



This is probably the best birthday present I've ever had.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO ME!

What do you buy a man who has everything?
A HW110 laminate, of course!

Weihrauch is not a company who have a penchant for launching new models, so when they do it's something of a big deal. I have the idea that every move is carefully planned and evaluated, before taking the step of production. A quick revision of the timelines involved in their venture into the pre-charged market should sufficiently illustrate my point.

FIRST FRUITS

The HW100, launched back in 2003 was Weihrauch's first 'toe in the water' of the pre-charged market, which is some considerable years later than BSA and Webley, who were both fairly late adopters of this new power source. By watching and learning from the market, Weihrauch produced a gun that included all the vital features we craved, plus a few extras thrown in for good measure. After a few minor tweaks here and there, the HW100 is still a best seller – in my view, due to the fact that Weihrauch got the design right at the outset. In short, Weihrauch did their homework, not only watching the market, but also listening to customer feedback, all combining to make a recipe for success.

NEW KID ON THE BLOCK

Fast forward to 2017 and we were given the HW110, designed to complement rather than replace the HW100. This was a departure from the steel and walnut we came to know on the 100, as some parts were replaced with a high grade polymer, and the stock although wood was a coated with a black rubberised finish. Of course, such features are likely to invoke wailing and gnashing of teeth, along with judgements on how long the synthetic breach would last.

The laminate stock elevates the HW110 to a new level.

We are now five years into the HW110, and far from my surprise, the naysayers have had to eat their words. Think about it – Weihrauch, a company that prides itself on the quality of its products is not likely to chance it all on a wild card – there's too much at stake for that.

So here we have two pre-charged rifles in a 19-year period, not very many, but as Mrs Williams my old English teacher used to say, 'It's quality not quantity that matters,' and quality was never in question here.

YEARLY CELEBRATIONS

With a pending birthday, I decided to buy a rifle that for once didn't have issues to fix, which for me would be something of a luxury. I'd seen the HW110 laminate at the British Shooting Show in 2020, and was very impressed by its appearance and handling. At the time, I was not really in a position to contemplate a purchase, but I knew that it would only be a matter of time.

Following the show, Covid made itself known, and having seen colleagues fall ill and in some cases dying from the infection, I decided that when matters improved, I should not deny myself a little indulgence. Recent events have underlined the fact that life can be cut short, and the short time that we are here are days to enjoy.

A birthday seemed as good a time as any for a special present, hence the present to myself of the HW110. With several months ownership in real-world conditions, I feel I am in a position to offer a judgement on how this gun could enrich your life.

SHADES OF GREY

Without doubt, it's the laminate stock in varying shades of grey that sets this rifle apart





The Sidewinder is a top choice for a high-end gun.



Very clear gauge, and accurate, as well.



To remove the magazine draw back the cocking lever.



Ten-shot magazine, no moving parts, so nothing to fail, and you get two.

from the pack, so it's probably as good a point as any to start.

This laminate stock is a complete re-design of the thumbhole stock as fitted to the HW100T and personally, the overall shape of the laminate model is far more stylish.

Starting at the fore end, you get a slightly concave 45° angle tip, which ever so gently curves down to the trigger guard. Those who like to load their stock with accessories will not be disappointed by the mini Picatinny rail mounted under the fore end. Secured by a pair of hex screws, it is easily removed should you prefer a clear hand grip. I do, and it was the first thing I altered!

Hand traction is promoted by a pair of lightly stippled grips at the fore end, followed by another at the steeply designed pistol grip.

An oversized thumbhole leads to the beautifully sculptured rear stock, complete with its height-adjustable butt pad and ambidextrous cheek piece.

Despite the fact that the grip is sharply angled, the index finger falls nicely into line with the trigger, aided in so doing by the horizontal finger relief at each side.

It really is a beautiful exercise in design, and more importantly, it fits like a custom-made pair of kid gloves.

A stainless steel cylinder will resist corrosion.



SILENCE IS GOLDEN

In latter years, Weihrauch has moved over from its trademark, tapered moderator to a squared off design, whilst retaining the standard 1/2" UNF thread. I'm always suspicious of change, despite the fact that it looks rather good, and I was keen to hear rather than just see the difference. Rather pleasing is the fact that this gun is insanely quiet – in fact, it must be the quietest gun I've yet witnessed, either that or I'm Mutt and Jeff.

I was gratified to see that Weihrauch have used the same pressure gauge as found on the HW100, which rather than acting as a guide, actually agrees completely with the bottle gauge. This gun as fitted with a standard length cylinder, is enough to ensure well over a hundred supremely consistent shots from each 200 bar fill.

On the subject of consistency, I will give my own thoughts on what turned out to be one of the most heated topics when the HW110 was launched, 'Does the HW110 have a regulator?'

REGULATOR OR NOT?

I distinctly remember that there was much discussion, debate, argument, at the time of the HW110's launch about whether or not it had a regulator fitted as per the HW100. From memory, I think a truce was called when there was

confirmation that it had a self-regulating valve, which I suppose might have suited both camps.

As time has passed many people, including me, have had an opportunity to take a look inside, my observations are as follows:

Deep inside that cylinder you will find an assembly consisting of a stack of Belleville washers, which are adjustable to give varying operating pressures, requiring the use of a gauge to ensure that the correct operating pressure is set. Now Columbo I am not, but all the evidence points to one conclusion – that the HW110 has a regulator. The final word on the subject comes from the Weihrauch website where it clearly uses the word regulator on the specification list, so I will not the labour the point anymore, except to say that it does a pretty good job.

The air cylinder itself is made from stainless steel, in line with German law which stipulates the use of steel for air cylinders.

UNCONVENTIONAL MATERIALS

At the end of the cylinder, we arrive at the other interesting feature – the polymer breech.

Back at this rifle's launch, the use of a polymer product for the breech components raised a few eyebrows, as you might expect – not really a new idea in the firearms industry, although a departure from the norm in high

Useful for some, but not for me, so I took it off.



quality air rifles.

Long-term durability is always going to be a concern, particularly around the Picatinny rail with all those projections to worry about.

It's now six years down the line for the original HW110, and many hundreds have been out in the field with all the rough and tumble that this type of shooting entails. To my mind, that presents ample time and opportunity for problems to manifest, and you can bet your bottom dollar, if they are there, you will find them by browsing the Internet. Purely for enlightenment, I have done just that, and I am pleased to report that I haven't seen any accounts of cracked, broken, or in any way deformed breech parts –and considering this is a worldwide web, that's definitely something to celebrate.

Thinking about matters logically, do we really think that a company the size of Weihrauch, with a positive reputation equally as large, would chance it all on one dodgy component? No, of course not.

LOADING UP

Supplied with the rifle are two 10-shot magazines; a solid, one-piece affair that requires an easily learned technique in order to load it into the rifle. My own method consists of wrapping my left hand under the stock, and using my middle finger to push up on the magazine release lever,

Multi-adjustable match trigger, which does a sterling job in aiding marksmanship.



leaving the fingers on my right hand to pluck the magazine from the well. By keeping the muzzle upright, gravity helps out by keeping the cocking lever out of the way, and not creeping back to foul the magazine.

Reverse the procedure and you will be rewarded with a smooth cocking action, for all of its ten shots. Each one of those shots will be discharged by the fully-adjustable match trigger, which as you would expect is a joy to use – a distinct first-stage pull, followed by a light, creep-free second stage, all you could ever wish for really.

ON TARGET

For a gun of this style and quality, it made sense to top it off with a scope boasting similar standards, which is why I chose a Hawke Sidewinder 4.5-14 x 44. Having reacquainted myself with the scope at this year's British Shooting Show, its combination of excellent optical quality, and relatively compact size meant it was an easy decision to make. Not a cheap option at around £479, but quality kit never is, and with Hawke's lifetime warrantee, it's certainly economical in the long term.

Out in the field, this gun shoots as well, if not better than it looks, and when a gun looks this good that's a bold statement to make. The perfect synergy of gun, scope, and JSB Exact

pellets makes hitting targets out to a distant 50m a formality, whilst I would add that my own self-imposed limit of 35m for live quarry still stands.

With an unscoped weight of 3.4kg, I wouldn't consider it a lightweight gun, although at 92cm it does feel compact. The laminate stock adds a little more weight, although this equate to stability, which contributes to its accuracy at long range.

All in all, you could say that I'm very pleased with my birthday treat, and of course, it's something of a novelty not to have something that needs repair, although I have seen a few after-market accessories that might be worth considering in the future.

I shall keep you posted on progress, but for now I'm going to shoot it, with a smug look on face, and savour the ever-admiring looks it gets from my neighbours! ■

COMBINATION AS TESTED

■ Weihrauch HW110 laminate stock full-length rifle. www.hullcartridge.co.uk Price £908.

■ Hawke Sidewinder scope 4.5 - 15 x 44. <https://uk.hawkeoptics.com> Price £479.

Adjustable pad is always a bonus - top marks for making it a standard feature on the laminate stock.

