

Weihrauch's renowned silencer comes supplied and brings a noticeable reduction to muzzle report

# **RIFLE TEST** WEIHRAUCH HW80K



Good eye/scope

Moving back, the cheekpiece is clearly defined on both sides of this ambidextrous handle and has plenty of height. This is a scope-only airgun so it is vital to have sufficient elevation in the cheekpiece to ensure that your eye is correctly aligned with your chosen optic. Weihrauch has paid close attention to that detail, and this stock is spot on for a telescopic sight – even if it's secured in relatively high mounts.

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The butt end of the stock is finished with a brown rubber recoil pad. Between that and the wood sits a black spacer - it's a subtle touch, but I think little details like this boost an airgun's appearance.

Aesthetics get a further boost from some very neatly engraved panels on both sides of the pistol grip and forend. Rather than conventional chequering or stippling they comprise of sloped grooves, which apart from looking stylish, do a terrific job of enhancing grip. The forend panels also incorporate the Weihrauch logo - a subtle and tasteful reminder of this airgun's pedigree.

## **FEATURES AND FUNCTION**

The Luxus version of the HW80K is available in .177 and .22 calibres, as well as .20 and .25 to special order. Its barrel is 310mm long, and while that may sound short, the length provided by the silencer provides leverage for the cocking stroke.

And that silencer actually works. While it can be a little tricky to tell how much reduction there is to the muzzle report of a springpowered airgun because your ears are so close to the mechanical action, the downrange noise is certainly reduced.

The cylinder is machined with around 170mm of dovetail rail, which should be more than enough clamping space for any scope you plan to attach to this Weihrauch. It has also been drilled with three holes should you crave the added reassurance of an arrestor pin to guard against scope creep.

The generous length of the HW80K action means that you can use all but the longest of telescopic sights without risk of the front end getting in the way of the breech.



Long dovetail scope rails provide plenty of scope-mounting space, and are backed up by holes to accept a recoil pin



safety catch is operated by a discreet button at the rear of the cylinder

External metalwork, including the barrel and cylinder, has been given a lustrous dark blued finish synonymous with Weihrauch. This adds to the gun's elegant aesthetics, which are backed up by the rock-solid build quality and very clean engineering we have come to expect from this German gunmaker.

The long forend can

hold styles, and is

embellished with some

neat grip-enhancing panels

date a variety of

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One of the most impressive features that you will find on a Weihrauch airgun is the renowned match-quality Rekord trigger unit. This all-metal two-stage system has been around for a long time now, but thoughtful tweaks have ensured that it is still one of the best, and it can rival trigger units on airguns costing three times the price.

The trigger on the test gun was near-perfect on its factory setting. First-stage weight was moderate and the travel fairly average, prior to a clear stop followed by an extremely crisp and predictable second-stage break. Rekord triggers are adjustable via the screw positioned behind the blade, and if you do need to make any tweaks, the Rekord is much easier to adjust than those on a lot of airguns.

Trigger blade design on the HW80K hasn't changed in quite a long time, and that is because it doesn't need to. It has a gentle curve as well as a wide, flat face that most of us tend to favour. There are some subtle grooves machined into the face of the blade and they do seem to enhance its feel.

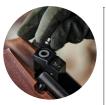
This trigger has been setting the standard in terms of simple and effective performance for a very long time, and I have a feeling that it will continue to do so for some while yet.

There is an automatic safety catch at the rear of the cylinder. It is engaged by the cocking stroke and you can see when it does as a button pops out on the left. To disengage it, you simply push the button in. Should you take the safety off and want to reset it, you can re-engage it by breaking the barrel and pulling it back down to make the pin pop out again.

#### **POWER AND PERFORMANCE**

The HW80K may have been around for a long time, but it is most certainly not old-fashioned. Its spring-powered action incorporates some very clever engineering and has evolved into something quite special. The result is a self-contained powerplant that delivers output close to the legal limit without feeling in the least bit strained.

Consistency is seldom an issue with Weihrauch springers, and the .22 calibre HW80K Luxus I was sent to review was spitting out 15.9gr FT Exact Jumbo pellets at 11.5 ft-lb, with a variation that remained within 8ft/sec over a string of 10 shots. That is better than a lot of PCPs at this price point.



The design of the ambidextrous Luxus stock ensures a good fit

with correct eye/scope alignment and good trigger attack

Loading is direct to the breech and the HW80K boasts a rock-solid lock-up mechanism

The cocking stroke is very smooth and surprisingly easy for such a powerful break-barrel, and the linkage is free from any disconcerting rattles when you give the gun a shake. Smaller shooters may find the HW80K a bit of a handful, but most adults should be able to cock it with ease.

full-power output

Loading is direct to breech, and the lock-up is extremely secure

This gun is no lightweight, but I am convinced that its heft does a very effective job of damping down the recoil.

The HW80K Luxus is surprisingly easy to cock despite its

Consistent, accurate shooting with a spring-powered airgun is about practice and technique. but this Weihrauch makes it easier than most. Smooth power delivery, good fit and an excellent trigger make for a highly effective shooting

> machine, and thumbnail-sized groups at 30m are quite achievable.

Accuracy like that means the HW80K Luxus is perfectly

capable of tackling live quarry. It is also a very gratifying gun to shoot, and I had great fun using it on the range and for backyard plinking. As break-barrel airguns go, the Weihrauch HW80K Luxus is not a cheap option, but it is a very dependable one.

Powerful, accurate, solidly constructed and, thanks to the new Luxus touch, very kind on the eye, this self-contained workhorse should give owners many years of shooting satisfaction.

# when you snap the barrel closed. Retaining systems on all breakbarrels seem to have improved over recent years, but the sprung mechanism on this gun feels

SHOOTING SATISFACTION >>

**44** THIS WORKHORSE SHOULD

**GIVE OWNERS MANYYEARS OF** 

practically bomb-proof. Some full-power springers can be let down by a snappy firing cycle, but the HW80K Luxus is a very smooth shooter. As you might expect there is some felt recoil, but it is more of a clean thud than a vibrating twang, and it is very

easy to manage.

## THE AIRGUN SHOOTER VERDICT

"German engineering, consistent precision and an iconic reputation. The Weihrauch HW80K has been around for a long time, and the Luxus tweaks should help ensure that it remains at the top of its game"

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