

KEY SPECS



MAKER: Weihrauch, www.weihrauch-sport.de
OFFICIAL UK IMPORTER: Hull Cartridge, www.hullcartridge.co.uk
MODEL: HW 100 KT Special Edition (olive green and medium grey synthetic stock)
PRICE: £805
TYPE: PCP
CALIBRE: .177 (tested), .20 and .22
MAGAZINE: Rotary, 14 shots in all three calibres
OVERALL LENGTH: 950mm, including HW moderator
BARREL LENGTH: 245mm
WEIGHT: 3.1kg
STOCK: Thumbhole, synthetic
LENGTH OF PULL: 350mm
TRIGGER: Two-stage, adjustable
TRIGGER WEIGHT: 10.4oz
SAFETY: Manual, resettable
POWER: 11.37ft lb

GUN TEST

SYNTHETIC SYMBIOSIS

The **Weihrauch HW 100** is now being offered in a modern synthetic stock as well as the more traditional wood. Mike Morton finds out whether this represents a culture clash, or a match made in heaven

Weihrauch has established a reputation for designing high-quality airguns that are built to stand the test of time. The HW 35, for example, still maintains a place in the German gun-maker's inventory after a phenomenal 66 years. It's therefore no small wonder that the company's first pre-charged pneumatic, the HW 100, is still going strong since its launch way back in 2003.

While the 100 has undergone some tweaks, notably adding the quick-fill system and some valve improvements to make it more air-efficient, the most obvious change over the years has been the introduction of new stock materials and designs. The original walnut sporter and thumbhole stocks are now joined by three Special Edition

thumbholes, one being an adjustable stock in black and brown laminate, with the others being a non-adjustable synthetic in black and grey, and a similarly non-adjustable olive green and grey synthetic – the stock seen on the test rifle.

TAKING STOCK

The shape of the synthetic stock is similar, but not identical, to the standard thumbhole version in walnut. This is a good thing: although the stock offers no adjustment, it's been designed to fit most of the people, most of the time, and is made of high-grade materials. A synthetic stock will shrug off water, but so will a wooden stock if it's been treated properly, so the main advantage of a synthetic handle is its ability to withstand the bumps and scrapes that might otherwise spoil an oiled walnut finish. The final consideration – which



The butt pad isn't adjustable, but it is nevertheless comfortable – if you want a moveable pad, you can get an aftermarket kit from Rowan Engineering

The cheekpiece isn't adjustable either, but it's nice and high, which helps head and eye alignment; and the inset panel is comfortable against your face

The dovetail rail measures 200mm overall, and although it's interrupted by the magazine well, there's plenty of room to fit even the longest of scopes

Slide the magazine securing catch rearwards to insert a mag, then forwards to lock it in place and engage the indexing mechanism

Weihrauch is one of the few airgun manufacturers to use a barrel band, which offers additional protection against the odd bump

The HW 100 comes complete with Weihrauch's famous moderator, which does an excellent job of keeping the noise down, at the expense of its 90mm overall length

The thumbhole stock is very ergonomic and offers good control, even though there's no cut-out to let you use the thumb-up position

The safety catch is sensibly located well away from the trigger, and can be applied once the rifle's been cocked

The lever cocks the action and indexes the magazine on the rearward stroke, and seats the pellet going forwards, all with minimal effort – it's a slick and simple system



With the rifle cocked and the magazine catch slid to the rear, the mag slots in place from the right

is more important than many of us might care to admit – is how it looks. Some people prefer wood, while others have a soft spot for synthetic.

The ambidextrous olive green stock is completely rigid, offering a solid and dependable platform into which the action has been seated. It features medium-grey inset panels at the cheekpiece, pistol grip and forend. These panels look as if they've been made from a soft-touch material, but are in fact rigid too. Instead, they offer more grip than the basic stock material, even when wet, and feel comfortable both in the hand and against your face. Some inset panels can snatch painfully at facial hair, but the inlay in this stock design appears more beard-friendly than some others I've used.

I prefer to adopt the thumb-up position when shooting a rifle, and



The 14-shot magazine can be loaded using just your fingers, without the need for a homemade probe that's sometimes the case with an enclosed rotary magazine

am always grateful to see either a dedicated thumb shelf or at least a flat area where I can place my thumb. I was initially disappointed to see there's no provision for thumb-up shooting on this stock, but thankfully the pistol grip still feels natural when using the conventional hold. This is a very personal thing, of course, so it's a good idea to take hold of one yourself if you're thinking of buying one, to ensure it feels right for you.

Like the HW 100's wooden stamblers, the synthetic stock does not come with sling swivel studs, but several aftermarket sets are available. One clever item I bought on eBay to help me with this rifle test was a swivel stud that replaces the forend stock screw, enabling me to fit a bipod without the need to drill the stock to fit a separate stud.

ACTION STATIONS

The action is finished in gloss black with a geometric pattern on top of the separate front and rear action blocks. This pattern can be used as a visual reference point when mounting a scope, or when swapping it for another and then replacing it. The carbine-length barrel on the HW 100 KT model seen here is blued steel, while the air cylinder is semi-gloss black. The rifle is available in .177, .20 and .22 calibres, with the test gun being in .177. The gun is supplied with two rotary 14-shot magazines, which is a welcome touch, as well as Weihrauch's long, but legendary moderator.

The air cylinder, which does not come filled, must be screwed into the rifle before use. The Weihrauch instruction manual recommends emptying and removing the cylinder from the gun after each shooting

session to protect the valves, springs and seals, but in practice most owners will probably leave the cylinder in place. I'd recommend only emptying and removing the cylinder if you're planning on not using the rifle for an extended period of time.

I usually fill my PCPs before each shooting session, but decided to test

“I'M PLEASED THAT OVER THE COURSE OF SEVERAL WEEKS THE RIFLE HAS LOST NO AIR AT ALL”

the HW 100's seals by filling the cylinder to 200 bar after each session. I'm pleased to report that over the course of several weeks the rifle has lost no air at all, although more testing will be needed over a longer period to see if it maintains the integrity of its seals. The fill port is

protected with a Delrin-type plug, while the filling probe is a simple press fit, identical to the one supplied with the HW 110.

You can keep track of your remaining pressure via the gauge mounted at the front of the air cylinder. This means it's near the muzzle – which is never the best

place to locate a gauge, although at least that long silencer ensures you're always aware of exactly

where the barrel is pointing. Scoping up is easy, as the dovetail rail offers 200mm of clamping area, meaning even the longest scopes can easily be accommodated. The action block is in two parts, one either end of the magazine well. I have read some online criticism



The magazine can be rotated when it's been loaded into the gun, allowing you to position the silver index marker anywhere it's clearly visible before your first shot is fired

of this design, the argument being that the use of two separate blocks could result in a slightly uneven mounting surface, so I decided to put this to the test. I fitted Sportsmatch mounts fore and aft, then measured how well they lined up with each other using a set of Kokopelli alignment bars (www.kokopelliproducts.com/scopeb.html). It's testament to the quality of both the rifle and the mounts that everything lined up perfectly. However, as reliable as the long rail is, I only needed to make use of the rear section when it was time to fit my test scope, a little 3-12x24 MTC Viper Connect.

The two 14-shot magazines that come with the rifle are made of metal, with an outer O-ring being used to ensure the pellets are securely held in place. Make sure to load the mag the right way round – the central cut-outs

ALSO CONSIDER...



AIR ARMS S510 CARBINE
From £746
 www.air-arms.co.uk
 The Air Arms S510 takes the proven 400 series format and adds sidelever cocking, with the package available in several stock options and barrel lengths.



BSA R-10 SE SUPER CARBINE
From £799
 www.bsaguns.co.uk
 Like the HW 100 and S510, BSA's tried and tested flagship hunting rifle also offers a variety of stocks and two barrel lengths: Standard or Super Carbine.



DAYSTATE HUNTSMAN REGAL
£840 www.daystate.com
 This sporter is a lightweight compact design that maintains a low profile, thanks to the fact that the air cylinder has been sunken into the forend of the stock.



The HW 100 may not be fitted with sling swivel studs, but it's well-balanced and easy to carry in the field

which engage with the indexing spindle should be facing you. The rifle must be cocked and the locking catch slid to the rear before the magazine can be inserted from the right-hand side of the action. It's important to then push the locking catch forwards so the indexing system engages. If you don't, you'll only be able to fire the first shot, after which you'll just be wasting air.

Whenever the rifle's been cocked, the safety catch can be applied; it's mounted on the right of the action. The catch does make an audible click when it's thumbed to 'fire', but it can be kept near-silent if you control its movement with your fingers when you slip it off to take a shot at live quarry and don't want to spook the animal.

The HW 100 doesn't have a regulator, but it does have a self-

regulating valve system. Shooting JSB Exact Premium pellets from a 200 bar fill, the HW 100 recorded an average muzzle velocity of 779fps, a muzzle energy of 11.37ft lb and a spread over a 10-shot group of just 3.6fps. Range time permitting, I would have liked to have measured more shots, but that level of consistency is certainly impressive, albeit for only a limited sample.

TAKING AIM

I now knew the rifle was consistent, but was it accurate? As with any rifle, pellet selection is critical, and the Premiums were the best choice for the barrel on the test rifle. Shooting off a bipod and rear shooting bag, the HW 100 delivered some pretty tight groups at my 30-yard zero. Taking



The cocking lever is slick to use and lays almost flush with the action when not in use, meaning it's less likely to snag on clothing



The quick-fill port is thankfully blanked off by a lightweight plastic plug when not in use, keeping everything nice and clean

the target back to 40 yards saw no significant increase in group size in still air, although they did open up to 17mm centre-to-centre when a 7mph breeze blew on my outdoor, but sheltered, range.

The rifle's accuracy was no doubt enhanced by the excellent two-stage trigger. Out of the box and with no

light for hunting, especially in colder weather, so you might want to adjust it to make it a tad heavier if yours is similarly light.

It can be difficult to keep track of how many shots you've fired with any magazine-fed rifle, but the HW 100 magazine features a bare metal marker machined into the edge.

When you load the magazine, rotate it so you can see the marker at a recognisable

location. The mag rotates clockwise when shots are taken, and when the marker reappears in the same location as your start point you know you've already fired your last shot. And what about total shot count? The test rifle delivered 80 shots before there was any hint of

THE RIFLE'S ACCURACY WAS ENHANCED BY THE EXCELLENT TWO-STAGE TRIGGER

adjustment from me, the first stage came to a fairly short and definite stop, after which the second stage was short and crisp, with zero creep. The trigger pull weight was just 10.4oz according to my Lyman electronic gauge, which makes for a wonderfully responsive target trigger, but is a little



The barrel is screw-cut with a standard 1/2in UNF thread, but the thread is far longer than usual, making for a more sturdy connection with your moderator

GUN TEST WEIHRAUCH HW 100



The HW 100 delivered an easy sub-five pence piece-sized group at 30 yards



This five-shot group was taken off a bipod and rear bag in windless conditions at 40 yards

the pellets wandering away from the killzone. Each rifle will behave slightly differently, though, so it's only through thorough testing on paper targets that you'll be able to work out exactly how your gun behaves in the field.

TAKE YOUR PICK

The fact that this rifle shoots so well is not really a surprise, but this time, it's doing it in a synthetic stock, which gives us more of what we really want: choice. I've shot several 100s over the years, all in walnut stocks, and whether you stay traditional or want to swap to synthetic is entirely down to you. I think this stock looks stunning, but that's a totally subjective observation. How about a more objective observation? This particular gun is one of the most accurate and fastest-handling rifles I've ever shot. It's a keeper. ●



THE AIRGUN SHOOTER VERDICT

LOOK & FEEL	STOCK	BUILD QUALITY	SIGHTS	COCKING	LOADING	TRIGGER	HANDLING	ACCURACY	VALUE
9	8	9	9	9	8	9	10	10	9

OVERALL SCORE

90

"The Weihrauch HW 100 is a top-notch hunting rifle that's made a name for itself in target circles as well, and that's all down to its impeccable build quality and performance"