

PUTTING THE ICING ON THE CAKE!

The Weihrauch HW100 KT Laminate Adjustable doesn't need a follow-up test – so Terry dedicates this feature to a couple of perfect accessories

At the conclusion of last month's Editor's Test, I suggested that the Weihrauch HW100 KT Laminate Adjustable may not require a follow-up test, and that's how things turned out. I've shot it at every opportunity since my initial round of tests, and, apart from the expected slight tightening of its downrange groups, not a single significant thing has changed. This rifle is, as I already knew, a rock-solid example of its kind, and for me, the best of its breed.

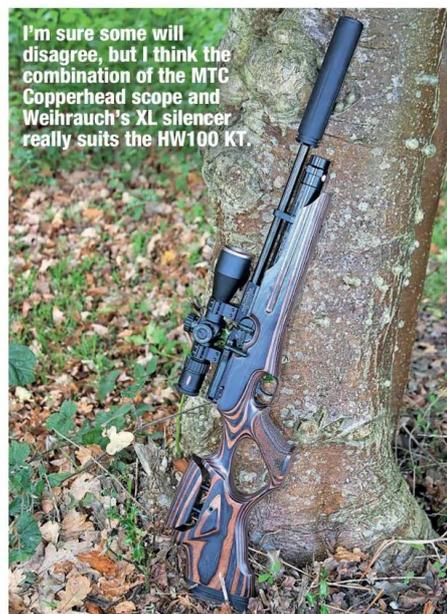
I left the biathlon-style sidelever handle in place – because it's a great addition – and kept things precisely as they were set during last month's test program. Until, two parcels arrived that changed the game for me.

BIGGER IS BETTER?

In the smaller parcel, sent by UK Weihrauch agents, Hull Cartridge Company, I discovered the latest Weihrauch silencer, the XL. At 195mm long and 42mm in diameter, the XL is not only quite a lump, but it also flies in the face of my normal advice to match accessories to the overall look and feel of the rifle. Yet, once I'd spun the matte-black XL along the rifle's



The ultra-compact Copperhead's 90mm eye-relief means it doesn't need to be mounted as far back as a conventional scope.



I'm sure some will disagree, but I think the combination of the MTC Copperhead scope and Weihrauch's XL silencer really suits the HW100 KT.

½-inch UNF threaded muzzle, there was something decidedly 'right' about it. There's an XLK model at 132mm long, and that might harmonise even better, but I'm more than happy with the look, balance and performance of the XL. At between £95 and £100, the XL and XLK are substantial investments, too, but they are, literally, sound investments.

SMALLER IS BETTER?

As I unwrapped the second parcel, this time from MTC Optics, it became obvious that, as far as looks and styling go, I was dealing with the exact opposite of the XL silencer. The brand-new MTC Copperhead 3-12 x 44, is beautifully compact at just 248mm long, and expertly packed with high-performance optical technology. The fully multi-coated (up to 15 coatings per lens) system is designed to make the most of the available light, mainly by preventing it reflecting off the surfaces of the lenses, and the monocoque, 30mm diameter body tube, teamed with the beefed-up lens carriers inside it, keep everything solid and dependable in all sorts of weather.

COLD HARD FACTS

At MTC's request, I put the little Copperhead in the freezer for six hours – don't do this at home! – then I left it outside all night, hidden in a flowerpot, during a -3 frost. By the time I'd driven to my club at Bisley, some 20 minutes after gathering the Copperhead from its frozen hiding place, the scope was ready to go and it performed perfectly. I'd never do that to a scope of mine, but it's handy to know this one can take such treatment, I suppose.

OPTICAL INVESTMENT

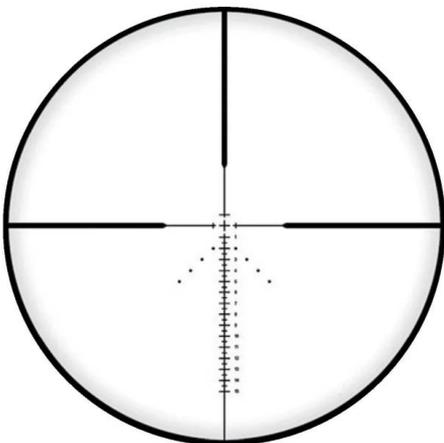
MTC Optics made the decision to take the Copperhead up a level, in terms of pure optical performance and this came with a major investment in lens technology. I'm told that the combination of this upgrade, plus the fact that these scopes aren't made in high volume, is the main reason for the Copperhead's £300 (£315 for the 4-16 version), price tag. I'm further assured that pushing the scope's performance any higher would add 'several hundreds' to that price tag, and MTC Optics is 'entirely satisfied with the Copperhead's current performance level.'

MARGINAL GAINS

For me as an end-user, I just get on and shoot with these products, but I have to applaud MTC on what it's produced, here. Special praise goes to the latest AMD2 reticle, with its numbered aim points on the vertical axis, because remembering a number is better than counting down the lines, and for illuminating the central cross, rather than lighting up the entire reticle. This 'central cross only' illumination is actually more expensive than switching on the whole ret', but it has the advantage of reducing light refraction inside the scope, plus it causes less reaction from the user's pupil. The more light hitting the pupil of the eye, the more the pupil contracts and the darker the image becomes. We're talking small margins, here, but as with the refraction deal, there's no point in upgrading other areas of optical performance if you're going to allow it to be degraded, elsewhere.

A FITTING COMMENT

Super-compact scopes offer two challenges. One is the slightly limited field of view, which unless you carry out side-by-side comparison, you'd struggle to notice, and the other is fitting them on your rifle, which you'll definitely need to think about. Simply put, the ultra-short body tube of these scopes reduce the available back-forth adjustment range. MTC has really thought about the fitting of the Copperhead,



A better ret'. Numbered vertical axis, plus an illuminated central cross, is definitely the way forward.



I chose the larger XL version for the HW100 KT, and I think it works really well.

INSET: Weihrauch offers two models of its latest silencer, and both will do the job.

Length: 195mm XL
Length: 132mm XLK

and they've had the eye-relief – the distance from the rear lens to the user's eye – extended to 90mm. This means you don't need to bring the Copperhead back on the mounting rail as far as you would with a conventional scope, and that's a really useful feature.

ON BALANCE

With both of these accessories fitted, the HW100 KT feels ... exactly like it did before, in terms of balance and pointability. It's a few ounces lighter, but you'd never notice that in use. I think it looks better, and the

performance of the scope and the silencer is commendable. The silencer can be removed and refitted without losing zero, too, although I'd always check with a couple of shots before doing anything meaningful with any combo.

VERDICT

As expected, the Weihrauch HW100 KT Laminate Adjustable is a truly impressive air rifle, and it demands consideration from anyone in the market for a top-grade sporter. My attempt at accessorising simply makes a great rifle even greater. ■



Removable, flip-up lens caps come as standard with the MTC Copperhead.



The MTC Optics Copperhead marks an upgrade in lens quality, in an ultra-compact format. Built around a 30mm body tube, and a side-focus facility, the scope weighs just 568 grammes, and the six-stage reticle illumination control offers an 'off' position between each brightness setting. It's a mini monster of a scope!

TECH SPEC

Model: HW100KT Laminate Adjustable
Manufacturer: Weihrauch
Country of origin: Germany
Type: Pre-charged pneumatic, multi-shot sporter
Calibre: .22, .177, or .20 by special order
Cocking/loading: Sidelever
Trigger: 2-stage, adjustable, with manual, resettable, lever-type safety
Stock type: Ambidextrous, laminated, adjustable
Weight: 3.4kg (7.5lbs) rifle only
Length: 920mm (36.2 ins)
Barrel: 310mm (12.2 ins)
Filling Pressure: 200 bar (3000psi)
Magazine capacity: 14 spares available at approx. £27 each
Shots per charge: approx. 58 in .177 and 75 in .22, at 11-plus ft.lbs.
Average energy: 11.4 ft.lbs.
Contact: Hull Cartridge Company www.hullcartridge.co.uk

RRP £1080