



# SOLID PRECISION!

The editor's looking for a rifle that can take a lickin' and keep on tickin'

Readers of considerable age may recall the slogan I've commandeered for my sub-header this month. This catchy phrase was once attributed to a Timex watch, which was shown in a TV advert being strapped to the propeller of an outboard motor and lowered into a tank of water, before the outboard had the granny revved out of it. The Timex emerged dripping but still ticking, after taking that particular licking, and the world of yesteryear was most impressed.

Meanwhile, after getting

drenched more times than enough during my summer shooting trips, I've decided that, with autumn and winter approaching, it's highly likely that I'll be getting plenty more of the same, so it's the perfect opportunity to apply the old Timex slogan to this month's test subject. Also, I've had a call from a reader in Scotland who has asked if I'd recommend the new Weihrauch HW100KT with a laminated stock as his go-to hunting rifle. This chap, who I'm sure was named Barry – apologies if I've got that wrong; after all, I'm

old enough to remember black-and-white TV adverts – told me I didn't know what proper rain was, and if I really wanted to find out, I was welcome to come hunting with him in Scotland at any time. I may even do that one day, but for now I told Barry I had yet to test the laminate version of the HW100, and realised that it was high time I did, hence this review. Barry also listed what he demanded from a hunting rifle and I promised to work my way through every point and get back to him. So, especially for my

potential new hunting buddy in Scotland, and anyone else who happens to be looking for an all-weather, tough-as-you-like, time proven sporter, sit back and absorb what I've found out about the Weihrauch HW100KT laminate version.

## BARRY'S LIST

Here's what Barry wants from his hunting gun: it has to be a pre-charged pneumatic, accurate, consistent, putting out over 11 ft.lbs., .22 calibre, easy to use, able to take the knocks and the weather, and 'not have anything on it that doesn't earn its keep.' Barry told me he 'didn't give a stuff' about what the rifle looked like, only he said it in a more robust manner. When I asked him why he hadn't mentioned the need to have loads of shots per charge, Barry put a smile on my face when he replied, 'I agree with your thinking on this; I can't carry 30 rabbits either, so anything more than 50 good shots and I'm happy.' Right then, that's enough to be getting on with, let's pitch in.

## THE HW100KT LAMINATE

There's a bit of a 'Marmite' deal »



I wasn't the only one who appreciated the latest HW100 KT.

It's not cheap - but the best guns rarely are.

going on with the HW100, and it's been that way since the rifle was launched around 10 years ago. Some shooters love the way it looks, others think it's a styling disaster. Barry says he's not bothered about looks (he is, we all

the magazine so you can keep a visual check on your pellet reserves, but personally, I'd have a chamber blanked off - still leaving me with 13 shots - so that an interrupted closure of the sidelever signals time to reload. If anyone knows of a clever person offering such a service, or if you've done something similar to your own

shy of 13 inches, there would be an impressive report from an unsilenced version, so the silencer really is compulsory. It does a fine job, too, reducing muzzle noise to a short 'bwop', which is barely audible at 30 yards, to my seasoned ears, at least. The Weihrauch silencer seems to have become the one against which other models are judged, so having one as part of the kit is handy.

*'This system prevents double-loading, because the mag' won't index until the action has fired the shot.'*

are to varying degrees), and I think its looks reflect its character. Truth to tell, the first examples of this rifle weren't the most super of supermodels, and this latest version is no study in sporting elegance, but as I've said elsewhere in this issue, beauty is as beauty does, and our airguns tend to become more lovely when they please us with their performance. Frankly, as far as pure shooting performance goes, you'd go an awful long way to find something more satisfying than an HW100.

The HW100 format is built around a sidelever cocking system that activates a 14-shot, removable, rotary magazine, and I think it's the best autoloader mechanism in this airgun world of ours. The magazine sits well below the rifle's scope rail, which allows a one-piece mount to be fitted, and that will no doubt please Barry and his requirement for a super-tough outfit.

This system also prevents double-loading, because the mag' won't index until the action has fired the shot. There's a silver reference line on the outer edge of

HW100, please let me know. Finally, I truly appreciate the friendly size and lack of complication this magazine provides. It has no moving parts, it's made from a single lump of

**SHORT, QUICK AND QUIET**  
This is the 'Karbine Thumbhole' version of the HW100 and it comes complete with the renowned HW silencer as standard. With a barrel that's just



You want bombproof performance, Barry? Here it is.



Weihrauch air reservoirs are removable but now have a probe charger at their front end, just behind the pressure gauge, so filling with air no longer means 'opening' the rifle and exposing it to potential contamination from dirt and grit particles. The tube itself is made from stainless steel, with what looks like some form of powder coating applied. I've been to the factory and seen most of the production processes but certain sections were off limits, including

the one where the reservoirs are finished, so I didn't witness that part first-hand. What I do know is, the 200-bar charge of the .22 test rifle gave me 86 shots at 11.1 ft.lbs., with an overall variation of 14 f.p.s. over the first 50 shots. This is a credible return and better than the very first 'K' variant I tried, so there has been some refinement in the HW100's main firing valve set-up. This is all part of the rolling development program subscribed to by all

manufacturers, and whilst Weihrauch doesn't make such changes as regularly as some, when the changes come they're usually significant.

**THAT LAMINATED STOCK**

Here's where Barry gets exactly what he wants, in the form of a weatherproof, warp-free, tractor-tough – I haven't used that term since reviewing an early Daystate – go-anywhere, ambidextrous stock, presented in an attractive blue-tan tinted laminate, with wraparound stippling on the grip. There's no 'thumb-up' option, but the angle, size and contours of the grip make for full use of the HW100's excellent two-stage adjustable trigger. Surprise-surprise, here I am bleating on about the lack of an adjustable butt pad, and of course I'll chip in with my usual recommendation to have one fitted, plus my constant justification for doing so of, 'because a rifle this good deserves it, and so does its shooter.'

which was later backed up by a couple of groups, half the size of that spinner, on paper at 30 yards. Those groups weren't shot by me, and each one represented the shooter's first encounter with the rifle, so an impressive introduction to say the least.

**VERDICT**

The entire airgun world already knew that the HW100 platform sits right at the top among the best in the business. This new laminate option adds more strength and, dare I say, a certain style, to the options list. The simple truth is, this is one of the best pre-charged sporting air rifles in the world. Barry, you've found your new hunting gun, mate. ■

*'It feels lighter than this, thanks to the near-perfect balance'*



The more you shoot it, the prettier it becomes ... as is so often the case.



The finest fast-fire system on the market.

**HOW DOES IT SHOOT?**

With the MTC Mamba Lite scope fitted, the test rifle weighs 8lbs. 9oz, which is 4 kilos or very near offer. It feels lighter than this, thanks to the near-perfect balance, and this represents just about the ideal working mix of stability-enhancing heft and portability over a long day in the field. Fitting a sling won't be a problem, either, so Barry won't find the KT wanting in terms of practicality.

The sheer accuracy and slick, easy operation is where this rifle really justifies what is a fairly hefty pricetag. The more you use this Weihrauch, the greater the feeling of total reliability and unshakable performance. Off a bench, using Air Arms Diabolo Field, I amazed my adoring onlookers (cynical gits to a man, as it happens), by spanking a one-inch diameter spinner set at 44 yards, 28 times on the trot. That's two magazines' worth of commendable accuracy,

**TECH SPEC**

<b>Model:</b> HW100 KT Laminate
<b>Manufacturer:</b> Weihrauch
<b>Country of origin:</b> UK
<b>Price:</b> £899
<b>Type:</b> Pre-charged, multi-shot sporter
<b>Calibre:</b> .22, .177
<b>Cocking:</b> Sidelever
<b>Loading:</b> Via removable, rotary 14-shot magazine
<b>Trigger:</b> 2-stage, adjustable
<b>Stock type:</b> Ambidextrous, thumbhole laminate
<b>Weight:</b> 4kg (8lbs 9oz), scoped as shown
<b>Length:</b> 965mm (38 ins)
<b>Barrel:</b> 324mm (12.75ins)
<b>Fill pressure:</b> 200 bar
<b>Shots per charge:</b> 85-plus in .22, 60-plus in .177
<b>Variation over 50 shots:</b> 14 fps for .22 on test
<b>Average energy:</b> 11.1 ft.lbs.
<b>Contact:</b> Hull Cartridge on 01482 342 571

**RRP £899**