

# THUMBHOLE STOCK THOROUGHbred

**Mat Manning** puts the elegantly-styled HW110 T Laminate through its paces and finds it to be another winner from the Weihrauch stable

PHOTOGRAPHY **JOE BRANSTON**



**W**eihrauch airguns need no introduction. Precision German engineering, solid build quality, consistent accuracy and some of the finest trigger mechanisms in the world have elevated this brand to near-legendary status, and rightly so.

The HW110 was designed to be a more affordable variant of Weihrauch's

flagship HW100 PCP. Although it met that brief very well, it has established a remarkably loyal following over the years and is now recognised as an excellent airgun in its own right. The model has seen several tweaks through a rolling development program, and the latest line-up includes the HW110 T Laminate version I'm testing

here.

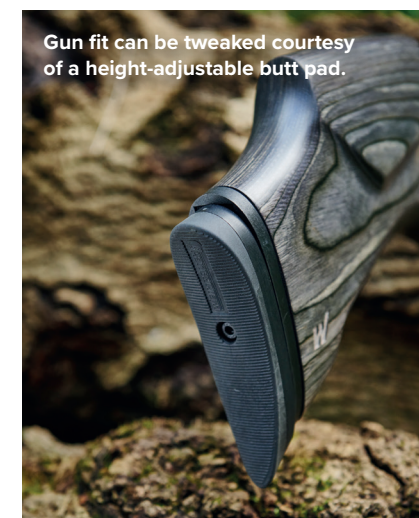
This variant sports an elegant grey thumbhole stock and has a recommended retail price of £1,000. That isn't exactly cheap, but I think it amounts to excellent value for such a well-made airgun which comes with the reassurance of the tried and trusted Weihrauch brand.







A steep and thoughtfully sculpted pistol grip combines with a spacious thumbhole cut-away to make for a very comfortable hold.



Gun fit can be tweaked courtesy of a height-adjustable butt pad.



Weihrauch's High Efficiency silencer does an exceptionally good job of hushing muzzle report.

## TAKING STOCK

This airgun's ambidextrous laminate stock has been given a satin finish that really shows off its varying tones, which range from light grey to almost black, without looking too flashy. A large thumbhole cut-away leads into a steep, chunky pistol grip which set me up really well for the trigger. Both sides of the grip are adorned with really crisp stippling, and there are panels of the same stippling on the fore end – it looks great and certainly enhances grip.

I like stocks with a long fore end, and that is certainly the case with this one, which provides plenty of room for your leading hand. It has a nice forward sweep at the front end and the underside is threaded to accept a removable Picatinny-type rail which comes supplied.

Similar close attention has been paid to the design and sculpting of the rear section of the stock. The high, hog's back-type cheekpiece ensures very good eye/scope alignment, and is complemented by an adjustable butt pad that enables you to tweak gun fit to suit your stature and chosen optic.

The HW110 T is a pretty compact airgun, measuring up at about 98cm with the supplied silencer fitted. It tips the scales at 3.4kg unscoped and is very nicely balanced. Fitted with a 4-16 x 42 MTC Mamba Lite scope, the point of balance on the test gun was about 8cm in front of the trigger blade. Length of pull is a fairly standard 365mm and the overall proportions result in an air rifle, which apart from being kind on the eye, also feels very good in the shoulder.

## FEATURES AND FUNCTION

When it comes to build quality, the HW110 is really solidly constructed and the finish is flawless. Scope attachment is via a super-secure Picatinny rail, which is integral to the gun's polymer action. The magazine sits beneath the rail, so there are no issues with clearance if you want to use low scope mounts. This model has a 41cm barrel and comes with Weihrauch's High Efficiency silencer. The muzzle is threaded, so you can remove the silencer and swap it out for a muzzle brake or a different suppressor, though I don't think many shooters will find any need to because this one is extremely effective.

The HW110 runs a 10-shot metal magazine and comes supplied with two of them. As magazines go, this one looks very basic – it is little more than a cog

with bays for pellets – but it is brilliantly engineered and kind to pellets – and that simplicity means there is virtually nothing that can go wrong with it.

To remove the magazine, you pull the sidelever back and then push up the switch that shifts its retaining pin. It then pulls out ready for you to load pellets, nose-first, from what I would describe as the notched side. When the magazine is fully loaded, push the switch back up, slot it in and return the sidelever. The gun is now cocked, loaded and ready to go.

I really like sidelever actions and the updated cocking mechanism on this model is very good. UK distributor Hull Cartridge can even reverse the lever to the opposite side for left-handers, or you can order a left-hand version when you buy. I found it to be well-positioned



The sweeping fore end is adorned with grippy stippling and is threaded to accept a supplied Picatinny rail.

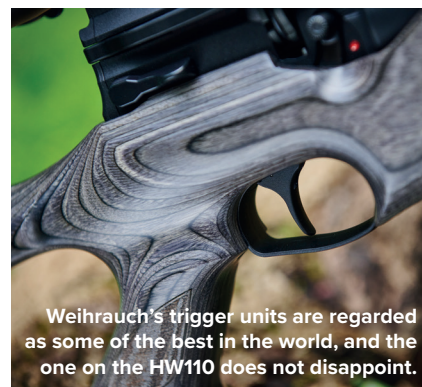




Scope mounting is via an uninterrupted Picatinny-type rail.



A very efficient sidelever mechanism makes for fast and dependable reloading.



Weihrauch's trigger units are regarded as some of the best in the world, and the one on the HW110 does not disappoint.

and very intuitive to operate. It's quick and reliable and, as you'd expect from Weihrauch, very smooth and efficient.

The same efficiency and smoothness of operation is evident in the trigger, which is no great surprise because Weihrauch have been setting the standard in that department for decades. I really like the trigger blade on this model, which is gently curved with a wide face that transmits a lot of feel. The two-stage mechanism is also brilliant. It is adjustable, but the one on the review gun was set up just about perfectly for my liking. First-stage weight and travel were just right, and were followed by a very clear stop before an extremely crisp and utterly creep-free second-stage break.

There is a manual safety catch set within the action and it can't be engaged unless the gun is cocked. Positioned safely away from the trigger blade, just in front of the magazine, it has a switch on both sides to make it truly ambidextrous. It's very easy to access and is safe when down in the forward position. You then just flip it up and back when you're ready to take the shot.

## POWER AND PERFORMANCE

Rather than sporting a large bottle, the HW110 is fitted with an elegant cylinder.

It still holds enough air to deliver a healthy shot count from a full 200 bar fill, and you can expect 110 in .177 and 140 in .22; .20 calibre is also available on special order. An easy-to-read gauge at the front of the cylinder provides a clear visual indication of your remaining air reserves. When it's time to refill, simply remove the stopper from just behind the gauge and plug in the supplied probe.

The review gun is .177 calibre and is producing a muzzle energy of 11.4 ft.lbs. with Weihrauch F&T Special pellets. Thanks to Weihrauch's self-regulating system, it is pretty consistent, too, and velocity was within five feet per second over a string of ten shots. I have heard a few rumours about inconsistent power output on early models of the HW110, but I have never experienced it myself, and friends who own recent versions have assured me that theirs are knocking out power close to 12 ft.lbs with the same high level of consistency as the review gun.

## COMPACT PROPORTIONS

I've shot a few HW110s in the past, and they have all been very accurate. As expected, this one was equally impressive when printing test groups on the range. Find the right pellet and you can expect it

virtually to stack them on top of each other at 30m. This is an air rifle which will still be single-holing at 40m in windless conditions, and I know from experience that it is a very solid performer in the hunting field. It is also a wonderful gun to shoot on the range for the sheer pleasure of toppling targets, which it can do with unerring reliability.

Having the reassurance of the Weihrauch brand counts for a lot, in my opinion, and the HW110 T Laminate backs that up with a high level of accuracy as well as stylish good looks, courtesy of its handsome grey laminate thumbhole stock. Its compact proportions and very quiet muzzle report, courtesy of the supplied silencer, make it a brilliant choice for hunting, and it's also a very competent performer on the range. This dependable German PCP has been built to give years of trouble-free shooting, and you can count on it doing that very, very well. ✕

## TECH SPEC

**Model:** HW110 T Laminate

**Manufacturer:** Weihrauch

**Type:** Multi-shot thumbhole PCP

**Cocking:** Sidelever

**Trigger:** Two-stage, adjustable

**Calibres:** .177 (tested) and .22 (.20 to order).

**Overall length:** 980mm (39in)

**Barrel length:** 410mm (16in)

**Length of pull:** 365mm (14.5in)

**Weight:** 3.4kg (7.5lbs) without scope

**Fill pressure:** 200 bar

**Shots per fill:** up to 140

**Energy of test rifle:** Avg 11.4 ft.lbs.

**Variation (10 shots):** 5fps

**Website:** [weihrauch.co.uk](http://weihrauch.co.uk)

**PRICE:** From £1000



There are safety catch switches on both sides of the action, and the sidelever can be reversed for left-handers.



Remaining air pressure is shown on a very clear gauge at the front of the cylinder.