

# Going Ballistic!

**PART 1**

Mark Camoccio gets to play with one of Weihrauch's new breed of airgun - the HW110K



My association with Weihrauch goes back some years, and of course, a certain affinity with this famous German brand was cemented from my glory days in field target. Competing with the company's all-conquering HW77 – admittedly heavily tuned Airmasters versions – was always likely to give me an appreciation of their products, but a tour of the factory in Mellrichstadt, back in 2017, just served to reinforce my respect for their operation.

That visit coincided with the launch of their first PCP pistol, the HW44, based heavily on the HW110 rifle, and I remember the fuss generated over copious use of plastics in its manufacture.

## TRACEABLE

With 'soshal meeja' in certain quarters, agog, and dismayed, with the company's radical departure from traditional engineering methods, it remained to be seen how this new breed of airgun would be received, but over a very short time, sheer performance has surely won over the harshest of critics. On test here is the very latest HW110K. The 'K' denotes carbine, and first impressions are of a super-compact sporter, packed with features.

The same '110 action is here, yet with a shorter cylinder and shorter barrel, thus retaining all the advantages of the original rifle. The action is built around a main block constructed from ballistic polymer, yet whilst this could be seen as a massive departure for Weihrauch, and a seemingly risky strategy given their reputation, precedents have indeed been set in the industry. Just consider firearms such as Glock, Heckler & Koch and others, and the way ballistic polymer is being utilised for the entire chassis. As Hans Weihrauch explained to us at the factory, it's the way things are moving, and these modern

*Carry the HW110K all day with ease*





production methods represent the future for the company.

Thinking on a tangent, just consider the impact of 3D printing, and how it is creeping into areas previously dominated by traditional engineering, and it's clear that the future is up for grabs. Being willing to adapt in this fast-changing market place is the key, and Weihrauch's willingness to embrace the options opening up to them, is admirable.

### SO WHAT'S ON OFFER?

Let's remember, Weihrauch launching a new model is a rare occurrence, so any new offering is a cause for celebration. So, just what are we getting then, with

the HW110K? Well, for a start, Weihrauch's own silencer comes fitted as standard, and there's also a quality two-stage trigger, 10-shot magazine (two supplied), side-lever cocking, manual safety catch, Picatinny scope rail, and probe-style charging.

As for the stock, the configuration is ambidextrous sporter. 'Soft touch' best describes the black rubber coated over wood, which feels really cosy. There's chequering neatly applied, laser-cut into both the fore end and pistol grip, and a solid rubber butt pad sits to the rear. Weihrauch are well known for making their own barrels, and the high-grade tube fitted here is just

12.5 inches. Consider that the standard model gets 16 inches, and you can see where most of the trimming exercise has been focused. A plastic barrel support is used, and whilst I didn't experience any problem for the duration of my test, I would consider its removal if this were my own gun – just so the barrel was unhindered with full clearance all around. Weihrauch fit the support to give protection to the barrel, but in the real world, it remains an unnecessary feature.

The barrel is chemically blued in ➡

**The HW110K is radically different for Weihrauch**



*One of the best silencers available, comes as standard*



*Soft-touch woodwork, and it works well*



*A rubber pad is neatly applied*





*Pint-sized sporter, with Weihrauch's renowned build quality*



*Subtle and well thought out, the two-stage trigger*



*Note the barrel support*

the traditional manner, whilst the cylinder has a matte black coating applied. Weihrauch prove that they do take customer feedback seriously, too, since the silver magazine release catch and safety on the original model, are now supplied in black.

### CONFIGURATION

Weihrauch's first PCP, the HW100 Series, has been a major success, and the fact that it has remained in production, largely unchanged from the original concept, is testament indeed to the integrity of the original design. Yet if any criticism is to be levelled at this landmark model in the German giant's illustrious history, it is perhaps the two-part breech block, which could be construed as a source of weakness. The HW110, and now this HW110K offer a completely new, one-piece polymer block as part of the radical design, and that means rigid mounting, uninterrupted by the height of the magazine.

A Picatinny rail runs the entire length of the block, and whilst I still consider this mounting system overkill on a pneumatic recoilless airgun, the popularity of such a feature clearly isn't lost on the manufacturer eager to satisfy the demands of the modern enthusiast.

Next month we'll see how this groundbreaking model shapes up. Until then, safe shooting. ■

## TECHNICAL SPECIFICATION

**Manufacturer:** Weihrauch, Germany

**Model:** HW110K

**Country of Origin:** Germany

**Type:** Regulated multi-shot PCP

**Calibre:** .177 on test/.22 available

**Weight:** 6lbs 8oz

**Length:** 34.5 inches inc silencer

**Barrel:** 12.5 inches

**Stock:** Black rubber-coated wood

**Power Source:** External bottle or pump

**Trigger:** 2-stage adjustable

**Fill Pressure:** 200 bar max

**Shot Count:** Factory claim 60 approx in .177/75 in .22

**Velocity:** On test using AA Diabolo Field from 200bar

High 770fps

Low 751fps

Ave 766fps

Spread 19fps

78 shots before drop

**Energy:** 11 ft.lbs. ave on test

**RRP:** £700 guide price including two 10-shot rotary magazines and filling probe

**Options:** Thumbhole stock/ full-length action

**Contact:** Hull Cartridge Company 01482 342571

**RRP £700**



*A neat accessory rail so you can add a bipod*



# Going Ballistic!

**PART 2**

Mark Camoccio concludes his test of Weihrauch's new revolutionary HW110K

Last month, we began taking a look at the latest pint-sized sporter from Weihrauch, the HW110K, and now it's time for the business end of the test.

With a scope securely bolted into place, correctly set for eye relief, the next stage is to fill the cylinder. Weihrauch specify a fill pressure of 200bar, and with a manometer sitting at the front of the cylinder, keeping a check on residual pressure is simple – if a little disquieting! Yes, I will continue to highlight the folly of having to position the head anywhere near the barrel, just to see the gauge, but several manufacturers still fall foul of the logic.

The same filler probe adaptor is utilised, as with the HW100 series, and this is undoubtedly quick and easy. First pull out the small nylon plug in the inlet valve, then push the probe, with airline attached, into the valve and slowly fill to the prescribed pressure. With any such probe system, I would always advise to check that the probe is still fully inserted after a short while, just to be super-safe. Remove, and re-insert the plug.

The main cylinder is charged in situ here, but the fact that the cylinder can be easily unscrewed at any point, has to make sense. Speak to Weihrauch, and they adopt an unofficial testing regimen of inspecting the gun's cylinder after ten years of regular use. I reckon it's a great idea, and it would be nice to see other manufacturers building in such features, to deal with the testing of air vessels further down the line. Good practice for the industry, for sure, especially when you consider the age of some PCPs now in the system.

## MAG' POSITION

So to the magazine; Weihrauch supply two 10-shot mag's with this model, and filling is simple, just requiring a pellet to be inserted into each chamber and making sure that they sit flush. Next, pull the

*Confidence in the field is a given*







**ABOVE LEFT: Probe-style charging is quick and easy**

**ABOVE RIGHT: Not the best place for a gauge**

**BELOW LEFT: The Weihrauch magazine is robust in operation**

**BELOW RIGHT: Fitting the mag' is a bit fiddly; note the retaining clip under the lever**

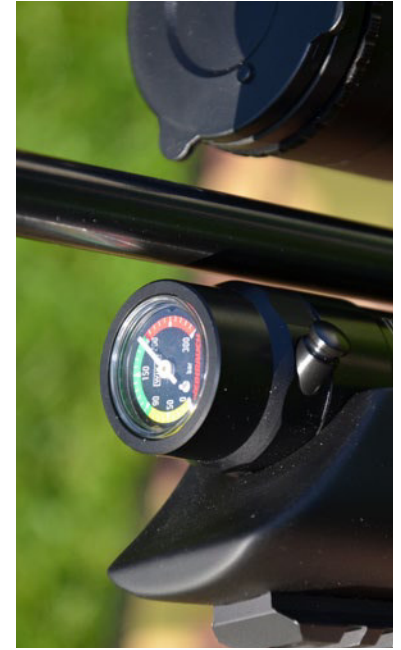
sidelever back until the hammer and trigger mechanism are set. Now insert the mag' into the slot within the action, from the right-hand side, whilst pulling up the magazine retaining catch. This is identical to the standard HW110, and I have to admit, I do find it a somewhat fiddly operation – my main negative for an otherwise brilliant airgun. It's a two handed job, and the mag' requires a nudge or two on occasions, to allow the lever to be closed. You know when all is set correctly because the mag' retaining catch sits level.

Get the mag' into position however, and subsequent cocking and cycling of the action thereafter, is as sweet as can be!

## IN THE AIM

Shoulder the HW110K, and the configuration of the stock comes into play nicely. That said, I am of a fairly large build, and would appreciate the fore end to be a few inches longer, to accommodate the rather more gangly among us. It would add nothing to the overall length, after all. The small Picatinny mount on the underside is a neat idea too, meaning the fitting of a lamp or laser is an option, for those who feel the need.

As for Weihrauch's silencer, fitted as standard here, the muted muzzle report is testament to its effectiveness, and here's another key detail; the multi-shot mechanism



cannot be made to double-load pellets, which is a huge advantage against many rivals. Weihrauch always allocate resources to the trigger, and the HW110K sports a particularly subtle unit, that despite a plastic blade, trips with admirable precision. Down-range accuracy hangs on such detail, and with faultless performance from the silky sidelever for the duration of the test, it's a big thumbs up in the reliability stakes.

## STATS AND FIGURES

Weihrauch specify the HW110K action as self-regulating, and offer 60 shots as a guide in .177 calibre, and 75 in .22. I had a .177 version, ➡







and from a 200bar fill pressure, managed 78 shots, all within 19fps, using Air Arms Diabolo Field pellets straight from the tin. Impressive stuff in anyone's book.

From a rest, I chalked up some excellent groups of 9mm over 40yds, but adopting a kneeling position, at 25yds, I still produced several groups the size of a five-pence piece – yes, really! Stunning, and all the evidence I needed of the potential for this new kid on the block. Shooting from a standing position was a challenge because I needed more weight at the front, but as it stands, this is a superb piece of machinery.

## VERDICT

As mentioned, I've been lucky enough to see first-hand the level

**ABOVE LEFT:** Cocking the sidelever is super-slick

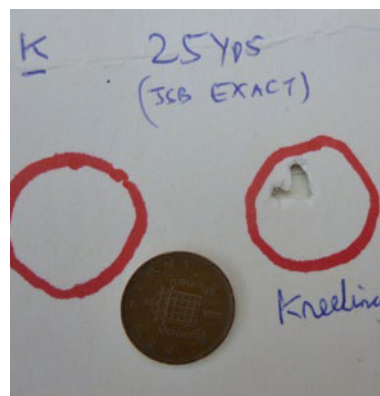
**ABOVE RIGHT:** Stunning accuracy was easily come by

**BELOW:** Smart and perfectly formed - the Weihrauch HW110K

of commitment and expertise that Weihrauch apply to their manufacturing operation, and the HW110K is a truly stunning air rifle. Modern materials such as ballistic polymer clearly have a place in gun production, and this model still feels every inch a top-class pedigree model, despite those synthetic components.

The HW110 has been extremely well received by customers and this latest pint-sized version, just widens the appeal of the concept.

As for performance, with that factory silencer in place, quality trigger and high-grade Weihrauch barrel, the result is an ultra-slick 'tack driver', that's super-quiet, and extremely civilised to shoot – the HW110K is a classic Weihrauch in a slightly smaller package! ■



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