

# The long and the short of it

The editor is blown away by this super-accurate rifle from the German maestros



*Shot off the bench the accuracy was stunning*

Last month, I brought you an overview and my initial impressions of the mighty Weihrauch HW100T pre-charged pneumatic rifle. Despite being on the market for a good number of years, in my opinion, it is one of the most advanced designs available today. I particularly like the fact that it will not double-load, and that the safety will only engage when the action is cocked. Immediately, this tells you the status of the action without needing to cycle the side-lever to find out. The safety can also be operated silently, a quality I value highly. These are important features that the experienced hunter will appreciate

and enjoy.

I usually sit on the fence on the subject of side-levers because I'm just as happy with a bolt-action, and do I like them both, but there is one situation in which I find the bolt-action superior. If you need to cock the action whilst it's in your shoulder, the reach to the side-lever is some five inches further forward, and with some models I find it easier to dismount the rifle to cock it, but that causes a delay and additional, unwanted movement. That's not the case with a bolt-action; if you can reach the trigger you can reach the bolt.

## BIG GUN

The HW100T is a big rifle and you feel the heft as you come on to aim, so I was very surprised to find that it has a shorter than average pull length at 14". This is even more surprising when you remember that it was a vertically adjustable butt pad, a feature that often makes stocks longer than usual. I wonder if Weihrauch designed this dimension to bring the weight and balance back to the shooter, to make the rifle feel more wieldy. The balance point is around five inches in front of the trigger blade, so you can really sense the weight of the barrel, a feature that has its good and bad

points. A weight-forward rifle is very steady on aim, but can be just too much for some people to handle.

Whatever a rifle might offer in clever features, one quality tops all the others by a wide margin, and that's accuracy. This is affected by many factors, but we know for a fact that you need a consistent power plant, a good barrel and a fine trigger as minimum requirements. The HW100T has all three and each is top class. Weihrauch makes its own barrels and they're widely viewed as some of the best, so I was optimistic that my accuracy testing would be a pleasure. Waiting for a day with only light winds, I set off with a solid bench, support bags and plenty of pellets to find out the cold facts.

## SPOILER ALERT!

Okay ... spoiler alert. This thing is stunningly accurate and one of the best performing rifles I've ever tested at 50 yards. In fact, it was so accurate that it was

**"stunningly accurate and one of the best performing rifles I've ever tested at 50 yards"**

messing with my head. I'd get three pellets in a neat clover leaf, then the wind would drift one off by a few millimetres and I'd be disappointed. However, that group would still be around 10mm! Wow, just wow! It's plain daft to be 'disappointed' with a 10mm group at that range.

*The filling system is well proven and reliable*



*I appreciate that fact that the safety can be operated silently*



*The HW100 magazine is simplicity itself, and all the better for it*

The superb trigger was a huge factor in attaining such joyful accuracy, which comes as no surprise to those, like me, who have delighted in Weihrauch's triggers for decades. It was set at a sensible weight, so

I made no adjustments and just relaxed to enjoy its precise and completely predictable release. There's an old expression - you just 'think the shot off' - and that was exactly what I could do with this one. As the sight picture became exactly as I wanted it, the shot was released with the merest

*Most of my 50-yard groups could be covered with a 5p coin*



*I left the trigger blade in its standard position with the thumbhole stock*



increase in pressure, whilst I watched the pellet hit the card. The blade has a fore and aft adjustment, which I've needed when using the sporter stocks, but with the thumbhole stock fitted to the HW100T, I left it in the standard position.

## HOW QUIET!

Launching pellets at 30ft. lbs. means that there is some recoil, as with all guns at that power level, but because this rifle is long and heavy it was barely noticeable. I was also pleased to note just how quiet it was, and the whole firing cycle feels smooth

and vibration free. In fact, the whole experience of this rifle is of a solid and well-built machine, from the side-lever cocking and metal magazine to the rigidity of the laminate wood stock. These guns have a reputation for reliability and durability, which comes as no surprise after you've used one.

The size and weight mean that this isn't a rifle for every hunter, but if you're big and strong, this rifle must be near the top of your list for a high-power hunter. The build quality is second to none; it has all the power you could need, and the accuracy is, well, just out of this world! ■

## SPECIFICATION

**Manufacturer:** Weihrauch GmbH

**Importer:** Hull Cartridge

**Web:** www.weihrauch-sport.de

**Tel:** 01482 342756

**Model:** HW100 T FAC

**Type:** Pre-charged pneumatic

**Action:** Side-lever, rotary magazine

**Trigger:** Two-stage adjustable

**Fill pressure:** 200bar

**Shots per fill:** 36

**Length:** 48½" (123cm)

**Weight:** 8.4lbs (3.8kg)

**RRP:** £915.00

Spare magazine £32.00

FT-Exact Jumbo .22 (250) £5.99

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