



WEIHRAUCH HW95K DELUXE

No doubt the likes of BSA would disagree, but when it comes to springers, and break barrels in particular, it's hard to argue against Weihrauch dominating the scene. Many of its models have been in production for 50 years or more and the fact they are still going strong is testament to their quality.

Weight is not necessarily a bad thing on a springer as it helps absorb any recoil, and several of Weihrauch's models are on the lardy size, weighing 10lbs or more with a scope. However, when it comes to hunting, many of us prefer something a little lighter.

And that's why the HW95K deserves its reputation as one of the best sporting break barrels. Weighing 3.4kgs unscoped, it's hardly a featherweight, but the elegant ambidextrous beech stock and superb design that balances

in the middle of the forend make it seem lighter still.

The overall length of the rifle is a leggy 1,040mm, but that includes a 190mm silencer that is screwed onto a 310mm barrel. The simple but somehow graceful stock features a solid brown shoulder pad with a black spacer. There are also subtle cheek rests on both sides and panels of chequering on both the steeply raked pistol grip and long forend.

Triggers are usually the difference between a good rifle and a great one. Much has been written about the fabled two-stage and adjustable Rekord unit that graces Weihrauch springers. The gold finish on our test Deluxe model may be a bit blingy for some, but there's no denying the pleasure involved in using it. The first stage graduates to a defined

stop and the let off breaks like the finest crystal glass.

The silencer not only does a great job of reducing muzzle report, but also helps make the HW95K extremely easy to break and cock. With the barrel returned, the lock up is solid and there's a reassuringly large bolt in the breech which you can nip up should you notice any sloppiness in time.

A cross-bolt safety catch at the back of the action pops out each time the rifle is cocked. Some will moan about having to knock it off before each shot, but it does provide some security in the event the action fires during the loading process. And it does at least mean you can de-cock the HW95K.

Most quality pellets worked well through our .22 test rifle and there was little to choose between JSB Exacts and Hades, as well as the H&N FT. The Hades had the slightest of edges, printing 17mm and 29mm groups at 20 and 30 metres. Velocity variance over 10 shots was just 19fps with an average output of 10.68ft/lbs.

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