

The HW100 has been around for a while, but its dependable performance remains bang up to date



Taking Stock

Mat Manning gets to grips with the Weihrauch HW100 KT - an iconic airgun that's still setting the standard 20 years after its inception

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Weihrauch's official UK distributor, sent me the latest KT model to put through its paces. It looks stunning in its walnut stock variant, which retails for £1,075 – a very competitive asking price for such an acclaimed model with proven performance.

The 'K' in the KT model's moniker denotes its carbine proportions, and the 'T' refers to its thumbhole stock. It measures up at a pretty compact 95cm from end to end with the supplied silencer fitted, and weighs just a shade under 3.3kg before you fit a scope. One thing that always strikes me about airguns in the HW100 family, and all Weihrauchs for that matter, is their solid construction, and this one is no exception. Build quality, finish and engineering are all of an extremely high standard, and this airgun feels remarkably sturdy.



I still regard the Weihrauch HW100 as a relative newcomer to the PCP arena, so it's hard to believe that this airgun has now been around for 20 years. During those two decades, this German thoroughbred has maintained a place at the front of the PCP pack, thanks to an ongoing programme of development tweaks that has kept its performance bang up to date.

The current model features further updates, including some refinement to its stock. Hull Cartridge,

TOP RIGHT: The forward-swept fore end features grooves on each side, providing a secure hold point for your leading hand

MIDDLE RIGHT: A high and well-defined cheekpiece ensures good gun fit with correct eye alignment

ABOVE RIGHT: The pistol grip and large thumbhole cutaway are kind on the eye and deliver good trigger attack

STOCK VALUE

Picking up on those tweaks to the stock, the laminate version now has a push-button adjustable cheekpiece. That feature is absent from the model featured here, but the high cheekpiece is still very well defined. As with previous models, this is a scope-only gun, and that elevated support for your cheek ensures good alignment between your eye and chosen optic.

The stock is ambidextrous, and on the KT has a large thumbhole cutaway. It's kind on the eye and

also makes for very comfortable shooting. The pistol grip is well profiled and its contours set me up extremely well for the trigger – it literally cradled my hand, and the stippling that wraps around it is neat and extremely grippy.

I really like the styling of the forward sweep at the front of the fore end, and the grooves that run back from it on each side make for a great hold with your leading hand. The butt section of the stock is finished with a brown rubber pad and I've always really liked the black



and white spacers that Weihrauch use to add a neat touch between the woodwork and pad.

FEATURES AND FINISH

All bases are covered when it comes to mounting a scope to this Weihrauch. The gun is supplied with an 18cm Picatinny rail, although it can be removed to expose the usual dovetail rail beneath. The KT model has a 31cm barrel and is available in .177 and .22 calibres, as well as .20 to special order. It has a half-inch UNF thread, and the silencer seen here is supplied as standard. Weihrauch's

ABOVE: A Picatinny rail comes supplied and can be removed to expose Weihrauch's usual dovetail rail

ABOVE RIGHT: Weihrauch's 14-shot magazine may look simple, but it's very reliable and works brilliantly

TOP RIGHT: The HW100 has a threaded muzzle and comes with Weihrauch's extremely effective silencer

silencers are very effective, and true to form, this one keeps the HW100 exceptionally quiet.

Like its forbears, this airgun runs a 14-shot magazine. The mag' looks

"Weihrauch's silencers are very effective, and true to form, this one keeps the HW100 exceptionally quiet"

very simple in design, but don't be fooled; it has been very carefully designed and is recognised as one of the best magazines out there – largely because there's almost

nothing to go wrong on it. Draw back the sidelever and the retainer just behind the magazine, and it pulls out from the right side of the action. Loading is then simply a matter of

pushing pellets in nose-first from what I describe as the notched side of the drum. Then you just slot it back in, return the retainer and sidelever to their forward positions and you're good to go.

Weihrauch was one of the first airgun manufacturers to come up with a really good sidelever action when everyone else was still using rear bolts. The lever on the latest version of the HW100 is adorned with a neat biathlon-type handle, which can be removed, and the mechanism is incredibly slick in operation and absolutely reliable. It works like clockwork; cocking the action, indexing the magazine and probing pellets home to deliver fast, dependable follow-up shots and quickfire plinking.

The high-quality German engineering on Weihrauch airguns always hits the mark, and that is very apparent in the HW100's excellent match-grade trigger. The blade is simple in design, but its subtle sweep and gently curved face deliver plenty of feel. The two-stage





mechanism is adjustable, but these triggers usually leave the factory spot on. Out of the box, the set-up on the test gun had quite a deep first stage, which came to a very clear stop before a crisp and predictable second stage break – it certainly didn't need any tweaking.

There is a manual switch-type safety catch positioned at the rear of the action, within easy reach of your thumb – unless you are left-handed. It can't be applied unless the gun is cocked, then you pull it back to make it safe and thumb it forward when you're ready to shoot.

POWER AND PRECISION

The HW100 produces muzzle energy close to the UK legal limit. The review gun was running at 11.5 ft.lbs. and was doing it pretty consistently with a variation of 9fps over a string of ten shots. Its air cylinder is removable and pressure is clearly displayed on the gauge at its front – keep within the green part of the scale and you should see the best from this very accurate airgun.

Maximum fill pressure is 200 bar, from which the .22 calibre review gun returned about 70 consistent shots – that's not bad for a short-barrelled PCP with such a compact cylinder. The cylinder is removable, but can be refilled in situ. A charging probe is supplied and all you have to do is remove the plug from the inlet at the front of the cylinder and plug in.

ABOVE: Pull out the plug and the inlet is exposed for filling via the supplied probe

ABOVE RIGHT: Remaining air reserves are shown on the dial at the front of the cylinder

TOP RIGHT: Weihrauch triggers have been setting the standard for decades, and the one on the HW100 is no exception

OPPOSITE PAGE BOTTOM LEFT: Fast cocking and loading come courtesy of a sidelever action with dropdown handle

The HW100 has no shortfalls when it comes to accuracy, and is the sort of airgun that's capable of landing one pellet on top of another at 25m. Match it with the right pellet and it will knock out ragged single-hole groups at 40m, and 50m spinners will be easy targets from the bench. Furthermore, this Weihrauch is the sort of airgun that most people find comfortable to shoot from a variety of positions. So, if you put in the practice, it will also deliver the goods when you're out in the field and away from the comfort of the bench.

There is no denying that the HW100 has stood the test of time. I have a Sporter carbine model of my own, which has given the best part of ten years' good service with no more maintenance than the occasional wipe-down with an oily rag. It has put literally thousands of pests in the bag over that time and is still delivering the goods.

The latest version of the Weihrauch HW100 is even more refined than my old warrior. It is a brilliant airgun which combines competition-winning accuracy potential with rugged build quality and precision German engineering. Apart from being reliable, it is also kind on the eye, and I really like the way that its styling has remained quite traditional. I can certainly vouch for its suitability for live quarry shooting, and I know loads of club shooters who make it their

first choice on the range. This iconic airgun may have been around for 20 years, but it is still going from strength to strength. ■

SPECIFICATION

Manufacturer: Weihrauch, Germany

UK distributor: Hull Cartridge, hullcartridge.co.uk

Model: HW100 KT

Type: Multi-shot PCP

Stock type: Thumbhole sporter

Cocking: Sidelever action

Trigger: Two-stage, adjustable

Safety: Manual

Calibres: .177, .22 (tested), and

.20 to special order

Overall length: 950mm (37in)

Barrel length: 310mm (12in)

Weight: 3.3kg (7.3lbs)

without scope

Fill pressure: 200 bar

Shots per fill: 70

Energy of test rifle: Avg 11.5

ft.lbs. over 10 shots

Variation (10 shots): 9fps

RRP: £1,075