



# SUPERSTAR!

Tim Finley revisits an old classic in the form of Weihrauch's HW45 Silver Star pistol

Weihrauch launched the HW45 Silver Star in 2009, then the Black Star, and more recently in 2018, the Bronze Star. All the Star variants have several features that set them apart from the standard HW45 pistols that preceded them, bearing in mind that the HW45 was brought to us in 1985. You cannot fail to

housed in the top section, which also has the open sights on it and an 11mm optical sight rail, and it hinges from the front end of the pistol, held in place by a pseudo hammer at the rear of the action. To cock the action, the safety catch positioned just behind the trigger must be applied first.

The safety is not an automatic one, so

Flicking the lever back away from the trigger blade into the 'safe' position can be done from either side of the action, no matter if you are left- or right-handed because there are levers positioned both sides.

## TWO POWER LEVELS

As with all HW45-based pistols, there are two power levels available to the shooter. Pulling the barrel section up to almost 90 degrees to the action and engaging the piston latch sets the first power level. On test, this gun came in at 1.7 ft.lbs. with .177 7.9 grain pellets. After pulling the top section all the way out, the power went up a full 2 ft.lbs, to 4.5 ft.lbs. — this gain is for only a further 17mm of movement on the piston. The differing power levels affect the trigger pull, as you would expect. The lower

*“no matter if you are left- or right-handed because there are levers positioned both sides”*

identify the pistol model as the words 'Silver Star' are engraved in flowing script behind the HW45 logo on the left-hand side of the action.

First I'll cover the basic operation of the gun — a spring-powered air pistol with an over-lever cocking action. The barrel is

get into the habit of applying it before commencing the cocking and loading sequence. It's a small, ribbed lever with an 'S' for 'safe', and a red dot and 'F' for the 'unsafe', or 'ready to fire' position and the red dot warning you that it's ready to fire is only on the left-hand side of the action.



Side views of the  
HW45 Silver Star show  
it in all its glory.





**177 is a good calibre for an HW45.**



**The upgraded Silver Star grip is ambidextrous.**

the spring pressure on the trigger sears, the lighter the trigger pressure will be. At 2½ ft. lbs., the factory-set trigger measured in at 1.67kg (3lbs 11oz). At full power, the trigger weight went up to 2.3kg (5lbs 3oz).

The trigger adjustment screws on the HW45 are situated on the front face of the ribbed trigger blade and can be accessed via a hole in the trigger guard. The top screw alters the second-stage position,

spare 'O' ring for the transfer port. It also has an Allen key that fits the trigger adjustment screw.

## STUNNING GRIPS

The main upgrade over the basic HW45 mark is the grips. Gone are the slab-type covers on each side, to be replaced by a wrap-around laminated wood grip – it's done in a target-style and looks absolutely

you get to see where the extra money went. The grip transforms the feel of the gun, and I know because I own a standard HW45. You can ask yourself two questions; is it really worth the cost of a rifle? Is the Silver Star model really superior to the base model? The answer to both of those questions is an emphatic 'yes'! Initial tests in my loft range at six yards gave me an 8mm centre-to-centre, five-shot group with Match Wadcutter pellets, so there was no need to lighten the trigger from its factory settings.

## AMBIDEXTROUS

I recommend that you use a two-handed grip with any HW45 pistol. With a power of 5 ft.lbs., the Silver Star has all the power you will ever need with the added bonus of a lesser power level for indoor target shooting and plinking. It is comfortable as a single-

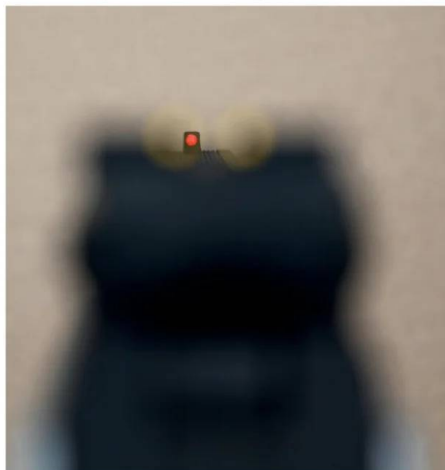
*"Initial tests in my loft range at six yards, gave me an 8mm centre-to-centre, five-shot group"*

shorter turn to the right, longer turn to the left. The bottom screw is the weight, and turning in will increase the trigger weight, and turning to the left will lighten the trigger. The gun comes supplied with a comprehensive instruction guide and

stunning. The layered wood is in differing shades of grey, and the grips are well-sculptured with a stippled finish to the bottom section. This bottom half swells out to a large section butt cap.

It is when shooting the Silver Star that

**The front post dot shows up well.**



**The yellow dots show up well on the rear sight.**



**The rear fibre-optic element is a U-shape.**







Having grooves on the trigger blade helps with trigger control on this recoiling air pistol.



A red dot appears when on the left side of the Silver Star when the safety catch is on 'fire'.



The classy script of Silver Star.



The action is locked down with the faux hammer.



Pulling the faux hammer back releases the over-lever.



You can mount a scope, laser or red dot on the 11mm sight rail.

handed shooting stance, too, but I recommend the two-handed style due to the HW45's weight.

The ambidextrous grip is not a target-style fit for both left- and right-handed shooters, but as a right-hander it still felt very good to me. The compromise in dedicated right- or left-handed shooters design is minimal, and whoever designed it did a fantastic job. You can tell that they spent time on it; the way the angle of the front top section of the grip follows the angle of the safety catch when in the 'safe' mode, is just one example of their deft touch. It really is a comfortable gun to shoot compared to the plain grips of the standard model – and as I said earlier, I should know.

It has a scope/red-dot sight mounting dovetail on the front half of the top cocking lever, which extends all the way to the front of the gun, even past the front sight post.



Tim shooting the HW45 Silver Star on his club's pistol course.

Fitted with a scope, or even a red dot, it would be fantastic – you would make full use of its power.

After just a few shots with the HW45 Silver Star, you realise what a special pistol it is. Build quality is second to none and it is supremely accurate. Yes, it might be expensive, but true quality always is.

#### THINGS TO THINK ABOUT

It might be as expensive as a rifle, but it is a must-have for all true air-pistol fans ■

### TECH SPEC

**Manufacturer:** Weihrauch

**Distributor:** Hull Cartridge: 01482 342756

**Model:** HW45 Silver Star

**Type:** Spring-piston

**Barrel length:** 170mm

**Calibre:** .177 or .22 (.177 on test) (.20 on special order)

**Action:** Over-lever

**Sights:** Rear notch – adjustable, with fibre-optic elements front and rear (with dovetail optical sight ramp)

**Trigger:** Two-stage adjustable

**Trigger weight:** 1.7 to 2.3kg

**Grips:** Laminated grey wood, target-style stippled for grip

**Overall length:** 280mm

**Weight:** 1.1kg

**RRP £385**

The Silver Star can be partially cocked for a lower power level.

