rail as well as a stud for a bipod under the fore-end



The barrel is fully free-floated within the rigid fore-end at all times



This 100m group shows effective sub-MOA performance



Interchangeable cheekpiece risers attach with a single screw, and there are also recoil pad spacers



The bolt locks into the barrel itself. The receiver is purely architectural and not pressure-bearing



Once disassembled, you can see the flat-bottomed action and precise stock inlet

The trigger is consistent in use, and the bolt handle is ideally positioned for fast access, with smooth lift translating to plenty of primary extraction force. The automated ejection flung the brass free of the rifle without any hitches, and the magazine was fast to remove, dropping free from the gun without additional help. The release lever requires deliberate thought to access it, but its low profile makes it better suited to a hunting rifle, as it is less likely to be caught on clothing or foliage.

Recoil is, of course, minimal with a .223, so I was able to spot my own bullet impacts with the brake fitted, which reduced what little movement there was. Straight-grained walnut, whether coated or not, does an excellent job of dampening recoil and resonance, resulting in an active yet delicate impulse through the rifle.

There can be only one

The 55gr V-Max is always a reliable performer, and that proved true once again. At 100m, it produced a 16.5mm average four-shot group. I placed the groups just to the side of the aim point to avoid interfering with my point of aim, and was pleased to see that the point of impact remained consistent as the barrel heated up. The average velocity was 3,058fps, with an extreme spread of 56fps. The resulting muzzle energy was 1,367ft/lbs, which all appeared to be in good order relative to the barrel length.

Modesty

Even with a brake fitted, the Sabatti was relatively modest in terms of sound levels, and I found it very easy to get along with. The looks are superb, although their longevity is a question I can't comment on, as I imagine marks will show. The fit and finish of all the components was good, with clean and smooth machining standards shown above and below the timber line.

I found barrel changes were straightforward, with repeatability back to zero within 3cm at 100m, but I do wonder if this will ever be an appreciable benefit for the UK market. It was slightly disappointing

to encounter feed issues with the CX ammunition, but to be fair, the ballistic tip is common across most rounds, and feeding was otherwise smooth, with no meplat or case neck damage.

Cleaning was straightforward, with no slivers of brass or copper visible, and the barrel patches revealed a clean ammunition burn and carbon residue that was easily removed.

Conclusion

The Rover Hunter Classic Pro is the best Sabatti rifle I have tested to date and is perfectly suited to its intended hunting role, offering commendable performance, attractive styling, and excellent handling at a modest price. **GM**

TECHNICAL SPECIFICATION

Name: Sabatti Rover Hunter Classic Pro
Calibre: .223, .308 also available
Barrel Length: 560mm/22"
Overall Length: 1050mm/41.25"
Weight: 3070g/6lbs 12oz
Length of Pull: 349mm/13.75"
Magazine Capacity: 4 rounds
Price: £1,070
Contact: Range Right - www.range-right.co.uk



The three-lug bolt offers a 60-degree lift. Note the push-feed face, extractor claw, and plunger ejector

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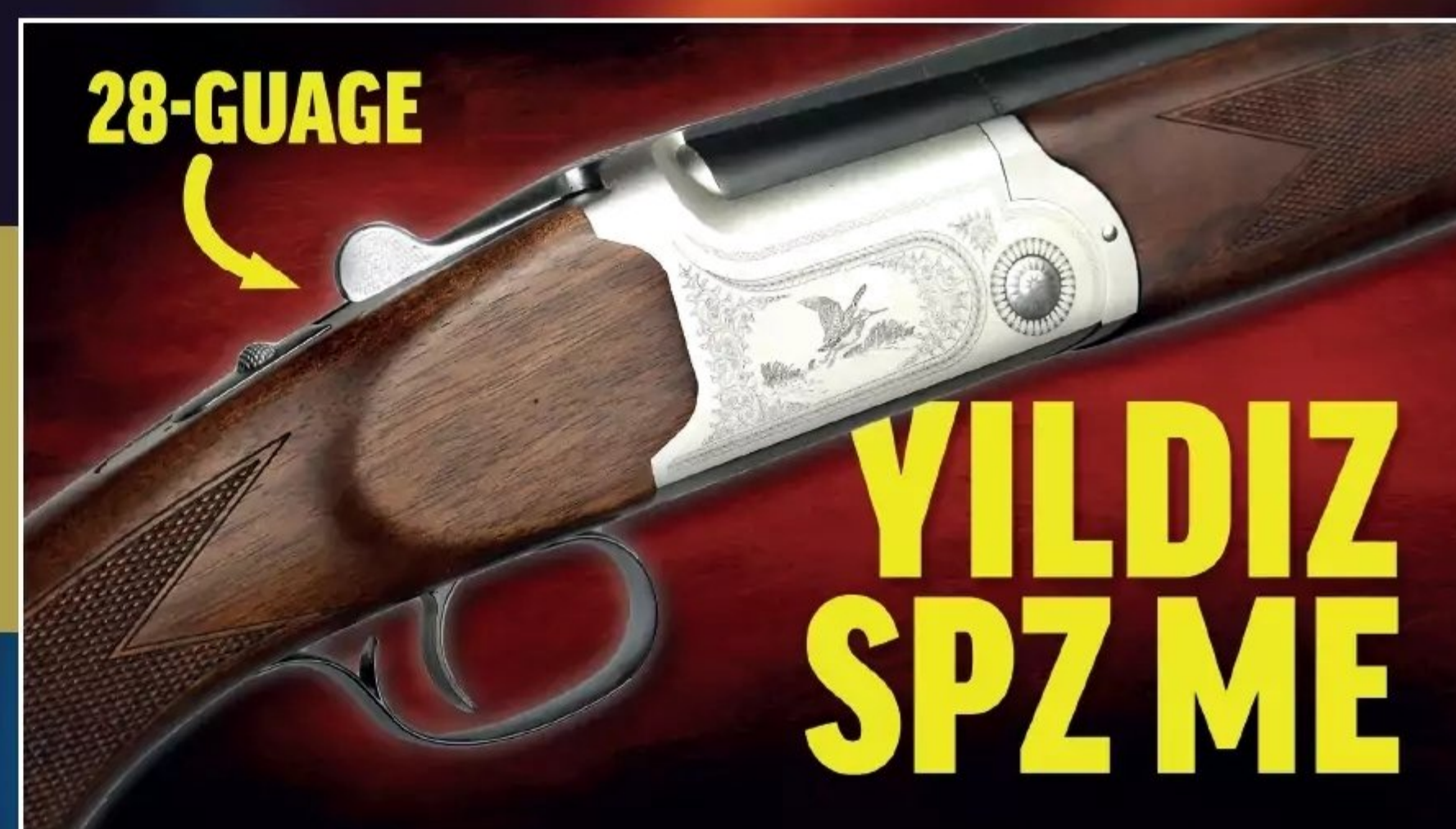
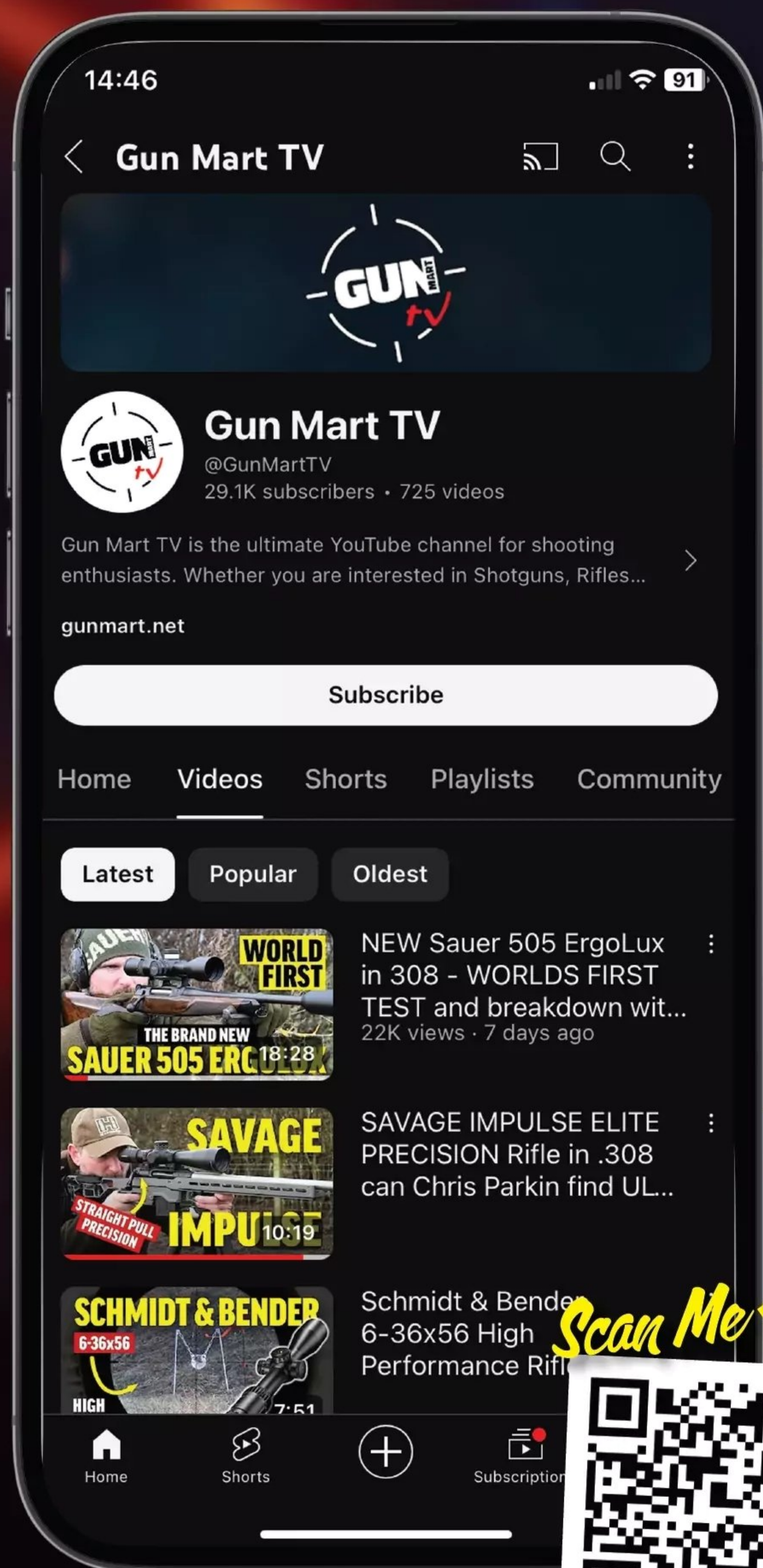
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Hard TO BEAT

Giving his 'Picky Parkin' seal of approval, **Chris Parkin** praises the inherent usability and performance of the Nocpix Quest

Just to get it off my chest, the Quest is, like its competitors, a biocular and not technically a binocular, as although you see the internal screen image with both eyes, all the image data is collected from a single sensor within the right tube. Not that it matters, the concept of this unit is that it adopts the familiar ergonomics of the daylight tool we have used to observe nature for over a century, with all the ergonomic benefits and few drawbacks.

Handling

A lot of binoculars first strike you as a little bulky, but the Quest is far from that, with 50mm objective lenses, and the instant I held them, I immediately liked the ergonomics. The right tube carries the sensor, and the left carries the laser rangefinder, and I presume the electronics are distributed evenly within. The body is rubber-armoured and grippy, with a low 700g weight without the additional battery.

Each eyecup has +/- 5 dioptre focus compensation, and there are

fold-up asymmetric eyecups to prevent external light disturbance. Each eyecup will slide laterally to alter the interpupillary distance to suit your face, and the rubber collars are easily gripped, with firm resistance to unwanted movement after positioning.

Lighten up

There is a central sensor which turns the internal screen off when the Quest is taken away from your face. This saves battery and prevents the ghostly illumination of your face when the unit hangs around your neck.

The central bridge carries two dials: the larger black one towards the front controls image focus, while the rearward grey dial adjusts magnification. The base optical magnification is 3x, with 8x digital zoom to extend up to 24x overall.

Function control

There are four rubberised buttons split into two pairs on either side of the Quest. The front left button is grey, and

a three-second hold turns the unit on; the image display arrives five seconds later. Subsequent short presses switch off the screen if desired, and a long hold shuts the unit off completely. The left rear button initiates the menu structure, and a short press enables seven colour palette options via the right-side up/down buttons.

Picture-in-picture can be enabled, and there are also ten levels of adjustable brightness, image detail, and contrast. Brightness also offers an automatic mode, but I stayed away from this, as I prefer manual continuity from situation to situation.

Multi-level menus

A longer hold on the left-side menu button sends you deeper into the secondary setup menu, allowing you to experiment with other image features. The rangefinder can be set up in metres or yards, and you can choose automatic or manual screen calibration. As expected, you can adjust the time and date, switch Wi-Fi on or off, activate

As we look at the Quest, the image is captured in the left lens, and the laser rangefinder is in the right

The Nocpix Quest H50R thermal binocular



ultra-clear mode, and modify the image hue to fine-tune the display to your preference. I just switched it all on, as firmware manipulation is always in operation at some point to boost the image quality, whether chosen or not, so you may as well use them all. The firmware has been updated since I received the unit, but it's virtually impossible to objectively compare changes before and after on any unit, so I tend to trust their view of how the device is evolving in capability, especially in an era increasingly shaped by artificial intelligence.

Power options

The buttons on the right side are up/down within the menus, as described, but without the menu activated, the front one controls the laser rangefinder, which is emitted from the left tube. The rear button takes photos with a short press, and a three-second hold activates video/sound recording. You can also take still photos while the unit is recording video, and there's 64GB of internal storage. The Quest has Wi-Fi, so you can transfer to a phone for later use and stream in real time if you want other people to see what's happening.

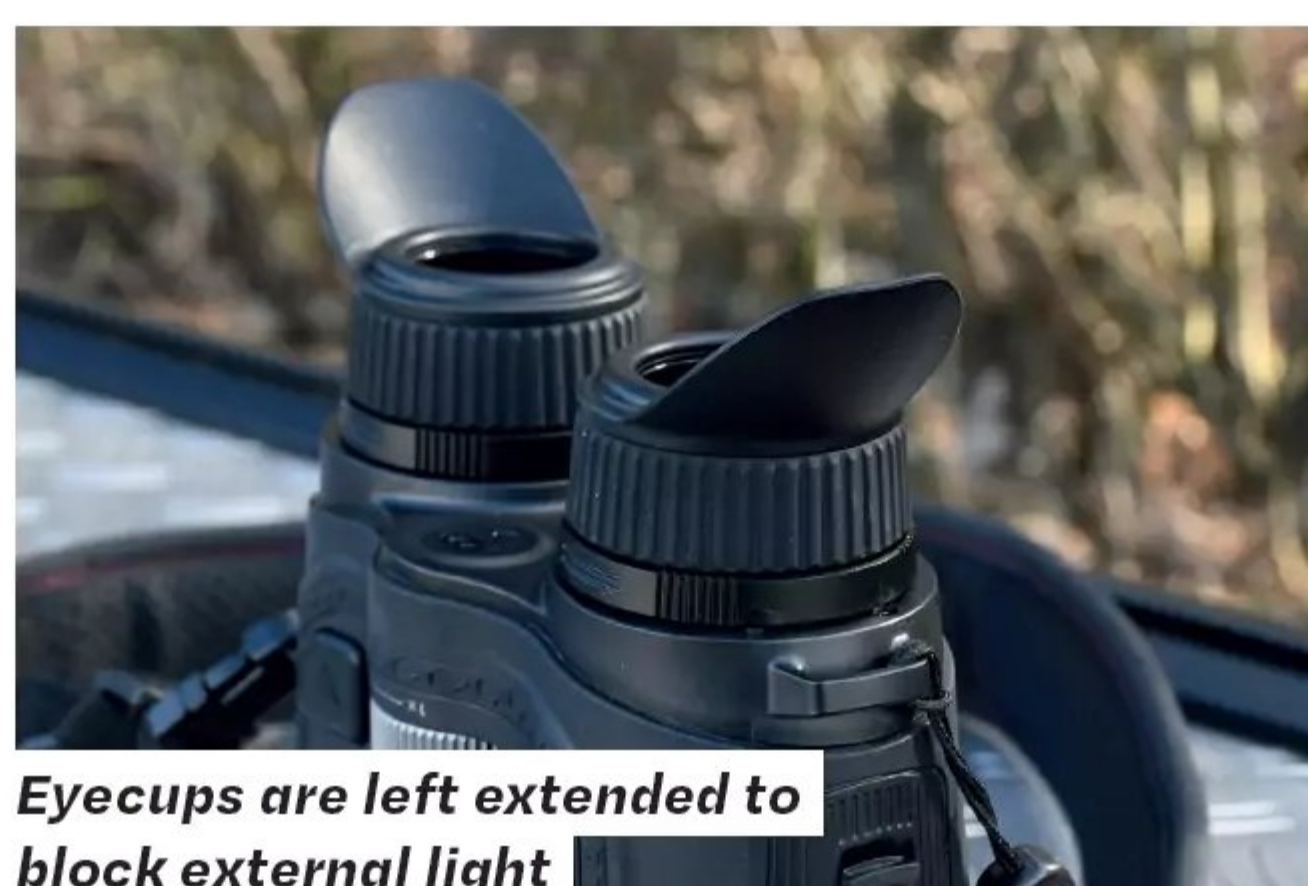
Nocpix delivers the Quest with a Cordura carry case that doubles as a chest rig with an over-shoulder harness. If you prefer – and I do – there is also an objective lens cover and neoprene neck strap supplied. Nocpix



WHITE-HOT GIVES THE GREATEST SITUATIONAL AWARENESS, BLACK-HOT PROVIDES GREAT TOPOGRAPHY TEXTURE AND SEEMS TO BE THE MOST RELAXING FOR LONG SCANS, AND RED REALLY MAKES THE QUARRY STAND OUT CLEARLY"

CHRIS PARKIN

The buttons and dials are fantastically smooth to control and easy to use



Eyecups are left extended to block external light

The onboard battery is charged via the rubber-capped USB-C port, which is also used for data transfer





(Above) The battery compartment allows secure changeovers, and polarity is not an important factor

(Left) A chest cradle/case and charger are also supplied, along with two 18650 batteries

also supplies a cleaning cloth, USB-C charge/data cable, and two 18650 batteries with an appropriate charger. The unit has an inbuilt 4200mAh battery, which is charged via the left-side USB port/cable. The battery life is rated at six hours, although it's not clearly explained under which usage conditions. That said, I had no issues during a four-hour outing that involved extensive video recording and rangefinder use in scan mode, which typically consumes more power. The internal screen provides accurate power level readings.

Plenty of processing power

There is an image stabilisation function in the third and deepest menu. I tried it but decided against using it, as I prefer to keep some things as natural as possible. This brings me to the Quest's main attribute: physical stability.

As electronic hunting devices get more complicated with additional features, they can get a little cramped up with buttons. This further worsens as it becomes hard to actually hold the tiny device stable for a steady image. The Quest is superb because the twin eyepieces lock the unit more securely in position against your face and orbital sockets, so the ocular lenses don't drift around as much relative to your eyes, and you retain far superior screen clarity without ever chasing focus. Also, having two hands on the unit enables a

more relaxed grip without impinging on control buttons, and when you do want to access the controls, it's far easier to operate the correct button with just a finger reach. In addition, the buttons are soft-touch and can be operated while wearing gloves. They provide clear tactile feedback without making clicking noises that interfere with recorded footage. Heavy buttons and an unstable grip can affect recording; if the unit jerks when pressed, you end up having to move your whole hand rather than just a fingertip. Credit to Nocpix for avoiding this issue.

Inherently usable

The menu layout is logical and easy to navigate, with a sensible separation of the three detail levels based on how frequently they are likely to be needed. I also appreciate that the unit never crashed electronically and that you can review footage on the internal screen, which has sufficient resolution to assess the quality of the recordings before downloading.

The rangefinder works quickly, but remember not to obscure the left lens. I was using the Quest from a vehicle and could see perfectly well, but could not use the rangefinder, until I realised the left tube's line of sight was blocked by the doorframe. This was a simple mistake, but just be aware that you are looking with the right lens and measuring with the left.

Immediate control

I think the focus and magnification dials are superb, fast, and intuitive. Yes, the Quest will pixelate at high digital magnification, as any unit does, but switching between low and high magnification is so fast it never becomes frustrating, and, importantly, you don't end up making accidental button presses or jolting the unit.

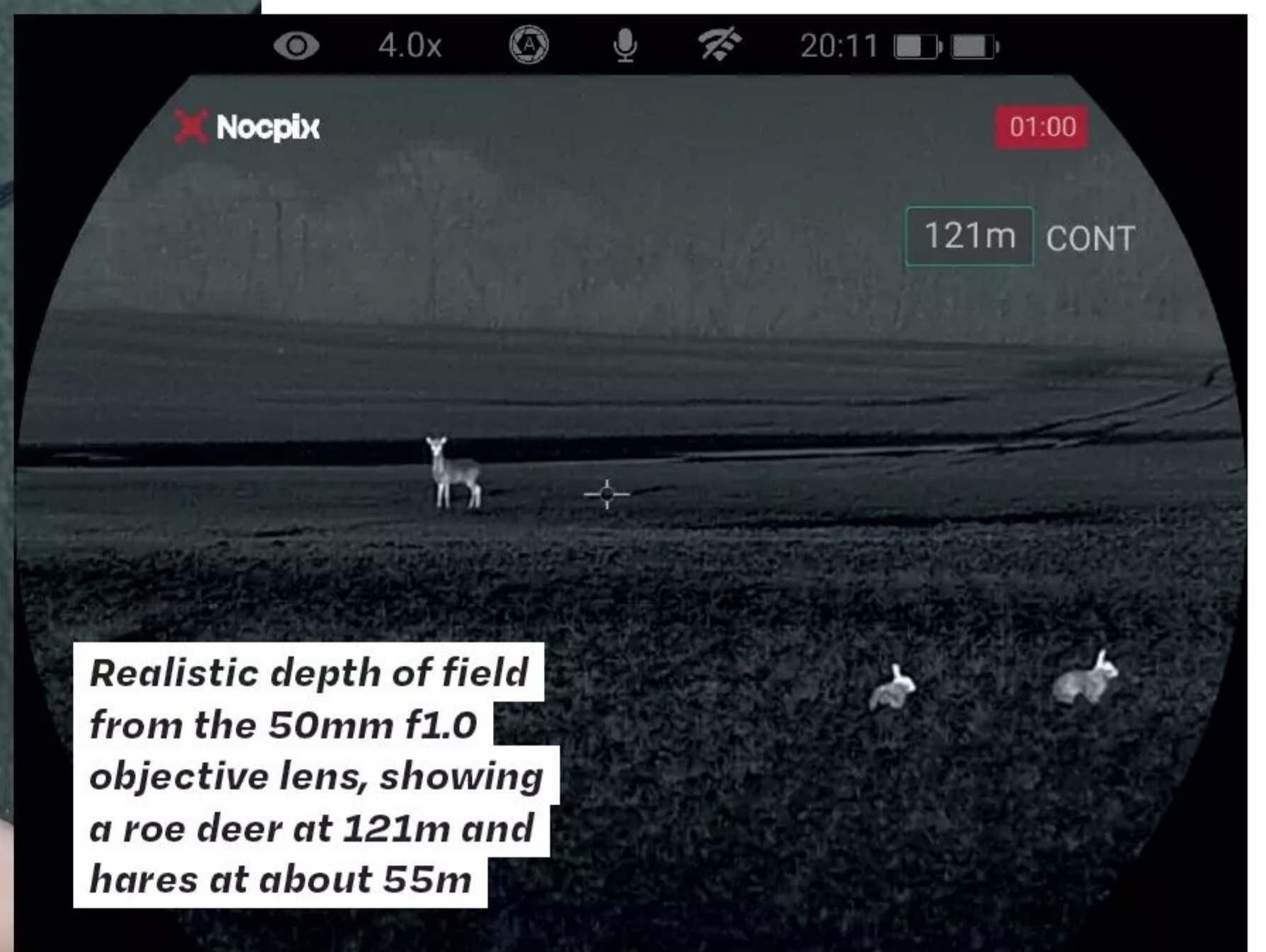
The compact size and shape of the unit allow it to sit flat against your chest. I chose not to use the harness assembly, as they don't appeal to me, but the one supplied is of high quality and includes an additional pouch for a lens cleaning cloth. It has also been designed with both security and modularity in mind, allowing you to easily swap the QR clips on either option to switch between setups.

The batteries can be swapped over without shutting the unit down. Two are supplied with the charger, and they don't even need to be inserted the right way round, as the Quest can accept either polarity.

Finally, the colour palette includes white-hot, black-hot, and red-hot, which are the most commonly used and my personal favourites. The Quest also offers colour, crimson, viridian and violet, although I suspect few people ever use these. In the end, they're just programming options rather than anything technically



The ability to run zoom and focus with ease and speed is a major bonus for the Quest



significant. They sound impressive, but are they truly useful?

A visually relaxed environment

White-hot gives the greatest situational awareness, black-hot provides great topography texture and seems to be the most relaxing for long scans, and red really makes the quarry stand out clearly. The unit gave perfect detection well out to 1,000m.

Identification is always at the user's discretion; however, as ever, the ability to observe behaviour undetected is where thermal technology excels, and experience truly matters. I could clearly make out a fox's tail beyond 300m in open ground, as well as the velvet-covered antlers of bucks at around 150m. The longer ears of hares were easier to distinguish in red-hot mode, but once again, their movement immediately sets them apart from rabbits.

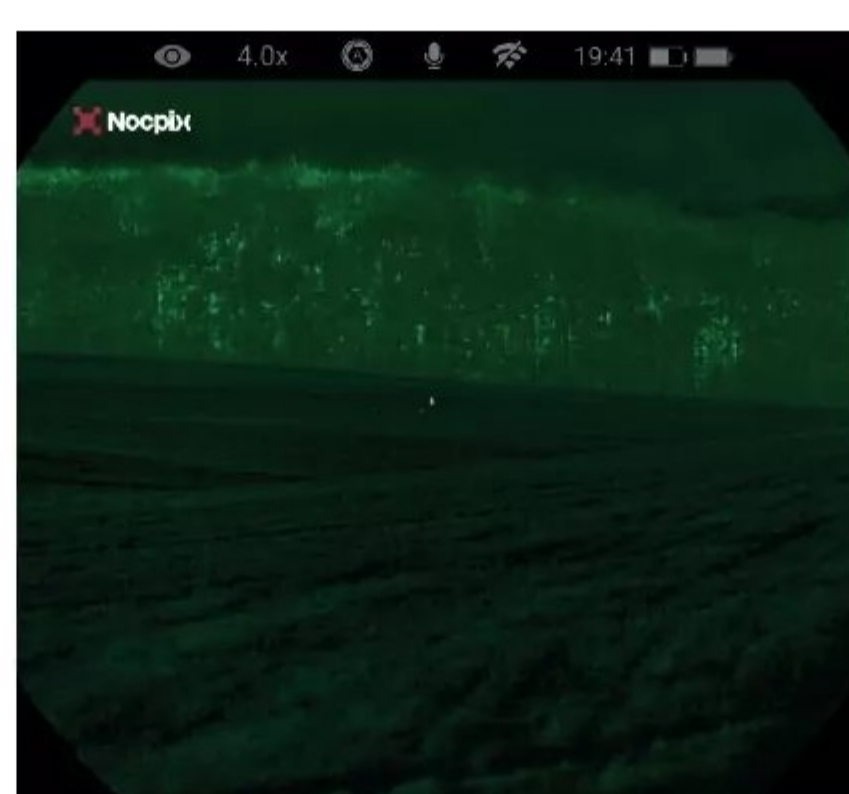
While watching a buck at 110m, I appreciated the depth of field, as closer quarry was still smoothly rendered by the 60Hz refresh rate. At all ranges, the image demonstrated exceptional fluidity on both hot and temperate objects, all presented with visually relaxed and inviting detail. This is my warmest compliment for any optical tool, and I have to say, in terms of value for money and ergonomics (for which I am known to be very critical), the Quest is hard to beat. Overall, I found the unit to be a genuine pleasure to use, without any concerns. So, recommended by Picky Parkin! **GM**



Fallow deer spotted at 150m within the treeline



Pushing the range a little further on a defined tree line rather than quarry



Six of the seven colour-palette options available

TECHNICAL SPECIFICATION

Name: Nocpix Quest H50R

Price: £2,700

Contact: Hawke Optics
- www.nocpix.uk

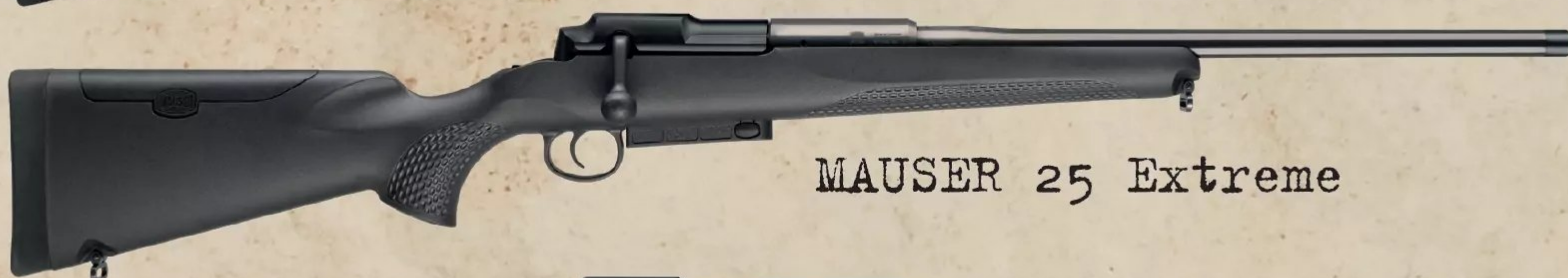


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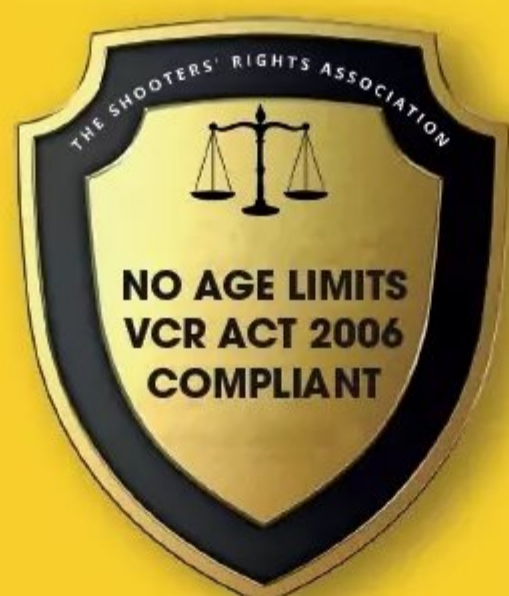
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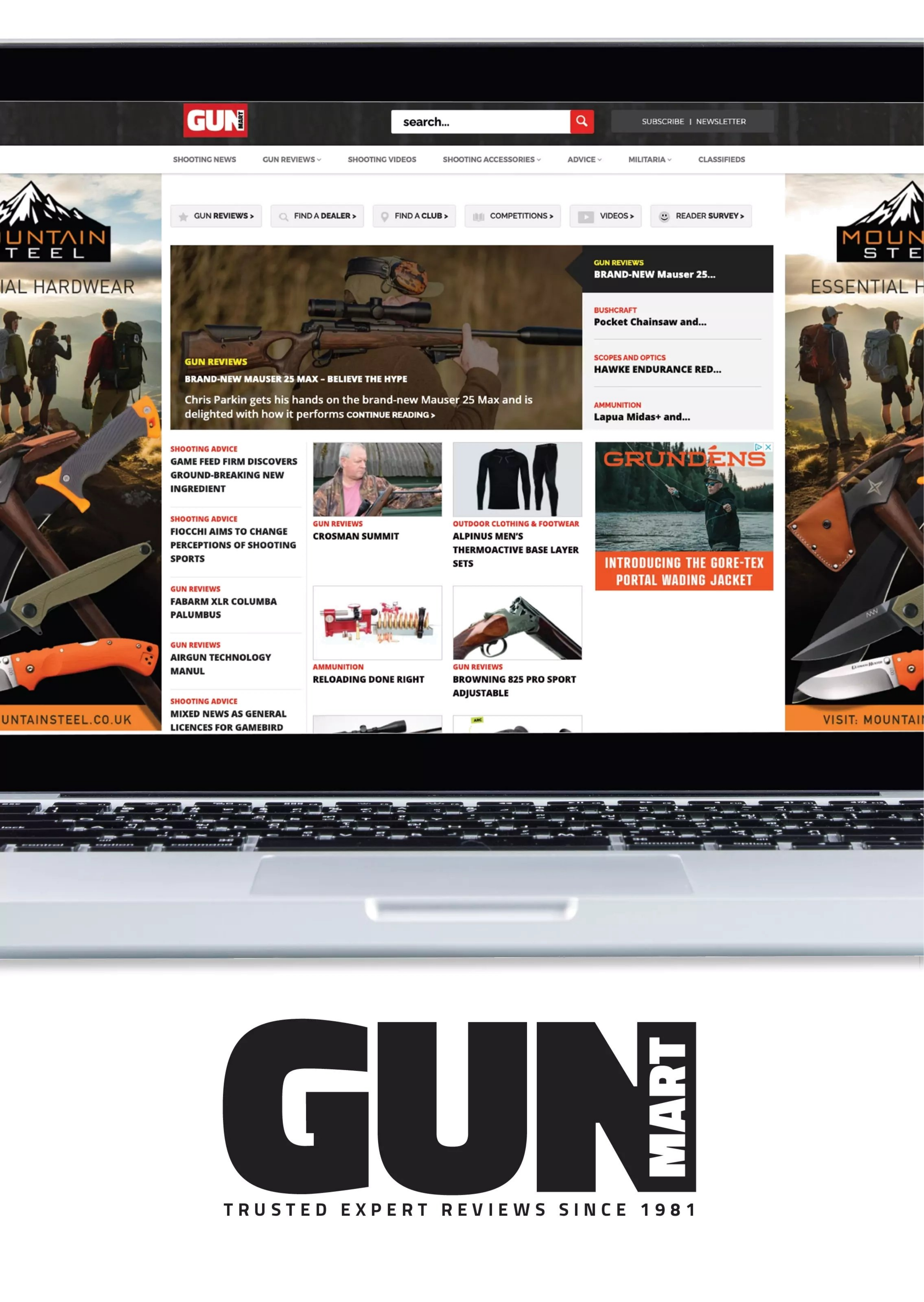
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Chris Parkin gets his hands on the brand-new Mauser 25 Max and is delighted with how it performs [CONTINUE READING >](#)

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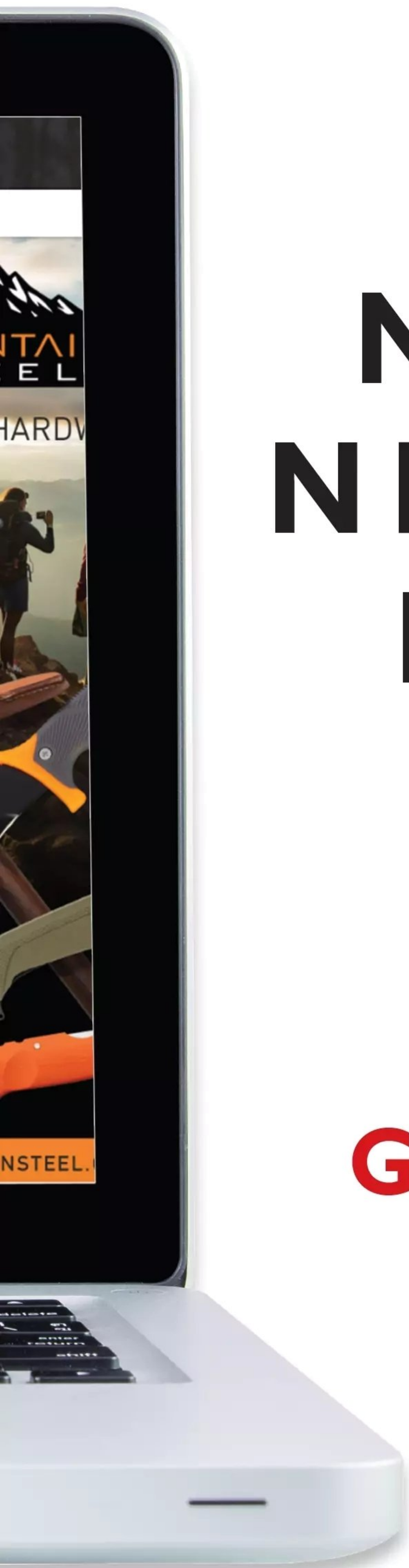
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RELOADING BASICS

Mark Underwood takes a look at the different options for sizing and lubricating lead bullets

Lead bullets are usually associated with handguns and older calibre rifles, but they can also be used in many common rifle calibres and are a good, economical choice for practice instead of using far more expensive jacketed projectiles.

Whether you buy lead bullets or cast your own, you can resize them to suit your particular gun, and you can also lubricate them in different ways and experiment to see which option works best.

Why resize?

As-cast homemade bullets are not always perfectly sized or shaped, and generally need to be resized before use. The as-cast diameter will be stated on the mould, and it may not be the best match for your gun, so resizing will be necessary.

Factory-made bullets have usually already been sized to a specific diameter, but sometimes it can be advantageous to resize them. If you normally use a .308" diameter jacketed bullet and the only lead bullets available are .309", then resizing them to match your jacketed bullets is worth trying. This will ensure that the neck tension achieved is more closely matched to that achieved with your usual jacketed projectiles.

Experimenting with bullet diameter is particularly easy with lead bullets, as they are more easily resized and are less likely to be damaged or deformed by the process than jacketed bullets. Squeezing the bullet diameter down by just 0.001" can have a noticeable effect on how your ammunition performs. You must, of course, not go too small, and be sure that the bullet diameter is compatible with your gun's bore, so that it will fit, seal, and obturate correctly.

Home-cast bullets

Making your own lead bullets at home can be time-consuming, but it is a



really good way of saving money. Using lead alloy recovered from the backstop on a range means that you have zero materials costs, and the savings you make will quickly pay for the cost of the melting pot and the moulds.

Commercial moulds all cast to a very tightly controlled bullet diameter, and the projectiles produced can be used 'as-cast', but most do need resizing.

Resizing methods

The basic principle of resizing lead bullets is that they are forced through a precisely machined opening in a die, which compresses the bullet down to the given diameter.

The diameter of the bullet is also regularised, and any small

casting marks are usually removed from the bearing surface.

The Lee Precision Bullet Sizing Kit consists of a resizing die body, which can be fitted to any standard single-stage press, and a punch that clips into the shell holder to push each bullet nose-first through the die and into the collection box above. This is resizing in its simplest form, and the process is relatively quick. This method does not apply any lubricant; you can lubricate the bullets before sizing, after sizing, or both before and after.

The RCBS Lube-A-Matic-2 is a full-sized press that is solely for resizing bullets. It is a very heavily engineered piece of equipment, and it also has a system of delivering lubrication to the lube bands on the bullet at the same time as resizing them. The tool actually forces each bullet down into the resizing die base-first, so a bullet-specific top punch is required to ensure that the nose of the bullet is not damaged during the process.

A diameter-specific sizing die and a bullet-specific top punch are required for each bullet that you want to size, and they are purchased



As-cast bullets on the left need resizing and lubricating like those on the right

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Bullets can be lubricated by submersion and then cut out once the lubricant sets



Lee Precision's Liquid Alox coats the entire bullet and dries like a varnish

The RCBS Lube-A-Matic-2 can size and lubricate bullets quickly and cleanly



EACH TIME A BULLET IS INSERTED INTO THE LUBE-A-MATIC-2, A SINGLE STROKE OF THE HANDLE SIZES AND LUBRICATES THE BULLET, THEN LIFTS IT BACK UP OUT OF THE SIZER, READY TO RELOAD."

MARK UNDERWOOD

separately. This is a very quick and clean way of both sizing and lubricating bullets. Watch out for a full review of this tool coming soon.

Lubrication

There are a few different ways to lubricate bullets, and they all have their individual pros and cons. Lee Precision's Liquid Alox, for example, is a 'wet' product that is applied by tumbling the bullets in a suitable container with a few drops of the lubricant. It coats the entire surface of the bullets and then dries like a varnish. The advantage of this particular product is that it coats all of the bullet, including the bearing surface, and it decreases the amount of leading in the barrel. Lee Precision also makes several bullet moulds that cast 'micro-grooves' into the shank of the bullet, specifically to

catch and hold this type of lubricant to make it even more effective.

Another way to lubricate your bullets is to place them in a flat-bottomed tray and pour melted lubricant around the bullets up to a level that just covers the lube bands. Once the lubricant has set, you then cut the bullets out with a 'cookie cutter' made from a suitably adapted case, and then lift them out. This method fills the lube bands very neatly. You can then place another bullet into each hole left by the ones previously cut out, gently re-melt the lubricant, top it up to the desired level, and repeat the whole process again, which saves a lot of time.

Both of these methods of lubricating bullets require the resizing to be done as a separate operation. As previously mentioned, the RCBS Lube-A-Matic-2 can lubricate the bullets at the same

time as resizing them, which does save a lot of time. Sticks of lubricant are fed into a chamber and pressurised by turning a crank. This pressure causes the lube to flow into the sizing die, where it is released into the lube bands on the bullet. Each time a bullet is inserted into the Lube-A-Matic-2, a single stroke of the handle sizes and lubricates the bullet, then lifts it back up out of the sizer, ready to reload. Although expensive, this method of resizing and lubricating is very quick, clean, and precise.

Conclusion

Resizing and lubricating bullets is another aspect of reloading where experimenting with different methods can significantly affect how your ammunition performs. Matching the bullet diameter to the bore of a gun is critical, and correct lubrication can affect chamber pressure and muzzle velocity. If you use lead bullets, it is well worth investing in some sizing and lubricating gear and giving it a go. **GM**

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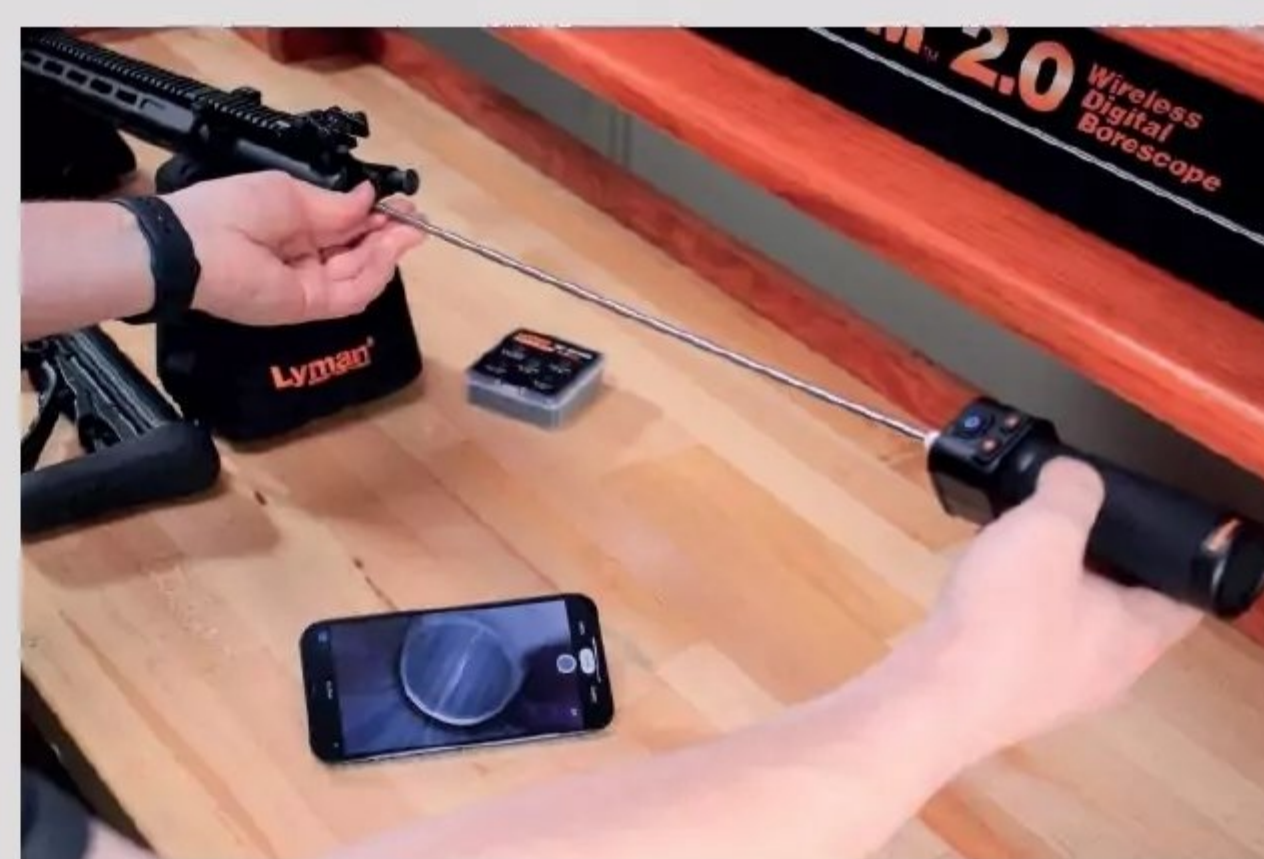
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On the hunt

Chris Parkin heads to Sweden to face the challenges of driven game and to test rifles, ammo, and red dot optics

The Aimpoint Media Hunt is run in combination with other manufacturers to showcase some of the latest equipment alongside appropriate rifle training and two days of driven hunting. The 2024 event began in Malmö, Sweden, which is just a 15-minute train journey via the Oresund Bridge from Copenhagen. The first evening was a great social gathering of hunting journalists from across Europe, with a couple of Americans present this year, too.

Day one started with breakfast and feverish discussion of the plans ahead. I managed to snag a ride in a fully customised Arctic Trucks Isuzu D-Max, which was fully kitted out with every accessory for the

hunter and dog handler on board. The group reconvened at the Jakt & Skytte facility, an impressive venue that combines a shooting cinema with a well-stocked gun shop in Staffanstorp.

Shooting cinemas can vary around the world, but this one was a perfect venue for a media trip with over 20 shooters. Here, we were introduced to the equipment we would be using for the hunt, which consisted of a Haenel Jaeger NXT rifle, an Aimpoint Acro C-2 red dot sight, and Hornady ammunition. Additional products for the cinema and hunt were the latest Peltor ComTac VIII ear defenders, as well as both Boarhammer and Gamehammer rifle slings to aid shooting and rifle transportation.

Training day

The first couple of hours were spent with Erik Ås, Aimpoint's chief instructor, teaching everyone the benefits of the red dot concept and the suggested technique to get the best from the system. Essentially, the compact red dots are not like a scope; they rely on shooting with both eyes open and trusting the visual technique and mantra you will develop: contact, focus, shoot. This approach is designed to develop a natural, dynamic gun movement to make the shot with appropriate lead subconsciously.

Everything was initially practised with a dummy rifle stock/Aimpoint setup on a series of wild boar targets to develop

coordinated, instinctive muscle memory.

Stage two involved switching to our designated rifles with live ammunition to check the ergonomic setup and zero. The range is 25m long and has a rubberised wall in the danger area, to which targets were stapled before we withdrew to the shooting benches for three-round groups and any required adjustments. It's important to mention that this was not about shooting tiny precision groups; it was simply about confirming the rifle's zero. We were each given Hornady ammunition types most likely suited to our home-market preferences, and just a few clicks of adjustment got me shooting nicely.

It was good to see that each shooter had been supplied with a rifle and ammunition selected specifically for them. All the rifles were in .308, but three stock variants were represented – polymer, laminate, and an adjustable cheekpiece.

The Jaeger is an interesting rifle that I've previously reviewed in detail, featuring an unusual combination of straight-pull and turnbolt action. The bolt handle is pulled straight back, and bevel gears within the bolt's shroud rotate the bolt shaft, unlocking conventional lugs. This provides the primary extraction as well as a linear reload cycle. I was issued the polymer version with an adjustable cheekpiece, and, based on my previous experience, I was pleased to receive this variant, which is ideal for UK shooters.

On video

Stage three was the most fun. Real video footage of moving quarry species was projected onto the rubber wall, and from 25m back, we all took turns shooting at targets at a variety of angles and speeds. The screen freezes, and sensors detect exactly where the bullet has hit the animal, and this can be replayed to instructors and shooters for analysis and improvement. Most importantly, Erik watched the shooters to advise and assist with the dynamic technique, which to many hunters was somewhat alien.

As well as deer and boar, the last stage simulated random dangerous scenarios, such as multiple animals crossing paths, as well as dogs nearby, for example. This is a situation you have to be ready for, with specific minimum proximity rules. The fines for incorrect species,

sex, and maturity are substantial. If you injure a dog, you might need to re-mortgage your house.

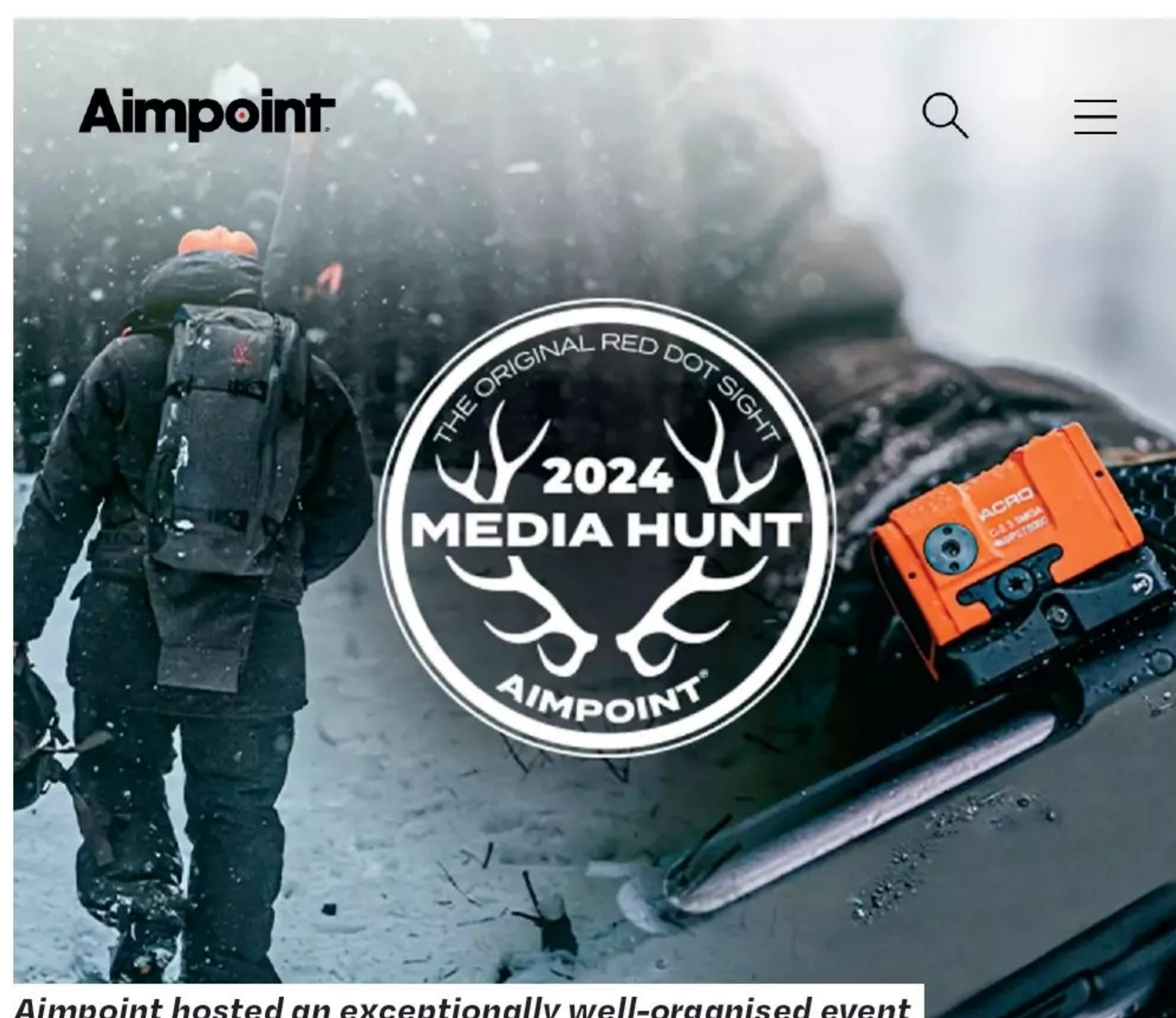
Equipment

Shooting cinemas are very noisy, and the new Peltor ComTac VIIIs offer 28dB of hearing protection. They also feature a secondary mode allowing additional internal sound transmission of ambient noise and conversation if you are using additional protection for extremely noisy environments.

The Boarhammer wrist strap fastens to your front sling stud, and with your hand slid through the padded, non-elasticated neoprene loop, it assists in drawing the rifle into your shoulder with less muscle strain. You might be standing for hours with the rifle tucked under your elbow, waiting for a shot opportunity, and this aids the wait without compromising immediate gun mount.

The Gamehammer is a full sling that provides the same benefits, alongside the ability to shoulder-carry your rifle as normal. Having the chance to use these slings in the cinema helped assure us of their relative merits. In the end, I chose the latter for my rifle.

Hornady supplied more than 3,000 rounds of ammunition, including ECX (lead-free) for designated regions and SST (lead), which provides rapid expansion and is a firm favourite among boar hunters for its fast, devastating terminal performance. Finally, there was ELD-X (lead), a precision hunter's ideal bullet designed for longer-range use with more gradual expansion and ballistic efficiency.



Aimpoint hosted an exceptionally well-organised event



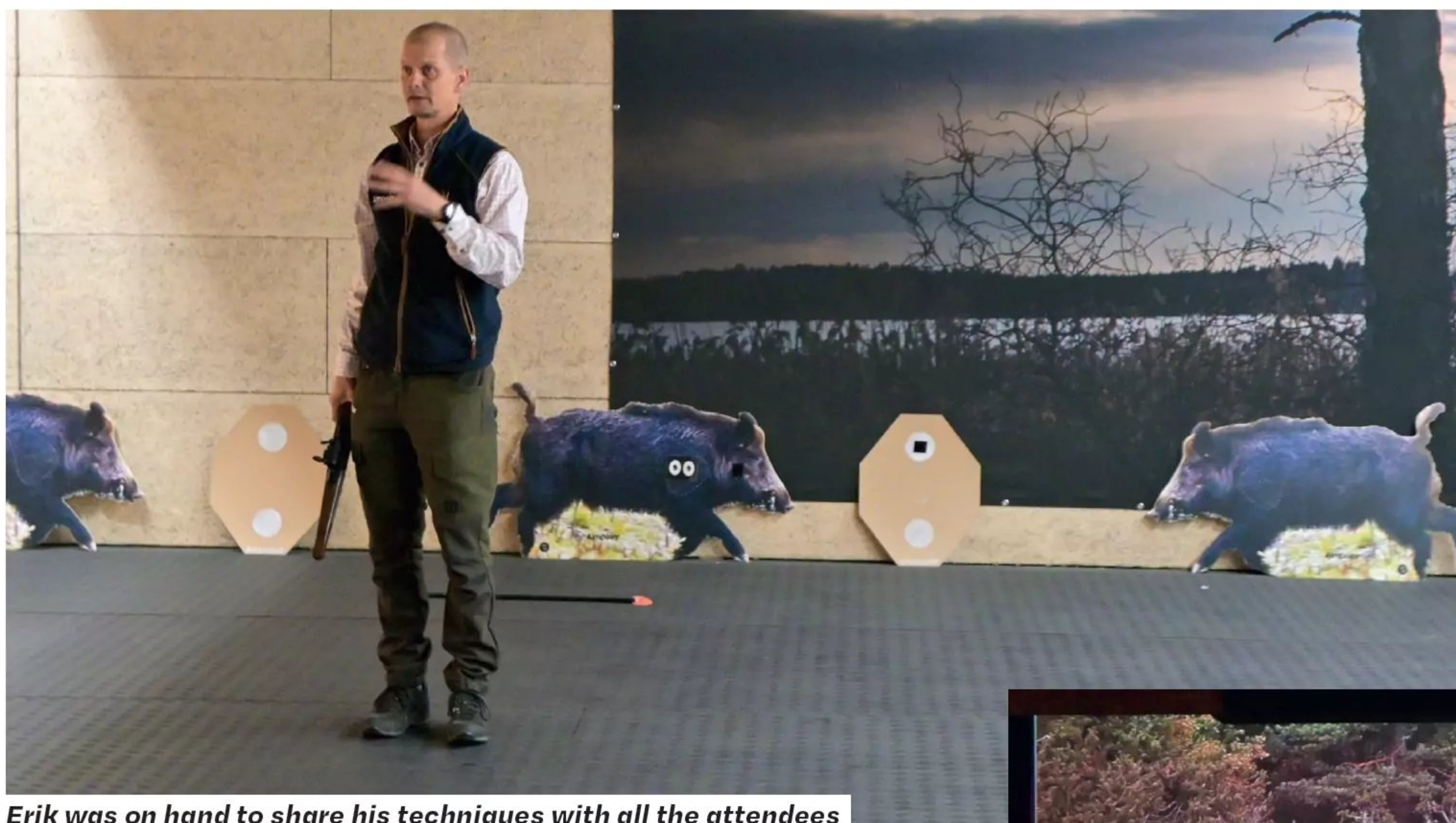
The dinner on the first night was a great opportunity to meet new faces and discuss the event



The Jakt & Skytte facility features a gun shop and a shooting cinema



Kit included a Haenel Jaeger NXT rifle and an Aimpoint Acro C-2



Erik was on hand to share his techniques with all the attendees



We used Hornady ammunition during the trip

Depending on their home market requirements, each shooter took a stack, and I was quite happy using the SST. Immediate terminal performance is reassuring, and the likelihood of taking a longer shot with a red dot sight is minimal, even when quarry is plentiful. There was a Gaim simulator on hand for more practice in the lounge area, as well as a tour of the attached gun shop for those last-minute needs.

The day ended back at Aimpoint's headquarters in Malmö. We watched product briefings and had a short tour of the facility where externally manufactured components are assembled. The company's president, Lennart Ljungfelt, joined us for a superb dinner before we ventured further eastward, out of the city, to our next hotel, Brösarps Gästgifveri in the Hörsalen hunting area.

Day two

The Högestad Estate and Christinehof Castle comprise one of Sweden's best hunting locations, with 13,000ha of open land and forest to hunt red deer, fallow deer, wild boar, foxes, and moose, depending on your pockets and licences. This is one of Skåne's largest private forestry and agricultural enterprises, combining hunting, property management, and nature conservation. It was established in 1747 by Christina Piper and employs around 20 people to monitor wildlife, with



Live firing at the cinema screen simulated real-time movement and reloading speed

limited hunting prioritised to respect the environment.

Högestad and Christinehof follow the traditional Swedish driven-hunt style, using several teams of dog handlers who enter the designated part of the estate from different directions. Unlike the single three-hour hunt in Germany, the Swedes prefer two to four drives spread over the day, chosen

from hundreds of hunting stands across the estate.

The day started before dawn with a full briefing while we met all the beaters and dog handlers. Distribution of radios and signals was confirmed, with everyone receiving a written list of the quarry that was on or off the menu that day. There is an opportunity for single animals of certain species/maturity to be taken,

Most of my stands were in woodland, and it rained almost continuously for two days





Fallow deer are more commonly seen in open fields. Many were observed, but they can be challenging long shots when using a red dot sight



The mist cleared before the rain began, and I spotted a large sow to my left in the field

but if you do, it must be announced over the radio immediately and removed from the list. A large fallow buck was a typical example. Fines are immediate – some go to the estate and some to the government – so fast identification is critical in the split-second encounters that driven hunts usually provide.

Having attended this hunt before, I was well aware of the likely chances. I have seen plenty of boar and hundreds of fallow deer in the past. Of the former, no piglets with stripes, but Frischling and Überläufer were okay. Any males were allowed. Of course, a Keiler is the most desirable.

Caution is the smart option, as both males and females can show tusks, but the males are larger with a greater forward-leaning stance, body size, and mass. The usual rules apply in that any Bache (sow) with a following sounder must be left until the young are taken.

It's essential not to assume that a large solo boar is a Keiler until you are absolutely sure, based on the two humps on its back, its shoulders, head shape, and relevant undercarriage. These features, of course, are tricky to see depending on the terrain and ground

cover, and the general rule is that no Bache over 80kg can be taken at all, and that is dead weight on the ground, not larder weight. On a previous shoot, I let a sow pass me because it didn't have a safe background. The gun next to me did shoot it, and because it weighed 83kg, there was a big fine. There is no margin for error.

The weather wasn't cold, but it was damp with fog. The hosts had been hoping for snow, but thankfully, the mist burned off by 9am, and I found myself in a stand with great views

to my left, over uneven grass. I had walked to my stand, which was only about 1.5m off the ground. It followed the estate's template with a rugged ladder, removable seat, and a safety rail. For safety reasons, you must stay in your stand at all times once the drive has begun. Wild boar can be dangerous, with a particular habit of going between your legs, where the self-sharpening tusks can lacerate both your femoral arteries, which is a quick way to die.

I brushed the fallen leaves from the wooden

floor to reduce noise, then readied my rifle and settled in to wait, watch, and listen. It was breezy, but the Peltors have great electronics and windshields to minimise undesirable noise. It was still incredibly easy to hear the beaters and dogs many hundreds of metres away.

I'd been on the stand for about 30 minutes when I got my first sighting – a large, dark solo boar. I couldn't see tusks, and the profile wasn't clear enough to be a safe bet. It was a good 50 to 60m away and just walking. A second later, it disappeared from sight into

A wild boar viewed through the Aimpoint Acro C-2 red dot sight



the edge of a copse in front of me and then actually wandered even closer as it traversed between the trees. It was probably under 80kg, and it was alone without a sounder, but I just didn't want to take the risk.

Another half hour passed, and I heard noise behind me. Spinning around, I saw a definite Keiler at about 30m, but with the road behind it and orange tape in the trees marking unsafe shooting arcs, I left it. I'd heard a few gunshots in the distance, but nothing close by. I estimated my nearest companion to be about 150m away on my rear right quarter.

Drives two and three saw me in denser forest with clear shooting lanes, but I only saw a vague, fleeting impression of two deer, most likely fallow, flickering through the trees some 70m away in the now very damp and misty air.

More hunting

The second day's hunting was similar to the first, with slightly different allowances on shooting red prickets between certain tine lengths. Stags with fewer than six points were allowed, which I found left an unsure grey area, so I decided it was better to avoid them altogether.

My first drive started in thick mist, but it lifted around 9.30am, allowing me to survey what must have been the best 360-degree view of an open-laned forest I'd encountered. There was an obvious track running straight down to a small pond at the bottom of the valley, about 100m away, which drew my focus. I felt quite visually exposed, especially with such a wide field of view, which required quite a degree of physical movement to survey.

I heard a lot of noise that was not gunfire or dogs, but



Twenty guns produced a modest tableau, with all available species represented. Only a few minor mistakes were made

a large disturbance in the undergrowth. In the blink of an eye, a huge black boar appeared about 70m away in the centre of the track by the pond, stationary for what seemed like a lifetime. It had a rounder, less angular stance, without humps on its back, and had to be a sow. She turned, and I quickly glanced through my binoculars, which is rare on a driven hunt. She was definitely female. Given her proximity to dense cover, you never know if there may be Frischlinge in convoy behind, but when she finally trotted along, none were with her. She was massive and undoubtedly over 80kg.

After each drive, all observed animals were logged in a register and shouted out across the beaters' lodge while we refuelled with hot drinks. It was a bit like roll call in a school classroom. The numbers of shots, hits,

misses, wounds, etc., were logged, and it seemed there were a lot of deer but relatively few boar in general.

On my next drive, I didn't see a thing, but on drive three, I saw 10 fallow deer in the centre of the field, 200m beyond the edge of the woodland I was in. The rain had been relentless most of the day, and I don't think many people were sad when the radio crackled, "End of drive." Once again, I left without firing a shot, but that's driven hunts, as sometimes luck doesn't go your way. At least my quarry identification is becoming more trustworthy, even if it's only being tested on animals I can't shoot.

The game tableau at the end of each day showed examples of each species shot, but the bag was smaller than hoped for. Our hosts were disappointed with the weather but congratulated us on our determination. There were no negative comments from any of the participants regarding the rifles or ammunition on this trip, and hopefully, I will soon receive all the gear back in the UK for a full review.

Many thanks to the team at Aimpoint, Haenel, Hornady, 3M Peltor, and Sauenhammer for the invitation to shoot and hunt in Sweden, a fantastic location to visit, with a rich hunting culture. **GM**

CONTACTS:

Aimpoint - www.aimpoint.com

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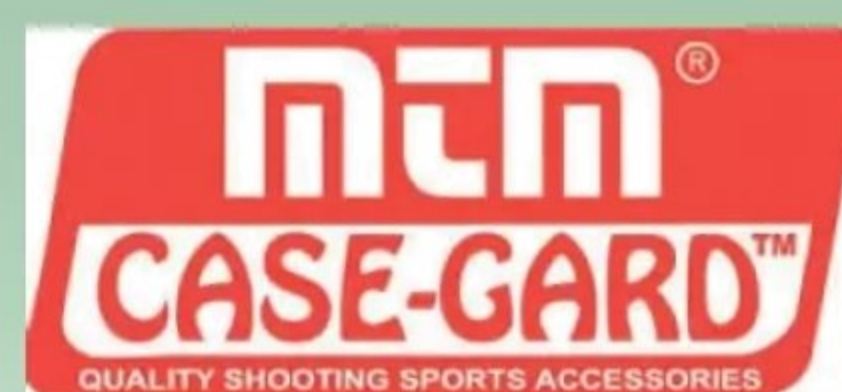


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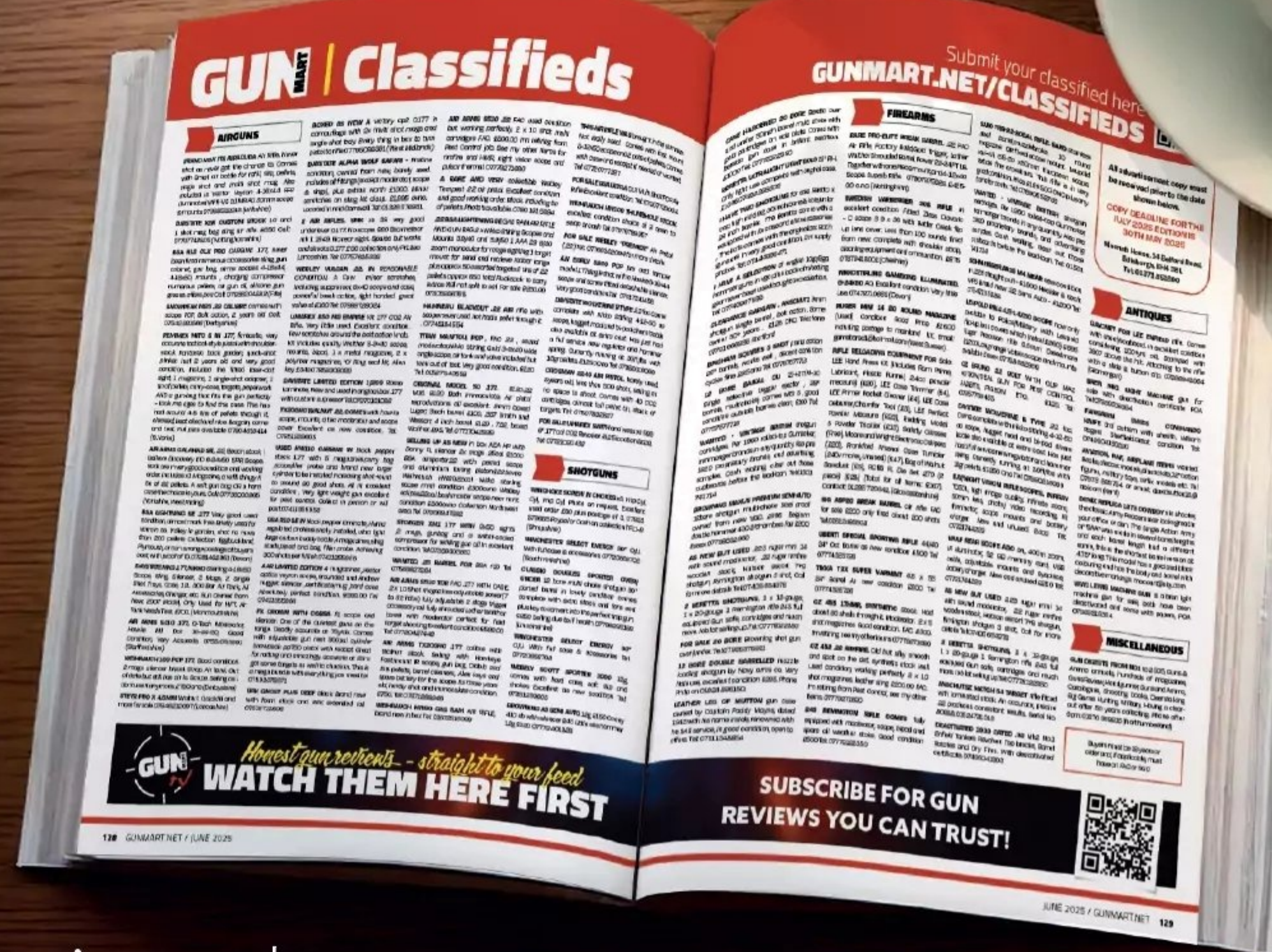


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A man wearing a grey beanie and a tweed jacket is aiming a black and wood shotgun in a grassy field. The background shows rolling green hills and some trees under a clear sky.

HEAVY HITTER

Bruce Potts finds the Webley & Scott 912 XSL combines a modern laminate stock with a robust steel action, offering surprising value and performance

Although Webley & Scott (W&S) have been gunmakers since 1790, they have undergone many changes in ownership, but despite this, they are still able to turn out really decent 12-bore shotguns, one of which is the new 912 XSL.

This over-and-under 12-bore is a variant of Webley's highly successful and well-made 912 Boxlock shotgun design, and has proved to be a reliable performer in the field, whether for competition or general shooting.

This 912 XSL is the steel-actioned competition model, but instead of the usual walnut stock, it sports an increasingly popular laminate one, thus modernising the look and brand to satisfy a new breed of shooters, and also providing a very weather-resistant shooting platform.

It still features W&S's Equipoise stock balancing system, allowing the XSL's handling to be tuned to

the shooter's preferences, along with an adjustable cheekpiece for perfect eye alignment.

The black-chromed action is very striking to look at and is distinctive to this model, as is the full complement of five extended chokes.

Retailing for only £1,149.99, it seems a bit of a bargain, with the added benefit of being designed in the UK and having a five-year warranty, too. Let's see how it shoots.

Big and heavy

At the heart of the XSL is a large and let's be honest, heavy action. It's all steel, and I think the gun is far better for it, as this not only translates to a longer life and higher shot count before it becomes 'rattly', but it also serves to reduce recoil, too.

This regular Boxlock action is large, with a monobloc

Detail of the adjustable cheekpiece



The palm swell is comfortable, and the barrel selector is smooth and easy to change



THE PATTERNS IT PRODUCED WERE ABSOLUTELY FANTASTIC AND WOULD PUT TO SHAME SOME OF THE OTHER 12-BORES I HAVE TESTED RECENTLY!"

system, and I much prefer the steel construction, as its weight makes the gun feel better in the hand, in my view. The actual lock-up of the action is of the common under-bolt configuration we see on so many shotguns, and it is entirely safe and reliable. This lock-up secures the barrels into the action via a full-width bolt at the back and bottom of the action face, which locks directly into the 'lump' below the bottom barrel in standard monobloc style. The barrels also hinge on stub pins inset into the front of the action sides.

The easy-opening top lever sits noticeably to the right, further demonstrating the XSL's credibility, with ample allowance for wear built into the action to support extended use or long-term ownership. Fine craftsmanship is shown, as the internal machine marks are minimal.

On close inspection

Internally, you have a manual trigger/hammer system, not an inertia one,

meaning utter reliability with the added bonus of being able to shoot light or heavy loads without worrying about resetting the hammer for the second shot. The action, therefore, is cocked irrespective of recoil.

The silver-coloured single trigger is nicely curved and is surprisingly crisp for a shotgun, with a pull weight of just 4lbs 2oz, measured using my Lyman trigger gauge.

I also really like the non-auto safety, as this system never catches you out in competitions. Plus, to me, it is equally handy out in the field. I like to put the safety on when I want it on! The safety catch, as usual, also selects the barrel, with the left position for the top barrel and the right for the bottom barrel. It has a slim profile but is very easy to manipulate.

One of the gun's best features is its superb black-chromed finish, which looks so classy and is far superior to the coin-finished, low-cost engraving found on other guns

in this price range. Yes, it is a bit shiny and reflective, but this is a competition model after all, and it would not deter me from hunting with it. You also have the W&S logo and model name highlighted in white.

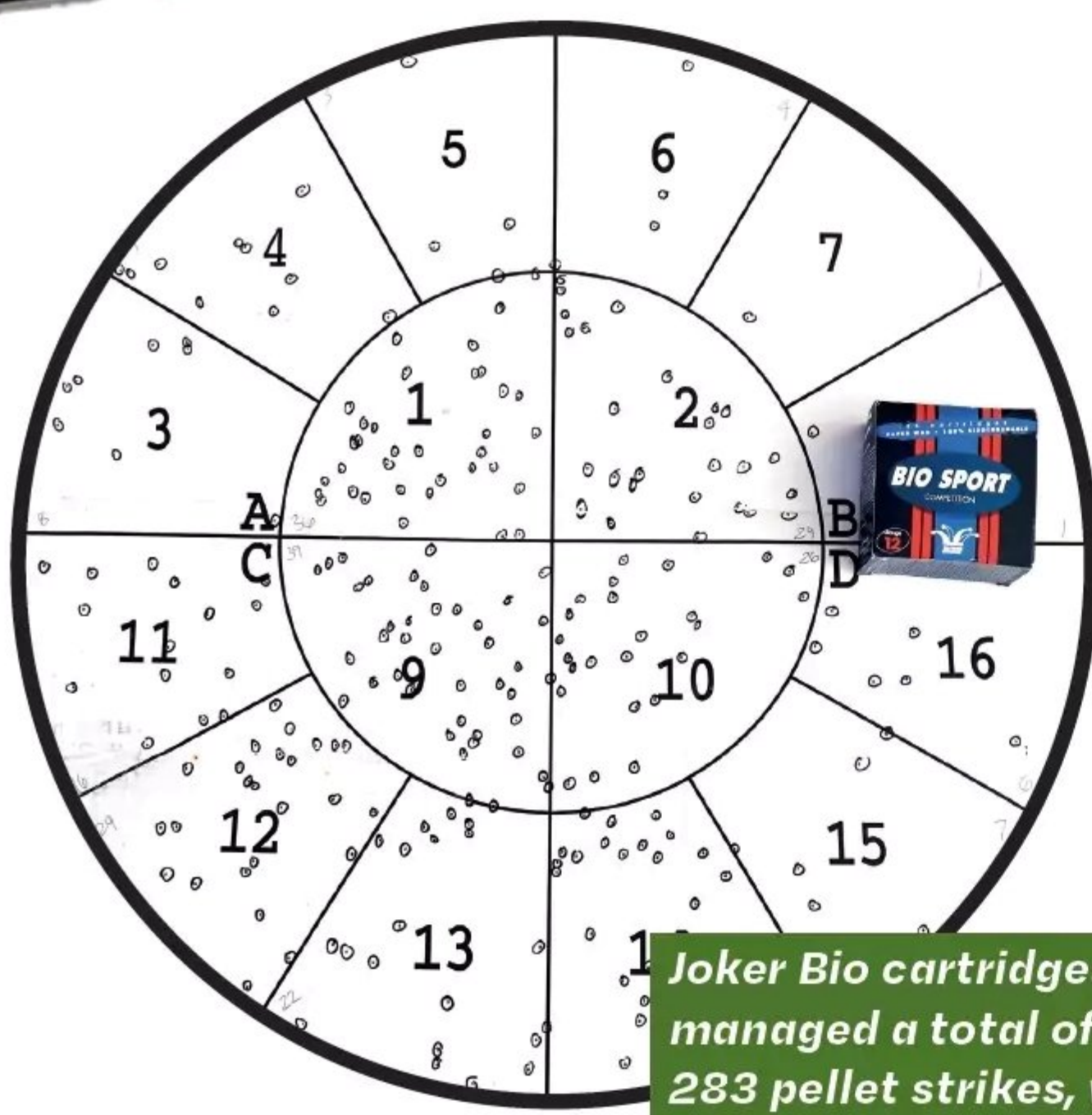
The barrels

When it comes to barrel length, you have a choice of 30 or 32", with the test model showing the former. Whichever length you go for, you get 3" chambers, allowing for a more diverse range of loads, although 2 3/4" competition cartridges would be its usual fare, or in my case, 28g pigeon loads. The barrels have a deep, even blued/black finish that is both surprisingly scratch-resistant and durable.

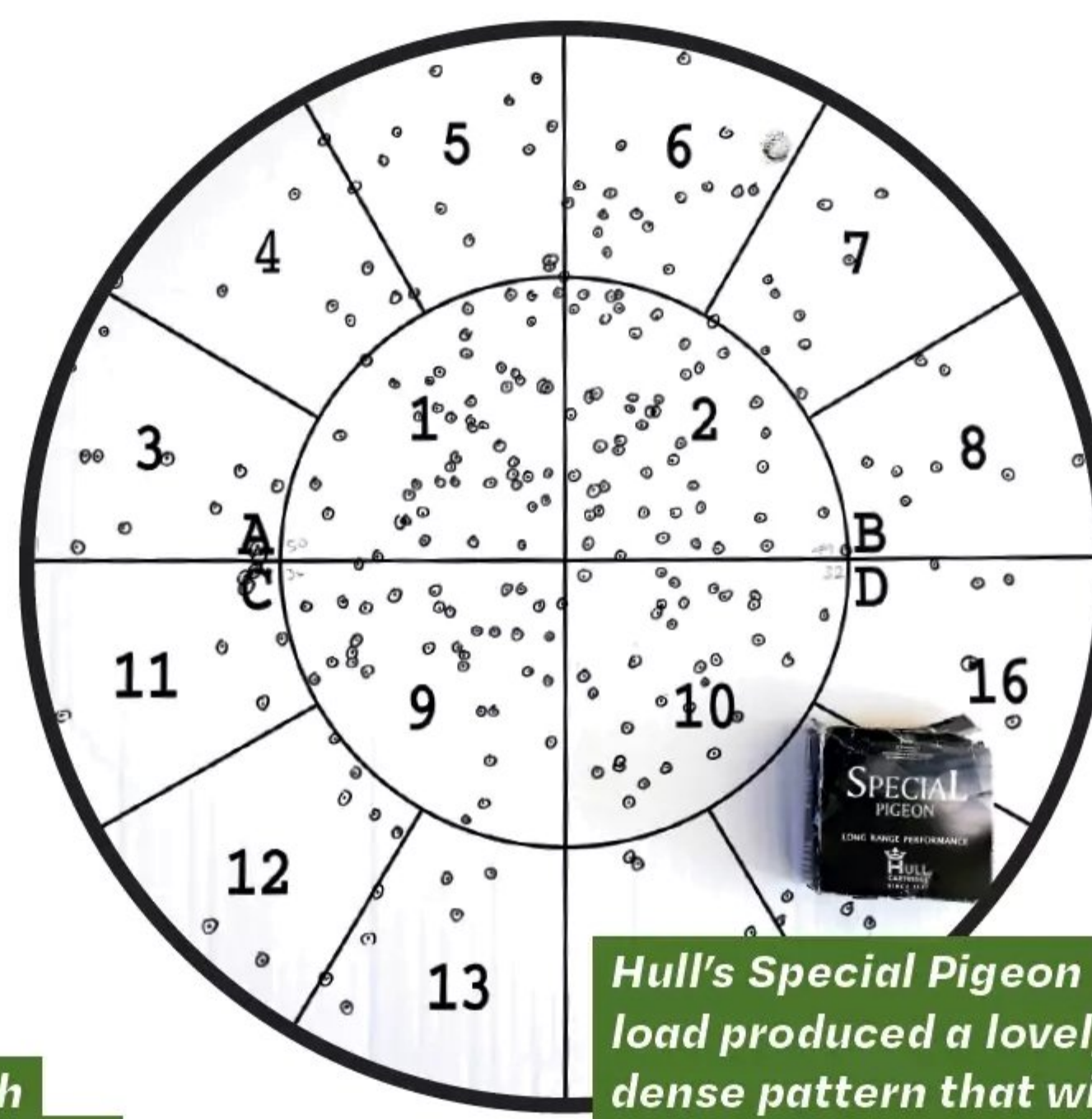
The mid-rib is solid, adding to the overall solidity of this model, and the 10mm top rib is raised with nine evenly spaced and sized vents for good ventilation of the barrel when it gets hot, thus reducing mirage. A single red Day-Glo element up



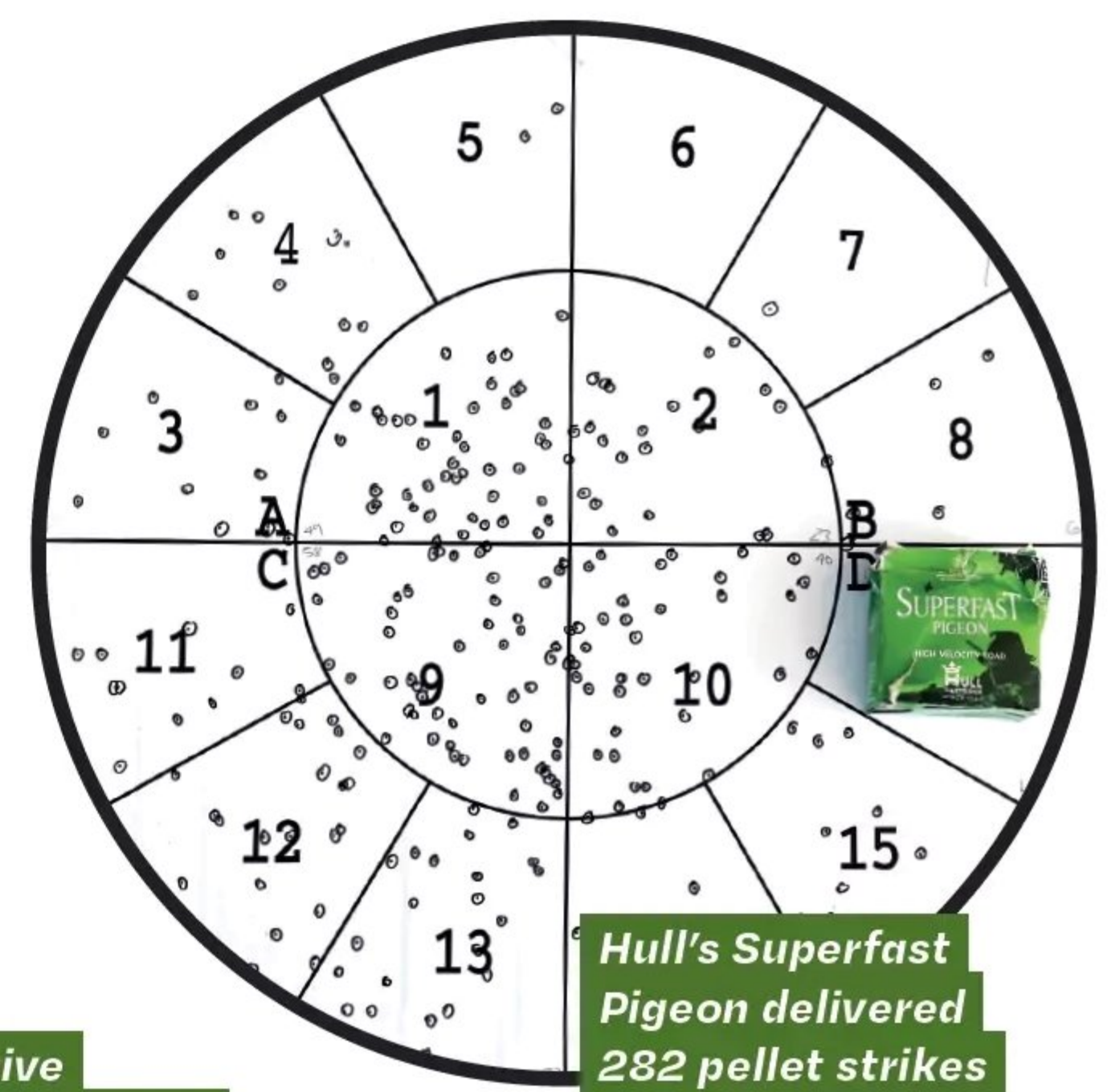
The Webley & Scott 912 XSL certainly looks striking



Joker Bio cartridges managed a total of 283 pellet strikes, with 153 inners and 130outers



Hull's Special Pigeon load produced a lovely, dense pattern that will give you clean kills at extended ranges



Hull's Superfast Pigeon delivered 282 pellet strikes in total

by the muzzles is the only sighting device, and it works very well on this naturally pointable gun.

The chokes have a blued finish and extend 20mm beyond the barrels, with an overall length of 70mm. A full complement of five chokes is supplied: cylinder, $\frac{1}{4}$, $\frac{1}{2}$, $\frac{3}{4}$, and full, along with a polymer choke key that engages and removes the chokes in a single movement.

Ejector-wise, the individual ejectors grab the spent cases with security, and ejection is similarly reliable and brisk, with no hint of stickiness.

Laminate furniture

The 'L' in XSL stands for laminate, and this choice of furniture is probably the gun's most noticeable feature.

More and more shooters are recognising the advantages of laminate, as it provides a strong, weather-resistant and non-warping material with a striking appearance. The green, brown and grey tones of

the laminate complement the XSL's new black action particularly well. The suppliers also pointed out that no two laminate stocks are the same, so you have your own unique XSL.

The second desirable feature of this model is the adjustable stock, which offers horizontal and lateral movement of the cheekpiece. Simply loosen the securing Allen screws through the stock sides and adjust the top section of the stock to your desired position. It's all simple, fast, and secure when all tightened up.

Webley's Equipoise balance system is accessed by removing the butt pad, allowing you to insert the supplied weights into the rear of the stock. These are available in 75, 100, 150 or 175g, and are a useful addition for fine-tuning the balance of the XSL to suit your preferences or chosen barrel length.

Equally pleasing is the pistol grip, with its generous length and quite upright gait that feels relaxed but secure, and there is a palm swell to

the right-hand side for extra grip. The laser-cut chequering also helps in this regard, but is a bit shallow, though it has a nice radial pattern to it and is mirrored on the fore-end, which sports a hand-filling shape with a good, prominent finger groove along the top edge. The blued metal release mechanism allows easy access to the release lever and fits very snugly to the barrel catch for a tight attachment. Befitting a laminate stock, there is a weatherproof satin lacquer finish.

Field test

I conducted the pattern tests at 30 yards with the $\frac{1}{2}$ choke fitted, and I have to say this is one of the most consistently patterning shotguns I have ever tested. I used three different loads—two pigeon cartridges and one clay steel load—all with varying shot sizes and weights, yet each load resulted in a pattern with only a five-pellet variation in total strikes.



The hand-filling fore-end features laser-cut chequering that is quite shallow



The gun comes with five 70mm extended chokes



The gun comes proofed for steel, and it is very well finished inside and out



The steel action is robust and built to last many thousands of rounds

Hull's Special Pigeon 12-bore cartridge is just superb, in my opinion, with its big 32g load of No.6 shot. We had a total of 287 pellets within 30", with 120 in the outer sectors and 167 within the 15" inner circle. A lovely, dense pattern that will give you clean kills at extended ranges.

Next came Hull's Superfast Pigeon cartridges, loaded with 29g of No.6 shot. Despite the lighter load, we still recorded a total of 282 pellet strikes, with 112 landing in the inner circle and 170 in the outer sectors. This resulted in a very good, dense inner pattern, a slight right-hand bias, and probably very few pellets off the board.

The final load tested was the Joker Bio Iso Steel, with 28g of No.7 shot. Once again, it produced an impressive total of 283 pellet strikes, with 153 landing in the inner circle and 130 in the outer sectors, and with the added benefit of being eco-friendly.

Conclusion

The 912 XSL will surprise you with its looks and handling. Yes, it's a tad heavy, but it's so well-built and finished, and sporting that alluring laminate stock, it really handles well. The patterns it produced were absolutely fantastic and would put to shame some of the other 12-bores I have tested recently! So, I can highly recommend the gun. **GM**

TECHNICAL SPECIFICATION

Name: Webley & Scott 912 XSL

Type: Over-and-under

Calibre: 12-bore

Barrel Length: 30"

Length of Pull: 14 5/8"

Price: £1,149.99

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I love my .410 Winchester cartridges; they may be costly, but they don't half perform well. It's true for the whole Winchester range of shells. They are not made to a price, rather they are made to perform at their best, and it shows in the quality of components, especially in these famous AA 12-bore rounds.

Winchester offers this series of cartridges in all manner of combinations for all shooting and sporting disciplines, and they are the official cartridges of the Amateur Trapshooting Association.

Today, we are testing the Winchester AA Lite Handicap Target ammunition, which is a lower-recoiling option for long-range trap and sporting clays. These AA shotshells feature Winchester's legendary high-strength case, here in a striking charcoal/green livery, providing reliable performance and a case that reloaders adore. The specially engineered synthetic wad system is purpose-built to lessen recoil for high-volume clay shooters, as well as increase pattern performance downrange.

Two velocity levels are available, both using a combination of Winchester's 209 primers and clean-burning powders, ensuring reliable ignition, whilst the company's hard lead shot takes off briskly downrange. This is a premium load with high-end performance.

Let's inspect them

Visually, the cartridge looks spectacular, with superb build quality that is both obvious and highly tactile. The super-tough polymer casing is crafted with very uniform walls and, in this variant, features a charcoal/green colour with black lettering indicating the internals, giving it a very smart appearance.



The closure at the top is Winchester's eight-star crimp, rather than the more common six-star. It forms a very tight seal to prevent ingress from debris or moisture, securely holds the load in place, and generates the correct back pressure to fully ignite the powder charge and produce consistent propulsion.

At the other end is a 12mm brass head stamped 'Win AA HS 12 GA', with a very nice, pronounced lip to the casing for reliable ejector grip.

Inside is the uniform, hard shot which Winchester makes using its own shot towers, and the pellets were all very clean, bright, and spherical, which helps keep the patterns tight and uniform, too.

This is the faster 1oz, 1250fps version, but you can get a 1150fps velocity option for closer-range clays. You can also buy a No.8 or No.9 shot version, as well as a slightly heavier 1 1/8oz loading. I have also seen lighter shot charges of 26g or 24g, with the latter being a great cartridge for simulated game and general vermin control around the farm, as well as for introducing recoil-shy shooters to the sport. You can also opt for the copper-plated version, loaded with 1 1/4oz lead shot, for extended range or enhanced downrange performance.



The pronounced brass rim ensures perfect functioning



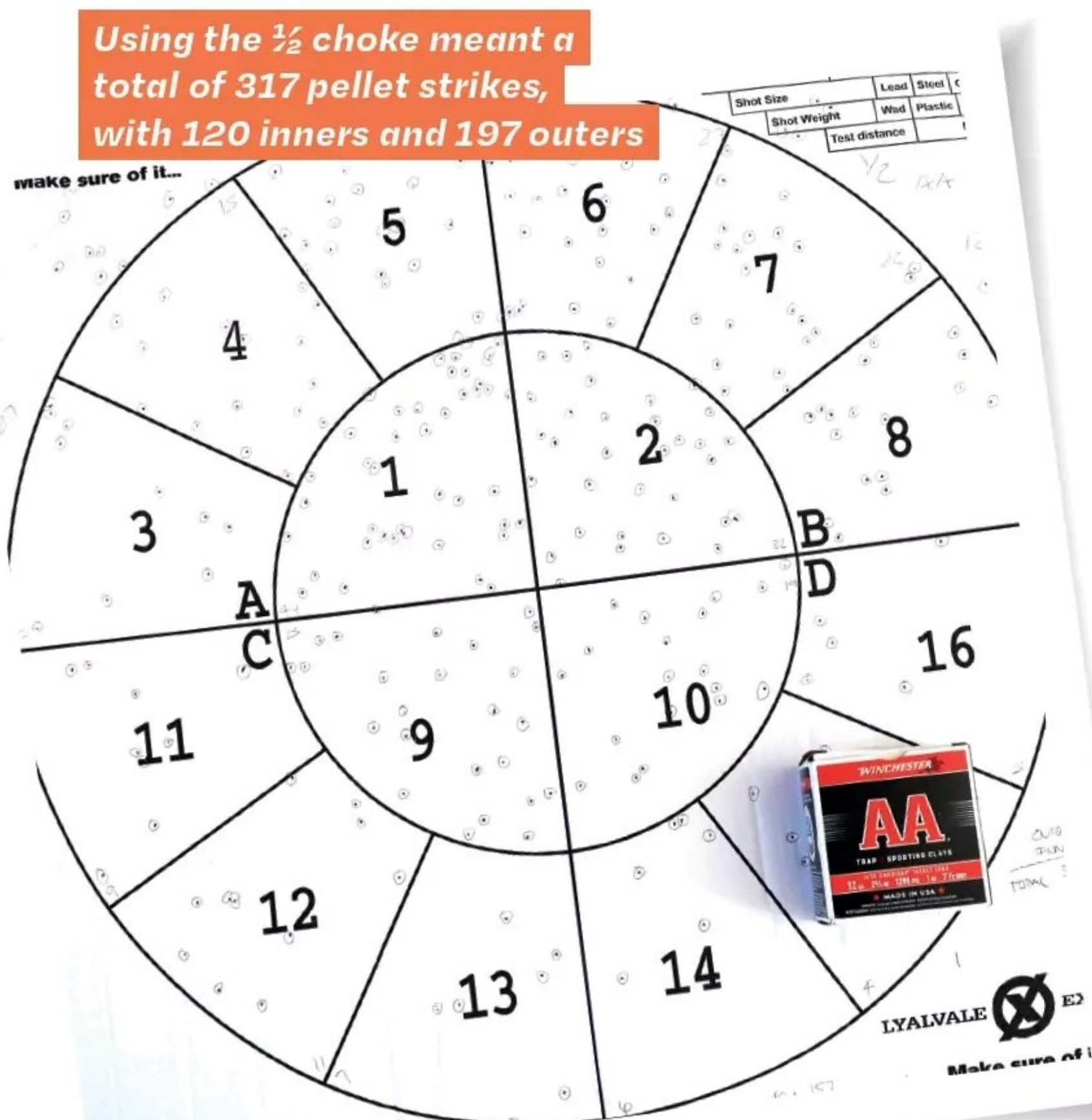
The internal components work in harmony, helping to produce excellent patterns

What else?

Also contributing to the overall performance is the clever wad system. Winchester has extensive experience in perfecting wads, and the AA series plastic wad is specifically designed to reduce felt recoil and enhance pattern performance. They are often tighter as a result, and perfectly seal the bore for consistent velocities, as well as cushion the lead shot in transit down the bore. The wad has a typical, slightly yellow cast to it with four well-defined and split petals that encapsulate the shot column, yet open up easily when they leave the muzzle to ensure the pellets are not impeded in flight. The wad's box-section, collapsible design is sturdy enough to withstand the initial primer and powder ignition, and then cushion the blow to both lead pellets and shoulder alike.

Powder-wise, Winchester uses a "best-in-class" primer and powder combination to achieve a consistent, dependable, and clean burn from its flattened, ball-powder-looking form. Interestingly, when I removed it from the case, it came out as one block/cake of powder that gently crumbled to individual elements when touched.

Using the ½ choke meant a total of 317 pellet strikes, with 120 inners and 197 outers



Field test

First up, what a lovely-looking and handling cartridge this is, with its charcoal green casing that slips in and out of the Browning Black Shadow's chambers with ease. Recoil with these 1oz loads was very easy on the shoulder, even with the slightly higher velocity of this particular cartridge.

They say they shoot very clean, and I would say clean-ish, to be honest, as a certain amount of lead was left, but very little, if any, powder, so super efficient.

With the ¼ and ½ chokes fitted, the former produced a total of 256 No.7.5 pellets on the pattern board at 30 yards, with 90 strikes in the 15" inner circle and the remaining 166 spread across the 30" outer area. Overall, the cartridge/gun combination delivered a well-radiated spread with a few gaps, which is to be expected from a ¼ choke. Even so, the pattern remained impressively tight considering the level of constriction, which is something the AA cartridges are known for.

Next up was the ½ choke in the upper barrel, and this tightened things significantly. Now we had a veritable swarm of pellet strikes with a superbly dense and uniform spread of shot, culminating in a total of 317 pellet strikes. In the inner circle, a concentration of 120 pellets, and there were 197 outer hits, meaning a clay-breaking certainty at any sensible range.

Conclusion

I have always liked Winchester shotgun cartridges, as they are not only very good but have a super-efficient and smooth nature to them. This, of course, is combined with impeccable build quality. You can use these cartridges for serious competition at the highest level, which justifies the higher price point. **GM**

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Rob Speed reviews the Beretta A400 Xtreme Plus and finds a premium semi-automatic that delivers the goods

Semi-automatic shotguns are a popular choice for many types of shooting. Whether for clays, wildfowling or general pest control, a wide range of options are available. I have not used many semi-automatics in my own shooting, so whenever the opportunity arises to test one, I am always keen to try something different.

From the semi-automatics I've used in the past, it's clear that each one handles and feels incredibly different. Some are designed for birds, while others are tailored for clays. I had yet to find a semi-automatic I felt truly comfortable using as an all-round shotgun, but from what I had heard, the Beretta A400 Xtreme Plus promised to be that very gun. It was time to take a closer look and see for myself.

Beretta shotguns are among the most popular in the world. Their over-and-under models are incredibly well-regarded among many shooters, and so too are their semi-automatics. A while back, I used a Beretta A400 Xcel for a couple of outings decoying crows over maize cover and thoroughly enjoyed it. I was extremely interested to see what changes and improvements had been made in the new model.

What recoil?

Some readers may have seen Beretta's previous Kick-Off system, where the stock pad of the gun has a recoil system built into it. I will be honest in saying I was not the greatest fan of this system. It sounded very creaky and noisy when mounting and shooting the gun. Users I have spoken to felt a lot of gun movement on their face, which could be very off-putting when shooting.

The new Kick-Off Plus system is completely different. It divides the stock into two sections (between the stock and the pistol grip), leaving the stock stable and avoiding any annoying sliding of the nose piece on the cheek. I was very pleased when shooting the gun for the first time, as my head stayed firmly and comfortably on the stock after taking the shot. I can confirm that the system does work, as I felt very little recoil.

Let's take a look

As for the aesthetics of the gun, I think it looks incredibly smart for a camouflage design. This is the Max 5 style, but there are a few other camouflage styles to suit personal preferences, and also a basic black version.

I am a left-handed shooter, and this particular gun has a left-hand port, which is brilliant, as it makes the gun a lot easier to load and means I don't have to deal with spent cartridges flying past my face and disrupting my focus when shooting. Obviously, this model is also available in a true right-handed specification.

The stock shims that are supplied can be used to alter the cast and drop, enabling every shooter to achieve the gun fit they require. The standard length of pull is 14½", but the gun comes with a ½" plastic spacer if extra length is required. It is fitted with a 20mm MicroCore rubber pad, which sits comfortably in the shoulder. If the shooter wants to further increase the length of



Standout **PERFORMER**



The Xtreme Plus is available with a left-hand ejection port



Detail of the narrow, stepped rib



The A400 Xtreme Plus was easy to load



Note the fibre-optic element at the muzzle

pull, this is easily achieved by adding more plastic spacers, which are available from Beretta stockists.

The Beretta A400 Xtreme Plus is fitted with a Steelium Plus barrel, which has been proven to deliver excellent ballistic performance and is proofed for high-performance steel loads. Five external Optima HP Black Edition chokes are provided, ranging from Skeet through to Full choke, so there is a choice of constriction to suit most shooters' preferences.

The shotgun feels incredibly solid in the hands and seems to have been built to an extremely high standard. The gun has an Aqua Tech Shield surface treatment, which is designed to provide maximum protection internally and externally from corrosion and everyday wear.

The rubber inserts on the pistol grip and fore-end allow the gun to sit firmly in your hands, which I can

see will be very helpful when shooting in wet weather or when out wildfowling.

The pistol grip has a very long reach to the trigger, which isn't ideal for shooters like me who haven't got particularly large hands, but this is a very common problem I have found with all the semi-automatics I have used.

The gun weighs 7lbs 14oz, which is slightly heavier than most hunting-designed semi-automatics, and I believe this greatly improves its handling qualities.

In my opinion, the best attribute the gun has to offer is the brilliantly designed stepped rib. I am a firm believer that if the shooter has a better view of the target, then their success in breaking targets or cleanly dispatching birds will be greatly increased. The 7x7mm stepped rib allows the



Improved recoil management is a big plus, maintaining a connection with the gun

The reach to the trigger is very long, which isn't ideal for shooters with small hands

Great engineering and super-soft recoil, as you'd expect from a premium gun

shooter's eye to be positioned well over the receiver and barrel of the gun. As a result, the receiver does not strain the eye, allowing a clear focus on the target to be acquired and maintained with ease.

From the first moment I mounted the gun, I loved the field of view it gave. A narrow rib leading straight down to a small mid-bead and fibre optic element at the muzzle resulted in fantastic visibility around the barrel of the gun. I knew I was going to enjoy shooting it.

Giving it a go

Most of my review guns come with me for an outing in the hide, shooting either crows or pigeons. As I predicted, this Beretta A400 Xtreme Plus performed incredibly well. With every shot I took, the cartridges cycled faultlessly, and the recoil was smooth from the 30g loads I was using. I have no doubts that heavier loads would be just as smooth through this gas-operated semi-automatic. This will give confidence to shooters who plan to use steel loads through this gun, as recoil is generally a lot heavier with non-toxic loads.

I chose to use the half choke that was provided with the gun. It is a constriction I rate highly, and through this barrel it performed to a devastating standard. After cleanly dispatching the first few corvids out to a distance of 40 yards, I was confident I had a winning combination. The handling of the gun was heavier and slower-moving than most of the other semi-automatics I have used, and I really liked that. It gave me a lot more control when shooting longer targets.

My belief in the stepped rib was confirmed, with fantastic target acquisition and great visibility around the receiver and barrel. The trigger pull was very crisp, and my only negative point would be that it was a struggle to reach the trigger comfortably with my short, stumpy fingers. The

oversized cocking handle and bolt release made the gun incredibly easy to load, which was a welcome feature on a field gun, as such additions are usually found on sporting models. I thoroughly enjoyed my trip out crow shooting with this gun and would highly recommend it for hide use.

Conclusion

The stepped rib is a game-changer due to the increased field of view that it gives the shooter. It will be a great choice of semi-automatic for anyone seeking an attractive, well-built gun that serves as a reliable working tool and performs every time the trigger is pulled. Although this model is designed for wildfowling, I don't see any reason why it couldn't be used for all types of shooting. I would rate it as one of the best semi-automatic shotguns I have handled to this day.

The design and technology that have gone into creating this model are incredible. Beretta has created a semi-automatic that is reliable, functional and generates minimal recoil. It is also very easy to dismantle for cleaning and equally easy to reassemble.

Overall, I can't see why anyone looking to invest in a semi-auto wouldn't want to consider this model. It certainly isn't cheap, but you'll be paying for a premium product that won't let you down in the field and will endure many years of shooting. **GM**

TECHNICAL SPECIFICATION

Name: Beretta A400 Xtreme Plus

Calibre: 12-bore

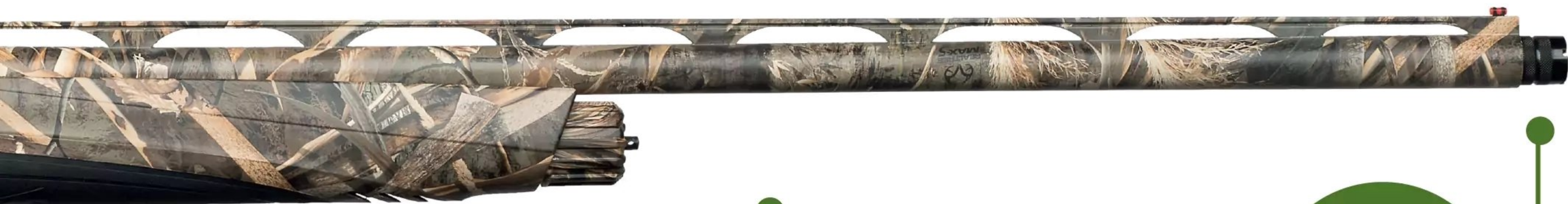
Barrel Length: 28" on test, 26" and 30" available

Weight: 7lbs 14oz

Length of Pull: 14.25"

Price: From £2,300

Contact: GMK – www.gmk.co.uk



The stepped rib is a game changer due to the increased field of view that it gives the shooter

Five Optima HP Black Edition chokes are supplied with the gun

GUNMART | Classifieds

AIRGUNS

GAMO MAXXIM ELITE MULTISHOT .22 Air Rifle As new with scope and rifle bag. Less than 50 pellets through it. Superb. £250 07496900027 (Radnorshire)

COLLECTION OF 4 JUNIOR air rifles and air pistols includes umarex mod 45 gamo delta marlin lever action and hatsan mod 25 air pistol all are in .177 cal all are nearly new with boxes. 07845647416 (Staffordshire) Gamo coyote air rifle, black polymer stock, .22 calibre moderator in great condition £300.00. 01612485508 (Manchester)

GAMO GX250 STILL NEW bought for grandson but not interested has scope and silencer plus a new pump £300 phone 07597172641. (Nottinghamshire)

BRAND NEW JTS AIRACUDA Air Rifle. Never Shot as never got the chance to. Comes with Small air bottle for refill, slip, pellets, single shot and multi shot mag, Also included is Vector Veyron 4-16x44 FFP illuminated MPR-V5 0.1MRAD 30mm scope & mounts 07368532913 (Wiltshire)

DAYSTATE X2R CUSTOM STOCK 10 and 1 shot mag bag sling air rifle. £650 Call: 07707748805 (Nottinghamshire)

BSA R12 CLX PRO CARBINE .177, never been fired numerous accessories sling, gun cabinet, gun bag, airmx scopes 4-16x44, 4-16x50, mounts, charging compressor numerous pellets, air gun oil, silicone gun grease. offers poa Call: 07836204282 (Fife)

SNOWPEAK M25 .22 CALIBRE comes with scope PCP, Bolt action, 2 years old Call: 07542 981566 (Derbyshire)

REMIMEX MITO S IN .177, fantastic, very accurate tactical-style pistol with shoulder-stock. Fantastic back garden, quick-shot plinker. Just 2 years old and very good condition. Included the fitted laser-dot sight, 1 magazine, 1 single-shot adapter, 1 tin of pellets, carry-case, targets, paperwork AND a gun-bag that fits this gun perfectly - took me ages to find this case. This has had around 4-5 tins of pellets through it, cleaned, kept oiled and nice. Bargain, come and test. Full pics available 07804619414 (S. Yorks)

AIR ARMS GALAHAD SR, .22, Beach stock, I believe Discovery ED 6-24x50 SFIR Scope. Both are in very good condition and working order. Includes x1 Magazine, a refill thingy A tin of .22 pellets. A soft gun bag OR a hard case the choice is yours. Call: 07736000965 (Yorkshire, West Riding)

BSA LIGHTNING SE .177 Very good used condition, almost mark free. Briefly used for varmin co. trolley in garden, shot no more than 200 pellets Collection Egguckland, Plymouth, or can arrange postage at buyers cost, with proof of ID. 07891462951 (Devon)

CYBERGUN AK47 .177 CO2 air rifle 07553061000 (Pembrokeshire)

DAYSTATE MK3 .177, NIKKO Sterling 4-16x50 Scope, Sling, Silencer, 3 Mags, 2 Single Shot Trays, Case, 12L 300 Bar Air Tank, All Accessories, Charger, etc. Gun Owned from New, 2007 Model, Only Used for HFT. Air Tank Needs Test. £700. (Monmouthshire)

AIR ARMS S410 .177, Q-Tech Moderator, Hawke Mil Dot 16-24-50, Good Condition, Very Accurate. 07534763891 (Staffordshire)

WEIHRAUCH 100 PCP 177. Good condition. 2 mags silencer bipod. Strap. Air tank. Out of date but still has air in. Scope. Selling as i dont use it anymore. £750 ono (Derbyshire)

STEYR PRO X 4,5MM Walnut. Quickfill and more for sale 07846212097 (Lancashire)

BOXED AS NEW A victory cp2 0.177 in camouflage with 2x multi shot mags and single shot tray. Every thing in box to turn pistol to rifle 07795088391 (West Midlands)

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

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 .177 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

BSAR10 SE IN black pepper laminate, Huma regulated professionally installed, ultra light large carbon buddy bottle, 4 magazines, sling studs, bipod and bag, filler probe. Achieving 300 shots per fill. Tel: 07411355956

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

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

FX CROWN WITH COBRA F1 scope and silencer. One of the quietest guns on the range. Deadly accurate at 75yds. Comes with adjustable gun rest 300psi cylinder Snowpeak pp750 pistol with reddot Great for ratting and amazingly accurate at 25m got some targets as well to chuck in. This is a mega bundle with everything you need tel 07593078671

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

.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

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. £225 ovno Weihrauch HW80.22cal Nikko sterling scope mint condition £300 ovno Webley eclipse.22cal bushmaster scope near mint condition £300 ovno Collection Northwest area. Tel 07956947882

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

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

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

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. .177 single 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

SHOTGUNS

3 SHOT SEMI AUTO escort magnum in camo with set of chokes 12 gauge side by side bakal 500 cartridges game bag and 3 gun cabinet sold as a job lot £300 07946170598 (Dumfriesshire)

BROWNING A1 12G £50, 12g dB hammer gun £50, Cooney 410 sb 3 inch magnum £20, 07778 401828 (Berkshire)

SUPERB AS NEW CONDITION Silver Pigeon 3 Limited Edition Game. Number 173 of only 500 made. Highly figured walnut stock with silver oval and Beretta walnut butt plate. Original makers case with accessories. Full set of multi-chokes. £2,100.00. 07973619201 (Derbyshire)



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WINCHOCKE SCREW IN CHOKES x3. Imp Cyl, Cyl, Imp Cyl, Photo on request. Excellent used order £30 plus postage all 3. 07923 379655 Paypal or Cash on collection TF11-8 (Shropshire)

WINCHESTER SELECT ENERGY 30" O/U. With full case & accessories 07720668708 (South Yorkshire)

CLASSIC DOUBLES SPORTER OVER/UNDER 12 bore multi choke shotgun 30" ported barrel in lovely condition comes complete with extra stock and fore end plus key to convert into the perfect trap gun. £250 Selling due to ill health. 07798893198 (Lincolnshire)

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 Cooley 410 sb with silencer £45 Little sbs hammer 12g £120 07778 401828

CASE HARDENED 20 BORE Beretta over and under 30inch barrel multi choke with gold partridges on side plate. Comes with beretta gun case in brilliant condition. £1000 Tel: 07778122350

BERETTA ULTRALIGHT LIGHT GOLD 28" RH. Only light use complete with original case. £1395.07498288309

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

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

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

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NORMA 270 WIN. FIRED brass x 40 . Boxed. Federal 30-06 fired brass x 10. £35 inc. p&p 01485544159 (Norfolk)

357/38 MUZZLE LOADING NITRO revolver in stainless steel by Alan Westlake. Target Gribs bullet press and some primers. £650 no offers. 07721036974 (Oxfordshire)

WEBLEY SPECTRE F.A.C 18 to 20 ft lbs new seals fitted January. Silencer, 2 mags in .22 cal, 4x10 scope, hard case. £400 Ono. 07721036974 (Oxfordshire)

REMINGTON 700PSS 308 VGC scope/bipod Heavey Barrel vert nice clean condition. 01405815753 (Yorkshire, West Riding)

PARD 008P NIGHT VISION never used £350.00 01612485508 (Lancashire)

RARE PRO-ELITE BREAK BARREL .22 FAC Air Rifle, Factory Build, Gold Trigger, Lothar Walther Shrouded Barrel, Power 22-24 FT LB. Together with one Piece mount, and 4-12x40 Scope. Superb Rifle. 07907875928. £425-00 o.n.o. (Nottingham).

SWEDISH VARBERGER 308 RIFLE in excellent condition. Fitted Ziess Diavari - C scope 3 9 x 36 with Butler Creek flip up lens cover. Less than 100 rounds fired from new. Complete with shoulder strap, cleaning equipment and ammunition. £875 07879418001 (Cheshire)

NIKKOSTIRLING GAMEKING ILLUMINATED. 6-24X50 AQ. Excellant condition. Very little use. 07478710665 (Devon)

RUGER MINI 14 20 ROUND MAGAZINE (Used) Condition Good Price £26.00 including postage to mainland UK. Email: gamebored1@hotmail.com (West Sussex)

RIFLE RELOADING EQUIPMENT FOR Sale: LEE Hand Press Kit (Includes Ram Prime, Lubricant, Plastic Funnel, 2.4cc powder measure) (£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), Safety Glasses (Free), Moore and Wright Electronic Calipers (£20), Frankford Arsenal Case Tumbler (240v mains, Unused) (£47), Bag of Walnut Sawdust (£5), RCBS FL Die Set .270 (2 piece) (£28) (Total for all items: £167). Contact: 01285 720342. (Gloucestershire)

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, bipad and spare all weather stoke. Good condition £500 Tel: 07778122350

SAKO TRG-22-30CAL RIFLE. SAKO stainless steel barrel, muzzle brake. 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

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

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

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

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ANTIQUES

BAYONET FOR LEE ENFIELD rifle. Comes with sheaf/scabbard. In excellent condition considering 100+yrs old. Stamped with 1907 above the hilt. Attaching to the rifle with a slide & button clip. 07899943064 (Glamorgan)

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: clavidsutton16@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

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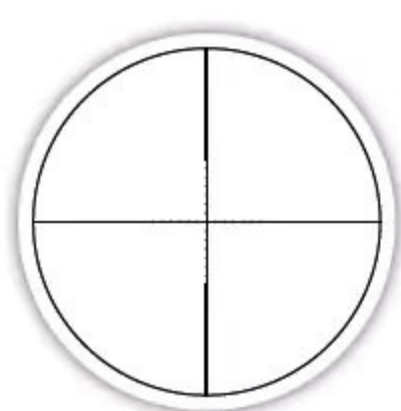
VALIANT SCOPES



LYNX

The Lynx range of scopes are suitable for PCP airguns and low calibre firearms, they have also been tested and proven on bigger calibres. The one piece tube with wired reticle ensures great durability. All Lynx rifle scopes are fitted with mil-dot reticle, dioptre correction, adjustable parallax and red illumination with 11 levels of intensity. All lenses are coated with a special anti-reflective layer. The 6-24 and 4-16 magnification scopes are equipped with push-pull locking turrets which have the option of easy zeroing. The click system for each turret is noticeable and accurate. The Lynx series come complete with flip-up lens covers, 11 mm dovetail mounts and lens cloth.

3-9x40 AO



Mil-Dot

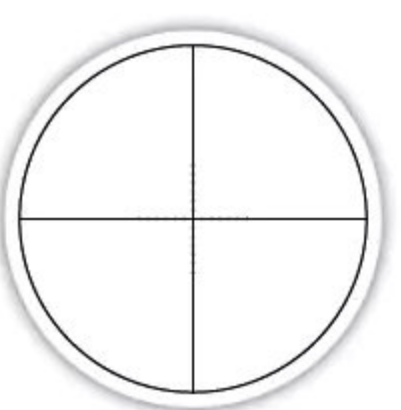
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- 25.4 mm Tube

- Anti-reflective Coating
- Low Profile Turrets
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- Illumination: Red



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6-24x50 4-16x50



Mil-Dot

- Shockproof
- Fogproof
- Water Resistance IP5
- Wired Reticle
- Multi-coated Lens
- Side Focus Parallax
- Second Focal Plane
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- Anti-reflective Coating
- Push-pull Locking Resettable Turrets
- Dioptre Correction
- Illumination: Red



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RRP
VL5301
£190
INC VAT

Model	Magnification	Tube Size	Field of View @100 Meters	Exit Pupil (mm)	Eye Relief (mm)	Click Value @ 100 Yards	Mounting Length	Overall Length	Weight
VL5201	3-9x40	25.4 mm	11.2 - 3.5 m	13.55 - 4.35	108.5 - 95	1/4 MOA per Click	127 mm	322 mm	495 g
VL5301	6-24x50	30 mm	5.3 - 1.3 m	8.42 - 2	110 - 90.8	1/4 MOA per Click	155.6 mm	357 mm	730 g
VL5401	4-16x50	30 mm	8.2 - 2.1 m	12.6 - 3	103.4 - 90.4	1/4 MOA per Click	150 mm	353 mm	715 g

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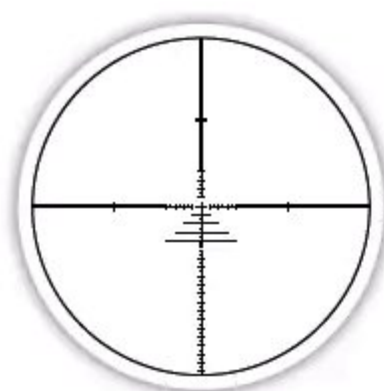
ZEPHYR

The Zephyr range is a premium line of riflescopes that meets the highest standards and demands on the market. The reinforced single piece tube made of aircraft-grade aluminium is filled with nitrogen to prevent fogging. The glass etched reticle is extremely durable and can withstand the recoil of high calibre firearms. The Zephyr series is in the second focal plane so the magnification has no effect on the size of the reticle. Choose between two reticles and three levels of magnification. The completely redesigned, easily resettable turret with zero stop mechanism is a great addition to these optics. The Zephyr series has a side parallax adjuster with a range of 10 yards to infinity. The side parallax and the illumination knobs are easy to configure and the red illuminated reticle offers 11 levels of intensity for low light conditions. The Zephyr comes complete with sunshade, parallax wheels, magnification adjuster knob, flip-up lens covers and lens cloth.

4-16x50

5-20x50

6-24x50



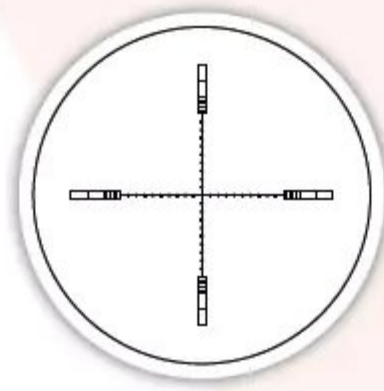
MOA FBR

VL2007
VL2009



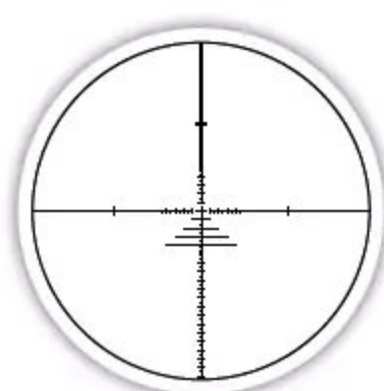
MOA Windmill

VL2107



2MOA Windmill

VL2109
VL2208 [moa]



MOA/0.5MIL FBR

VL2008 [moa]
VL2108 [mrad]

- Shockproof
- Fogproof
- Water Resistance IP6
- Etched Glass Reticle
- Multi-coated Lens

- Second Focal Plane
- Side Focus Parallax
- 30 mm 1 Piece Main Tube
- Anti-reflective Coating
- Zero Stop Resettable Turrets
- Dioptre Correction
- Illumination: Red

RRP	
VL2007 / VL2008 VL2107 / VL2108 VL2208	£355
VL2009 VL2109	£360
INC VAT	



Model	Magnification	Tube Size	Field of View @100 Meters	Exit Pupil (mm)	Eye Relief (mm)	Click Value @ 100 Yards	Mounting Length	Overall Length	Weight
VL2007 VL2107	4-16x50	30 mm	9.1 - 2.3 m	12 - 3	105 - 95	1/4 MOA per Click	144 mm	342 mm	780 g
VL2008 VL2108 VL2208	5-20x50	30 mm	7.4 - 1.8 m	10 - 2.5	105 - 95	1/4 MOA / 0.1 MRAD per Click	144 mm	345 mm	810 g
VL2009 VL2109	6-24x50	30 mm	6 - 1.5 m	8.3 - 2	105 - 95	1/4 MOA per Click	144 mm	347 mm	810 g

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