



# THE AIRGUN EVERYONE SHOULD OWN

**Mick Garvey** has owned more HW100s than he can count — but when he finally got his hands on a 20th anniversary edition version and paired it with some equally reliable kit, he knew this one was for keeps

**A**irguns have come and gone from my collection and some actually returned to the fold, I've owned a good half a dozen Weihrauch HW100s and sadly none made it back, but last year I fell in love with the HW100 KT and decided my life wouldn't be complete without one.

I was going to be lucky, too. Chris at Hull Cartridge, the UK importers for Weihrauch, told me there was going to be a 20th Anniversary Edition. That was all I needed to hear — money transferred immediately. Soon after, the sub-12ft/lb .22 calibre "100" arrived. I did ask for number 007, but that was already spoken for, so number 266 of 300 now graces the cabinet.

Apparently, 266 is an

angel number that symbolises empowerment and transformation. The combination of two and six signifies balance and nurturing — which sounds about right. Another interpretation is: "The more you trust, the better the results will be." I certainly found that to be true.

Before I talk about the "100" in its natural environment — the fields and woodlands — there's plenty to say about this airgun.

Firstly, the trigger is superb.



The Weihrauch HW100 KT is a feat of German engineering excellence

It's a two-stage unit with a crisp, predictable second stage and light enough that you're never second-guessing the break point. I also ordered the XL silencer, but honestly, the standard one is more than adequate — and fits in the gun bag far easier.

Speaking of which, the gun bag is worth mentioning. It's typical Weihrauch quality, with the logo proudly embroidered on the side pocket. This pocket easily holds your pellets and various accessories — even the silencer if you remove it for transport. The rifle rests safely within a soft, sheepskin-style lining that protects it from scratches and dings. Two carry handles and a shoulder strap (which could well be real leather) make transport easy. Brass fittings and heavy-duty zips round off the premium feel.

## THE STOCK, ACTION AND OPTIC

The stock is a striking “pepper effect” laminate, adjustable for both cheek height and shoulder position. This lets you dial in the fit and avoid that awkward “making do” feeling. The stippling on the pistol grip is deep and high quality, offering excellent non-slip control.

There are no sling studs installed. I swapped the forend bolt with an aftermarket stud to accept a Deben bipod. I also use a cheater sling that wraps around the thumbhole, as I had no intention of drilling into this gorgeous stock.



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**“What can I tell you about the action on the HW100 KT? It's classic German engineering and as smooth as silk”**

What can I tell you about the action? It's classic German engineering and as smooth as silk. The side-lever cocking mechanism is effortless, and the fill probe clicks satisfyingly into place. There's even a little stopper to protect the fill port from dust and dirt.

The stainless steel barrel complements the black action beautifully, and the whole thing is topped off with a Picatinny rail adapter for mounting scopes, night vision, thermal optics or any other accessories. I prefer this setup over traditional dovetails — it's just more versatile.

Before I go and shoot any live

targets, I always check zero. A single-hole group at 28 yards from a full 14-shot magazine is good enough for me.

Included in the overall package are two 14-shot magazines, a black-finish fill probe, degassing equipment and a certificate of authenticity.

The HW100 was first introduced way back in 2003 and has been Weihrauch's flagship airgun ever since. The KT model followed in 2006, and the HW110 came along in 2016 — featuring a polymer action similar to what Glock handguns use. Then, in 2019, we got the HW100 Bullpup. ➤

Airguns evolve over time, but the "100" remains a trusted platform. For me, the HW100 is perfect for hunting, target shooting and even safe backyard plinking. Its consistency, reliability and accuracy are exceptional. In all the time I've owned or tested Weihrauch's, I've never had an issue. And if I did, I know Hull Cartridge would sort it out immediately.

I ordered a couple of tins of Weihrauch FT-Exact Jumbo 15.89gr pellets, which worked brilliantly, although the skirts were a bit thin. Still, this didn't affect accuracy. Once those run out, I'll switch to AA Diablos. The pellets even came with plastic tin protectors. A nice touch.

I opted to pair the rifle with the Hawke Airmax SF 30 Compact 4-16x44 with the AMX illuminated reticle. This setup was going to be deadly. Add in Hawke's "no-fault lifetime warranty" (they'll repair it at no cost to you, regardless of how or why it was damaged) and you can't go wrong.

### FIELD PERFORMANCE

I had a few pest control jobs lined up, including squirrel management and feral pigeon control on a large estate farm. As always, I'd be using my Nocpix Quest thermal binoculars. They're easy to use one-handed, with top-mounted focus and zoom dials. Clarity and target ID are superb. Battery life is excellent, and with two spares I can be out all day and night. The built-in rangefinder is a massive advantage, especially for squirrels and in barns. I tend to stick with white hot and black hot views as they suit my needs perfectly.

My first call-out was the estate's woodland. The headkeeper had asked that I wrap up by the end of June, as pheasant poults would be arriving early. I topped up the

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The air rifle has enjoyed a loyal customer base over the past two decades, including a certain Mr Garvey

feeders, checked the trail cams, and picked a couple of hotspots to focus on. Settling beneath a large Scots pine overlooking one feeder paid off quickly — four greys taken within 40 minutes. A fifth fell shortly after when I heard it chattering above me. The Quest thermal picked it out, and the HW100 did the rest.

I moved half a mile to another feeder and took five more, all at 25-30 yards. Standard work for the Weihrauch. Ten greys before lunchtime — I was chuffed.

The estate also has a large dairy herd and suffers from ferals and jackdaws contaminating the cattle feed. I'll always take a few if I'm passing. Parking about 30 yards from a shed gave me both a rest and some concealment. Nine shots, nine ferals down. My final shot of the day was a clean 45-yard neck shot on a jackdaw. Slight holdover, crisp release — the HW100 is here to stay.

As I said once in an Air Attack YouTube video: "It's everyone's favourite airgun: if not, why not?" ■