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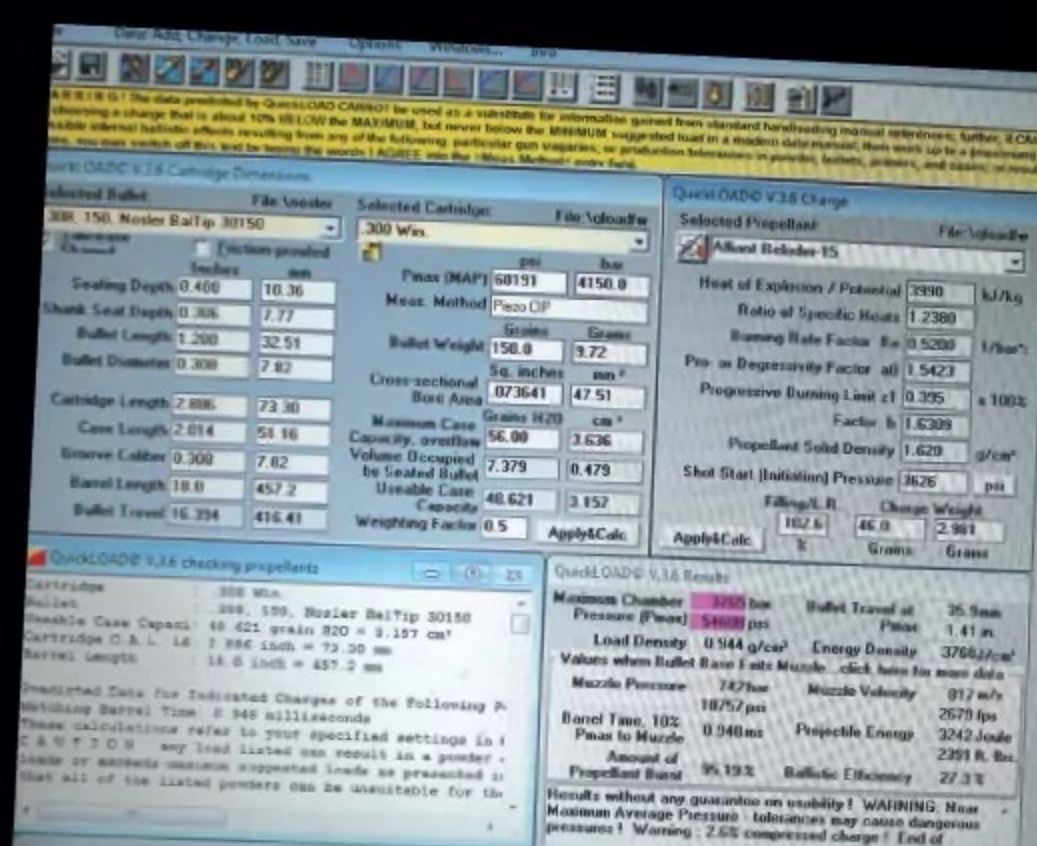
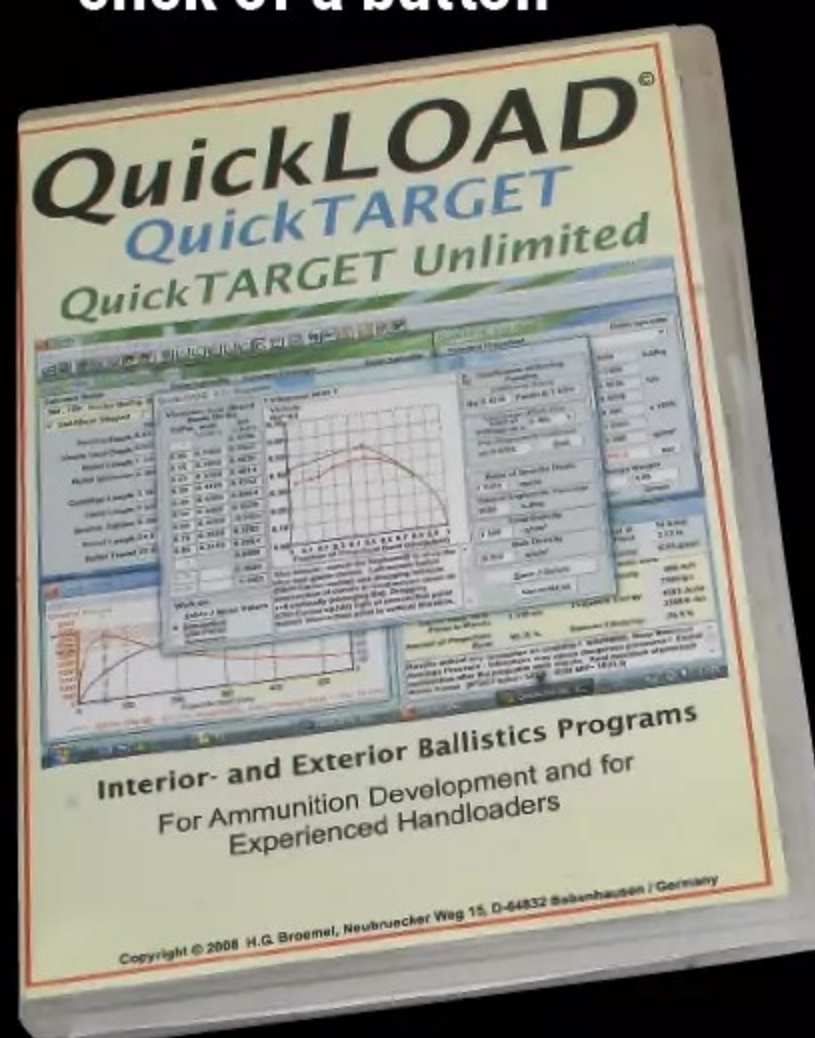
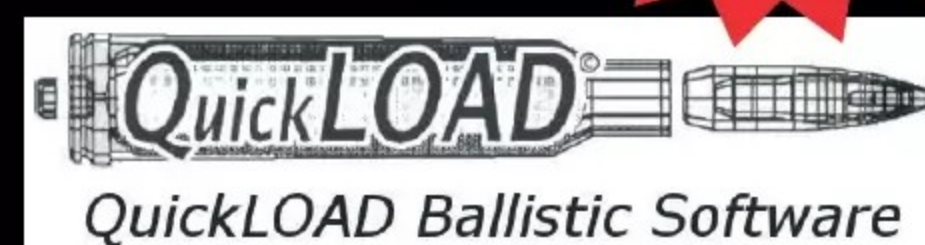
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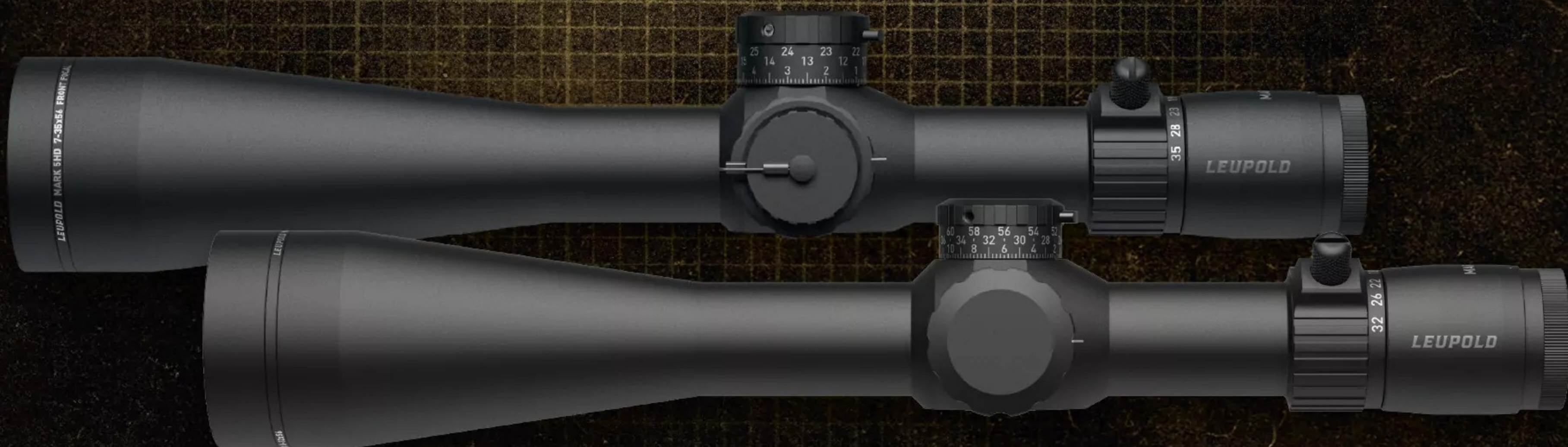


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EDITOR'S COMMENT

Well, the November issue of Gun Mart has arrived! But this one's a landmark because it's the end of an era and the very last printed edition you'll ever hold.

So, what's changing? After 44 incredible years, we are embracing a digital-first future. This isn't a decision made lightly, but it is one driven by you, our readers. Over 360,000 of you are already interacting with us every month across Gunmart.net, our newsletter, and the Gunmart TV YouTube channel. You've spoken loud and clear. You want your content immediately and in a dynamic format. This shift is about bringing you that. By going fully digital, we can get our expert reviews to you faster than ever, with more video and multimedia content. That's the future we're building.

Of course, we're sending off our print legacy in style. This final issue is packed with the usual gold! Mark Camoccio has been busy with the Weihrauch HW110T Adjustable Laminate and Kral's Puncher Shadow, while Dave Barham tests the BRK Ghost SE Plus. The firearms area is packed, with Chris Parkin getting hands-on with Savage's 110 Klym and the Franchi Horizon Elite Varmint Subalpine. Finally, Bruce Potts gives his verdict on the Beretta A400 L and Hull's Sporting 100 cartridges.

On behalf of the entire team, past and present, I offer our most sincere thanks to everyone who has bought, subscribed to, or simply read the magazine over the past four decades. Your passion has truly been our fuel. This isn't goodbye, it's just 'see you online'. The adventure continues over at Gunmart.net, and it's definitely going to be a blast.

Enjoy, and as always, safe shooting!

Ed Jackson
Managing Editor

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

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074 Gun Test: With its carbon-fibre stock, AccuTrigger system, and sub-MOA groups, the Savage 110 Klym gives Chris Parkin plenty to talk about

080 Product Test: The new Pixfra Volans V850 LRF digital riflescope combines day and night versatility, advanced controls, and accessible pricing, as tested by Jules Whicker

086 Scope Test: Chris Parkin examines the Keck Optics Precision 34 5-30x56 FFP IR riflescope

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100 Reloading Basics: Mark Underwood considers how to read powder scales and measures accurately to get the best consistency from your ammunition

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110 Ammo Test: Bruce Potts tests Hull Cartridge's Sporting 100, built for smooth shooting and competition success



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News

All the latest news and views from the shooting world

BSA releases new Buccaneer Pro air rifle



Buccaneer Pro (Synthetic and Beech) by BSA

➤ **BSA Guns has launched the Buccaneer Pro, a regulated PCP air rifle featuring a side-lever action that replaces the company's bolt-action Buccaneer SE model.**

The Birmingham-manufactured rifle, developed in collaboration with UK distributor Range Right, is available in .177, .22 and .25 calibres with either a synthetic stock (£699) or a beech wood one (£739).

Key features include a BSA cold-hammer forged barrel (470mm) and a newly designed regulator that improves efficiency over the previous model. The spring-loaded side-lever offers short-stroke biathlon-type operation, so when you make the initial pull, it springs back, and you just have to pull the final inch or so to cock it.

Magazine capacity is 10 shots for .177 and .22 calibres, dropping to 8 shots in .25 calibre. The magazine features a countdown display.

The Buccaneer Pro incorporates a two-stage match trigger based on components from BSA's Scorpion and Ultra ranges, offering adjustability for weight and length of pull. Both stock options feature ambidextrous cheekpieces, ample

stippling on the pistol grip and fore-end, and pre-fitted studs.

Performance testing revealed consistent results, with the .177 calibre achieving 11.4ft-lbs and just a 9fps variation over 10 shots using 8.64gr BSA Gold Star pellets. Shot counts from a 232bar fill are 155 in .177 calibre and 210 in both .22 and .25 calibres – perfect for hunting.

Dave Barham, technical editor of our sister publication, Airgun World, praised the rifle's accuracy during testing. "I was regularly landing pellet on pellet at 30m from the bench," he said, with groups at 35m that could "be covered by a 5p piece" using both .177 and .22 models.

The rifle features a removable Picatinny rail mounted over a traditional dovetail base, accommodating conventional scopes and night vision equipment without requiring additional mounts. The barrel includes a ½" UNF thread for a silencer.

BSA has positioned the Buccaneer Pro as an entry-level option for shooters seeking high-performance features at a competitive price point. The rifle is available through BSA stockists nationwide, with additional information available at bsaguns.co.uk.

Firearms seized on allegations, but the wrong man targeted

➤ **A gamekeeper's son from the Forest of Dean remains without his shotguns several months after Gloucestershire Police acted on harassment allegations and confused him with a murder suspect sharing his name.**

Jack Edmunds says police initially seized his firearms following harassment allegations from his ex-girlfriend. Officers allegedly provided no receipt and refused to explain the confiscation.

The situation worsened when police sent him a letter referencing a June 2023 fatal stabbing incident, where the suspect had disclosed alcohol and mental health struggles. But the letter apparently referred to a different Jack Edmunds, 10 years younger, living nearby.

Mr Edmunds filed a complaint five months ago, but claims he received only a call citing staff shortages. His firearms remain confiscated due to the original harassment allegations, which he denies.

A Gloucestershire Police spokesperson said: "A complaint has been made to the force about this case and therefore we cannot go into further detail."

Mr Edmunds plans to reapply for his certificate next year.



Credit: Alphotographic / iStock / Getty Images Plus



John Rothery brings A-TEC silencers to the UK

➤ **Norwegian silencer manufacturer A-TEC has appointed John Rothery Wholesale as its exclusive UK distributor, bringing the company's full product range to British shooters for the first time.**

The partnership makes A-TEC's silencers available through John Rothery's network of authorised retailers across the country.

Established in Norway in 1999, A-TEC produces lightweight silencers designed to reduce sound for hunters and target shooters.

Sean O'Driscoll, Managing Director at John Rothery Wholesale, described A-TEC as "an ideal addition to our range of leading brands," citing the company's focus on quality and innovation.

Anders Johansen, A-TEC's founder and Managing Director, said the company had previously

worked with Peter Jackson at Forge Consultancy to establish its UK presence. "With the assistance of John Rothery Wholesale, our products will now reach a wider network across the UK," he stated.

Mr Johansen claimed the silencers combine "reduced noise, improved shooting comfort, and Scandinavian engineering designed to perform in the toughest conditions". He described the distribution agreement as "an exciting step forward in developing the A-TEC brand even further".

A-TEC silencers are now available through John Rothery Wholesale's authorised stockists. The company has directed enquiries to www.bisley-uk.com for further information about the product range and local availability.

Weihrauch releases limited edition HW50S to mark 75th anniversary

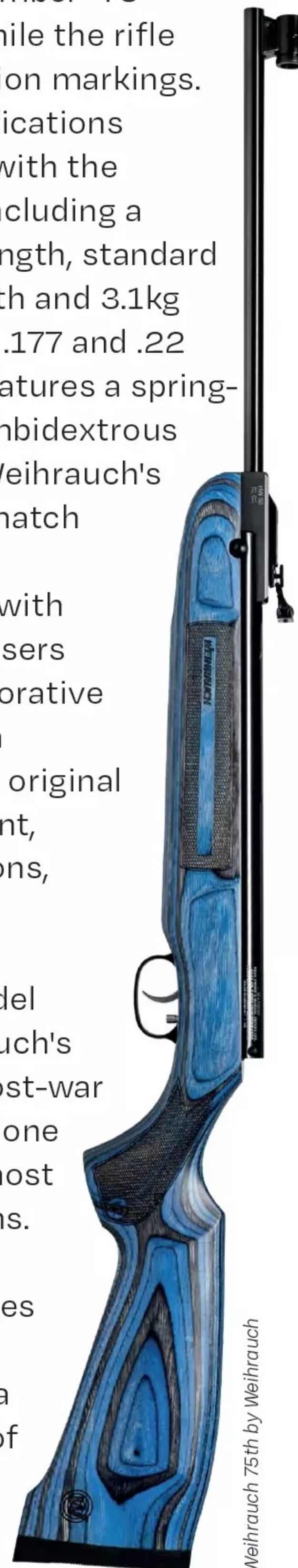
➤ **Weihrauch has announced a limited edition HW50S air rifle to commemorate the 75th anniversary of its original HW50V model, which first appeared in 1950.**

Retailing at £450, the jubilee edition is restricted to 1,000 numbered pieces worldwide, 300 of which will come to the UK. It features distinctive blue-grey laminated wood furniture with special chequering patterns that reference the original 1950s design. The pistol grip incorporates laser engraving of the number "75" on its underside, while the rifle carries limited-edition markings.

Technical specifications remain consistent with the standard HW50S, including a 1,030mm overall length, standard 410mm barrel length and 3.1kg weight. Available in .177 and .22 calibres, the rifle features a spring-piston action, an ambidextrous stock design, and Weihrauch's two-stage Rekord match trigger system.

Each rifle ships with open sights. Purchasers receive a commemorative package including a reproduction of the original 1950s advertisement, operating instructions, and a Weihrauch merchandise set.

The HW50V model established Weihrauch's reputation in the post-war period and became one of the company's most recognisable designs. This anniversary edition acknowledges that heritage while offering collectors a distinctive variant of the classic spring-powered air rifle.



Weihrauch 75th by Weihrauch

Daystate launches Alpha Wolf Shadow variant

➤ Daystate has announced the launch of the Alpha Wolf Shadow, a compact variant of its electronic air rifle line targeting the UK hunting and pest control market.

Carrying a £2,075 price tag, the Shadow measures 731mm in overall length and weighs just over 3kg, making it significantly shorter than conventional air rifles while retaining a full 17" Lothar Walther barrel and 300cc carbon-wrapped air bottle. The bullpup design allows for compact dimensions.

Currently available in .177 and .22 calibre at 12ft/lbs, the rifle is designed specifically for the UK domestic market's legal power limits. Higher-power versions are reportedly in development for export markets.

"Export markets require high power and consequently the rifles consume a high volume of air," explained Daystate's Tony Belas. "In the UK domestic market, a 300cc bottle as fitted to the Alpha Wolf Shadow is essentially twice the air capacity that would have been



Alpha Shadow by Daystate

available with a cylinder rifle, giving the Shadow a massive shot count."

The rifle incorporates Daystate's electronic SMART control system, providing shooters with adjustable power settings via a digital interface. According to Mr Belas, this represents a simplified version of the technology used in other Alpha Wolf models, omitting the chronograph function.

The Shadow ships with several accessories, including a BRK MF-121 silencer, a V3 Optic Race Rail, a Gecko butt pad and a fitted hard case. Additional accessories are available through Daystate's Performance Centre catalogue.

Daystate claims immediate availability with next-day supply to dealers. The company has positioned the rifle to capitalise on market trends favouring shorter, more manoeuvrable air rifles.

The Alpha Wolf Shadow continues Daystate's focus on electronic air rifle technology, a field in which the company claims to operate without direct competitors since beginning electronic airgun production in 2002.

While initially developed for the UK market, overseas distributors have reportedly expressed interest in the platform.

MP's guns returned after police drop investigation

➤ Independent MP Rupert Lowe has regained his firearms after a five-month police investigation concluded without charges.

The wheelbarrow that carried away Mr Lowe's firearms in March returned in late August to deliver them back, marking the end of an investigation that began with claims of abuse from his former Reform UK colleagues.

Armed police descended on his Cotswolds farm at 21:30 on 14 March with three vehicles and four officers, arriving unannounced despite Mr Lowe having arranged voluntary surrender the previous day. The collection proved so extensive that makeshift transport was required – the wheelbarrow becoming an enduring symbol of the case.

Mr Lowe described the late-night seizure as "a deeply stressful situation," particularly given his prior cooperation.

The farmer maintained throughout that gun ownership was standard for his profession and entirely legal.

Crown prosecutors concluded in May that there was insufficient evidence to support allegations that Mr Lowe had threatened Reform chairman Zia Yusuf, effectively ending the investigation that had stripped a legal gun owner of his property for five months based on claims that lacked evidence.

"Positive news," said Mr Lowe on social media, announcing the return of his guns. "I am pleased they're back, but furious they were ever taken."



Credit: Rupert Lowe

£10,000 prize fund for H&N Cup UK

➤ A £10,000 prize fund will be up for grabs at the inaugural H&N Cup UK field target championship next May.

German ammo manufacturer H&N Sport is bringing its established competition format to Britain for the first time, with the event scheduled for 22-24 May at East Tree Field Target Club, Peterborough.

Limited to 200 competitors, the championship will feature morning and afternoon sessions across two competition days, with participants squadded by WFTF ranking.

Entry costs £100 with places allocated on a first-come, first-served basis. Entries are now open following the 1 October launch. Visit: hn-cup-uk.com

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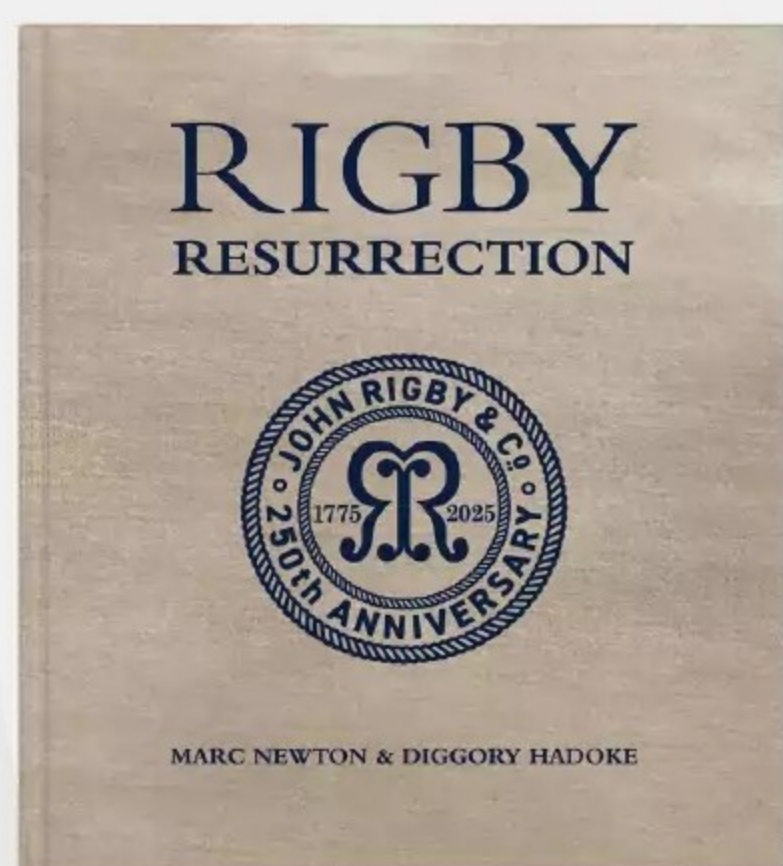
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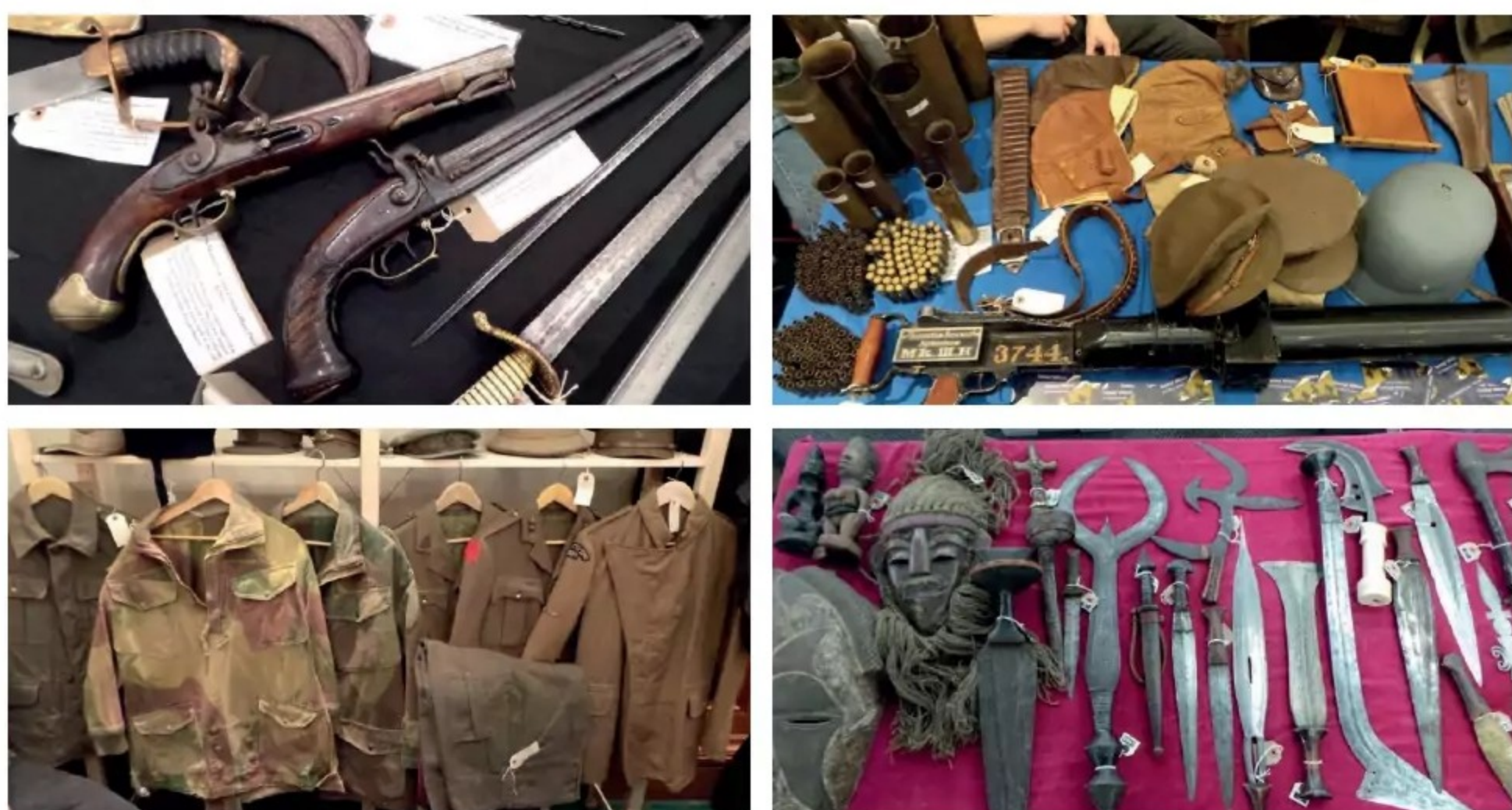
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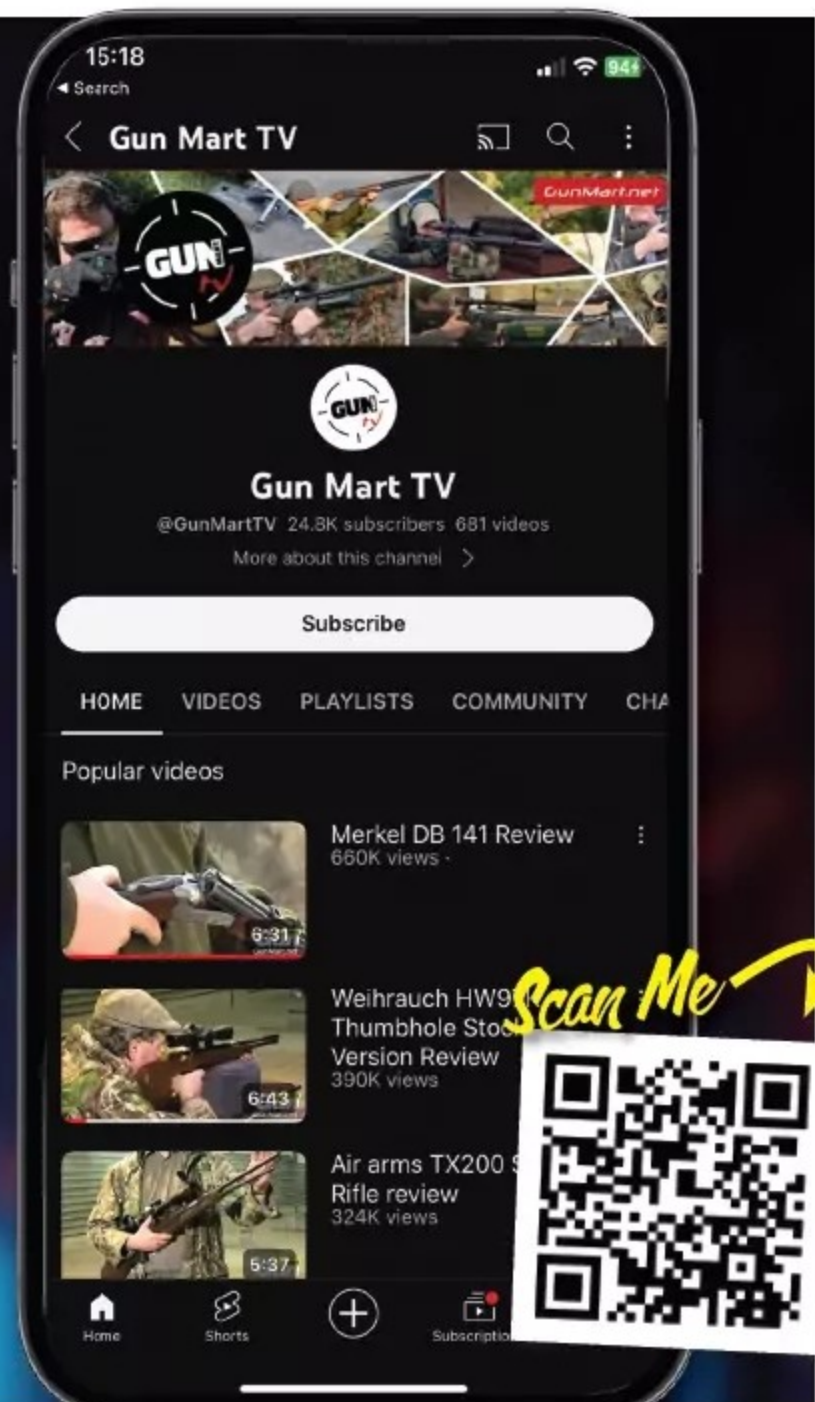
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GM11.25/39



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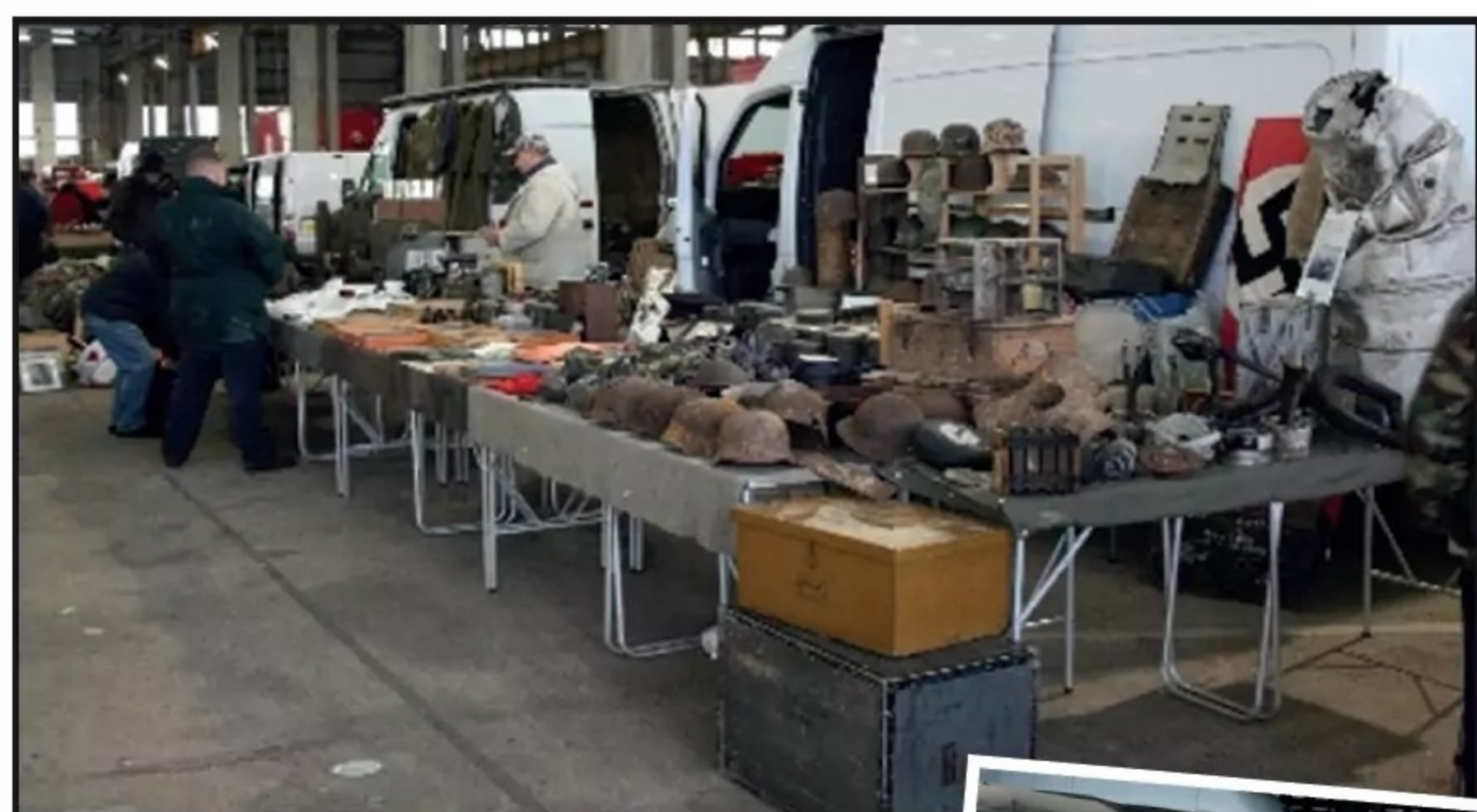
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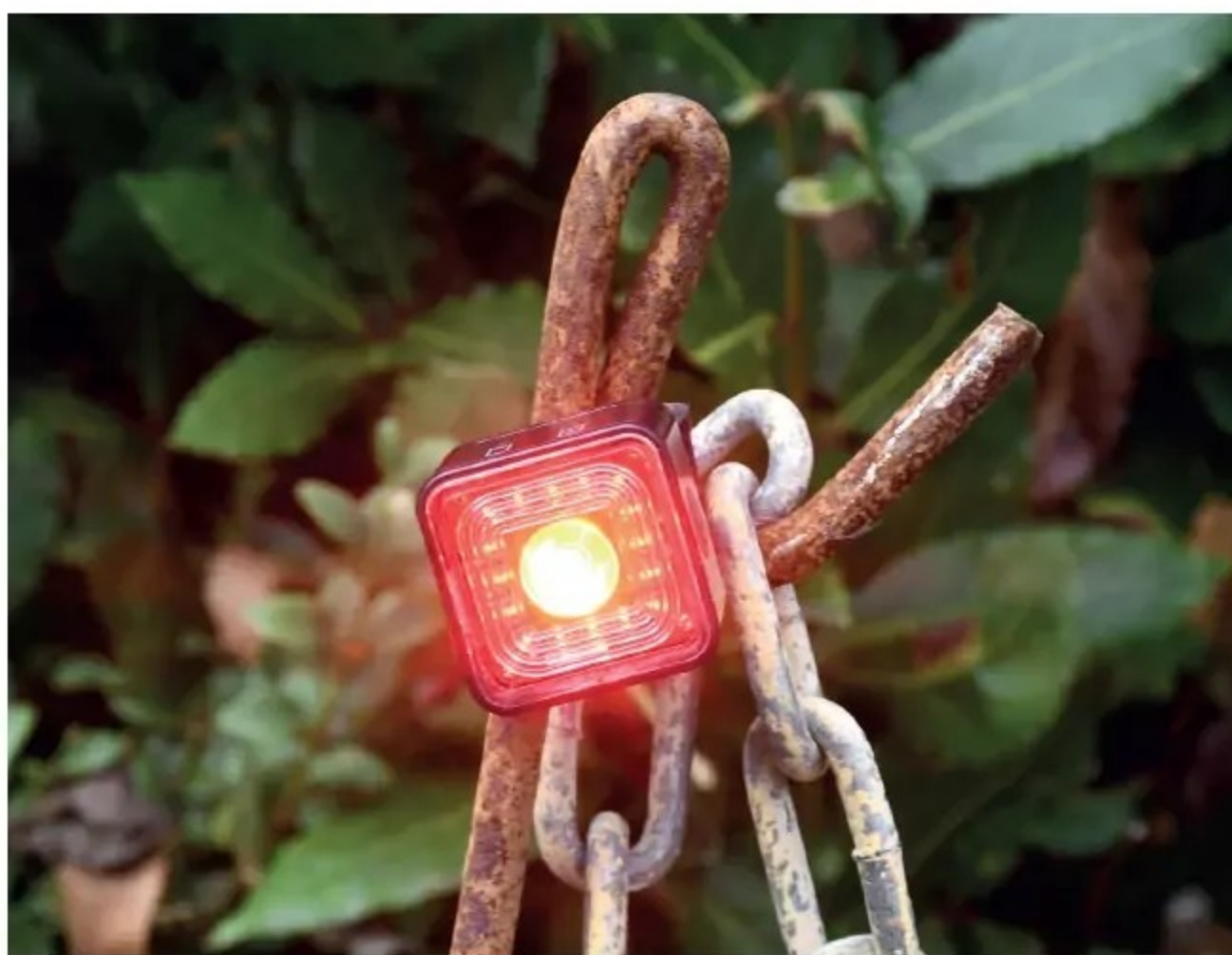


➤ **Shooting steel is incredibly popular, and while larger calibres usually produce a significant clang on impact, an edge strike or a smaller calibre hit on a solidly mounted gong can be less noticeable.** Hits count in competition, and when everything relies on visual confirmation, Hornady's latest product offers a solution by detecting even minor vibrations through the target and its support structure to confirm a hit.

A red light flashes to indicate an impact and is visible to the naked eye from up to 1,000 yards away. The units are available in packs of two or five, and each is supplied with a rubber mounting strap, a zip tie, and a micro-USB charging cable. No additional batteries are required.

Setup and positioning

Hornady recommends placing the indicators on the target's supporting structure where they can be seen but are not directly in the path of bullet splash, which tends to radiate in a circular pattern parallel to the gong's surface.



It's best to keep them as far from direct impact points as possible. This is loosely mounted for a rimfire, where impacts won't shake it free

Given that you are shooting bullets in their general direction, you have to accept that there may be some damage at some point. However, the sensitivity of the accelerometer means they can be kept reasonably far from the actual impact surface.

Performance on the range

I've run them on heavy gongs, including a 500mm-diameter, 10mm-thick Hardox unit, using just an air rifle at 25m, and you still get the characteristic

HIT flashing signature in Morse code. The red illuminator is as vibrant as advertised, and it's satisfying to see multiple flashes in a specific pattern, especially since not all steel targets continue to move or swing after impact. The vibration transmitted through the target and stand reliably triggers the accelerometer.

For larger impacts, such as with 6.5mm bullets at 450m, I mounted the indicator much more securely, as the reverberating gong and stand can easily shake it loose if not firmly attached. Again, a bit of improvisation with your personal target setups leads to success. Each unit comes with a zip tie, which can be used alone or doubled up for extra security, depending on the mounting location.

If you are using a KYL target or something similar, it is best to attach the indicator to the frame as far from the impact zone as possible for protection. As long as it remains visible, it will function correctly.

It's worth noting that during setup, even the slightest tap or movement will trigger the indicator, so it's easy to verify everything is working before walking 1,000 yards away.

Battery life and recharging

It is hard to gauge exactly how long the batteries last. They recharge in under an hour, and even after an afternoon on targets with more than 150 rimfire hits, they still worked. **GM**

REVIEWER: CHRIS PARKIN

TECHNICAL SPECIFICATION

Name: Hornady HIT Target Impact Indicator (5 pack)

Price: £56 (2 pack £24)

Contact: Edgar Brothers - www.edgarbrothers.com

Crosman Pointed Pellets

➤ **The science of ballistics can be a fascinating subject, and it governs our sport at the business end.** The weakest link in airgun shooting can so often be the small lead projectile on which we rely so heavily.

Whilst competition shooting almost exclusively still courts the traditional dome-headed, waisted pellet, with that classic "shuttlecock" profile, hunting ammunition throws up far more variety in terms of design.

Pellets with a pointed tip seem a logical step when facing live quarry, but perhaps the biggest drawback here is when the very tip of the point has been bent out of shape or damaged, causing instability in flight.

Enter the Crosman Pointed Pellet, on show here, and a clever variation on a theme it is, too. Look



at the head, and while there is still a notable point at the centre, the head is fractionally more rounded. This stubby profile allows the pellet to withstand deformation, and with Crosman's usual slightly harder lead mix (using a higher antimony content than several rivals), the Crosman Pointed pellet is slightly harder and more robust.

As usual, testing for a particular barrel is advisable, but the quality and weight consistency are impressive.

All these pellets are available in handy tins of 500, in both .177 and .22 calibres, and are distributed in the UK via Range Right. **GM**

REVIEWER: MARK CAMOCCIO

TECHNICAL SPECIFICATION

Name: Crosman Pointed pellets

• .177 / 7.9gr / 500 / £7.99

• .22 / 14.3gr / 500 / £11

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

Remington Pest Controller Pellets

➤ **Traditionally styled, waisted, dome-headed pellets continue to dominate the airgun market, and for good reason.** That shuttlecock profile is aerodynamic, and a dome head is far less prone to damage than a pointed design, for example.

Remington Pest Controller domed pellets are well presented and come supplied in a handy screw-cap plastic tub, and on opening, there's an obvious discolouration, giving the Pest Controllers a slight black tint. A long, smooth body and hollow skirt, with a fully domed head, give them a good start in life, but there's more.

A fine coating of protective graphite-type material is applied at the production stage, which increases the level of hardness, yet the pellets aren't dirty to handle. A weighed sample proved remarkably



consistent, with figures between 7.1gr and 7.25gr, which is slightly lighter than the 7.56gr specified.

On visual inspection, these Remington Pest Controllers certainly look precisely made, so for a budget, general-purpose pellet, they are well worth a try in any pellet trials, being roughly half the cost of many top brands.

Available in both .177 and .22 calibres, they are distributed in the UK via SMK. **GM**

REVIEWER: MARK CAMOCCIO

TECHNICAL SPECIFICATION

Name: Remington Pest Controller pellets

• .177 / 7.56gr / 500 / £6.99

• .22 / 15.5gr / 250 / £6.99

Contact: Sportsmarketing
- www.sportsmk.co.uk

MTM Case-Gard Four Pistol - Handgun/Accessory Case

➤ I've been aware of the MTM brand since I started shooting, and since this well-respected name in the industry began trading back in 1968, that's hardly surprising.

MTM Case-Gard manufactures shooting accessories in Ohio, USA, and their bread and butter is moulded gun cases, storage boxes, ammo boxes, gun rests, and work/maintenance stations, which are all made from special plastics and composite materials.

On show here is the MTM Case-Gard Four Pistol - Handgun/Accessory Case, and as the name suggests, it can take four pistols, depending on their size.

Rugged construction

Anyone who has experienced Case-Gard kit will appreciate the robust construction, and this hard case is no exception. Made from rugged polypropylene, it offers real protection and peace of mind for transit and storage of our treasured hardware, and that makes sense for those who take their sport seriously.

The idea is that two pistols can be placed on the bottom, then a thick, cosy layer of foam sits over them, with two more pistols stowed on top. MTM specifies the case as being able to carry four automatics or four revolvers with up to 8" barrels. However, the case is equally at home carrying a variety of air pistols. Accepting that a few of the oversized match air pistols may prove a tight fit, the average revolver or modern pistol will fit with ease. Having that twin layer to work with is a great idea, and a combination of accessories can just as easily be carried. Two pistols, two scopes... the choice is yours.

Exterior

The exterior gets a black textured finish, and a large central handle makes for easy handling. There's a chunky snap-down catch on either side at the front, and the



Two pistols can fit on each layer



Robustly moulded snap-down catches are featured. Note the padlock holes for security



Detail of the full-length hinge

case is effectively free-standing, with moulded feet underneath. A full-length hinge features, too, so strength and integrity are a given.

Need to go the whole hog with further security? Then that's also been taken into account here, with twin holes all part of the moulding around the handle. This means twin padlocks can be utilised when security is at a premium, all adding up to a well-thought-out, versatile product. Made in the good old USA is a selling point for many, and MTM's product-accepted quality speaks for itself.

Thanks to Range & Country Shooting Supplies in Sleaford, Lincolnshire, for the loan of this product. **GM**

REVIEWER: MARK CAMOCCIO

TECHNICAL SPECIFICATION

Name: MTM Case-Gard Four Pistol - Handgun/Accessory Case (model 811)

Price: £35

Outside Dimensions:
15.5" x 12.2" x 5.6"

Inside Dimensions:
14" x 10" x 5.1"

Contact: Hannam Reloading - www.hannamsreloading.com

Tygris gun maintenance sprays

➤ A recent conversation with Dave Mills at the Airgun Training & Education Organisation (ATEO) sparked interest in some new maintenance products for airguns, and having now taken delivery of a few samples, it's clear the company behind the operation means business.

Tygris is a well-respected manufacturer of oils, greases, and maintenance products in a variety of industries, so their new range of gun maintenance solutions should be welcome news to all. Currently, there are three products aimed at shooting enthusiasts across the board, and while my test samples were 400ml, the product will be launched in 100ml dispensers.

Wipe down protection

First, we have Tygris Wipe Down Gun Oil and Lubricant, and this, while self-explanatory, is rather important stuff. Keeping an eye on our treasured hardware and giving it a rub over with an oil-impregnated cloth is vital to maintaining that new look and factory finish. It's easy to be lazy, but failing to wipe over after each shooting session may prove costly. Metalwork will rust at the first chance, and even the dreaded fingerprints can cause harm, especially in hot weather, as we sweat and our grip leaves a corrosive trace. Take a gun out in the rain, and the problem is



compounded. Use this Wipe Down Oil and Lubricant, and it brings peace of mind, leaving a film of oil over the gun's surface as it goes. It has a low viscosity and is effective on rusted areas and delicate components, too.

Spring and piston care

For those who undertake a bit of DIY, there's Tygris Trigger Spring and Piston Lubricant, and again, it comes highly recommended. Dave Mills has used this for tuning spring-powered airguns for some time, and his enthusiasm suggests this stuff really works. It is PTFE-reinforced to deal with friction, and the sales blurb states: 'PTFE is grafted onto wax particles for better substrate adhesion.' It has corrosion inhibitors and can deal with extreme pressure, too. It is basically the ideal partner when dealing with

the uniquely challenging internals of an airgun. Dave's verdict: "It leaves a finish that stays in place; doesn't move about. I can't rate it enough."

Powerful cleaning action

Finally, there's Tygris Gun Cleaner and Degreaser. This provides a powerful solvent cleaning action, breaking down contaminants and leaving no residue. On test, this one worked a treat. It comes out as a fine spray and evaporates in seconds. It also degreases almost on contact. It's very effective and easy to use.

I received test samples of these products early, but I am reliably informed that tube/straw applicators are also supplied with each one, for when precise application is required in tight spaces. More gun-related greases and compounds are planned, so watch this space.

Tygris gun maintenance products are available directly from Tygris. **GM**

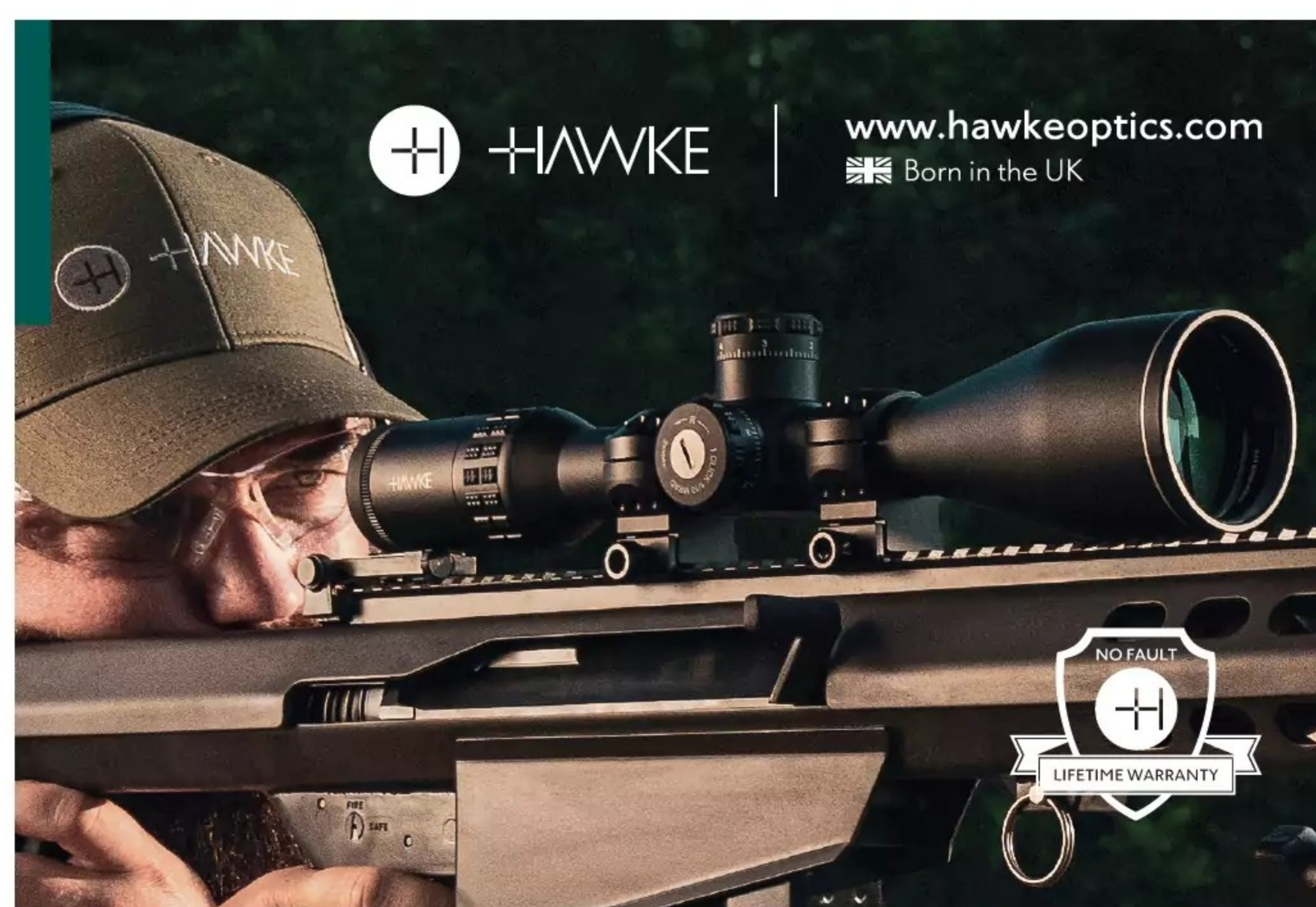
REVIEWER: MARK CAMOCCIO

TECHNICAL SPECIFICATION

Name: Tygris gun maintenance sprays

- G500 Tygris Gun Cleaner and Degreaser (100ml) £11.23
- G501 Tygris Wipe Down Gun Oil and Lubricant (100ml) £11.23
- G502 Tygris Trigger Spring and Piston Lubricant (100ml) £11.23

Contact: Tygris - www.tygrisindustrial.com



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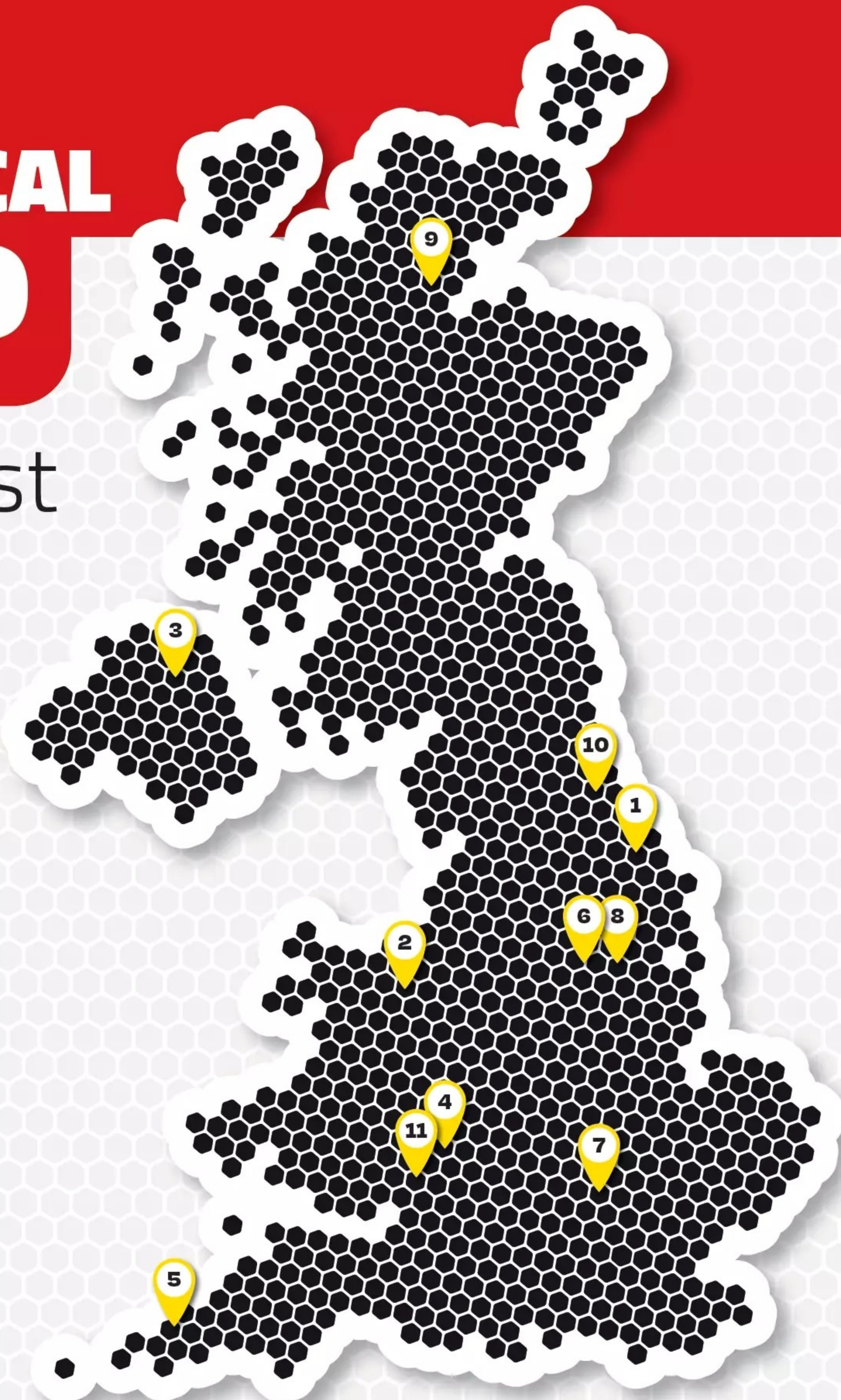
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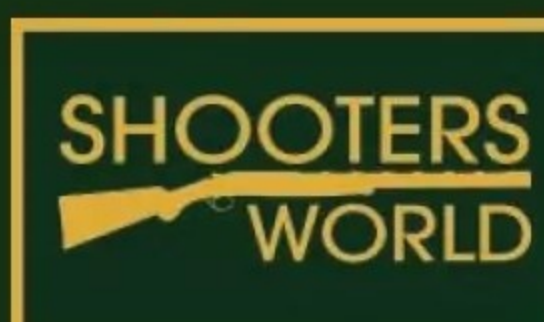
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5

IN FOCUS INDOOR RANGES

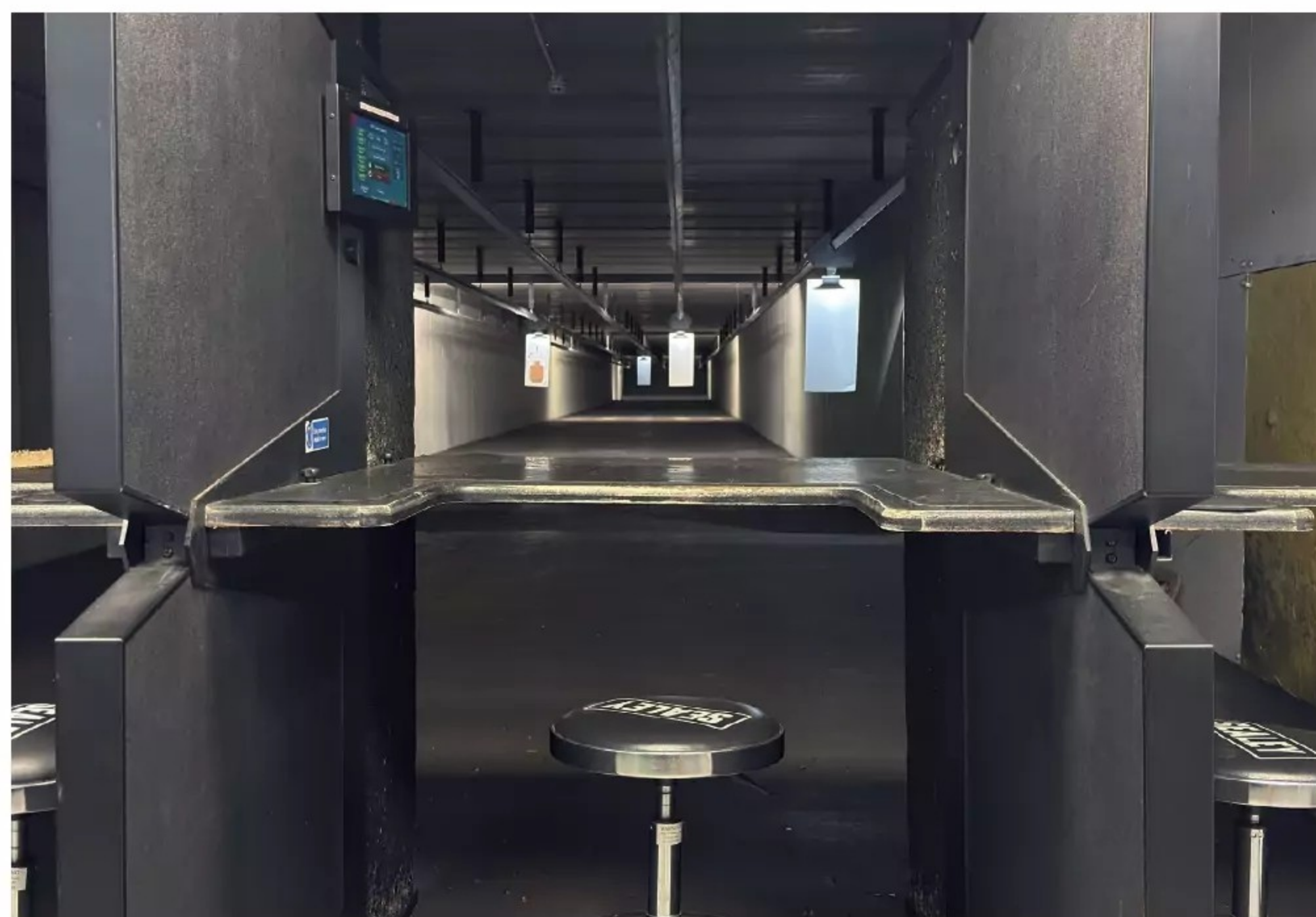
This guide highlights several of the UK's top indoor airgun ranges

DAI LEISURE

› Located in Brierley Hill in the West Midlands, this bright and friendly indoor airgun range is perfect for air rifle and pellet-pistol enthusiasts of all levels.

The 25 yard range features five lanes with varied target setups, including drop-down and retrieve options to keep things fun and challenging. Two stalls are equipped with dedicated 10m targets for pistols. Lane hire is just £10 per hour, with optional gun hire also £10. Each lane allows two people at no extra cost, though one must be over 18. Bookings must be made at least a day in advance.

- › **Address:** Unit 1, Enterprise Trading Estate, Brierley Hill, DY5 1TX
- › **Telephone:** 01384 265151
- › **Cost:** £10 per lane (one hour)
- › **Membership required?:** No
- › **Website:** daileisure.co.uk



RIFLEMAN FIREARMS

› This premier shooting facility offers a dynamic range of experiences for all skill levels — from fun beginner sessions all the way up to advanced, Police-recognised training.

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- › **Address:** Bowdens Farm, Hambridge, Langport, Somerset, TA10 0BP
- › **Telephone:** 01458 253700
- › **Cost:** from £10 per lane (one hour)
- › **Membership required?** No, but packages are available
- › **Website:** riflemanfirearms.com

ONTARGET RANGE

› OnTarget Range is a well-equipped indoor air rifle and pistol facility in Northampton, offering automated target recall and friendly expert staff. Membership is optional and provides discounted lane hire, bottle fills and access to competitions. Open to all experience levels, it's ideal for beginners and seasoned shooters alike.

- › **Address:** 13 Osyth Close, Brackmills Industrial Estate, Northampton, NN4 7DY
- › **Telephone:** 01604 315224
- › **Cost:** £15 per lane (one hour)
- › **Membership required?:** No, but packages are available
- › **Website:** ontargetrange.co.uk



IMPACT AIRGUNS

› Impact Airguns offers a 25–30m indoor air rifle and pistol range with optional gun hire. The range is suitable for beginners and experienced shooters, and costs include safety briefings, free targets, instructors and both indoor and outdoor lanes. Membership is optional.

- › **Address:** Unit 2b, St John's College Farm, Swavesey Road, Fen Drayton, Cambridge, CB24 4SE
- › **Telephone:** 01954 231518 / 07483 430945
- › **Cost:** From £12 per lane (one hour)
- › **Membership required?:** No, but packages are available
- › **Website:** impactairguns.co.uk



DONCASTER AIRGUN RANGE

› Doncaster Airgun Range features 18 indoor lanes ranging from 38 to 45 yards, offering a comfortable environment ideal for all shooting enthusiasts. Open to beginners and seasoned competitors alike, the range charges a simple £15 fee for up to three hours, with no membership required and free air refills provided. Established in 2016 by experienced shooters Brian and Leanne, the range prides itself on a friendly, inclusive atmosphere where everyone feels welcome. Book a taster session and unlock your shooting potential today.

- › **Address:** Top floor, Unit 5, Victoria Mill, Victoria Mill Business Park, Wharf Road, Doncaster, DN1 2ST
- › **Telephone:** 07563 880042
- › **Cost:** £15 per lane (three hours)
- › **Membership required?:** No, but packages are available
- › **Website:** doncaster-airgun-range.co.uk



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COMPETITION



Dave Barham reveals how the Ghost SE blends performance and adjustability to become a top choice for serious airgunners

➤ **When it comes to listening to its consumers, both BRK Brocock and its sister company, Daystate, are all ears.**

They usually respond to high demand from their customers, and this is just one of the reasons why the new Special Edition (SE) Ghost has been produced.

Built on the success of the original Ghost, the SE is packed full of exciting new features.

I say it's a brand-new rifle because it is, but the main building block will definitely look familiar to many. Anyone who knows BRK's sister company, Daystate, will recognise the Ghost's monoblock as being that of the original Delta and Alpha

Wolf rifles. The big difference is that the Ghost is a mechanical rifle as opposed to the electronic Daystates.

There are two main options when it comes to the new SE, those being the sub-12ft/lb Plus and a FAC-rated HP model. The Plus features a 17" barrel, but when it comes to the HP, there is a choice of either 23" or 28" barrels, all of which come shrouded with carbon. Both the Plus and HP versions feature 480cc carbon bottles, giving more than 400 shots in the sub-12ft/lb models. Filling is by means of a Foster connection, and the fill port can be found underneath BRK's rather nifty magnetic port cover – simply pull it off, fill up, and push it back on.

As far as aesthetics go, they don't come more pleasing than this new SE model, with metallic blue anodised material throughout the chassis, as well as on the superb silencer.

Price, value, and investment

I know you're dying to know how much one of these little gems is going to cost, and it might sound expensive to begin with, but the more you discover about the Ghost SE, the more it becomes apparent that it is, in fact, very reasonably priced. Prices start at £1,950 for the sub-12ft/lb Plus model on test here, and tip just over the £2,000 mark for the HP models,

READY



depending on the barrel configuration. These rifles are built to last, and will no doubt outlive many of us who purchase them. And, just like the high-end car market, BRK rifles have a history of holding their value very well. I'd say it's a wise investment, given the countless years of enjoyment you'll have from owning such a magnificent rifle.

Adjustment and fine-tuning

One thing you'll notice straight away with the SE is the massive potential for all-round adjustment. All of the Ghosts are fitted with Huma regulators, with regulator pressure viewed on a gauge on the left-hand side of the stock. They also feature a power wheel just in front of the butt pad that adjusts the hammer spring tension with no fewer than 20 settings. This will come in very handy for the back-garden plinkers out there and those who shoot rats in confined spaces.

There will most definitely be occasions where a subtle tweak of the dial will help with accuracy, but we're entering the realms of pellet



Detail of the Ghost SE's short-stroke, drop-down side-lever

testing and performance here, and that's a whole different story. It's just nice to know that it's there, especially if you're one of the many technically minded airgunners who like to fine-tune their hardware to the absolute best it can possibly be.

Rails, fit, and versatility

The BRK Ghost SE is absolutely rammed with features, both internal and external. One of the key points is the rail system, which cleverly features a 0.3-degree forward slant to help eliminate the



PICATINNY RAILS ARE MOUNTED ON BOTH SIDES OF THE CHASSIS FOR THE PLETHORA OF ADD-ONS, SUCH AS LAMPS"

DAVE BARHAM



(Below) Detail of the easy-to-read fill gauge



You get a rather ingenious single-shot magazine with the rifle



need for shimming scope mounts when zeroing at longer ranges.

Everything about the Ghost SE is geared towards user customisation and fit. For a start, there's a height-adjustable Gecko butt pad at the rear, which is exclusive to the SE model. The cheek riser is mounted on a small dovetail rail and can be slid back and forth to the preferred position, with adjustment made using Allen screws. This rail also holds the Picatinny scope rail and can be used to extend the length of the top section of the stock. The whole system is geared towards perfect eye relief and gun fit, and it's very user-friendly to adjust.

Speaking of adjustability, this SE Ghost also features BRK's quick-change barrel system, so you can swap between barrel lengths and calibres in a matter of minutes.

Picatinny rails are fitted on both sides of the chassis for a wide range of add-ons, such as lasers and lamps. The latest development in the Ghost's design, however, is the full-length Arca rail underneath, which also incorporates an extensive array of M-LOK slots.

Smart magazines

Another exclusive feature of the SE models is the inclusion of a rather ingenious single-shot

magazine, which will really appeal to competition shooters. Unlike some manufacturers who supply a single-shot tray made from plastic as a token gesture, BRK has designed a rock-solid alloy magazine to do the job, which suggests that this SE model is geared towards competition and club range shooters.

The Ghost SE also comes supplied with one of BRK's flip-cover magazines, which are just so easy to load. You get 13 shots in .177, 11 in .22, 10 in .25, and 8 in .30, and because these mags are magnetic, you can use them in a "double-up" formation, enabling you to fit two loaded magazines into the



As well as multiple M-LOK slots, the fore-end includes an ARCA rail for tripod/bipod use



The regulator pressure can be seen on the left-hand side of the Ghost



This power wheel adjusts the hammer spring tension



Detail of the fully adjustable trigger

rifle and simply shunt the loaded one across when the first one is empty.

To load the magazine, simply open the flip-up cover, turn the interior drum clockwise until it stops, then drop a pellet nose-first into the bottom chamber to hold the spring tension. Then you simply drop in the remaining pellets, and you're done. Close the magnetic lid, insert the magazine, and off you go.

Precision engineering

Bearing in mind that the monoblock was originally designed for use with an electric rifle, the sheer excellence of manufacture shines through with the

mechanical Ghost SE. The tolerances of engineering are so tight that the side-lever and internal workings run exceptionally smoothly. Another key design feature of the Ghost SE is the updated valve system inside. BRK has spent a lot of time developing this to be a "one valve does everything" unit. It has been trimmed down to as few internal parts as possible to make it more efficient and more reliable, as fewer parts mean there's less to go wrong.

The side-lever is a short-stroke drop-down unit that effortlessly glides the pellet probe back and forth. Immediately in front and below the drop-down handle on the main block,

you'll find the tiny push-button manual safety. It's very well positioned and easy to use with the rifle shouldered.

Crisp and adjustable trigger

We all know that bullpup linkages often lead to trigger unit problems, not with operation, just with the actual feel and action. However, the Ghost SE linkage is so smooth that it feels like using a trigger you'd find on a regular-length BRK rifle. There's absolutely zero creep, the release is crisp and predictable, and I like the way it comes set from the factory with a relatively short first stage that stops unmistakably before the second-stage release.

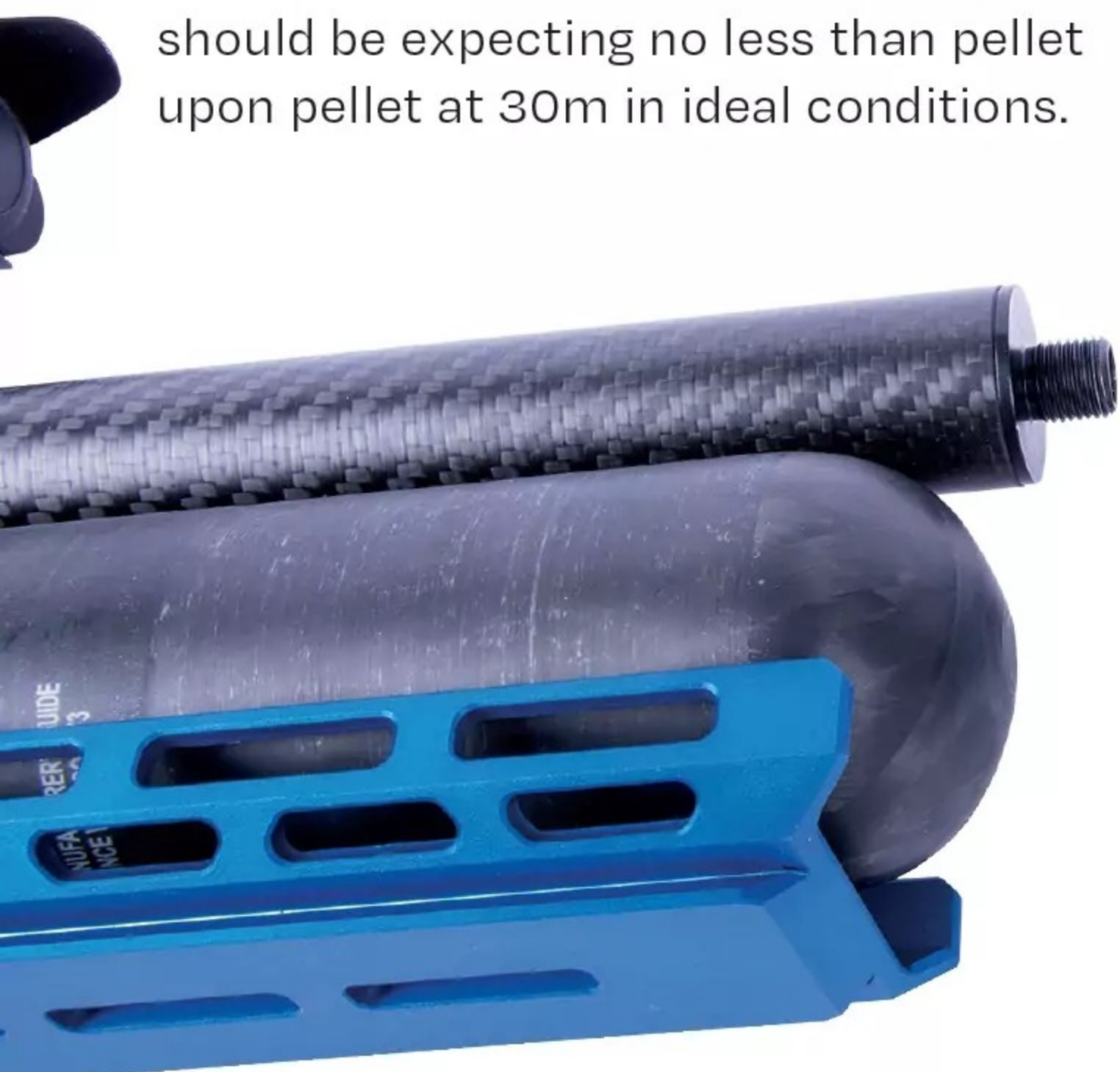


There's a height-adjustable Gecko butt pad at the rear

It is, of course, adjustable for length of pull, plus blade height and angle. The blade itself is very flat-faced with the gentlest of curves on the vertical axis. It feels great against the pad of your index finger, both when bare and when wearing gloves, which provides a great deal of control.

Accuracy and all-round appeal

Such is the quality of manufacture, you should be expecting no less than pellet upon pellet at 30m in ideal conditions.



The push-button safety catch



The position of the Picatinny scope rail can easily be adjusted



Magnets help secure the magazine in position

When it comes to pushing things out a little further, the groups I experienced using Rangemaster Sovereign pellets were thumbnail-sized, and out to 50m, that remained the case, as I was still managing to hit the spinners with ease at 53m on our club range. In the right hands, this SE model will become an elite competition rifle, I'm sure.

There's something for everyone in the BRK Ghost range, especially with the launch of this Special Edition rifle, from the Plus model,

which will appeal to most club, target and hunting enthusiasts, to the impressive .25 and .30 FAC versions.

I drive a beaten-up Mitsubishi Outlander, but if I could afford a brand-new Range Rover, I'd get one – the same applies to the BRK Ghost SE. If you can afford one, you can't afford to not own one. **GM**

TECHNICAL SPECIFICATION

Name: BRK Brocock Ghost SE

Type: PCP

Calibre: .177 on test, .22 available (.25 and .30 FAC)

Barrel Length: 17" (Plus model tested)

Overall Length: 28.8" (Plus model tested)

Weight: 7lbs (Plus model tested, without scope)

Energy: 11.4ft/lbs (average)

Price: £1,950 (Plus model tested)

Contact: BRK Brocock – www.brocock.co.uk

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Affordable, practical, and accurate, the Phox MK2 Country Edition leaves **Mark Camoccio** impressed with its all-round performance

➤ **Starter packs and combinations make a lot of sense when you are new to airguns, as they can be a cost-effective way of getting into the sport.**

Range & Country is a very forward-thinking, dynamic airgun dealer based in Sleaford, Lincolnshire, and when they had the idea of creating their own branded starter pack, one model immediately came to mind as the basis – the Gamo Phox.

Affordable quality

Gamo, as we all know, is a huge Spanish manufacturer, but its PCP models have for some time now been produced by BSA in Birmingham. It's been the perfect marriage of cheaper production costs for the stock element, combined with an action that has benefited from BSA's years of experience in pre-charged pneumatic production. The standard Phox has built quite a reputation for affordable quality, but on show here is an upgraded version on several fronts.

Welcome to the Gamo Phox MK2 Country Edition, prepared exclusively for Range & Country and sold as a complete kit, with everything included to get us up and running from the outset.

What's included?

On paper, what we get is similar to the standard Phox pack, but there are a few fundamental differences that I'll highlight in a moment. Along with the rifle itself, the kit includes a filling adaptor, the latest Whisper silencer, a Gamo hand pump, scope

and mounts, a gun cover, a pack of 100 targets, and even a tin of pellets.

Costing out everything individually leaves a very keenly priced rifle for sure, so it all looks like great value.

R&C upgrades

Now let's take a look in more detail, and see just what the Gamo Phox MK2 Country Edition is all about. Take the standard Phox route, and apparently, the scope included is a fixed-focus model. Range & Country was adamant that they wanted an upgraded optic for their pack.

So, this Country Edition comes with a 3-9x40 AO scope and mounts, where

the front objective dial is adjustable (the AO bit) for parallax. That's a big advantage. The ocular lens is adjustable via the fast focus, and in addition, this scope features mil-dots in the reticle, all details missing from the standard kit, making it a great starter scope with everything we need.

The Gamo gunslip has a quality feel, but for their own kit, Range & Country requested it be supplied exclusively in green livery, and it looks very smart indeed. It perfectly matches the specially commissioned green sporter thumbhole composite stock. The final detail exclusive to this model can be found on the receiver, where the R&C



You get a rifle, a filling adaptor, a scope, mounts, a gunslip, a silencer, a pump, targets and pellets





...IT'S HARD NOT TO CONCLUDE THAT IT'S A GREAT BUY AND EXCELLENT VALUE FOR MONEY WHEN THAT KITBAG OF GOODIES IS FACTORED IN"

MARK CAMOCCIO

branding adds a classy touch, expertly laser-etched at the production stage.

Scope and mag prep

This Phox special gets conventional dovetail rails on top of the receiver, and because of the low magazine configuration, we get a continuous run of rail to play with. So, no high mag here forcing the use of higher mounts, as per many rivals. It's all just low-profile and rather civilised.

We've established that a Gamo-branded scope is included, and as I understand it, Range & Country tend to fit the scope for the customer. Mine came all rigged up and pretty well ready to go.

One 10-shot magazine is included, and this is again BSA-designed. Filling is simple, you just insert a pellet into each chamber, twisting the drum anti-clockwise in turn until full. The mag features a shot number display too, which is a big help in the field.

Gamo Flex PCP pump

OK, the final piece of preparation is to charge up the gun, and here we have the Gamo Flex PCP pump, which comes effectively flat-packed. Assembly is super easy, given there are so few parts, and takes seconds.

I'm a big fan of pumps, having used one for years, as they keep you independent and free from

relying on diving shops or having bottles filled and tested.

The obvious downside is the increased effort required, and it is worth pointing out that manual airgun pumps are best avoided by those who are a little frail or who are suffering from serious medical issues. That said, I'm no athlete, and I can cope with them, which says a lot!

The pump comes with a Foster female connector, and the filling adaptor is of the modern quick-fit stick variety, so no spanners are required. Just plug one end into the Foster connector, pull off the plastic valve cover on the Phox at the front of the cylinder, and then insert the probe (now connected to the airline) into the inlet valve.

Charge the cylinder to the suggested 232bar, bleed the line, withdraw the probe, and reapply the valve cover.

Reading the gauge on both the pump and rifle isn't an easy task, but a periodic, careful check is the way forward. It's not just my eyes, as the figures are particularly small, and the gauge on the pump is fixed



Detail of the stylish cocking bolt and smart R&C branding etched onto the receiver



Gamo's Smooth Action Trigger features here, complete with a manual safety tab



The magazine is familiar and worked smoothly on test



The Whisper silencer is very effective, but there's a 1/2" UNF thread underneath to play with



The prominent cheekpiece works well, but don't be fooled, as it is not adjustable!



The barrel support can be removed if required



Range & Country specified an upgraded optic for their kit



Just pull off the plastic valve cover to reveal the charging port

at an irritating angle. However, the pump feels well-made, is robust, and works well in operation.

Handling and operation

Just shoulder this Phox Country Edition, and the tasteful green composite stock instantly feels comfortable and supportive in the aim. The raised panels of stippling around the grip and fore-end are really effective, and will be a major asset should you wish to brave the elements and use this rifle in the rain. Either way, they enhance grip enormously, and I love the drop-down target-style pistol grip, which, in conjunction with the thumbhole, guides the shooter to a natural trigger position without forcing a stretch.

A minor point would be the slightly sharp feel around the underside of the trigger guard slot, but there really isn't much else to moan about.

The prominent, well-defined cheekpiece proved perfect for scope use, and whilst it looks like it should be adjustable, the fact that it isn't is no mark-down, given the sound ergonomics. As someone with

orangutan arms, I'm always grateful for an extended fore-end, and this model provides a comfortable flared section that ends in a well-shaped tip. So overall then, high marks for this classic sporter configuration that perfectly complements the action.

Given how side-lever operation has become so in vogue at the moment, it

makes a change to get back to bolt-action, and the bolt on show here is a lovely piece of design. The cocking effort is modest, and as usual, this is best done in a positive way, ensuring the hammer and trigger are set, and the magazine is indexed for the next shot.

It is possible to double-load this model (as with so many PCPs)



Cocking the bolt requires only modest effort



This model is seriously accurate, adding to the appeal

by pulling back the bolt, cycling the mag, but not cocking and setting the hammer and trigger. Subsequent cocking then chambers a second pellet. It's a common fault, so just adopt a positive motion, and all should be fine.

Gamo's Smooth Action Trigger (SAT) features here, complete with a manual safety tab, and on test, this tripped satisfactorily. It's adjustable, too. As for muzzle report, the Phox is loud with no silencer, but wonderfully muted with that Whisper in place.

Number crunching

From the suggested 232bar fill pressure, I clocked 120 shots over my chronograph, with a total velocity spread of 25fps, which, for an unregulated rifle, is excellent.

This took me down to a residual 100bar in the cylinder.

As for accuracy, initial testing with Rangemaster Sovereign pellets showed this model to be a little pellet-fussy, but with both BSA Blackstar and Air Arms Diabolo Field ammo, super-tight clusters were soon happening at 40 yards. Sub- $\frac{1}{4}$ " with Air Arms Diabolo Field, and just over with BSA Blackstar, is classy performance in anyone's book.



Detail of the well-marked manometer. You just need to work within the green area



The brilliant filling adaptor

Factor in the feel and great handling on offer here, and the Phox Country Edition ticks all the right boxes.

Verdict

This is a seriously good air rifle, and a classic hunting tool that is unlikely to disappoint. Take another look at the RRP, and it's hard not to conclude that it's a great buy and excellent value for money when that kitbag of goodies is factored in. Everything needed at the outset, for sensible money.

So it just remains for me to thank Range & Country Shooting Supplies in Sleaford, Lincolnshire, for the kind loan of this rifle. **GM**

TECHNICAL SPECIFICATION

Name: Gamo Phox MK2 Country Edition

Type: PCP

Calibre: .22 on test, .177 available

Barrel Length: 15.25"

Overall Length: 38.6"

Weight: 8.3lbs (including scope and silencer)

Energy: 11.1ft/lbs

Price: £549

Contact:

Gamo - www.gamo.com

Range & Country Shooting Supplies - www.rangeandcountry.co.uk

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SPECIFICATION

- Calibre: 4.5mm Steel BB
- Power Source: 12g CO2
- Magazine Capacity: 15 rounds
- Shots per Capsule: 40-50
- Metal Barrel & Receiver
- Hardwood Forestock & Backstock
- To 1:1 scale of Original Rifle
- 1913 Picatinny/Weaver sight rail

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WINNING FORMULA

Mark Camoccio takes the latest Weihrauch HW110T adjustable laminate into the field to see if its pedigree still sets it apart

➤ **Air rifles have grown in popularity, making up a significant share of shooting sales.** This has drawn many manufacturers into the market, particularly in the PCP sector. In recent years, China, the Far East, and especially Turkey have made major advances in developing their own products.

Pedigree

Many of these offerings are fantastic value for money, coming with features as standard that would cost much more from one of the more established names. However, for many enthusiasts, it's worth paying a premium for that extra level of refinement. Weihrauch is one such brand with a reputation for quality and performance, earned over many years, and I suppose what we're talking about here is pedigree.

Yes, I'll accept that some of the modern players in the market can offer decent performance, and are increasingly snapping at the heels of the established players. But for an army of loyal Weihrauch fans, it's the unique feel and attention to detail that lures them back to their favourite manufacturer, even spawning owners' clubs and specialist forums.

Classic Weihrauch

On test here is the very latest version of the Weihrauch HW110T, complete with adjustable laminate stock,

and it's a key feature that elevates handling to a new level. Open the box and view this rifle for the first time, and it's a striking piece of machinery, classic Weihrauch if you like.

This is the standard-length action, and it feels pleasingly compact as it stands. However, don't forget there's also a KT version, denoting carbine, and this trims a few inches off the barrel and cylinder, but the shot count, of course, will suffer the consequences. Take a close look at my specimen here, and if the silencer is removed and a shorter fitting added, this is a compact rifle in any case.

Ballistic polymer

It's the stunning stock that first grabs the eye, but there's also the classic air of subtlety and refinement that Weihrauch captures so well, even with the copious use of ballistic polymer, the defining ingredient that sets the HW110 apart from the 100 series. Ballistic polymer has, of course, been used extensively for years throughout the modern firearms industry, but with our strong perception of Weihrauch as a quintessentially traditional operation, its introduction with the HW110 initially may have caused more than the odd night sweat at the Mellrichstadt factory.

Well, they needn't have worried, as it's all about execution, and the



This shows the manual safety and the magazine in position

AIRGUNS

WEIHRAUCH HW110T ADJUSTABLE LAMINATE

This supreme hunting rifle just got even better



Push-button control brings class and refinement to the new cheekpiece

The stylish, raked pistol grip follows the classic Weihrauch configuration



Neat, practical, and most importantly, removable



110 has now carved out a niche for itself, generating significant sales.

Action, fit, and finish

The HW110 feels original, and as with Weihrauch in general, it all looks and feels very well machined and put together. Weihrauch famously makes its own barrels, which will always help quality control, and whilst this model is fitted with a barrel support, the tube is beefy and stiff enough to self-support, so I would whip that off from the start if this were my gun, as it serves little purpose.

Traditional bluing only features on the barrel, as the chunky cylinder gets a matte black finish, while the trigger blade, guard, and entire receiver are polymer. Blimey, that sounds crazy, but close inspection reveals precise moulding and a super-robust feel. It grows on you too, and once the subtle operation is experienced, this airgun can soon be appreciated for what it is: a modern masterpiece!

Pre-shoot observations

The all-in-one polymer receiver includes a continuous run of Picatinny rail, and while my initial reaction to clamping mounts tight over 'plastic' wasn't a good one, the quality and robustness of the material used is such that this simply isn't an issue. Again, consider modern firearm usage, and it's obvious it works, so we traditionalists really need to get over it!

Another observation here, all positive, is that the design sees the magazine completely contained, so unlike many rivals, where the height of the mag has to be considered for scope placement, no such concern exists.

Weihrauch's 10-shot magazine is a simple casting, and it's that very simplicity of design which promotes reliability in use. Just push pellets flush, and it's ready.

As for charging the action, I'm pleased to say Weihrauch has stuck with the same probe system for years, so with the adaptor mounted on a Best Fittings Quick Coupler, and everything snapped into place, it just needs that small nylon plug to be removed from the inlet valve at the

front of the cylinder, before inserting the probe, and gently fill to 200bar.

There's a manometer fitted in the front of the cylinder, and whilst the position is, of course, dodgy on safety grounds, the upside is that it's one of the easiest to read gauges on the market.

New adjustable stock

The new adjustable laminate furniture is a beautiful piece of design, and pleasingly different from the 100 series, as it should be. Perfectly applied stippling covers both the fore-end and the stylishly raked grip, but it's the adjustable elements that transform handling.

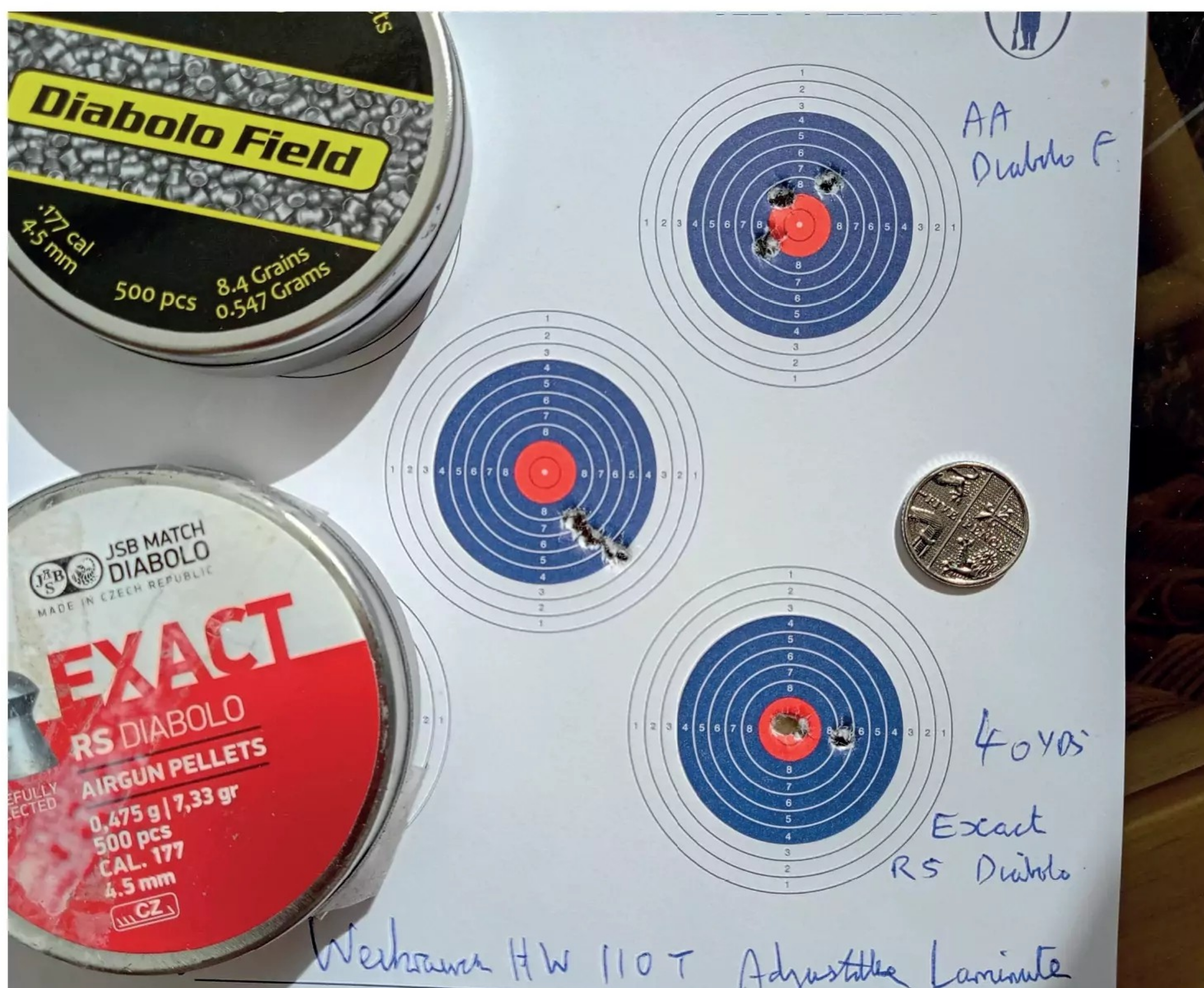
Set the height of the shoulder-hugging rubber butt pad with the aid of the Allen key supplied. Then it's time to turn our attention to the new cheekpiece.

I was getting ready to count the number of increments, but by the clever use of a serrated pillar bolt, the user can use the push-button and raise or lower the comb, simply stopping at the desired height. The comb can be raised by an amazing 1.8", meaning FT shooters could even have a play. The push-button makes it all very civilised, and importantly, adjustable in the field. No tools required.

Market-leading silencer?

Weihrauch's silencer has long been the benchmark, and whilst a few rivals have now caught up, this unit remains impressive. It's a multi-baffle system, probably featuring their famous hair-curler configuration, containing sound-absorbent wadding. It's smart and highly practical with its matte black coating, and yet it remains astonishingly light.

I had to quickly remove it to confirm barrel length, and that's when I noticed its lack of mass. Just 3.5oz on the scales confirmed as much, and with the ½" UNF thread, there is nothing to stop the user fitting a heavier moderator for more up-front weight if deemed necessary. Great to have the option, but it would almost seem disrespectful to such an excellent standard unit.



As expected, the accuracy was rather impressive

Incidentally, with the silencer removed, the muzzle crack is significant, as is so often the case with PCPs.

In use

Weihrach triggers are well respected, and the HW110 design is quite simply two-stage perfection. Fully adjustable, it is one of the sweetest triggers currently available on a sporting airgun.

Cycling the action of the HW110 is a mixed experience. Initially, installing the magazine is a bit fiddly, seemingly requiring three hands, but familiarity does help. First, pull the side-lever back to cock the action, then push up and hold the mag-retaining catch on the right, while inserting the magazine from the right side. When it finds its spot, the catch should drop level, then close the lever, and you're ready. It may just need a wiggle of the magazine to get it located and allow the lever to return. However, once in position, cycling the action is smooth, efficient, and reliable.

Range card

I'm always interested to see manufacturers' claimed performance figures, and in fact, many don't bother to specify the shot count. OK, so figures will vary depending upon ammo

used and fill pressure, but a rough guide should be specified at least.

Anyhow, Weihrach has always specified theirs, so I was intrigued to see how my test rifle shaped up. From the maximum fill pressure of 200bar, I recorded 105 shots with a total spread of 24fps, stopping at a residual pressure on the manometer just over 100 bar, after which velocity began to drop away. So, 105 shots against the claimed figure of 110, so near as damn it.

I used JSB Exact RS Diabolo pellets straight from the tin, and I reckon those highly creditable figures could be improved further with more careful preparation. 24fps shows good consistency and proves the regulated action.

As for accuracy, my HW110T did show a distinct preference for the lighter pellets. 5p-piece clusters over 30 yards using Air Arms Diabolos soon shrank to enlarged single holes with the RS Diabolos. Increasing the distance out to 40 yards, and with the favoured RS Diabolos, I soon had $\frac{1}{4}$ " c-t-c groups. For those who've never shot one of these rifles, there's a genuinely unique feel, and it's the combination of that seriously muted muzzle report, sweet trigger, and the subtle trip of the shot that combines so well.



Weihrach's silencer remains a benchmark for many rivals



Detail of the front stippling and barrel support



You get two magazines, a filler probe and an Allen key in the box

Verdict

Sometimes something just feels right, and this model is up there with the best sporters around. It would be nice to see Weihrach fit a biathlon-style, drop-down side-lever to enhance the cocking process, but otherwise, the sheer quality on offer is hard to fault, with what is undeniably a top-class hunting machine.

After a slight price adjustment to create more differentiation between the HW100 and HW110 range, the HW110 now looks better value than ever. This new HW110T adjustable laminate version is quite simply the best yet, superbly versatile, and a great addition to the Weihrach line-up. **GM**

TECHNICAL SPECIFICATION

Name: Weihrach HW110T Adjustable Laminate
Type: PCP
Calibre: .177 on test, .22 available
Barrel Length: 16.2"
Overall Length: 39.75"
Weight: 7.8lbs
Energy: 11.2ft/lbs (average)
Price: £939 (guide)
Contact: Hull Cartridge - www.weihrach.co.uk



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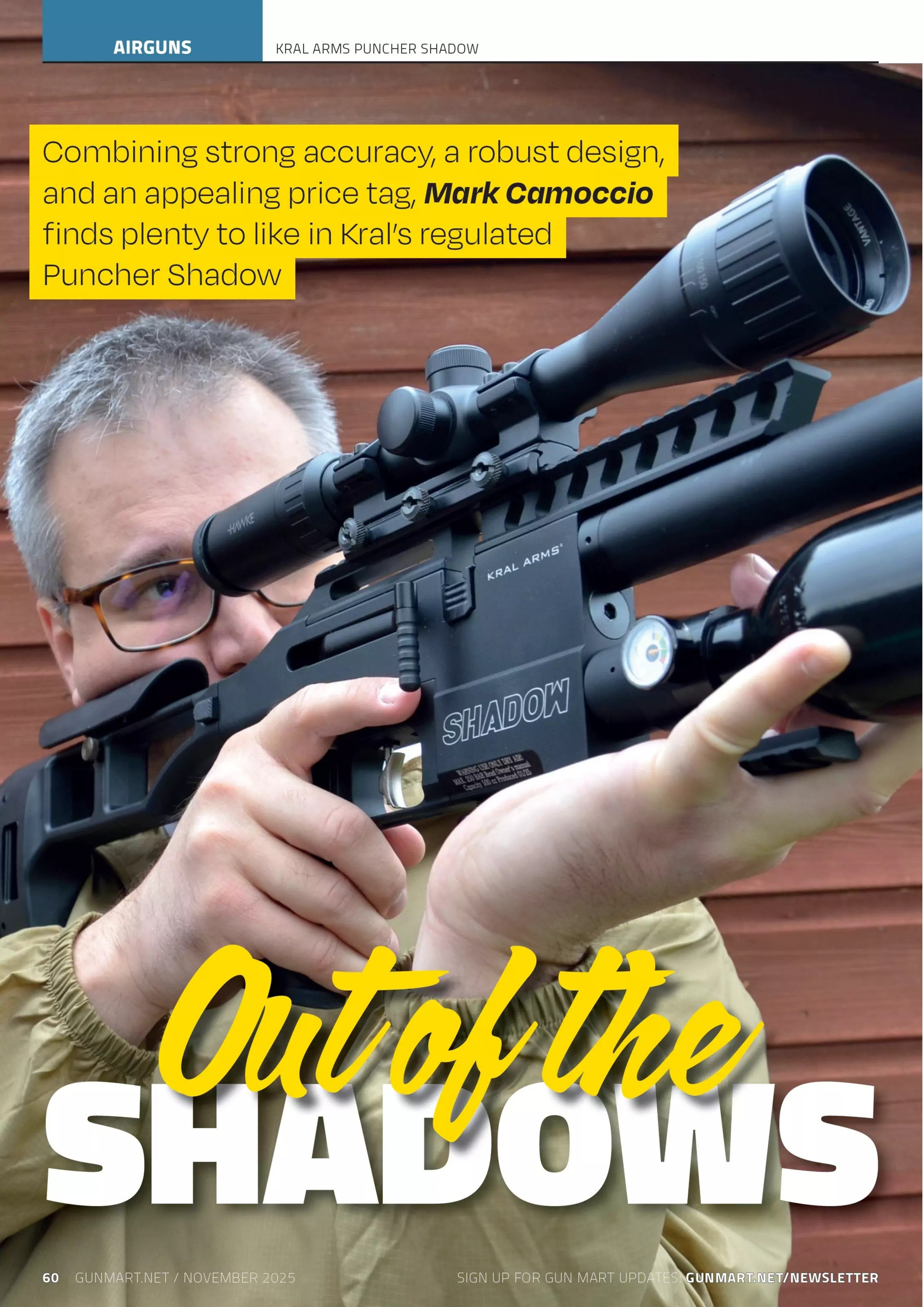
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Combining strong accuracy, a robust design, and an appealing price tag, **Mark Camoccio** finds plenty to like in Kral's regulated Puncher Shadow



Out of the SHADOWS

➤ Hot on the heels of the Kral Unica, Kral's very first regulated PCP, comes the regulated Kral Puncher Shadow, which will appeal to shooters who really appreciate a tactical configuration and serious performance.

To regulate or not?

A regulated action is something of a moot point among airgun enthusiasts, and I can definitely appreciate the dilemma from both sides, having owned rifles that were easily consistent enough, relying on just the basic valve setup. The problem with those types of guns is that you need to be super careful about charging pressure, whereas if you fit a reg, the pressure issue is effectively removed, as the gun finely meters itself. All manner of regulator designs have been tried, with varying success, and whilst one school of thought says that regulators are only required for competition shooting, it's fair to say that everyone benefits from hitting more targets consistently, irrespective of the type of shooting.

Greater complexity in design and manufacture inevitably brings higher production costs, but to many, it's well worth the effort. Of course, once we take into account the lower labour costs of Turkish manufacturers, it's no surprise that this model offers an extensive features list, including a regulated action, all for under £650. Consider the big picture, and that seems like great value for money.

Slick design

Look carefully at our test rifle, and it's obvious that Kral has taken plenty of inspiration from the likes of Daystate and FX, with the Shadow's chunky modular breech block, the grip being AR-compatible, and the rear stock featuring a folding design along with full adjustment.

There are plenty of radical features built in from the off. Inside the box, we get two magazines, a single-shot tray, a filling adaptor, an instruction manual, and even a fully padded hard case complete with roller wheels!

With Kral having Daystate and FX in its sights, there's also one eye firmly on FAC potential, and to that end, the Shadow features a quick-release system for barrel removal. Just unscrew the small wheel on the left side of the breech, and the barrel and shroud pull

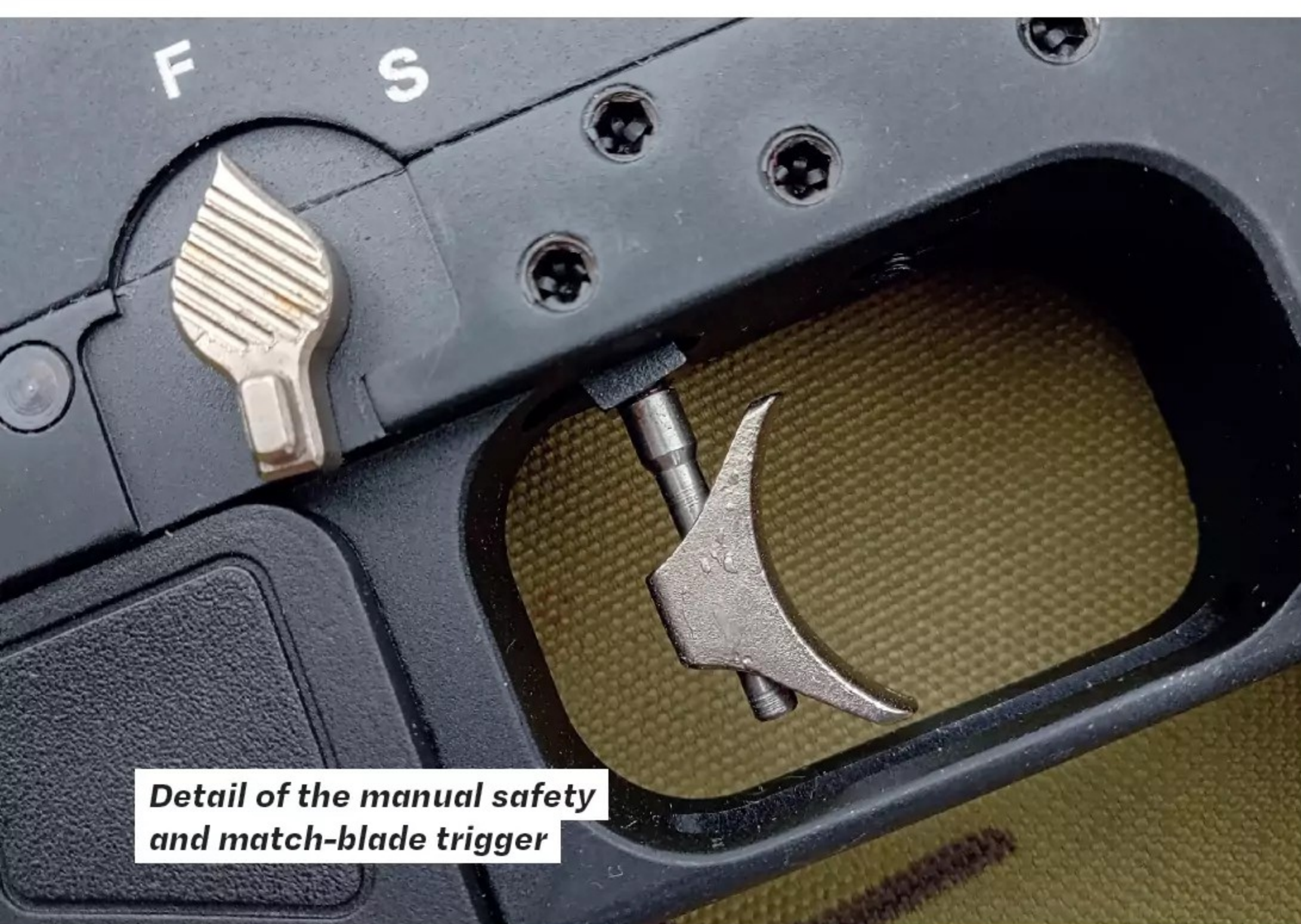




The modular breech block is inspired by Daystate/FX for sure



Side-lever cocking courtesy of the drop-down biathlon handle



Detail of the manual safety and match-blade trigger



This manometer shows the regulator pressure

clear of the action. There is probably little point at 12ft/lbs, given legal constraints (although with the .22 you could switch to .177 for the sake of it), but a world of experimentation awaits with the FAC version.

Manometers, filling, and magazine

Kral fits the Shadow with twin manometers. There's one under the block — weirdly proud and a bit exposed — showing the regulator pressure, which was set to 100bar on my test rifle, and another one mounted on the right side of the buddy bottle, showing residual main pressure.

The 500cc buddy bottle gets filled in situ; just pull off the small rubber cap from the valve on the left side, and snap on the adaptor supplied. This looks similar to a Foster spec, but sadly it isn't. 250bar is the max fill pressure, and I charged to that on test.

To fill the magazine (14 shots in .177 calibre), twist the cover clockwise, right around against spring pressure until it clicks. Next, drop the first pellet in to hold the drum, then twist the cover back again anti-clockwise, filling each chamber until full. The magazine snaps smoothly into position from the left side of the action, and in testing, I experienced no malfunctions with either the magazine or the cocking lever. In addition, there is a magazine holder at the rear of the stock, which is a nice detail.

Stock adjustment

As mentioned, the Shadow is designed with a folding stock, and to activate this feature, just press the knurled button on the left side of the stock joint. I say 'just', but on test, it was flipping stiff, and annoyingly so!

The benefits? Well, with the rear stock folded back, the Shadow could then fit into a far shorter case, which

may not look like a gun case. It is a low-profile option, though I am not sure how many will actually make use of it.

On a far more positive note, the ambidextrous stock's adjustable features are very well designed and highly effective. Firstly, the cheekpiece can be raised or lowered simply by slackening off the small screw on the right side. Movement is not incremental, but tightening at the desired height proved easy. Secondly, the butt can be raised or lowered by depressing the spring-loaded button. Use both features, and the result should be a perfect shooting position, properly supported and free from stress.

As for the grip, this is pleasingly textured, soft to the touch, and AR-compatible.

Mounting high

Given the Shadow's tactical credentials, it's hardly surprising we get Picatinny rails. The scope rail is



a bit high for my liking, creating a fairly high sight line, but that's where the adjustable cheekpiece comes into its own to compensate. Look to the rear of the buddy bottle, and there's a separate accessory rail too, so all bases are well catered for.

Trigger and handling

Unlike spring-powered airguns, the trigger on a PCP has very little work to do, so it should be fair. The Shadow's trigger is adjustable for the length of the first stage, second stage, and sear engagement. An honest assessment has to conclude that triggers are perhaps Kral's weakest feature, and whilst the Shadow's is acceptable, it is a little unrefined. I tried tweaking the visible screw in front of the blade, accessible through the guard slot, but with little effect.

The adjustable match blade, however, saved the day, and with a reasonably light trigger release, if a

little creepy, the gun's performance, as we shall see, wasn't compromised.

Cycling the side-lever proved smooth and reliable, and given the ergonomics and position, it can be easily operated while aiming. This means a fast backup shot is possible when out hunting, which always breeds confidence.

In terms of handling, the buddy bottle also serves as the fore-end, and with my larger frame, my lead hand rests halfway up the bottle. That could be cold on a winter's morning, but a bottle cover would solve the problem.

Pressure point

Time to see how the new regulator shapes up, from a full 250bar fill. Three magazines were used for familiarisation and zeroing the Shadow, giving a total of 42 shots. Glancing at the main cylinder gauge, the needle had hardly moved, sitting at 245bar.

I then clocked 100 shots over the chronograph to gauge consistency, and using 8.64gr BSA Goldstar pellets, this showed a total velocity spread of just 18fps. That's excellent performance, easily making the Shadow the most consistent Kral I've shot to date. Residual pressure now showed 205bar, so plenty of reserves.

I think it's then fair to estimate that with the regulator pressure set at 100bar, this Shadow should be good for 200–250 shots, depending upon the ammo used. At the time of compiling this article, everyone's printed spec sheet for this gun seemed to be carrying the same misleading figures, suggesting a far lower shot count, but having run my shot cycle, it would suggest otherwise.

Group size?

So, crunch time— what sort of accuracy are we talking about with this Kral? Well, as always, I started



Keep a check on residual main pressure here. Note the Picatinny accessory rail



The whopping 500cc bottle doubles up as the fore-end



Here you can see the stock in the folded position



Being able to adjust the cheekpiece and raise the butt is great for benchrest shooting

zeroing at 5 yards to catch shots just in case the scope was way off. Soon, I was tweaking to get shots behind the crosshair at 30 yards.

Exact RS Diabolo Fields grouped to 5p size, as did the BSA Goldstars, but the best by far were the Air Arms Diabolo Fields, which produced enlarged single holes and were therefore chosen to take back to 40 yards, which is probably the maximum distance for hunting if we're honest with ourselves, and even then from an appropriately rested vantage point.

A whisker over a ¼" c-t-c proved the Shadow was well up to the task, and with a silencer spun into position, it was fairly civilised too. Don't be fooled by the massive full-length shroud, since the barrel runs almost to the

tip, so there's no expansion chamber or sound absorption going on, and it shows. Fit the silencer via the 1/2" UNF thread, and the muzzle report is transformed, with just the sound of the valve as the shot releases.

Conclusion

Bold styling and robust design are what Kral's new regulated Shadow is all about, and I thoroughly enjoyed putting this hunting rifle through its paces. Just take a close look at those consistency figures, and mull over the accuracy report, and it's clear we have a serious piece of airgun equipment. There's always some shortfall, and I'm not quite sure about the folding stock feature, but if the modern tactical layout appeals,

then it certainly has plenty to offer enthusiasts, at a very welcome RRP!

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

TECHNICAL SPECIFICATION

Name: Kral Arms Puncher Shadow
Type: PCP
Calibre: .177 on test, .22 available
Barrel Length: 20.9"
Overall Length: 38.5"
Weight: 7.7lbs
Energy: 11.1ft/lbs (average)
Price: £649.99
Contact: Range Right - www.range-right.co.uk

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HUNTER'S *choice*

With its blend of features and precision engineering, **Mark Camoccio** finds the Hawke Sidewinder 30 4-16x50 SF riflescope to be an impressive hunting companion





➤ **Hawke operates a rolling development programme, ensuring constant refinement in a highly competitive market where standing still means falling behind.**

The brand's 'H' logo, styled like a reticle, is a trusted mark for shooters seeking reliable, functional optics without premium prices. The Sidewinder 30 range was recently revamped and now comes packed with features.

First look

On test is the Sidewinder 30 4-16x50 SF 10x Half Mil. At 725g, it's a bold piece of glassware, but the weight brings a quality feel, and there's a slick finish too. The knurled power dial seamlessly blends into the monocoque body tube, while the recessed silver cap on the snap-open push-pull turrets adds a smart touch. Small details, but they matter.

Retailing at around £489, it's a little pricey for Hawke but mid-market overall. The box includes lens covers, a cloth, a 4" side-wheel, a 4" sunshade, a throw lever, an Allen key, a battery, a reticle booklet, and a manual, giving plenty of extras for the price.

Initial setting up

The 30 in the model name denotes a 30mm body tube, and mounting this scope is straightforward with the appropriate mounts, but just be aware that clearance needs to be allowed for when the sidewheel is installed. The first task, as usual, is to use the fast focus bell at the rear ocular to adjust for a crisp reticle and subject. To install the 4" sidewheel, first unscrew the three screws in the fixing plate and remove it. The wheel then pushes over the left turret so that the marked range figures match up. Next, replace the locking plate and screw it up fairly tight. This proved a fiddly operation, but once it's on and set, the job's a good 'un, as they say.

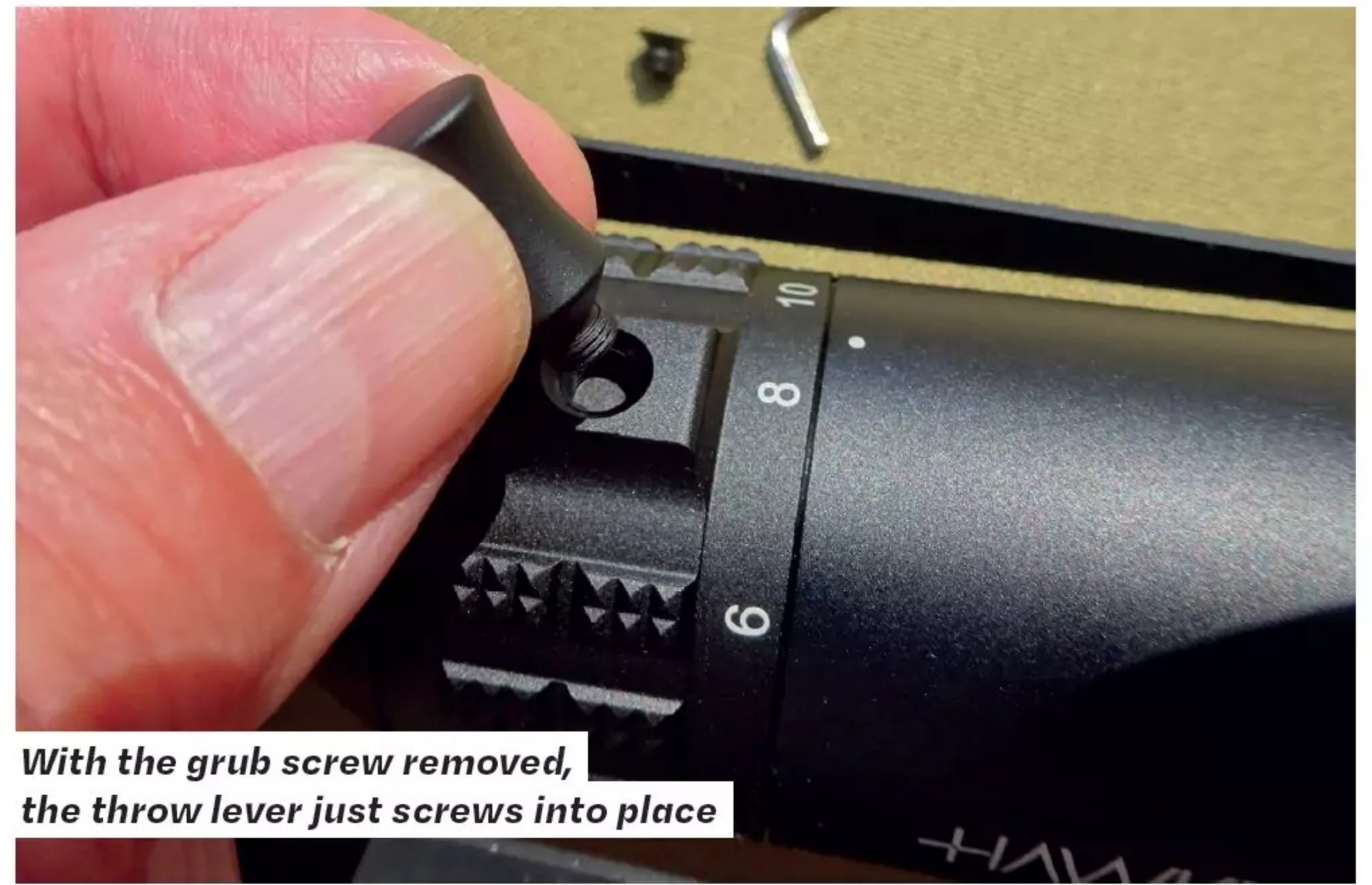
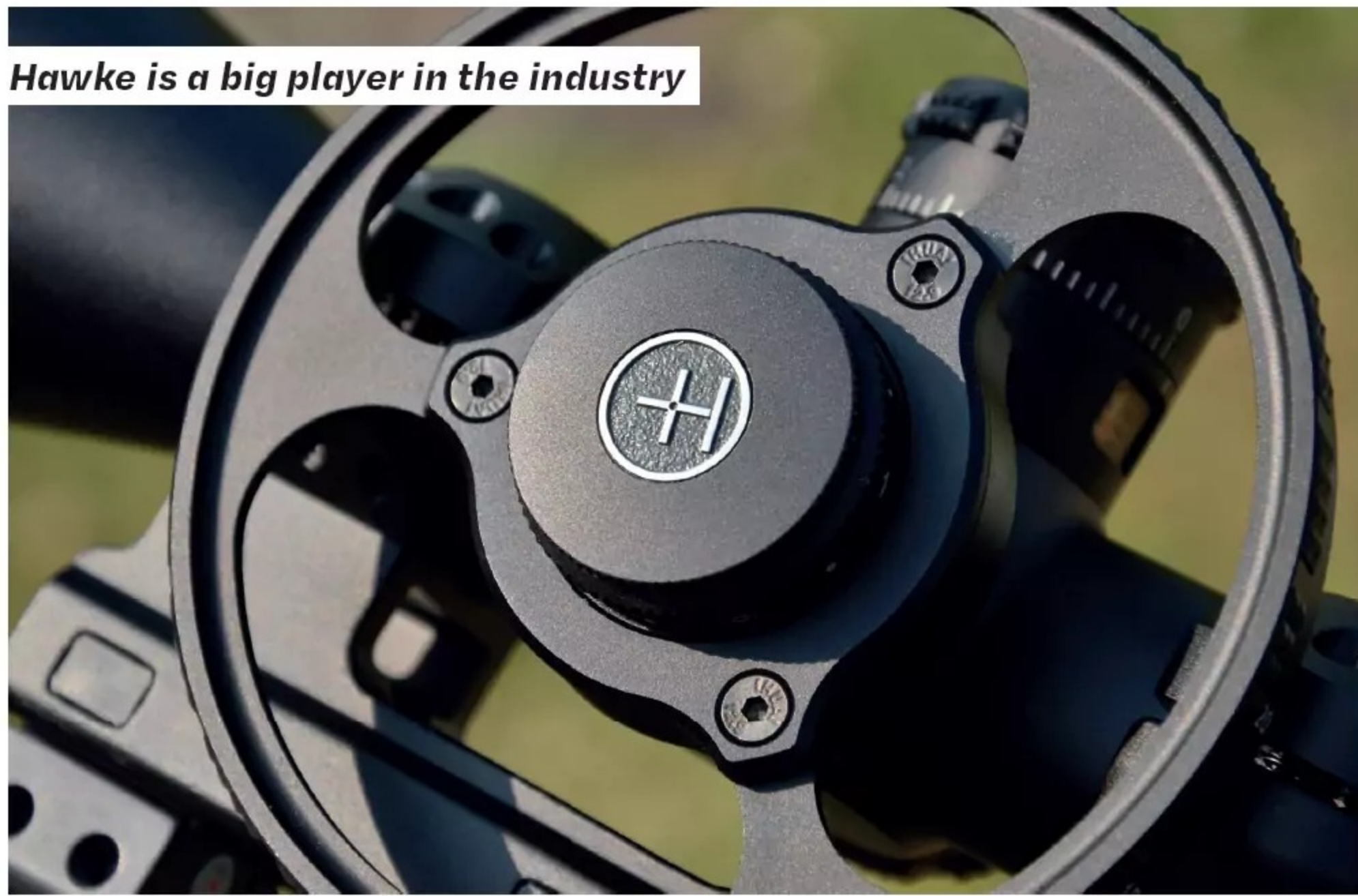
The outer ring of the left turret is the rheostat for the illuminated reticle, which has six marked brightness levels, with off positions in between each. Unscrew the end cap, and the coin battery can be dropped into place. Switch it on, and the central section of the reticle, four Mil marks across, illuminates in red.

The final task is to attach the throw lever if it's deemed necessary, and this is a simple operation. Just remove the blanking screw on the magnification ring, and thread the lever into position. Magnification thereafter is smooth and precise, from 4x right up to 16x, with a perfect level of resistance felt.

Zeroing

The eye relief, at 4", is quite long with this model, and whilst that doesn't sound good in terms of introducing more parallax error,

Hawke is a big player in the industry



With the grub screw removed, the throw lever just screws into place

Note the elasticated lens covers and rubber-coated fast focus bell



The sunshade is a simple screw fit

the reality is that head position is critical in order to achieve a full sight picture. Thus, a consistent head position is encouraged.

The scope comes with push/pull-style turrets, so pull up, adjust to zero, and push down to lock. Clicks feel very positive and are properly audible, which is perfect. With the windage and elevation adjusted and set, both turrets can be set to show a '0' starting point by unscrewing their respective silver caps with a coin or screwdriver, lifting the cap, replacing it at the '0' mark, and re-tightening. On test, all adjustments proved consistent, precise, and repeatable.

As for the sidewheel, the range-finding properties experienced on an FT scope are largely irrelevant here, with the comparatively low magnification. Yet smooth and fast parallax adjustment in a hunting scenario makes it well worth the effort, with the usual caveat that the marked distances (10 yards, 15, 20, 30, 50, 100, 200, 300, 500, and infinity) are a guide only.

Witness window

The latest Sidewinder specification includes a witness window on the main elevation turret, so the user

can instantly see where the turret sits within its adjustment range. If the red block shows halfway up, the adjustment is centred, and this obvious visual indicator avoids basic aiming errors.

I have the benefits of this ingrained in my mind, with the often-recounted story of my old mate, Dave Welham, in the Airmasters days, who was in a shoot-off for the British Open FT title way back in 1984. Dave took his shot with the turret a full turn out. He missed by miles, only to instantly realise his technical error.

This Sidewinder would have spared him his blushes, and us his understandable expletives! But hey, character building, as my good old dad would have said!

Reticle notes

This scope is undoubtedly primarily a hunting tool, with that sizable 50mm objective, but it's well worth noting that, with the mag set to 8x, a 15mm kill zone when viewed at 25 yards can be bracketed perfectly via the Half Mil spec. That's handy if the occasional HFT event is planned, even though that's not what this model was designed for. Wind up to 16x, and crisp detail awaits.

I love the floating 10x Half Mil reticle, and it's classic Hawke, offering refinement and an abundance of aiming/reference points, along with a Christmas tree of windage marks. As usual, the fine stadia can get lost as the light fades, but that's the time to use the illumination.

Verdict

This Sidewinder looks and feels the part. It's slick, well presented, and perfect for hunting. **GM**

TECHNICAL SPECIFICATION

Name: Hawke Sidewinder 30 4-16x50 SF

Reticle: 10x Half Mil, illuminated

Weight: 725g

Eye Relief: 4"

Click Values: 1/10 MRAD

Field of View: 31.8-8.1ft @ 100 yards

Body Tube: 30mm

Minimum Focus: 10 yards

Length: 13.3"

Clicks Per Rotation: 60

Number of Rotations: 5 windage and 4.75 elevation

Price: £489

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GM09.25/43

Field cutlery

Mark Underwood offers advice on all the latest knives and tools

Casström No.10 SFK in Canvas Micarta

➤ **The classic Casström No.10 is undoubtedly one of the best knives you can get, and it is hard to think of a way to improve it.** That said, Casström has made a few changes and tweaked the design, and the result is the new Canvas Micarta version, which has some interesting features.

Blade and performance

Firstly, they have switched to A8 Mod steel, which is cryo-quenched and hardened to 58-59 HRC on the Rockwell scale. This is an incredibly tough steel with very good chip resistance, making it ideal for heavier jobs like splitting wood. The 4" blade is 3mm thick, and the full tang construction makes for an extremely rigid build, with the overall design among the strongest I have seen. The blade is perfectly finished and looks immaculate.

The Scandinavian grind ensures clean and precise cuts on a wide variety of materials, and it is straightforward to sharpen in the field. This is one of the most versatile and efficient outdoor knife grinds, easily sharpened on a basic stone to an excellent edge. Straight out of the box, this is one sharp knife! Even after splitting and shaving a large quantity of wood, the knife remains sharp, and a few strokes across a stone, plus



a bit of stropping, restore it ready to cut meat cleanly.

Interestingly, Casström states that the Scandinavian grind can actually benefit from the addition of a secondary micro-bevel, enhancing its durability, particularly if the knife is going to be used for a lot of heavy tasks like batoning timber or at low temperatures. This is achieved by adding a 20-25 degree angle on each side (40-50 degrees in total), which is easy to do.

Handle and sheath

Moving away from traditional wooden handles, Casström has fitted this knife with a durable Canvas Micarta grip. This material is really strong and resilient in all conditions, and the grip is excellent even when wet or greasy. The

ergonomically contoured shape is comfortable to use, even for prolonged tasks, and the slightly rough texture is not abrasive on your hands. The hardware on the handle is all brass.

The hot-waxed sheath is crafted from 3mm-thick vegetable-tanned European leather and is treated with neatsfoot oil to give it natural moisture resistance. The stitching is of very high quality, and the sheath has a drainage hole to prevent any water from accumulating inside.

Conclusion

This is a tough tool. The thick A8 Mod steel has

good chip resistance and is extremely rigid, and splitting medium-sized pieces of wood is no challenge at all. Ideal for all kinds of outdoor activities, its robustness makes it a real workhorse for serious bushcraft, and its sharpness makes it perfect for smaller, finer tasks too. With an overall length of 9", it is a substantial tool and, even as a die-hard wooden handle fan, the Micarta both looks good and works extremely well as a handle material. This type of knife is an investment and, if correctly looked after, it will last for decades and prove its worth over and over. **GM**

TECHNICAL SPECIFICATION

Name: Casström No.10 SFK in Canvas Micarta

Price: £149.00

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Commencement debate

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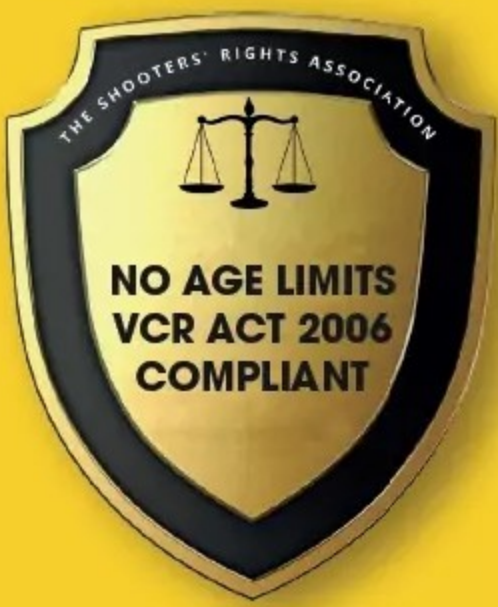
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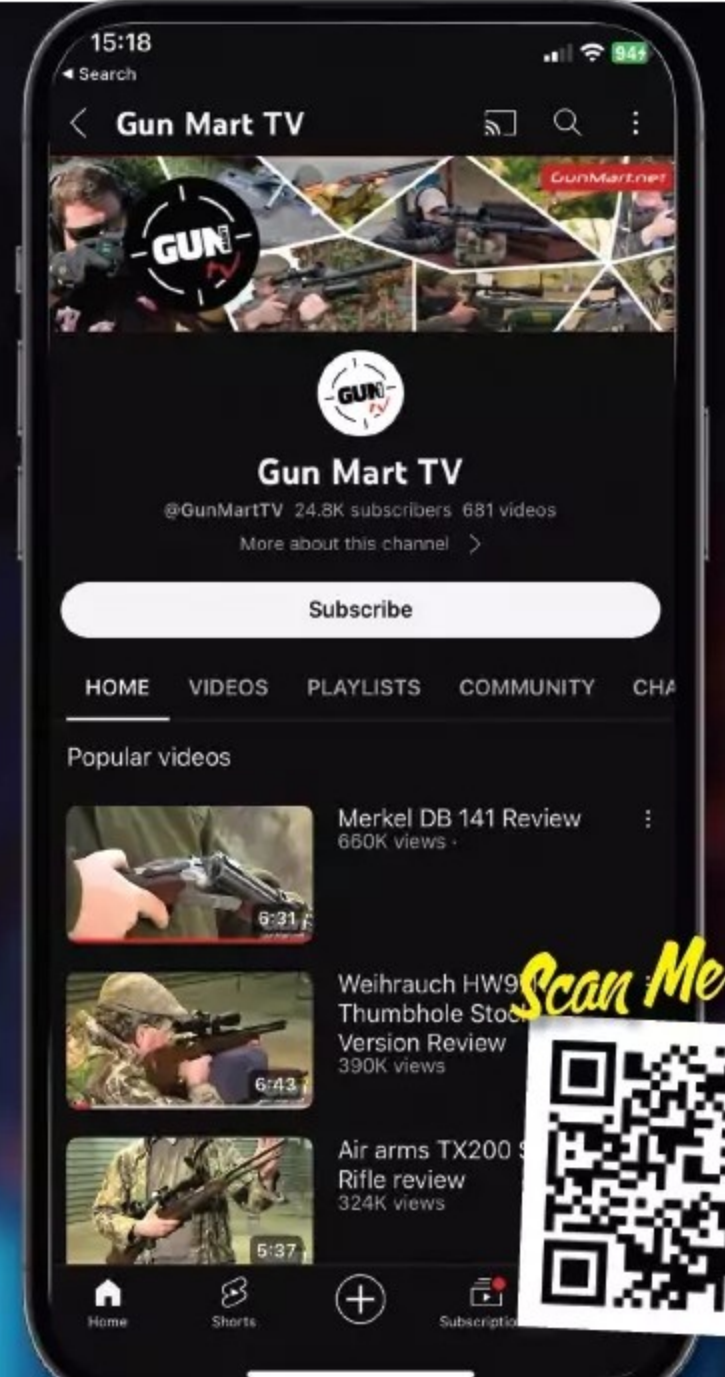


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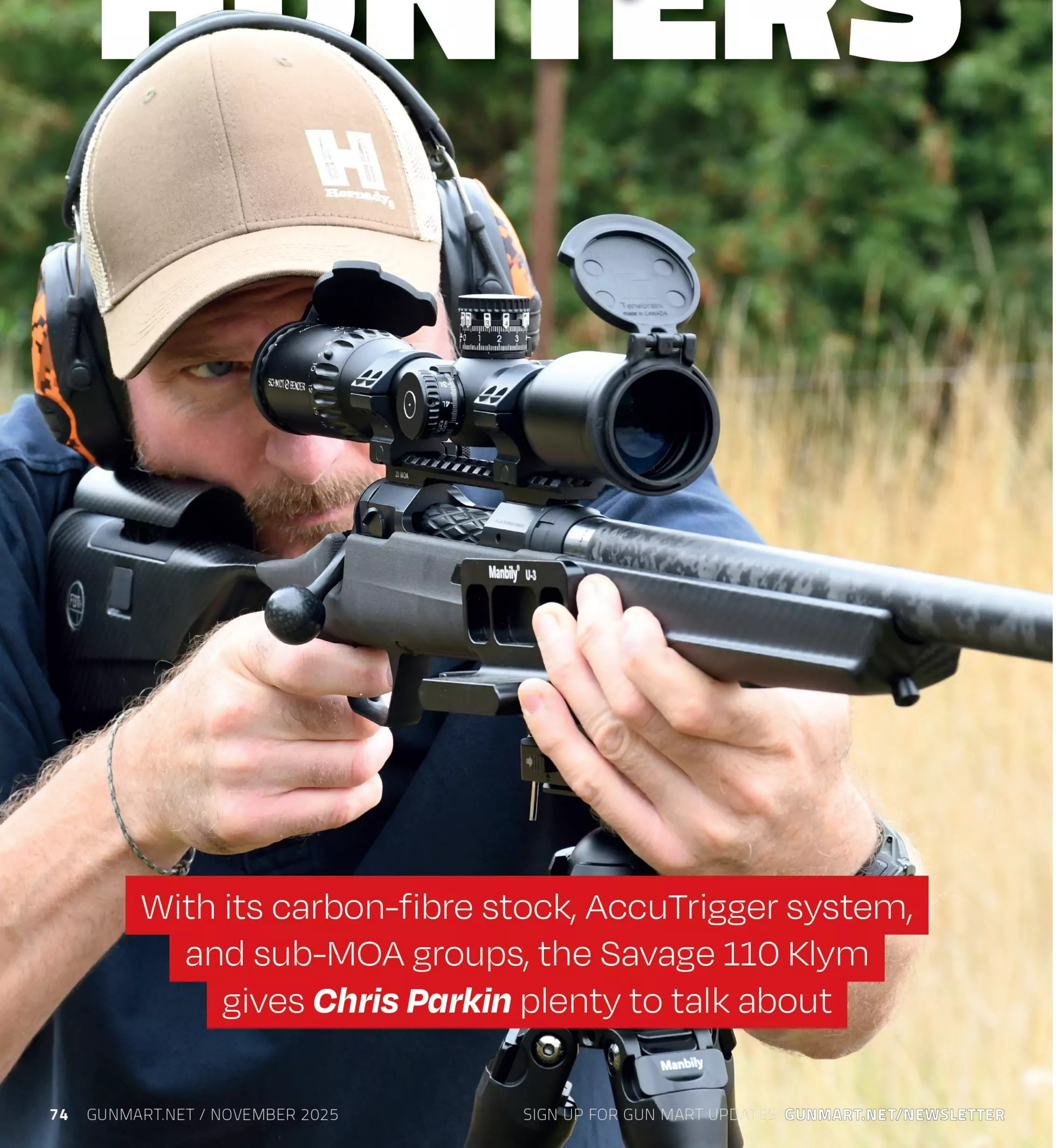
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Built for HUNTERS



With its carbon-fibre stock, AccuTrigger system, and sub-MOA groups, the Savage 110 Klym gives **Chris Parkin** plenty to talk about

➤ **The Savage 110 action is well known throughout the rifle world as a tough and durable performer with a wide range of build options.** The Klym tested here is among the most notable, having been designed to be as light as possible for demanding hunting conditions.

Proof again

Savage has teamed up with Proof Research for the carbon barrel. I have used, and still own, one of these carbon-fibre-wrapped stainless steel units and, quite frankly, would say it is one of the very few carbon-fibre barrels I would trust. This one shows what is called a Light Sendero profile, and it runs a 1:8" twist for 6.5mm bullets. The muzzle is threaded 5/8"x24 and comes fitted with a compact pepperpot Omniport muzzle brake. Small areas of stainless steel are visible at the muzzle and action reinforce, but the finish is otherwise the matte carbon-fibre weave on display.

Not always free

The barrel is free-floating within the stock at rest, but the fore-end shows some flexibility, so be aware

that it can contact the barrel. This 110 action is a stainless-steel unit for long-term durability, Cerakoted in a midnight black colour for double protection against the elements. The left side of the action shows milled relief cuts to remove excess material for weight saving, yet otherwise follows the standard 110 layout, with the barrel screwed into the action and a recoil lug sandwiched under the barrel nut, which controls headspace with tight tolerances.

The bolt shows two floating locking lugs that bind into the action's abutments, a recessed extractor claw to withdraw the case, and twin plunger ejectors to eject it cleanly from the large ejection port on this otherwise open-topped action.

The front and rear action bridges are then spanned with an included 20 MOA Picatinny rail for scope mounting.

Long handle

The bolt handle extends 58mm from the shaft, which shows similar coatings and diamond fluting to reduce weight, ease passage, and prevent action lock-up in inclement conditions. A

23mm carbon-fibre ball tip finishes the handle, so it won't freeze onto your fingertips in cold weather.

A bolt shroud at the rear includes a visible and tactile cocked-action indicator above the three-position tang safety. The safety is quiet in operation, moving forward for fire, middle for safe with bolt operation, and rearward for safe with the bolt fully locked. A bolt removal button on the right side of the action works in conjunction with the trigger.

Happy birthday

Savage is celebrating 20 years of the AccuTrigger design, which features an inner safety blade to minimise the chance of a negligent discharge while still maintaining light, crisp trigger pulls, a feature that was not commonly seen among popular factory-made sporting rifles two decades ago. The unit is adjustable from 680 to 1,820g and, on my review rifle, broke at 720g (25oz).

Savage uses its own detachable magazine, which has a four-round capacity. It features steel feed lips that will spring apart if you force a



The familiar straight 110 bolt handle, which has a removable carbon fibre ball end



A 20 MOA Picatinny scope rail is included. Note the bolt shaft



Detail of the two-lug bolt, the fore-end sling stud, and the built-in MagnaSwitch



The magazine can be top-loaded and gives the rifle a 4+1 capacity



The AccuTrigger is adjustable and sits within a thin polymer trigger guard



The Klym features a three-position safety catch

round in from the top, so you can either top-load it in the rifle or front-load it out of the gun. The release catch is located at the front of the magazine, within the well, and the mag drops neatly into your waiting hand without snags. Similarly, refitting it doesn't jam. You can also load an additional +1 round in the chamber if required, and the rifle will accept single rounds dropped on top of the magazine, feeding straight into the chamber when the bolt is slid home.

Carbon compromise

The Klym's standout appearance is largely due to its thumbhole stock, which combines a polymer centre section with a carbon-fibre fore-end and buttstock. The carbon-fibre fore-end includes a sling stud at the tip and finger grooves along its length for a spacious handhold.

An additional underside mount, known as a MagnaSwitch, appears compatible with suitably designed magnetic-fit bipods and tripods. All carbon-fibre surfaces are finished smooth with exposed weave, while the central injection-moulded

polymer (in a slightly contrasting dark grey) is stippled to aid grip.

More polymer

The trigger guard also appears to be polymer, offering enough space for a gloved finger, although it is quite a thin moulding. Carbon-fibre reappears at the ambidextrous vertical pistol grip, which shows a bilateral palm swell. The thumbhole is generously sized to accommodate a full grip, with the upper and lower beams blending seamlessly towards the recoil pad at the rear. The 140mm-long comb is adjustable vertically by approximately 30mm for scope/eye alignment, actuated via a sprung button on the right side of the butt. The comb itself is a single layer of carbon-fibre, kept thin to save weight on the otherwise quite low butt.

The underside of the butt includes a conventional sling stud just ahead of a small bag rider. The recoil pad at the rear is approximately 18mm thick. It's fastened with two screws, so it can theoretically be

removed to add length-of-pull spacers, should you desire extra reach.

Range time

My experience with Savage actions, with this one advertised as 'blueprinted' to reduce tolerances, and with Proof Research barrels has been reassuring, and that comes from someone who is usually highly critical of carbon barrels. This rifle held sub-MOA three-shot groups with minimal zero shift between different ammunition types and bullet weights. It also proved notably thermally stable, and even after extensive shooting on a warm day, I detected no perceptible zero shift at 100m.

Light carry

The weight of the rifle will immediately appeal to hunters seeking the lightest





possible kit for easy carriage. I was using a modestly sized, high-performance hunting scope, which I considered ideal for precision hunting forays, and I had no trouble achieving the required accuracy. That said, the lightweight stock (732g) doesn't have a totally rigid fore-end, so be cautious with any applied barrel contact. However, the barrel itself is fundamentally rigid, measuring 19mm at the muzzle with a straight taper back to the action, and I experienced no detrimental zero shift. I was shooting from a rest

bag, which I find more forgiving in such scenarios than a bipod.

Under the skin

With the gun removed from the stock, the inlet appears to support the action without applied stresses. There are two Allen-headed action screws which, when tightened, come to a firm stop and don't exhibit compression or bending within the bulk material. The fore-end studs are securely bonded in place, although you can see how thin the stock actually is. There's no

sound-deadening material either, so it can be a bit 'tappy' when handled.

Predictable performance

The AccuTrigger was totally predictable, and recoil was similarly well managed. The brake deadens what little recoil the Creedmoor generates, and with it fitted, the rifle maintains quick pointability and a neutral balance point just ahead of the magazine well. Adding a sound moderator will, of course, make the gun comparatively nose-heavy. Recoil is linear, and the medium-thickness butt pad provides secure shoulder contact and grip without any bounce across a variety of shooting positions. Taking the brake off showed it to be a little more lively but still very controllable for such a light rifle in this modest chambering.

I also shot the Klym from a tripod, with the clamp positioned at the front of the polymer centre section. There was just enough space to disengage and change magazines without encroaching too far onto the carbon-fibre fore-end, and again, no detrimental zero shift was observed.

One final note: as the bolt is a two-lug unit with a 90-degree lift and a straight handle, make sure that you select the correct mounts for your scope in order to ensure you have enough space for bolt manipulation.



The Savage 110 Klym in 6.5 Creedmoor

AMMO TABLE						
AMMUNITION	WEIGHT (GRAINS)	FACTORY VELOCITY (FPS)	FACTORY ENERGY (FT/LBS)	ACHIEVED VELOCITY (FPS)	ACHIEVED ENERGY (FT/LBS)	100M GROUP SIZE (INCHES)
HORNADY ELD-X	143	2710	2332	2838	2558	0.7
HORNADY ELD-M	140	2700	2266	2602	2105	0.5
HORNADY CX	120	2925	2280	2843	2154	0.6



There was no difficulty in achieving sub-MOA accuracy with any of the Hornady ammunition tested

With a scaled action showing 99mm of bolt stroke, reloads were smooth, whether from the magazine or off the top of the follower, once you became accustomed to the carbon-fibre bolt knob, which is replaceable if desired.

Conclusion

This is a lightweight and accurate rifle from Savage. The points I have raised are just my opinions and, in fairness, none of them stopped me from putting a bullet where it needed to go. Some may prefer more grip texture on the stock surface for harsher weather conditions, but the rifle's functional

Detail of the adjustable cheekpiece and its right-hand side adjuster



TECHNICAL SPECIFICATION

Name: Savage 110 Klym

Calibre: 6.5 CM on test, .308, 6.5 PRC, 7 PRC, .300 WM, and .300 WSM also available

Barrel Length: 560mm/22"

Overall Length: 1130mm/44.5"

Weight: 2810g/6.2lbs

Length of Pull: 350mm/13.75"

Magazine Capacity: 4+1

Price: £3,300

Contact: Viking Arms - www.vikingarms.com

performance is proven. The use of stainless steel and Cerakote on the action and bolt provides added corrosion resistance over the rifle's lifespan, and I particularly like the diamond fluting on the bolt shaft, which runs smoothly within the action and adds standout aesthetics. **GM**



The action is relieved on the left side to save a few grams



The AccuTrigger in more detail



Detail of the action inlet



Here you can see the barrel nut and recoil lug



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SMART SCOPE

The new Pixfra Volans V850 LRF digital riflescope combines day and night versatility, advanced controls, and accessible pricing, as tested by **Jules Whicker**



➤ **A good digital riflescope is becoming a must-have for any serious hunter.**

In the crucial twilight hours at dawn and dusk, digital scopes give a clearer image than the most expensive conventional optics, and when complemented by a quality IR illuminator, they produce impressive results, imaging quarry crisply well beyond normal hunting ranges, outdoing old-school tubed NV, and providing more conclusive identification than their thermal counterparts. The latest generation are impressive performers by day as well, offering sharp imaging, nuanced colours, and ample magnification.

Naturally, their versatility has a digital dimension too, giving you a wide range of reticle designs and colours to choose from, as well as multiple monochrome options for night work: from basic black-and-white to green, sepia, and violet.

Better still, models with integrated rangefinders can be programmed with ballistic profiles configured to the performance of your rifle and load. This facility enables them to deliver precise drop compensation at the touch of a button, allowing you to make consistently effective kills with such popular, if loopy options as subsonic .22LR and sub-12ft/lb .22 air at previously unreachable distances.

The programmability of digital riflescopes also means that you can set them up under conditions

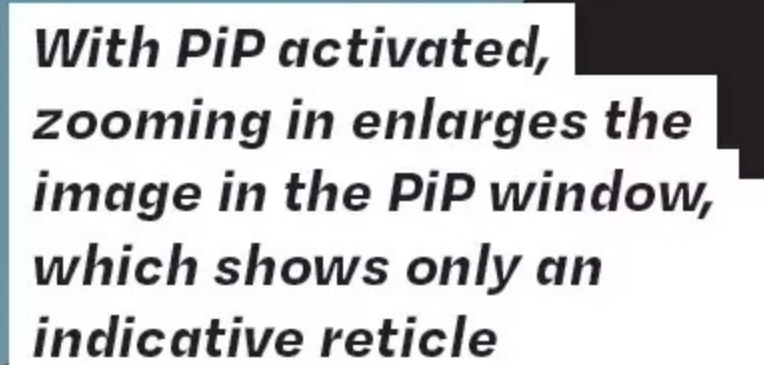
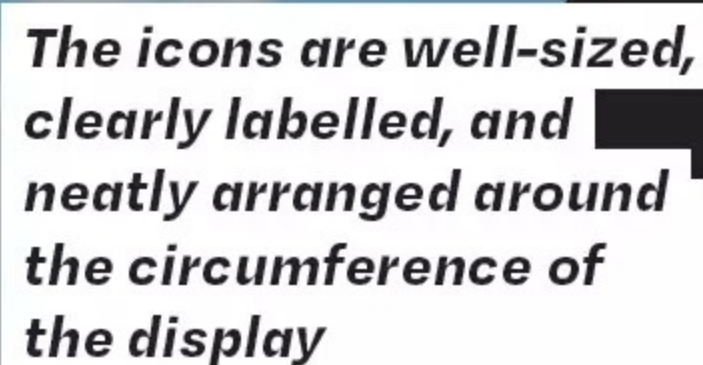
of your choosing, using a convenient smartphone interface, so that everything is just as you want it before you start to hunt, thereby simplifying field use compared with a feature-laden analogue scope.

Extra benefits

We can add two further benefits to this list. The first is the ability to record images, especially video. As well as letting you record successful shots, video can be a practical asset for recovering shot game, as it can capture key details that a hunter might miss in the heat of the moment, such as how an animal reacts to the strike, which way it runs, or where it falls, even augmenting the information in the picture with range and compass direction data from the on-screen display.

The second is cost. To begin with, 4K digital scopes do not require the complex assemblage of precision-machined components and carefully ground, multi-coated lenses that a variable-power analogue riflescope demands. Consequently, digital scopes are priced in the high hundreds, while comparable functionality in an analogue day scope increasingly means paying several thousand. Moreover, because electronics are central to their design, digital scopes readily integrate the functions of low-light sensing, laser



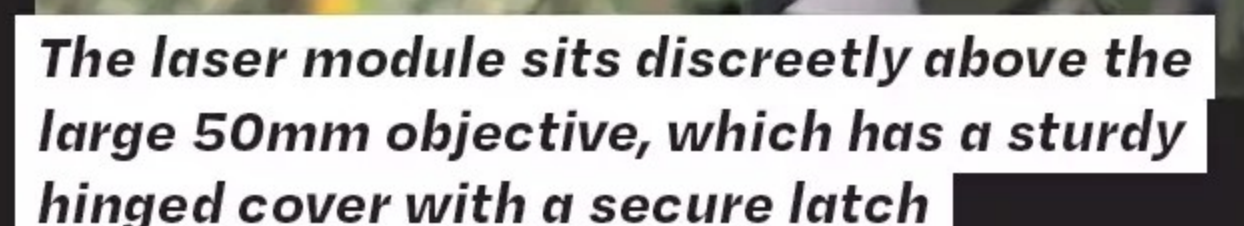
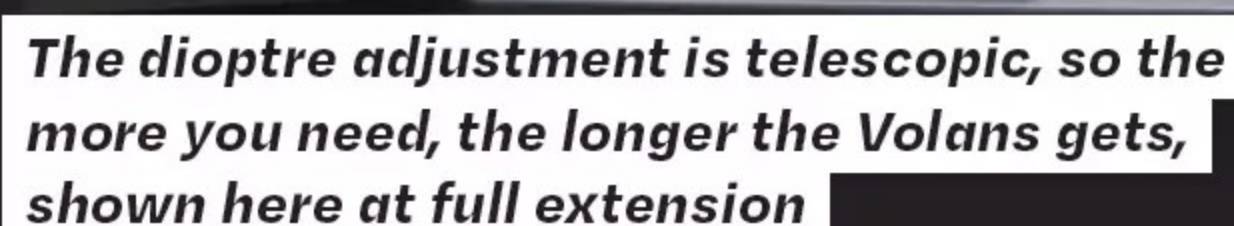
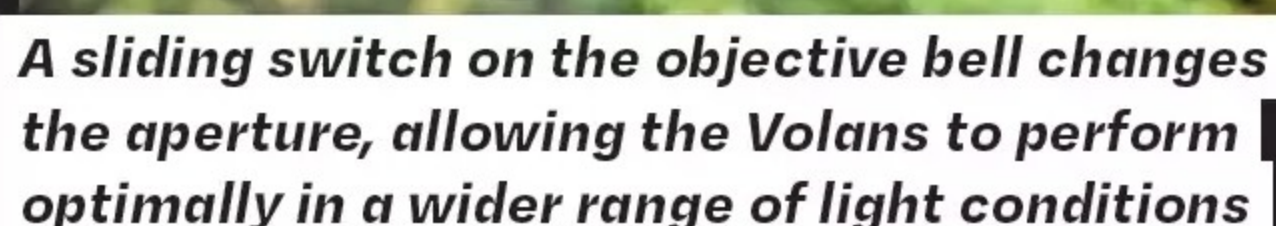


As hunters come to recognise the power, versatility, and value of digital scopes, for daytime as well as night-time use, the market is expanding, and with it, the choices available. In the UK, Pard was arguably the pioneer, HikMicro became the benchmark, and now Pixfra is claiming its slice of the action with the new Volans.

The Volans makes a very positive first impression, with a tough anodised metal body, a neatly profiled rangefinder housing, and signature accents of lime and carbon-fibre. It has "presence", too, measuring 434.3 x 86.8 x 86.9mm and weighing 1,040g, which is still a smidgen less than its competitors.

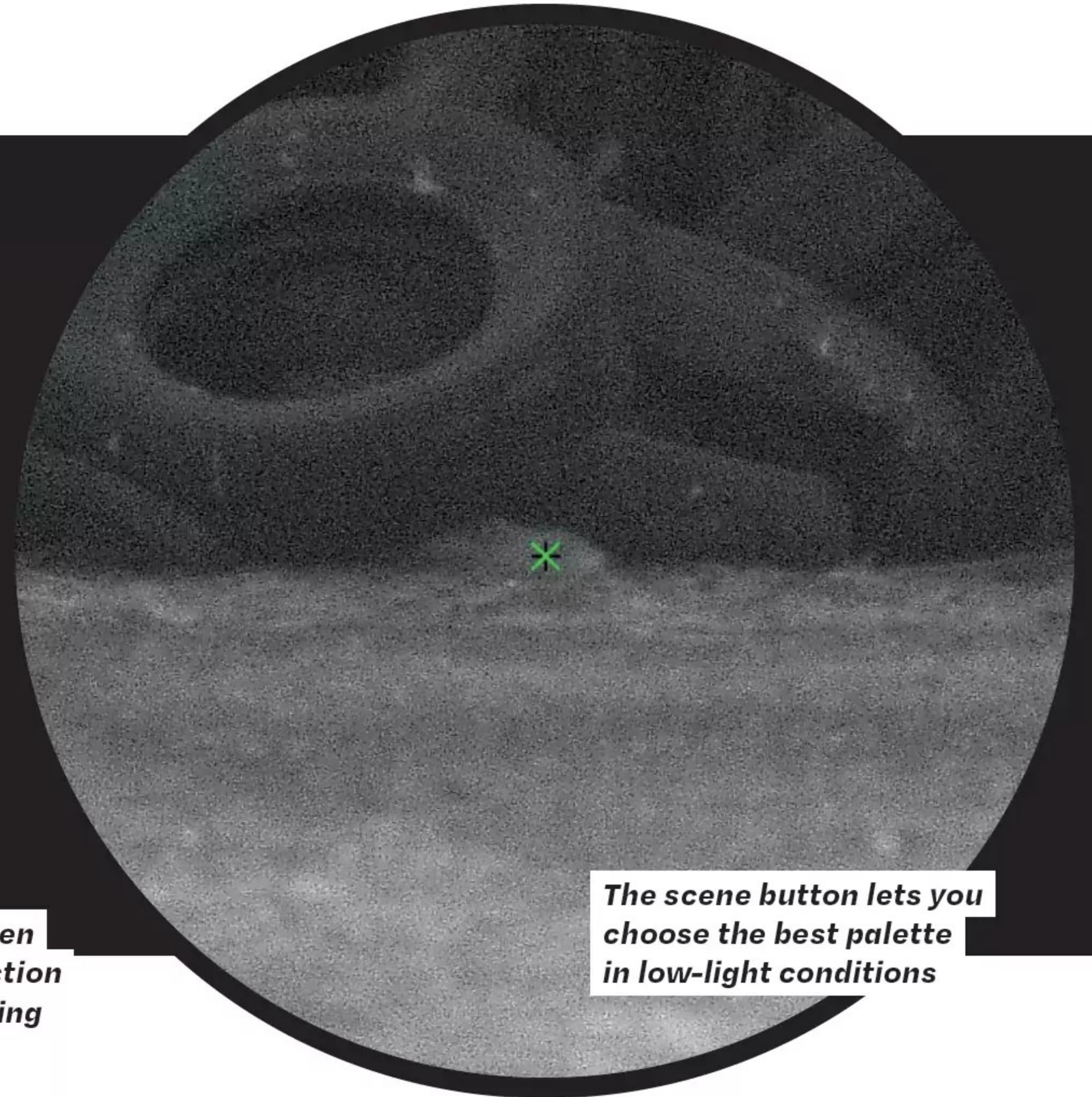
The controls are intuitive and well distributed around the scope. Analogue controls include the usual rings around the objective and ocular bells for focusing the target image, and the display, respectively, both of which were smooth and

A third control is special to the Volans. It consists of a slide on the left-hand side of the objective bell that switches the aperture between f1.2 and f3.0. This has four major benefits: two by day, and two by night. By day, switching to the smaller aperture reduces the amount of light entering the scope, effectively providing a second set of exposure settings calibrated for intense light; meanwhile, switching to the larger aperture reduces the depth of field, allowing you to focus precisely on your target. By night, selecting the larger aperture lets in more light, optimising the performance of the scope's low-light sensor, while in twilight, it lets the scope keep delivering a





Having ranged this rat, the Volans has positioned the green secondary aiming point a fraction above the black reticle, ensuring a precise strike



The scene button lets you choose the best palette in low-light conditions

usable colour image well beyond the limits of conventional optics, let alone the human eye.

The switch can also be used to supplement Pixfra's "Smart IR" function, which combats the "white-out" effect caused when an IR illuminator over-illuminates nearby objects by automatically adjusting the Volans' exposure levels. It functions so well under IR that you'll barely notice its interventions, so to appreciate its responsiveness, simply activate it by day, and observe how "twitchy" the exposure becomes!

Our next set of controls is on the ocular bell and covers all the things you want to access quickly in the field. Three rubberised buttons enable rangefinding/PIP, still/video capture, and scene mode (colour for daylight use, and black-and-white, green, or sepia for use in low light and under IR). They are easy to locate, differentiate, and remember. On the left-hand side is a smart, branded power button with optional illumination, incorporating a power-saving standby function. On the right-hand side is a USB-C port, protected by a rubber cover, that permits data transfer and the use of an external power bank.

Mounting and power

Between the objective and ocular bells, the Volans has a 30mm main tube for compatibility with all mounting systems, and I found there was enough space on either side of the saddle to get it comfortably set up with a simple, yet chunky, set of tactical rings, while still leaving room to mount an aftermarket IR illuminator. As usual with digital and thermal scopes with this form factor, the saddle itself houses a removable, rechargeable 3,200mAh battery in a transverse compartment. The cap, however, is unusually good, locking securely yet opening easily. Also unusual is the absence of an internal battery, which is a smart move since fixed batteries add weight and cost, while compromising the unit's longevity. Each 18650 provides around five hours of run time, and with two supplied, you're well covered.

Zoom and zero

On top of the saddle is a familiar turn-and-click knob. Just turn it to zoom in or out. Base magnification is 4.3x, but it feels higher, perhaps due to a tight-ish field of view of 8.6m @ 100m. I'm



Three buttons on the ocular bell handle image capture, ranging, and scene (palette) selection



The saddle houses the rechargeable, removable 18650 battery and supports an intuitive, multifunction, turn-and-click controller



The USB-C port lets you hook up a power bank and transfer data. Wi-Fi is also available



A side-by-side comparison shows how the Volans measures up to its principal rival

very “less-is-more” about magnification, but for those who love it, the Volans will take you digitally all the way to 39x, while applying sophisticated AI to smooth out the pixelation as you go.

Clicking, meanwhile, will put you into the menus, where you can tweak settings to your heart's content. The essentials here are zeroing and ballistic programming. The former uses the super-simple shoot-freeze-adjust-save-confirm process. It's easy to do on the scope, and even easier when you adjust the point of impact using the interface on Pixfra's smartphone app. The app is also ideal for entering the data to create a ballistic profile. The Volans has room for five, dedicated to different loads and rifles. Unfortunately, these are only alphanumeric, with no naming option, but Pixfra is responsive to feedback, so future firmware should fix this. I should note here that Pixfra keeps raising the bar with the clarity of its icons, menus, and on-screen displays.

With a profile set up and selected, ranging the target will initiate a trajectory calculation and generate a secondary aiming point. As well as allowing precise shots at longer ranges, it's a huge asset when taking shots at steep angles or at very close range, which is a frequent and tricky challenge when tackling squirrels, ferals, and rats with an air rifle. The system proved very effective, but I would have liked a choice of aiming point designs. For example,

a horizontal bar would make windage adjustments easier. Another niggle was that the recoil-activated auto-record function didn't work reliably on airguns or rimfires. It would be nice to be able to tweak it for sensitivity or to have an audio-based alternative.

Pixels and price

Regarding visual performance, the Volans performed very well, but I found its specification puzzling. The sensor is a big 3840x2160 (4K) item, yet the display is just an 800x800 LCD. This delays the rate at which the image loses detail as you zoom in, but it also means you never get a full 4K experience. Indeed, even video files are compressed to 1080x1080. The circular display looks good and remains flat and even right to the edges, but its shape crops the extra horizontal field of view (FOV) that a rectangular display would deliver, along with the useful information it would add.

Overall, the Volans deserves serious consideration. It is well made, easy to use, and delivers smart, versatile, detailed imaging at an appealing price (£789.95). There are some shortcomings, but most can be fixed through firmware, and the remainder are somewhat subjective. An impressive debut.

Contact: Thomas Jacks - www.pixfraoutdoor.co.uk



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Precision MEETS VALUE

In this review, **Chris Parkin** examines the Keck Optics Precision 34, 5-30x56 FFP IR riflescope, assessing its build, optical clarity, and suitability for airgun and rimfire shooting

➤ **This Keck Precision 34, 5-30x56 FFP IR riflescope was sent to me by Sure Shot Airguns, and it clearly demonstrates a product that aims to deliver a wealth of magnification while maintaining an economical price point.**

Rings included

The Keck features a 34mm main tube and a 56mm objective lens. It comes supplied with Picatinny-compatible extra-high scope rings, which streamline the mounting process and are especially useful

for full-length Picatinny rails that are becoming increasingly common on modern air rifles, the primary intended market for this optic.

A 76mm sunshade is included, along with front and rear flip-up lens covers. The large 56mm objective is designed to maximise light entry and is well matched to the 5-30x magnification range, made possible by a 6x erector system. Elevation and windage are adjusted via large, 38mm-diameter, heavily knurled external turrets. Click values are 0.1 MRAD (10mm at 100m), with 10 MRAD (100 clicks) per full rotation. The clicks are tactile and audible, with smooth movement and minimal overrun.

Zero stop function

The elevation turret is non-locking but features a straightforward zero-stop setup for initial zeroing. Windage adjustment is controlled via a matching turret on the right side of the saddle, incorporating a "lift-to-unlock and turn" design. Graduations are clearly marked both left and right of centre. Both turrets feature a coin-slot dial cap for floating the dial when zeroing. The elevation turret's zero stop is set via a small Allen key and three grub screws that lock it in position.

Airgun focus

Parallax adjustment is on the left side of the saddle, in the form of a similarly knurled collar, adjustable from 10 yards to infinity. This is where the scope stands out for airgun use, as its close-focus and parallax adjustment capabilities make it suitable for high magnification at extremely short distances. That's not to say it cannot be used on rimfire or centrefire rifles,

A polymer tool is supplied, just in case you don't have a penny





but over half of the parallax collar's rotation is dedicated to 10 to 50 yards. By contrast, from 100 yards to infinity, parallax adjustment requires less than 1/8 of a turn. This design choice clearly prioritises precision focus at short distances, aligning with its airgun-centric intent.

Red centre

Illumination control is located at the outer edge of the parallax collar and offers six levels of reticle brightness. Only the very centre of the reticle illuminates red, with intermediate settings acting as off positions.

There is no auto shut-off, so be mindful not to leave it on. Power comes from a standard CR2032 battery housed under a capped dial, accessible with a coin or the plastic tool that comes with the scope.

FFP

Keck uses what they call the G2A reticle, positioned in the first focal plane (FFP). It's a clean and practical design, featuring an open "Christmas tree" layout in the centre, with broader lateral holdover arms. Being FFP, the reticle size increases with magnification, so the MRAD hash

marks always match the turret values, ensuring precise dialling or hold-offs for windage and elevation.

The magnification is controlled by a rotating collar on the ocular housing, ranging from 5x to 30x. It features solid end stops and rotates smoothly throughout its range. No perceptible internal mechanical noise or movement was noted, indicating a good standard of build quality. A throw lever is supplied, although the collar's generous knurling provides excellent grip with either bare or gloved hands.

Keck advertises an HD optical system using high-quality glass

Keck supplies flip-up lens caps and a throw lever



The parallax goes from 10 yards to infinity, but the spacings are a little imprecise at greater distances





A CR2032 battery is supplied

and fully multi-coated lenses. This translates to excellent image clarity, accurate colour rendition, and over 90% light transmission. As expected, the body is made from aircraft-grade aluminium and is waterproof, fog-proof, and shockproof. I didn't experience any issues in this regard, although I tested it during dry summer conditions, where heat shimmer/mirage presented its own challenges. At close range, parallax could be precisely neutralised, and the focus worked perfectly in tandem. The rear of the ocular housing includes fast-focus dioptre adjustment, allowing the reticle to be crisply resolved. Under field conditions, I found the image quality surprisingly relaxing

on the eyes, something not always guaranteed at this price point.

Feeling relieved

The eye relief is 95 to 96mm, which is refreshing. When manufacturers push eye relief past 100mm, you often get a very tight eye box and reduced forgiveness. Premium optics tend to hover around the 90mm mark for a reason. The Keck strikes a sensible middle ground here, offering a noticeably more forgiving shooting experience than "magnum-capable optics", especially when shooting from less-than-ideal positions.

Total elevation travel is 26 MRAD, with 17.4 MRAD available for windage. The scope tracked reliably when dialled back and forth within a 15



The zero-stop set-up involves three grub screws

MRAD window during a variety of target scenarios. The reticle is not overly busy, and aiming was precise. The illumination was sharp and free of light bleed. Overall, the scope met or exceeded all of its advertised claims.

Final thoughts

The Keck Precision 34, 5-30x56 FFP IR rifle scope is a feature-rich optic that offers excellent performance for airgunners and rimfire enthusiasts alike. With thoughtful design choices such as close-range parallax precision, an FFP reticle, and tactile turrets, all wrapped in a rugged, clear optic, it offers strong value in a competitive market segment. **GM**

TECHNICAL SPECIFICATION

Name: Keck Optics Precision 34, 5-30x56 FFP IR rifle scope

Reticle: G2A

Weight: 947g / 33.3oz

Eye Relief: 3.78"-3.74" / 96-95mm

Click Values: 0.1 MRAD (10 MRAD per revolution)

Field of View: 23.1-3.5ft @100yds / 4.4°-0.73°

Body Tube: 34mm

Minimum Focus: 10 yards / 9m to ∞

Length: 15.3" / 388mm

Clicks Per Rotation: 100

Elevation Adjustment Range: 26 MRAD (90 MOA)

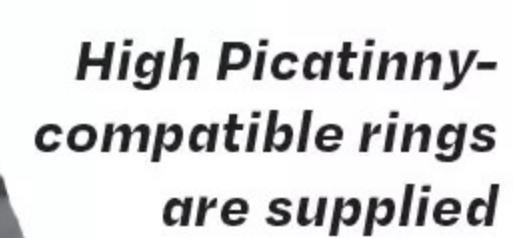
Windage Adjustment Range: 17.4 MRAD (60 MOA)

Price: £369

Contact: Sure Shot Airguns - www.sureshot-airguns.co.uk

Detail of the flip-up objective lens cover and 76mm sunshade





The throw lever is removable



The 38mm turrets are easily gripped and offer consistent, tactile, audible clicks

The windage turret is marked left and right of centre



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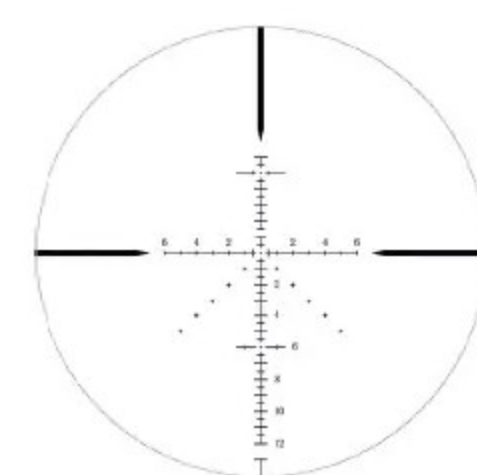
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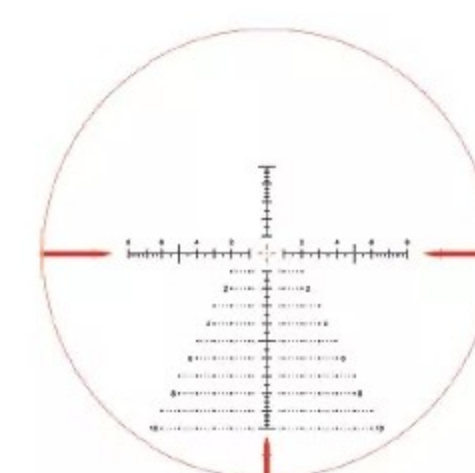
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Impressive SHOWING

With impressive build quality and thoughtful ergonomics, **Chris Parkin** finds that Franchi's Horizon Elite Varmint Subalpine is far more than a budget option

➤ **As a rifle manufacturer, Franchi has never really emerged from the shadows.** I often wondered whether it was considered unsuitable for the UK market or regarded as the unloved member of the Beretta family. I'd been asking for one to review for several years, and now, with Sportsman Gun Centre taking over distribution of the brand, I finally have a Horizon Varmint Subalpine in hand to review.

Got the looks

The Horizon immediately catches your eye with its Optifade digital camouflage, which contrasts elegantly against the Midnight Bronze Cerakoted barrel and action. The barrel is 22.5mm in diameter and comes fitted with a pepperpot brake concealing the 14x1 thread at the muzzle. The crown is neatly finished, and the barrel features a gradual taper to a

reinforced section over its full 24" (610mm) length. It also sports five spiral flutes, each 300mm long, which help to reduce weight and shift the balance point rearward, which is ideal for UK shooters who will almost certainly fit a sound moderator.

Future proof

Across the Horizon range, Franchi has specified twist rates that are a little faster than the norm. Here, in .223 Remington, the 1:9" twist will stabilise lead/copper bullets up to around 69gr, as well as some of the lighter, but longer, solid copper offerings we're seeing more frequently. The barrel is fully free-floating, all the way back to the action in the Ergonom-X platform, Franchi's synthetic stock system.



Detail of the finger grooves and stippling on the fore-end

Style and substance

The action and upper Picatinny rail share the same Cerakote finish. Scope mounting is refreshingly straightforward, with ample space for correct eye relief and the installation of larger optics. A large, upper right-side ejection port reveals the spiral-fluted, nickel-plated bolt, which runs very smoothly once run in. It has three lugs providing a 60-degree lift, a recessed extractor claw, and a sprung plunger ejector. The action is properly scaled for the .223 cartridge, with 90mm of bolt travel. The bolt handle is 55mm long with an 18mm conical knob, also finished in matching Cerakote.

There's a bolt release lever on the left-hand side of the receiver, and the right side houses the two-position safety, which moves

rearward for safe and forward for fire. It can be operated silently and doesn't lock the bolt handle.

Two mags

Franchi supplies a detachable four-round and eight-round polymer magazine, built on a single-column design that feeds smoothly into the chamber. Each one fits snugly into the rifle's bottom metal with a secure press-fit. The trigger guard includes the release lever, and you can load a +1 round directly into the chamber.

The trigger is a single-stage unit, adjustable from 800 to 1,900g. The blade is narrow with a gentle curve, ideal for a sporting rifle. It offers consistent performance, and there is enough space for a gloved finger. On my review rifle, it measured 950g (33oz).

Both primary extraction and ejection were reliable, with the former available from just fingertip effort with all the ammo I used in the gun. Once run in, bolt closure was smooth, requiring little forward pressure and avoiding the tendency of less refined rifles to unseat themselves from the shoulder.

Design and passion

Franchi's striking stock isn't just for show; it has been very well designed. The fore-end is a wide beavertail shape, perfect for varmint shooting from a rest bag, and includes a rubber plug underneath that can be removed to fit the supplied sling stud for bipod mounting. Both the fore-end and butt have QD sling anchor points, and the broad fore-end and finger grooves give a secure hold, complemented by textured inlays underneath, at the action, on the grip (in contrasting black), and



Four and eight-round magazines are supplied

A pepper-pot muzzle brake is supplied

AMMO TABLE

AMMUNITION	WEIGHT (GRAINS)	FACTORY VELOCITY (FPS)	FACTORY ENERGY (FT/LBS)	ACHIEVED VELOCITY (FPS)	ACHIEVED ENERGY (FT/LBS)	100M GROUP SIZE (INCHES)
HORNADY V-MAX	55	3240	1282	3101	1175	0.4
HORNADY CX	50	3300	1209	3140	1095	1.2
HORNADY FRONTIER	68	2960	1323	2955	1319	0.7



Pinging different ammo at 300m was addictive, with previous bullet marks becoming aimpoints for four-round groups

I WOULD LOVE TO HAVE SHOT MORE AMMUNITION THROUGH THE RIFLE, AS IT WAS A PLEASURE TO USE, AND .223 IS BY FAR AND AWAY ONE OF THE ALL-TIME GREAT CARTRIDGES."

CHRIS PARKIN

beneath the butt. There's also a nicely chequered area just behind the bolt shroud, right where your thumb naturally rests when shooting. The fore-end is incompressible and rigid, and it does not compromise zero when clamped in a tripod.

The grip is quite vertical, with a tight radius, very comfortable, and proportionate to the rest of the rifle's ergonomics. This is where Franchi has impressed me most: it supplies a medium-height black comb as standard, with lower and higher versions also available. The shape and alignment are excellent, giving one of the best linear cheek positions I've experienced. The elevated comb has been thoughtfully designed around the short bolt travel and extraction path, proving that this rifle is a cohesive, purpose-built platform, not a patchwork of modular parts.

The length of pull is 355mm (14"), with a medium-soft recoil pad that has inlaid chequering for grip. The .223 generates very little recoil,

but the butt remains perfectly planted in the shoulder, with correct drop to heel and toe, giving a truly comfortable shooting position with linear recoil transit for what impulse there is. Balance is a touch nose-heavy with a moderator fitted, so it comes down to personal preference.

More subtle details

One of the more subtle yet meaningful touches is a small groove on the underside of the butt. It sits in the web of your supporting hand, perfect for precision shooting off the rear bag or your off-hand.

The dipped camouflage finish isn't inherently grippy, but these small ergonomic features more than make up for it. Franchi's attention to detail reflects the mindset of a true rifleman.

Range time

I would love to have shot more ammunition through the rifle, as it was a pleasure to use, and .223 is by far



Detail of the bolt handle and the safety catch



Hornady's 55gr V-Max works well in this rifle

A medium comb raiser is supplied, but others are available, and it turned out to be one of the best I have used on a non-adjustable factory rifle



Here you can see the left-hand side bolt release catch and the three-lug bolt



The safety can be operated silently. Note the fluted bolt shaft

and away one of the all-time great cartridges. Recoil with a moderator is just a minor impulse. I used a 6-24x scope for a little more aiming precision on a varmint-oriented rifle and found the gun shot straight away, although the initial check clean did show it needed one from the factory. Shooting at 100m, with light tailwinds, the groups told their own story, with the Hornady 55gr V-Max producing the best three-shot cluster. There was, as expected, a point of impact difference between different ammunition types, but I ran the consistent 55s out to 300m for some steel plate fun. This rifle is perfectly suited to varminting, although it is somewhat different from a foxing rifle. It offers multi-shot precision handling, whereas a lighter-barrelled rifle might suit the walking foxer better. Many shooters favour a heavy barrel when they are new to the sport, but as time goes on, most of us tend to prefer the portability offered by lighter rifles. The choice is yours, and I'll be trying a lighter-barrelled Franchi soon.

It's always fascinating to watch a lesser-known manufacturer step onto the main stage. Can the product live up to the promises and marketing? In this case, I believe Franchi has done just that. The Horizon is a very competent, thoughtfully designed, and practically appealing rifle. It has individual character and includes a number of clever, user-centric design tweaks.

This rifle shoots well, handles nicely as a varmint platform, and is well worth a closer look. The bolt bedded itself in quickly and runs fast, with a well-proportioned handle that avoids the bulkiness found in many other rifles. The scaled action makes for economical movement and quicker reloads. It also enables a taller cheekpiece for improved scope alignment, leading to better precision, consistent accuracy, and greater user comfort.

The fore-end is absolutely rigid. When disassembled, the rifle shows precise internal fit and finish, with a stress-free bedding inlet design



The trigger pull weight is adjustable from 800g to 1,900g



The precision varmint ergonomics ensure the trigger position is superb

The Franchi Horizon Elite Varmint Subalpine in .223 Rem



that is a critical element for long-term accuracy. Even with the twin action screws removed, the action needed a deliberate lift to draw it out, almost vacuum-like, from the precision-moulded inlet. When returned, it was noted that the action screws torqued down firmly and stopped; they do not squeeze into place, which is another indicator of precision at this junction. There was no movement of the barrel with just the front screw loosened, either. These are all factors that not only prove this gun is capable, but they highlight the standards to which Franchi is committed, which impresses me.

Pleasantly surprised

I'll be honest, I wasn't expecting much from Franchi, but I came away genuinely impressed. It was fun to shoot, produced immediate precision, and handled barrel heat without issue or loss of zero. The MOA guarantee was met immediately without running in or any undue effort, and I'd love to try more ammunition through it, as the barrel and overall build clearly have potential.

Lastly, a 7-year warranty is a strong vote of confidence. This may be a focused .223 varmint, but all signs suggest that Franchi deserves to be on the shortlist for any hunting rifle consideration. I'll certainly be looking to try one of their stalking rifles next. **GM**

TECHNICAL SPECIFICATION

Name: Franchi Horizon Elite Varmint Subalpine

Calibre: .223 Rem on test, .22-250, .224 Valkyrie, and .308 Win also available

Barrel Length: 610mm/24"

Overall Length: 1125mm/44.25" without muzzle brake

Weight: 4150g

Length of Pull: 355mm/14"

Magazine Capacity: 4+1 (8+1 also supplied)

Price: £978

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RELOADING BASICS

Mark Underwood considers how to read powder scales and measures accurately to get the best consistency from your ammunition

➤ **Reloading your own ammunition provides a useful blend of cost-effectiveness and customisation, but a crucial aspect of safe and accurate reloading is the ability to read and interpret powder measures with precision.** Even small inconsistencies in how a measurement is read can cause significant variations in muzzle velocity and trajectory, which in turn affect accuracy and the point of impact.

Critical role

A good-quality and reliable powder measure, whether volumetric, weight-based, or electronic, is an essential tool in the reloading process. It ensures consistent and accurate dispensing of powder, which directly influences the ammunition's performance. Depending on the type of measure, you need to read the display, scale, or setting the same way each and every time to ensure the charges dispensed are consistent and accurate.

Inaccurate powder charges can cause dangerously high chamber pressures if too much powder is used, or underpowered rounds if too little is used, in which case the bullet may lack the energy to exit the barrel and instead become lodged in the rifling. Both can be dangerous. Overpressure can damage the firearm and potentially injure the shooter, and underpowered rounds that leave a bullet stuck in the barrel are very dangerous if they go unnoticed and another round is fired into the blocked barrel.

Consistent powder charges are essential to maintain uniform muzzle

velocities, which in turn are required for tight groupings and reliable accuracy, especially at longer ranges.

Reading powder measures

Volumetric powder measures are generally set up once to discharge the required powder charge when they are cycled, and they do not require reading each time powder is discharged. The critical thing with this type of measure is to ensure it is set up correctly at the start and that it does not slip out of adjustment. A weighing scale is usually used to check the amount of powder being discharged by this type of powder measure, and you should check several charges to ensure that the correct amount is being discharged and that it is consistent. Weighing up to

20 charges may be necessary to ensure that the correct amount of powder is discharged each and every time.

Some powder measures that dispense by volume have adjustable cavities that hold the powder charge, and it is very important to ensure that, once set, they are locked in position so they cannot creep out of adjustment. Putting marks on the adjuster and the body of the powder measure can help ensure that any slippage can be seen and corrected.

Weight-based powder measures generally give greater accuracy by dispensing powder by weight rather than volume, and they are read each time a powder charge is dispensed. They are less affected by factors like powder density and inconsistencies. This type



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of measure requires you to read the weight, either on a digital display or via the markings on a beam-type scale. Reading these scales correctly is vital for producing consistent ammunition.

It might seem very simple to read a weight on a digital display, but there is actually a lot more to it. This type of scale generally displays weights to one-tenth of a grain accuracy on the screen. It can take the scale a few seconds to settle and show the correct weight. When the weight on the screen fluctuates between two readings, for example, 11.9gr and 12.0gr, it is showing that the weight is close to the border between the two weights and its inbuilt degree of accuracy is compromised. This is actually an opportunity to enhance the consistency of your ammunition, and you can trickle tiny amounts of powder onto the scale until, in the example above, it just stabilises at 12.0gr on the screen. This process, called trickling-up, results in powder charges that are all at one end of the scale's inbuilt accuracy, and in this example, they are all at the lower end of the range between 11.95gr and 12.05gr. This fine-tuning of powder weights can greatly improve the accuracy of your ammunition.

Mechanical beam scales, like the Lee Safety Scale, can also achieve good accuracy and consistency provided that you read them properly. These scales rely on you being able to read exactly when the pointer on the scale body is aligned with the indicator on the beam. This can take a lot of practice, and you can 'enhance' the scale by adding an even finer marker to align with the indicator. Once you get used to reading the scale in a particular way and stick to that way, you will produce consistent powder charges.

Other factors

Whichever powder measure type you use, it must be set up correctly



Trickling-up powder charges will improve accuracy and consistency



Locking rings on Hornady's Lock-N-Load powder measure metering inserts prevent them from creeping out of adjustment

and securely placed on a level surface free from vibration or movement. With particularly sensitive powder measures, placed on a table on a timber floor, how close you stand to the measure, or leaning any weight on the table, can cause the display to alter as the floor or table moves. It is important to stand in the same position when measuring powder charges and not lean on the table.

All scales should be calibrated regularly. They normally come with instructions on how to do this, and if you have more than one set of



The Lee Safety Scale is an excellent beam-type scale, and it is easy to read

High-quality volumetric powder measures from Lee Precision and Hornady



scales, it is also worthwhile checking them against each other regularly.

With beam-type scales, positioning the scale at eye level so that the markings are viewed straight on, rather than from above, allows for a more comfortable and accurate reading of the pointer and helps achieve greater consistency.

Check-weighing charges regularly, perhaps every 5 or 10 rounds, is a good way of confirming that your powder charges are consistent and that nothing is moving out of adjustment.

Conclusion

By mastering the art of reading your powder measure accurately, you can ensure the safe, efficient, and precise production of consistent ammunition. The equipment available nowadays is very accurate and more than capable of giving the required level of consistency, but it is very much dependent on the user ensuring that they read it with care. **GM**

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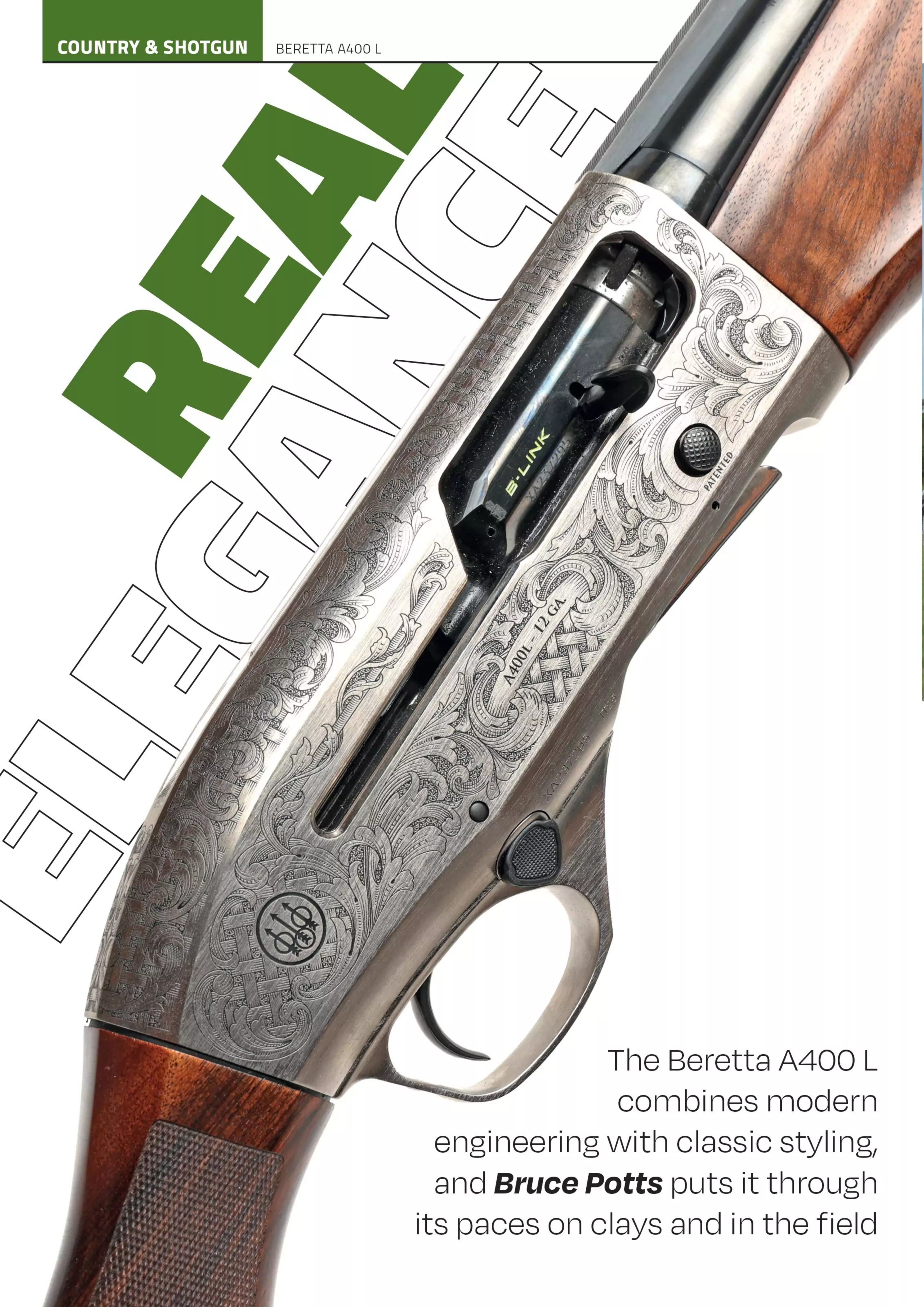
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The Beretta A400 L combines modern engineering with classic styling, and **Bruce Potts** puts it through its paces on clays and in the field

“WHENEVER A BRIGHT-ACTION ENGRAVED SHOTGUN COMES OUT, MY INITIAL THOUGHT IS ALWAYS, “I HOPE IT’S NOT TOO GAUDY.” WELL, THE A400 L IS ELEGANCE PERSONIFIED...”

BRUCE POTTS



➤ **The A400 has always been a strong seller for Beretta, as this reliable, super-fast-cycling, gas-operated semi-auto is renowned and well regarded by shooters in Britain and across the world.** The new A400 L epitomises a graceful semi-auto, designed to excel in the sporting arena of competition clays, yet in my view, equally suited to the field.

Key features include the all-new, very well-executed floral-type engraving on the aluminium action, which is both tasteful and eye-catching. The high-grade walnut stock is a knockout in both colour and figure, and has been subtly redesigned for improved comfort. DLC-finished components reduce friction and abrasion, keeping the A400 L aligned with modern finishes, with bluing becoming old hat these days.

The lightning-fast B-Link gas-operated system remains, along with the steel-shot-proofed Steelium barrel, showcasing the technology for which Beretta is renowned. Meanwhile, the

aluminium trigger group delivers a lighter, crisper pull with shorter reset times for follow-up shots.

I have always liked the A400, having owned a few, and my 28-bore was a honey with its lightning-fast bolt operation and ejection, minimal recoil, and superb handling. The A400 L is no different except for the 12-bore sizing. It still handles extremely well for its 3.2kg weight, with the balance point positioned perfectly at the fore-end/action joint.

Woodwork

The wood really stands out on this new model L, with a higher gloss finish than is usual, so the oil has been rubbed to a bright lustre that certainly enhances and brings out the grade three walnut beneath. Both colour and figuring are very good, and the stock and fore-end are matched very well, a small touch, but you will notice it if they are different.

The fore-end, with its redesigned ergonomics, is interesting, as it has

carbon-fibre vents at the end to allow any excess gas to vent freely. The redesigned and larger panels of chequering are very finely cut and do actually grip, which is not always the case with some guns.

Interestingly, the end cap allows you to fit additional weights, thus altering the balance of the gun very precisely. This system is called B-Balance and allows the gun's weight to be adjusted by up to 55g. I weighed the end cap itself at 84g, making a maximum of 139g in total. The weights are in two halves, so you can adjust to your own taste.

Moving to the rear, the grip now benefits from an ambidextrous palm swell, and I really like this as it finally centralises and correctly positions the firing hand. Again, well-defined cut chequering is used. The Extralight recoil pad uses Beretta's Microcore recoil-absorbing construction for better comfort and stability in the shoulder without snagging, as its open-cell polyurethane structure is allowed to

I really like the floral and basket-weave engraving on the nickel background with inked highlights, which looks very classy



expand after firing, thus increasing the surface area with the shoulder for secure and precise support. These pads are available in different sizes, allowing for length-of-pull adjustments in combination with Beretta spacers.

Steelium

The A400 L is available in 12-bore only, with a single barrel offered in either 28" or 30", both featuring a 3" chamber. Whichever length you choose, the cold hammer-forged

Steelium Plus barrel (Ni-Cr-Mo steel) incorporates a triple progressive forcing cone (up to 320mm) for optimal terminal energy and recoil reduction, producing even, dense shot patterns with a wide variety of shot.

Up top is a 10x8mm rib with a non-reflective surface, a midpoint brass bead, and a white bead at the muzzle. There are eight vents beneath it to provide adequate cooling during rapid fire and to reduce mirage. The extended chokes are all steel-proofed,

and each gun comes with M, IM, and IC restriction sizes as standard.

Gas and action

Now to the action, with its elegant sweeping profile and aluminium construction. The most obvious difference is the new nickel-plated finish, with full floral engraving and an inked background applied in a tasteful style. You also now get an enhanced action with refined top and bottom profiling, plus an enlarged loading port, extended bolt handle, and release, all designed for fast and intuitive handling.

Being a gas-operated semi-automatic, the A400 L is powered by Beretta's ultra-efficient B-Link gas operating system that ensures 36% faster follow-up shots and better control for faster target acquisition. The self-cleaning gas piston is enclosed with a polymer shield that's attached to the twin action bars, which really helps reduce the maintenance needed. The barrel's gas ports have also been redesigned to maximise consistency and improve cycling with lighter loads, which is always useful in a semi-auto.

The loading port and the competition-grade pro lifter have both been enlarged for faster, hassle-free loading. The lifter stays in the raised position when the bolt is closed, allowing new rounds to be inserted into the magazine more



Detail of the reversible safety and crisp trigger



The three chokes throw some superb patterns down range, as expected

quickly, whether singly or in dual or quad mode. It also reduces the risk of you getting your thumb caught!

The trigger is light and crisp for a semi-auto, and the manual safety catch is enlarged and reversible for both left and right-handed shooters.

In the field

As usual, I fitted the ½ (Modified) choke and shot some patterns at 30 yards, my usual hunting distance, to assess the pattern spread and density for three

12-bore loads. Being hunting-based, I focused on pigeon loads, though I also included a nice clay cartridge.

First up was Hull's High Pheasant cartridge (32g | No.5 | fibre), with its 67mm case. It cycled incredibly smoothly through the A400 L, operating the action in a trice. We recorded 101 inner hits within 15", while the outer 30" accumulated another 137 pellets, giving an impressive total of 238 hits with very good coverage and density for a larger shot size.



The grip shows an enlarged area of chequering that is both elegant and grippy, perfect



The shims allow you to adjust the drop and cast, while the new weights for the fore-end cap can be used to alter the balance

Note the reprofiled fore-end, the carbon vents, and the new panels of chequering

Here, you can see the enlarged loading port for faster reloads



I love the grade-three wood on the new A400 L, as it has a gorgeous colour and grain pattern that matches the fore-end too

THE NEW A400 L EPITOMISES A GRACEFUL SEMI-AUTO, DESIGNED TO EXCEL IN THE SPORTING ARENA OF COMPETITION CLAYS, YET IN MY VIEW, EQUALLY SUITED TO THE FIELD."

BRUCE POTTS

Next came a very good pigeon load, the 70mm Eley Pigeon HV (32g | No.6 | fibre), which again cycled the action quickly and smoothly. This produced a total of 275 pellet strikes, with 85 in the inner zone and the remaining 190 around the periphery. That meant fewer inner hits than the High Pheasant

load, but more overall coverage to intercept fast-flying pigeons as they crossed the pattern in the air.

Finally, a cost-effective clay load that always outperforms its pay grade, so to speak. Hull's Super Fast Competition Line (24g | No.7.5) functioned flawlessly in the A400 L, and when I fired three in succession, the sight picture was barely disturbed, allowing smooth tracking of the clays, or rabbits, in my case. The load produced 157 inner pellet strikes and 156 outer, giving a superbly balanced inner-to-outer ratio and a total of 313 strikes. It is an outstanding load and also very effective for small vermin, just saying.



The piston has been redesigned to handle a wide range of loads, and it's pretty much self-cleaning

Conclusion

Whenever a bright-action engraved shotgun comes out, my initial thought is always, "I hope it's not too gaudy." Well, the A400 L is elegance personified, as the nickel action and tasteful engraving enhance the lines and looks, and make it stand out in a good way. Its handling is so fluid and natural, even with the longer 30" barrel, and the action, as seen in the tests, is 100% reliable, super-fast, and, I have to say, pretty clean afterwards too. It's a premium semi-auto, and at a price point that these days seems quite reasonable. **GM**

TECHNICAL SPECIFICATION

Name: Beretta A400 L
Calibre: 12-bore
Barrel Length: 76cm / 30"
Overall Length: 131cm / 51.5"
Weight: 3.25kg / 7.16lbs
Length of Pull: 36.8cm / 14.5"
Price: £2,690
Contact: GMK - www.gmk.co.uk

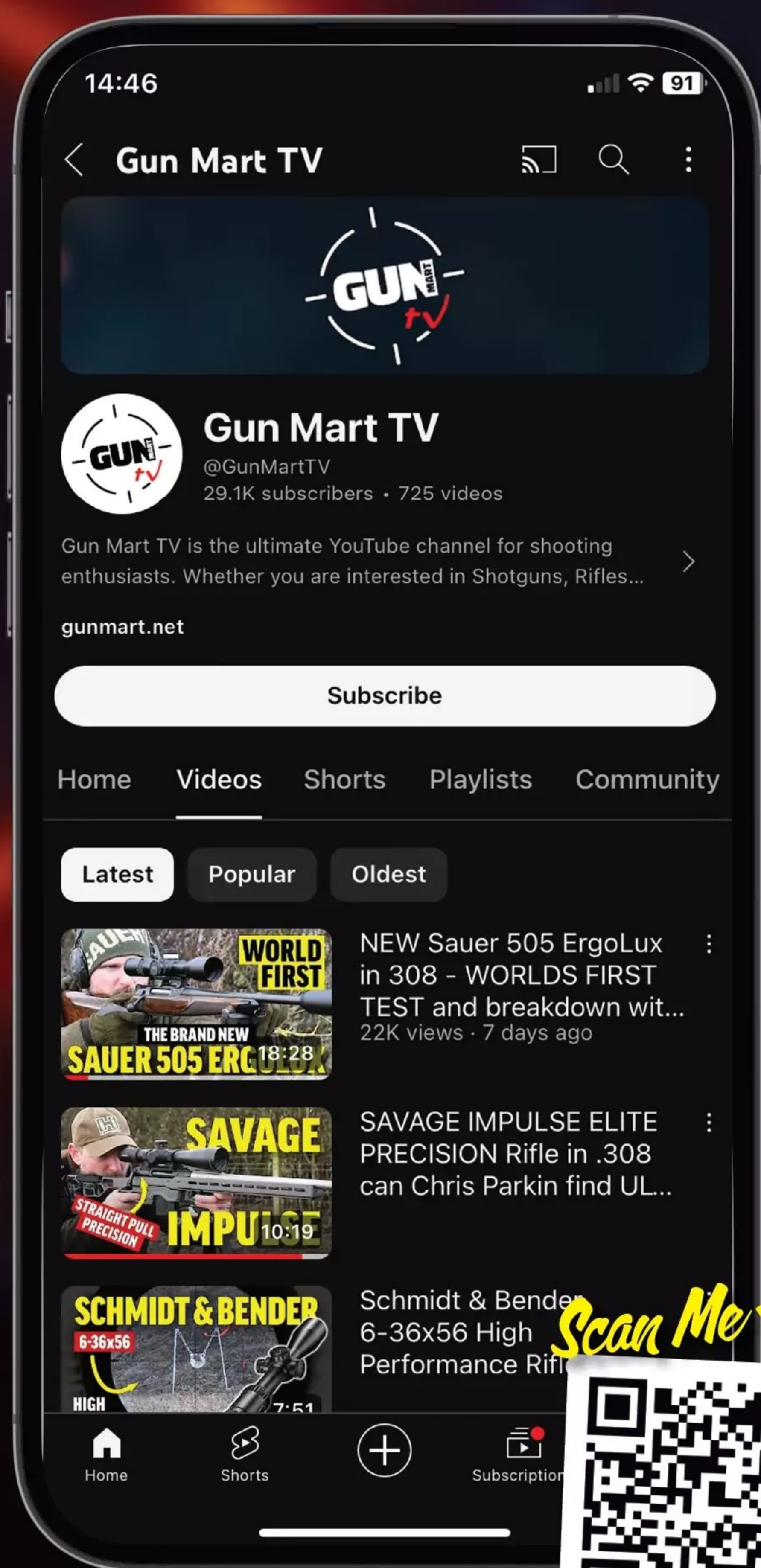


Here you can see Beretta's ultra-efficient B-Link gas operating system



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CONSISTENT PERFORMANCE

BRUCE POTTS TESTS HULL CARTRIDGE'S SPORTING 100, BUILT FOR SMOOTH SHOOTING AND COMPETITION SUCCESS

› Everyone loves a bargain, but we all still want the highest quality, which can be a tall order these days. However, Hull consistently produces excellent ammunition at a fair price. Their Game and Competition cartridge lines are used by shooters of every kind, and when it comes to clay competition, "the best load" – much like the most accurate rifle round – is coveted and often sparks heated debate. We have tested many good clay cartridges in these pages, yet Hull's Sporting 100 regularly attracts more than its fair share of praise.

Design and build

It sits within their Sporting Clay range, alongside Super Fast, Comp X and Sovereign. The Sporting 100 Graphite Edition is a mid-priced competition cartridge originally developed with former FITASC champion Ed Solomons. It was designed to shoot consistently even patterns for long-range clays, while still producing low recoil. It is loaded with graphite-rolled shot, which helps maintain uniform patterns and improves ballistics, resulting in greater effectiveness on those tricky, longer targets.

The cartridges are offered with either fibre or plastic wads, in shot sizes No.7.5 or 8, and typically retail at around £319 per thousand.

The cartridge is only available as a 28g loading, housed in a 70mm graphite grey case with lime green lettering and a semi-translucent hue that reveals the wad and shot inside.

You have a high nickel-washed head with a pronounced rim, for flawless



operation, extraction and ejection. At the other end, the uniform standard six-star crimp is not sealed but has a very tight closure, and the whole cartridge, as with Hull's entire range, is very uniform and consistent in its looks and manufacture.

Components and ballistics

I tested the fibre wad version, which is environmentally friendly for clay shoots, and the wad's one-piece design cushions the shot, seals efficiently and ensures correct combustion for a soft-shooting round.

Beneath it is a smaller card disc that shields against the fierce powder flames, with the powder sitting below. This vivid lime-green flake has a consistent burn rate, producing a velocity of around 1,400fps, and in combination with the other components, it delivers a remarkably smooth, low-recoiling cartridge.

Shot-wise, there are only two size options, as previously stated.





Graphite shot, uniform fibre wad, and consistent powder combine to deliver 1,400fps, making this a cartridge capable of longer-range shots

The No.7.5 (2.3mm) pellets contain 2% antimony, making them competition-grade hardened shot, with an average count of 394 pellets per cartridge. The No.8 size gives 448 pellets in the same 28g loading, allowing you to choose what best suits your shooting.

As the name suggests, the shot is rolled in graphite, which helps maintain a more uniform spread by preserving the integrity of the pattern as the air passes over the pellets. It works rather like improving the ballistic coefficient of a bullet, making the shot more aerodynamic so it flies truer. Hull's shot is already highly uniform, so the graphite coating is the icing on the cake.

On the pattern boards

I liked this cartridge from the outset. As soon as you pick it up, it not only looks the part but also feels as though it's built to perform. I used a new Benelli Raffaello Limited Edition in 12-bore for the pattern board

tests, and, being a semi-auto, it's a soft shooter anyway. In combination with the Sporting 100, it was a pussycat to shoot. A second or even third shot in the field produced very little muzzle flip, so the sight line remained largely uninterrupted. Basically, if you are shooting a 100-clay day, these Sporting 100 cartridges will be comfortable to use from start to finish.

I fitted the $\frac{1}{4}$ choke first, and at 30 yards on the pattern boards, we recorded 255 pellet strikes within the 30" circle from the original 394-pellet load. Of these, 89 were inner hits and 166 were outer strikes, giving really good overall coverage and a dense pattern.

Switching to the $\frac{1}{2}$ choke, the shot column tightened, producing 294 pellet strikes with a dense, evenly spread pattern. This time, 109 were inner hits, with the remaining 185 distributed across the outer 30" circle.

I have to say, these Sporting 100s were a delight to shoot, and the consistent, even way they patterned downrange will be especially appreciated by competition shooters.

Conclusion

This cartridge is designed for a smooth-shooting experience with minimal recoil, allowing for better follow-up shots and comfort during longer shooting sessions. Having tested the Sporting 100, I have to say that's hard to argue with. Its tight and consistent patterns ensure good density even at longer ranges, which is exactly what this cartridge is designed to achieve, so it is certainly worth a look at a mid-range price point, providing excellent value.

Contact: Hull Cartridge -
www.hullcartridge.co.uk

Using the $\frac{1}{4}$ choke, this Benelli Raffaello produced beautifully concentric and even patterns



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ACCESSORIES

A NIKKI- STIRLING RIFLE scope 4-16x50 mag side parallax 30mm tube. In good condition save for the normal wear marks. It's an excellent scope which is now surplus to requirements. £70.00 07812 567157 (Pick up only from Dudley West Midland)

AERON CZ FX FIELD Target Stock. The Field Target stocks are a great addition to the FX Dreamline or Streamline. Like new, high quality and not only are they very functional but they look amazing. extremely comfortable to shoot without adding a lot of weight. THIS IS NOT A COMPLETE GUN. THIS IS JUST THE CHASSIS STOCK. Only Compatible with FX Streamline & Dreamline Classic. £325 07771531042 (Wiltshire)

SIGHTRON SIISS 10-50X60 30MM target scope in excellent condition cost £1300 first £900 takes it 07974611638 (Yorkshire, West Riding) **BOXX** gun cabinet (H 182.5 x W 35.5 x D 25.5cm) with two sets of three keys and bolts, has a hole in the top where a light was removed, collection only from Hayes on a first-come, first-served basis with a negotiable price, please call Martin on 07814 556246. (Middlesex)

AIRGUNS

FX TACTICAL .177, NOT even a year old. Comes with a new gun case, 5 tins of pellets, scope, tripod, and moderator. Selling as I don't use the gun. On its own, it cost £1,350. Grab a bargain, you won't be disappointed! £750.00. 07850377890 (Leicestershire)

BSA ULTRA CLX 160TH Anniversary Edition set .22. Immaculate condition, as new. £950.00 07525426593 (Kent)

SMK TH78D THUMBHOLE DELUXE CO2 Air Rifle. Purchased in 2011 but hardly used. Also included: SMK Telescopic Sights, 2 tins of pellets, and a carry case. Collection only. Photos on request. £175.00 ONO. Elidir2021@outlook.com (Cardiganshire)

AIR ARMS JACKAL HI-POWER air rifle for sale. Features a military-style black synthetic stock, .22 calibre side lever, and is a powerful rifle. £350.00. Please call 07861712911 (Shropshire).

WEIHRAUCH HW97K BLUE LAMINATE Stainless Steel. I have had this gun for 3 weeks and have shot 4 pellets through it. I am now selling it as I do not currently have the time to go shooting and don't want the money tied up. Comes complete with all boxes, a case for the gun, a case for the stand, pellets, etc. Open to sensible offers. £800.00 sbt15@outlook.com (Leicestershire)

WEIHRAUCH HW57 .22. IMMACULATE HW57. Although I have owned it for years, it has barely been used. Weihrauch's most compact and lightweight full-power under-lever. £195.00. 07951734380 (Bedfordshire)

AIR ARMS XTI-50 .177. Approx. 6 months old, only used for garden target shooting. £2,500.00. 01522823025 (Lincolnshire)

HUNTSMEN L1A1 SLR CO2 powered .177BB air rifle. Used once (I prefer pistols) 5 mags through it only. Original papers/certificate and tools included. comes in padded case with sling. 07956290008 £250.00 (Worcestershire)

STOEGER RX20 S2 - Like new, hardly used £150.00 07824877909 (Cornwall)

HATSAN FLASHPUP,25 CALAS NEW, only pellets fired were firearms dealer for chrono figure. Comes with scope, bi pod, hard case pellets, muzzle brake. Great looking gun, would consider exchange for .177, pref Gamo £220.00 07563589069 (Yorkshire)

KRAL PUNCHER BREAKER WOOD stock. Discover scope 3x12x44 side focus Max 800 hardcase with foam lining Caldwell 7 rest Many accessories £400 07852351976 (Manchester)

WEBLEY & SCOTT VULCAN .177 Air Rifle. 4x32 sight. probably bought some time in the 1980s and was used a few times to shoot rabbits in the garden and that's all it was used. £100 07803365133 (Surrey)

FX DRS .177 GRADE 2 walnut stock hawk scope moderator case excellent condition. £850 pasib@yahoo.co.uk (Northamptonshire)

LEE ENFIELD SENTRY 2.0 .22 calibre full legal power this has scopes, bi pod, rabbiting torch with optional mouth switch so hands free operation and laser dot sights both rechargeable with box and charger also includes whip for refill and full set of spare seals and tin of pellets and gun slip paid £750 only shot 20 pellets ready to use. Asking £350 ono 07708710913 (Staffordshire)

LEE ENFIELD 177 BB rifle s.m.ly with bayonet in box bran new never fired with 2 extra magazines and I have a m1 carbean with bayonet 2 extra magazines new it box never fired £350 each gun. 07485172543 (Kent)

KUB PRESTIGE 22 AIR rifle. Recently serviced. Selling with carry bag and air filling probe. £100.00 linz906@hotmail.com (Devon)

BEEMAN P-17, GREAT CONDITION, only been shot about 15 times in total - had to move out so no garden to use it in, hence selling. Comes with a can of Diablo Exact pellets. £75.00 07933282588 (Cheshire)

DAYSTATE PULSAR , COMES with original hard case in excellent condition. £1000.00 07533288885 (Worcestershire)

ATA AIRBORNE .177 PRE charged pneumatic, Walnut stock, 3d printed barrel band including bipod mount, Bipod (no major brand), 6x24x50 Scope (no major brand), 3x magazines (1x original, 2x 3d printed ones), Will come with tin of pellets. Sling screw on front. All works as it should, bought in January but it just isn't getting used so just gathering dust. Quite happy for buyer to test. £375 07395550369 (Warwickshire)

WEIHRAUCH HW99S, SPECIFICATION: **CALIBER** - .22, Overall Length - 1050mm, Barrel Length - 410mm, Power - Approx 11.5 ft/lbs, Weight - 3.2kg, £250. 07768615386 (Hampshire)

THEOBEN SLR 98 THUMB stock in .177. Very rare now in .177. This rifle comes with magazine and single shot loading tray. Simmons white classic scope in 3.5 10x50. Flambeau hard carry case. £2000 ono. marknelsonces@live.co.uk (Lancashire)

WIERAUCH HW100KT COMES WITH 2 magazines hawke scopes bipod 12 litre divers bottle with 2 year test and is full with brand new whip also comes with nite scopes brand new never used £850. 07707303993 (Cheshire)

BSA R10 SE REGULATED .177 £200 Paulwright165@btinternet.com (Dorset)

UMAREX COLT M4 CARBINE, Full power, break barrel spring air rifle, .177 Pellet. Great condition, looks like new, boxed, plus carry case. £150 07749825736 (Devon)

CROSMAN NITRO VENOM DUSK break barrel gas ram air rifle in immaculate condition with noise suppressor, telescopic sight, and gun bag, £100, buyer collects, email jahooli@protonmail.com (Sussex).

BROCOCK GHOST .177 AIR rifle with a 10-40 Immersive Optics scope, bipod, carbon fibre silencer, three magazines, and a new 12ltr charging kit, as new having only fired 50 pellets, £1,000 no offers, call 07962929688 (Yorkshire, West Riding).

S400 CLASSIC .177 WITH Rhino scope, a great rifle in good condition that shoots well, £500, call 07737188020 (Sussex).

FAMILY BUNDLE INCLUDING A PCP Milbro .177 Guardian with pump, a .177 CO2 Crossman rifle with scope and bag, a CO2 BB M29 8" .44 Magnum with a small dent, and a CO2 BB Crossman Phantom pistol, all boxed and like new, £500, call 07825153376 (Yorkshire, West Riding).

AIR ARMS S510 WALNUT carbine for sale as a complete outfit, including a scope, bipod, new Air Arms Q-Tec silencer, and a 5-litre bottle tested until 2029, £775.00, email woodse9@ntlworld.com (Kent).

WEIHRAUCH HW100 KT .22 calibre rifle in excellent condition, complete with two magazines, a bipod, and a gun sleeve, £750, call 07743 864007 (Berkshire); an air

bottle is also available with a test date to be confirmed.

BENJAMIN AMADA .22, AR15 replica, air rifle. Hardly used with original scope, tripod, 10 shot mag, tripod and lux padded bag. Great condition. £445. 07890 382226 (Shropshire)

BSA CENTENARY AIRSPORTER 575 only 1000 produced. Never been out of the box, unwrapped or fired. All accessories owned from new. £875 01189 734 868 (Berkshire)

STEYR FT 110 PNEUMATIC air rifle 0.177 with pressure regulator to get the max LEGAL power from the rifle. This is in absolute MINT condition Now cost £3,300. For sale £2,300 Loads of accessories also for sale please ask. LBM379@AOL.COM (East London)

BSA MK1 AIRSPORTER AND Cadet major. £165, £85 01189734868 (Berkshire)

MK23 AIRSOFT PISTOL FULL upgrade. Maple leaf crazy jet barrel. Bucking. Handront D cover. H plate. external Hop adjustment. Short silencer. V38. Rapid Retention holster. 2 Magazines. £150 incl. Postage. 07748228961 (Kent)

CROSSMAN .22 AIR PISTOL, red dot scope and silencer. Three years old bought from new. A good clean pistol. No iron sight on front. £80.00 07771860790 (Surrey)

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

KRAL PUNCHER KNIGHT .177 - black + accessories: hard case, suppressor, gas refill tank (full) with hose. Only been out of the box a handful of times, and used even less. Reluctantly selling £700.00 Olly_lfs@outlook.com (Middlesex)

SHOTGUNS

MOSSBERG 9200 SPECIAL EDITION US Sporting Clays Team semi-auto shotgun for sale. Spares or repairs. Too clean to scrap; an ideal project for a gunsmith to repair and keep/sell on. I paid £200 and it's worth that in parts alone. Comes with several chokes and a key. Offers. 07938480049 (Yorkshire)

FOR SALE: MIROKU O/U shotgun, HSW Skeet, 28-inch barrels, mid-'80s model. Nice condition engraving and wood. Very popular in its day; an easy sight has been fitted to the wide rib. Pics if interested. £450.00. 07740725548 (Northamptonshire)

FOR SALE: MIROKU 3700 LTW Sporting o/u shotgun. 28-inch barrels, lightly choked Imp. and 1/4. An easy sight has been fitted to the rib. Basic engraving, gold-plated trigger. I purchased this gun new in the mid-'70s. Some small dings in the stock, otherwise in very good condition. It has not seen heavy use and is still quite tight. Pics if required. £400.00. 07740725548 (Northamptonshire)



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AYA YEOMAN 12-BORE OVER-AND-UNDER shotgun, £150.00, call 07514 015424 (Hertfordshire).

WEBLEY & SCOTT .410 single-shot bolt-action shotgun, £100.00, call 07514 015424 (Hertfordshire).

20 BORE SHOTGUN CARTRIDGES for sale, approximately 300, number 6 and 7's, all boxed and good quality makes. Valid SGC required. Offers. 07806771238 (Derbyshire).

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AIMPOINT MICRO S-1 FOR a shotgun. Boxed with instructions hardly used. £350.00 o.n.o Contact: juliepeters123@btinternet.com (Hampshire)

BROWNING 425 MULTI CHOKE with all 5 chokes, 12b over and under sporter 28 inch barrels, mint condition. £750 07800882838 (Yorkshire, West Riding)

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, Cooley 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)

WINCHOKE 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)

FIREARMS

BLASER IN 308, ZIESS 3-12x56 scope,(illuminated) Blaser flight case, quick release Blaser scope mounts and a Blaser rifle sling. £3,500 07824336587 (Kent)

SCHMIDT AND BENDER PM2 p3/Mildot, 4-16x50 with butler creek lense covers, steel 34mm rings, Sako steel weaver mounts and Schmidt & bender sunshade. All in good condition some small cosmetic marks, used good condition. £1500 ono. 07720345680 (Staffordshire)

SAUER 202 .243. AS new, has only had around 50 bullets through it. Scope is Schmidt & Bender 3-12-50. £1200 ono. 07973 618458 (Sussex)

GARAND 30.06 STRAIGHT PULL Rifle for sale Excellent condition. FAC only comes with 8round clips. £500 ono 01405815753 (Yorkshire, West Riding)

RUGER 10/22 SEMI-AUTOMATIC RIFLE with a stainless barrel and scope having fired about 500 rounds, £300, email steve.338lap@outlook.com (Kent).

RUGER .45 STAINLESS BLACK powder muzzle-loading pistol having fired about 120 rounds, £350 ono, email steve.338lap@outlook.com (Kent).

ACCURACY INTERNATIONAL PALAMASTER .308 rifle with a stainless barrel, die set, cases, and heads having fired about 460 rounds, £850, email steve.338lap@outlook.com (Kent).

S.M.L.E ENFIELD .303 RIFLE with die set, cases, and heads, £500, email steve.338lap@outlook.com (Kent).

BRNO .375 H&H RIFLE with scope, die set, cases, and heads having fired 240 rounds, £350, email steve.338lap@outlook.com (Kent).

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RUGER 25-06 ACKLEY IMPROVED rifle with a stainless heavy barrel, dies, cases, heads, and scope having fired 160 rounds, £950 ono, email steve.338lap@outlook.com (Kent).

CUSTOM RUGER 6MM PPC rifle with a stainless heavy barrel, die set, cases, heads, scope, and press having fired 135 rounds, £1150 ono, email steve.338lap@outlook.com (Kent).

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STATE ARMS .50 RIFLE with a very heavy barrel, die set, cases, heads, case trimmer, and press having fired about 150 rounds, £1400 ono, email steve.338lap@outlook.com (Kent).

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

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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).

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

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)

SWEDISH VARBERGER 308 RIFLE in excellent condition. Fitted Ziess Diavario - 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)

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

ANTIQUES

1887 PATTERN HEAVY-CAVALRY IN-DRESS officers sword. Nicely etched 36" blade with E.V.11. motif, honeysuckle guard, London maker (Sandyland & son). £700- o.n.o. Royal Navy clasp-knife Admiralty pattern 301, (seamen/ riggers), good genuine example, £50-. Tel 0719414572. (Lancashire)

DEACTIVATED BREN GUN 7.62MM made in Italy by Breda near mint, latest spec, cocking handle moves under spring pressure partially strips £300. 07359266418 (Newcastle)

PAIR OF REPLICA SCOTTISH Broadswords, two Targes (round-shields), suitable for re-enactment, or decoration; £350. 07719415472 (Lancashire)

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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)

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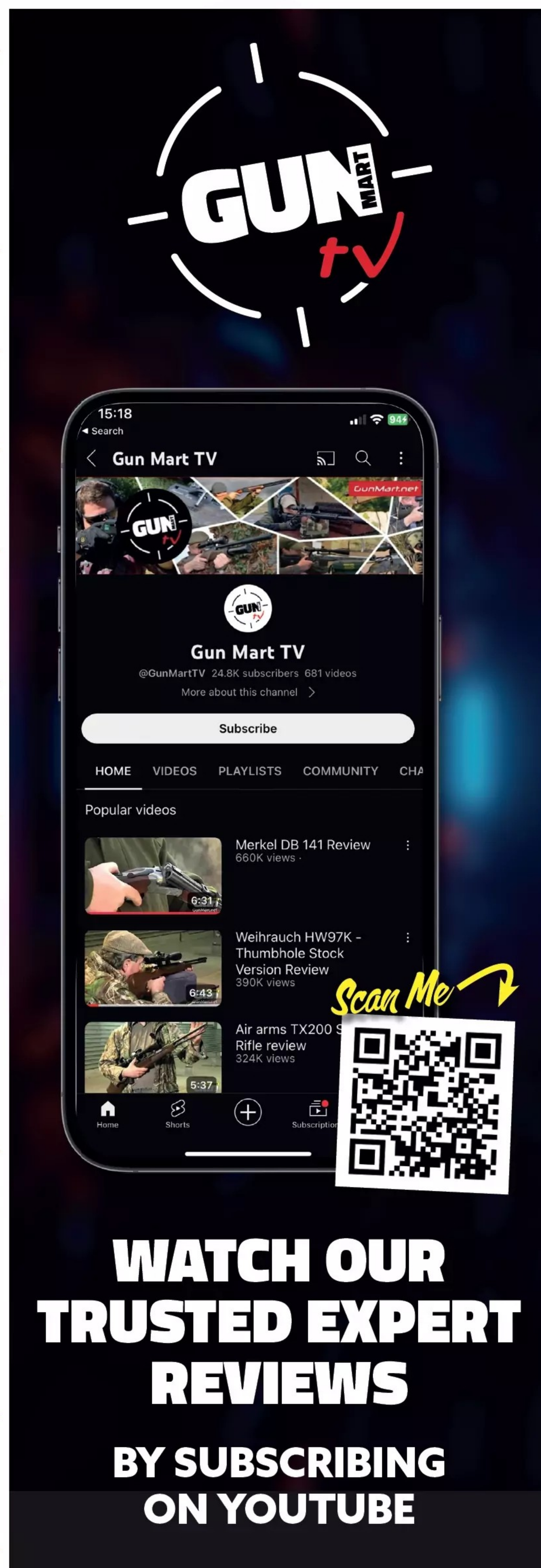
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