

# LESS IS SOMETIMES



## It's the simple things that get the pulse racing - says Gerard MacConnachie

I don't know about you, but the technological leaps of the last 10 years have left me feeling cold. I'm writing this on a MacBook Pro that also serves as a mobile broadcast studio and non-linear video editor; the pictures I took earlier are

which at the moment is somewhere dark, remote and rainy. Earlier, while I took a brew, I spoke to Herself on my iPhone via FaceTime. I used to think that when true video phone calls were an everyday reality, it would mean

Call of Duty against each other on the interweb, nothing has really set the world alight since. Wake me up when we get a matter transporter like the one on Star Trek, or maybe a Time Machine.

### IMPROVEMENTS FOR ALL

Of course, modern technology has also improved the lives of millions

electronically controlled, and boasting a multi-function display, lasers and quite possibly a nuclear reactor, it looks like something the Colonial Marines might bring to bear against a hive of Xenomorphs - but it's an air rifle. It may not be your cup of tea, and you might need a stiff drink after seeing the price tag, but it is not designed to be a rifle for everyone. However, those shooters that do take one home will know that they possess the absolute state of the art in air rifle design, and for some people, that in itself may be worth the financial outlay.

While I can dispassionately acknowledge the excellence of the new Daystate, I found myself



available to me here - or indeed anywhere - from the Cloud, and I'll send it all to Editor Doe through a mobile wi-fi dongle which harvests the 4G signal from wherever I am,

'The Future' had arrived. Well, they are, and here it is. How dreary.

I think once we got over our excitement at being able to play

of us in many different ways, and for many airgun shooters, tech is now king. Consider the new Daystate Pulsar. It is absolutely astonishing. Computer driven,





The mechanical legend that is the Rekord trigger unit.

looking to the past when deciding which rifle would be the next addition to my own cabinet; something classic, established, and with nothing to prove.

#### LONG-TERM WANT

I had wanted a Weihrauch HW35E for years and it had to be an Export model; the walnut stock, sling swivels, grip cap and butt pad with white spacers are subtle enhancements, but make all the difference in the world. The original had a 22" barrel, but the contemporary version is slightly different in that the barrel has been shortened to 19 inches, the leather piston seal has been upgraded to a synthetic item, and the stock, while still walnut, lacks the tiger-stripe finesse of the older variants, but to these eyes, the HW35E is still the most beautiful and elegant air rifle in the world.

The first HW35 appeared in 1951, and it has been in continuous production ever since. In that time, countless other rifles have come and gone, vanished without trace, while the 35 quietly extends its lead, so Weihrauch must be doing something right.

#### TOP TRIGGER

It was the first air rifle equipped with the iconic two-stage Rekord trigger, a unit widely held up as being the best of its kind in the world. Even today, it's hard not to marvel at it. To release the energy stored in a charged mainspring with such delicacy is no easy task, and the Rekord breaks with superbly tactile precision. Today, there are other fine triggers from Air Arms and Diana, for example, but Weihrauch paved the way. The distinctive barrel latch is also still there, and it's another

example of simple, yet fine, engineering design. Hold the long, slender barrel just above the breech block, thumb the latch and the breech opens a few degrees and stays there, while you reach for the end of the barrel and cock the rifle, in one smooth movement. Purists thumb the latch once again to close the barrel, but I like to hear the satisfyingly deep click of the lock-up.



So solid crew - and good for another 50 years at least.

#### SUPREMELY SATISFYING

Shooting through the iron sights, as you should, the HW35E is supremely pointable, and targets are acquired with languid ease. Straight out of the box and with barely any adjustment, I was shooting satisfyingly tight groups, offhand, in the garden until it got dark. I have no plans to fit a scope.

#### GROWING APPEAL

I cared not at all for Weihrauch's oldest rifle when I first started shooting, and I find it interesting

that its appeal has grown the older I have become. I wonder how many others feel the same way. As the years go by, the attention is drawn by inherent quality and design, whose form follows function, and I think the HW35E is a classic example of this. If you have not considered it before, I can recommend it unreservedly to anyone who loves air rifles that don't need to shout to make themselves heard; the growing of a beard is not mandatory.

Happy shooting! ■

*"The first HW35 appeared in 1951 and it's been in continuous production ever since"*



Trademark whiteline grip spacer and high quality chequering.



No scope, no need. Class is permanent.