

ON TEST



THE BEST WEIHRACH

Dave Barham reveals the launch of the new HW100 X Sporter – the future of Weihrauch rifles

Last year, Weihrauch celebrated its 125-year anniversary. Hermann Weihrauch laid the cornerstone in Zella St. Blasii in 1899. He quickly established a name for himself with high-quality hunting rifles and was able to expand the company. Over the following decades, the product range was expanded to include bicycle parts and door closers. After the new start in Mellrichstadt in 1948, bicycle parts were initially manufactured again, but soon airguns and small-bore repeaters were added to the range.



It's all new...!

TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS

MODEL: HW100 X Sporter
MAKE: Weihrauch Sport
DISTRIBUTOR: Hull Cartridge
TYPE: Pre-charged, multi-shot
MAX FILL PRESSURE: 250 bar
STOCK: Ambidextrous laminate
COCKING: Side-lever
TRIGGER: Two-stage adjustable
CALIBRE: .177 and .22
SAFETY: Manual
OVERALL LENGTH: 1,060mm (41.7in)
BARREL LENGTH: 410mm (16.1in)
MAGAZINE CAPACITY: 14 (.177); 14 (.22)
WEIGHT: 7.67lbs (3.48kg)
SHOT COUNT: 210 in .177 and 250 in .22
MUZZLE ENERGY: 11.6ft/lb
VARIATION: 6fps variation over 10 shots
WEBSITE: weihrauch.co.uk
RRP: £1,440 (sporter) £1,320 (carbine)

Move forward to the 1950s and it is Hermann Weihrauchs' son (of the same name) who is making a name for himself as a gifted gun manufacturer. In 1955 Hermann Weihrauch Junior's company manufactured the Weihrauch HW35. This was the first model to feature the now world-famous Rekord two-stage sporting trigger, a trigger that many would argue is still the best some 70-plus years later. ➤

WEIHRUCH HW100 X SPORTER

The Sporter is a snip at £1,440

SPORTER

RIFLE EVER MADE



The dropdown handle can be added if you prefer it



M-Lok is the future



The split 11mm dovetail rail is conveniently marked



The adjustable cheekpiece is superb



The two-stage match-grade trigger is adjustable



The magazine slides in neatly from right to left

Today, Weihrauch products are in demand worldwide, and the quality standard “Made in Germany” is well recognised. The company pays particular attention when making its own barrels; very few other manufacturers can claim this level of expertise, relying on sourcing their barrels from other suppliers. Weihrauch continually invests in the most up to date production machinery, maintaining quality while maximising output.

RAISING THE BAR

Weihrauch’s HW100 has become a modern classic in all its various guises over the years. The exceptional build quality and finish, coupled with reliable performance, has gained this model a very loyal following. However, this new edition sets the bar even higher with some massive plus points over previous incarnations, as you’ll soon discover.

The company has given its flagship HW100 a complete overhaul. It has stripped it down and reworked it to produce what I believe to be the best Weihrauch rifle ever made. What’s more, this is just the first step in what Weihrauch has said is going to be a complete switch from the entire HW100 range to the new “X” series.

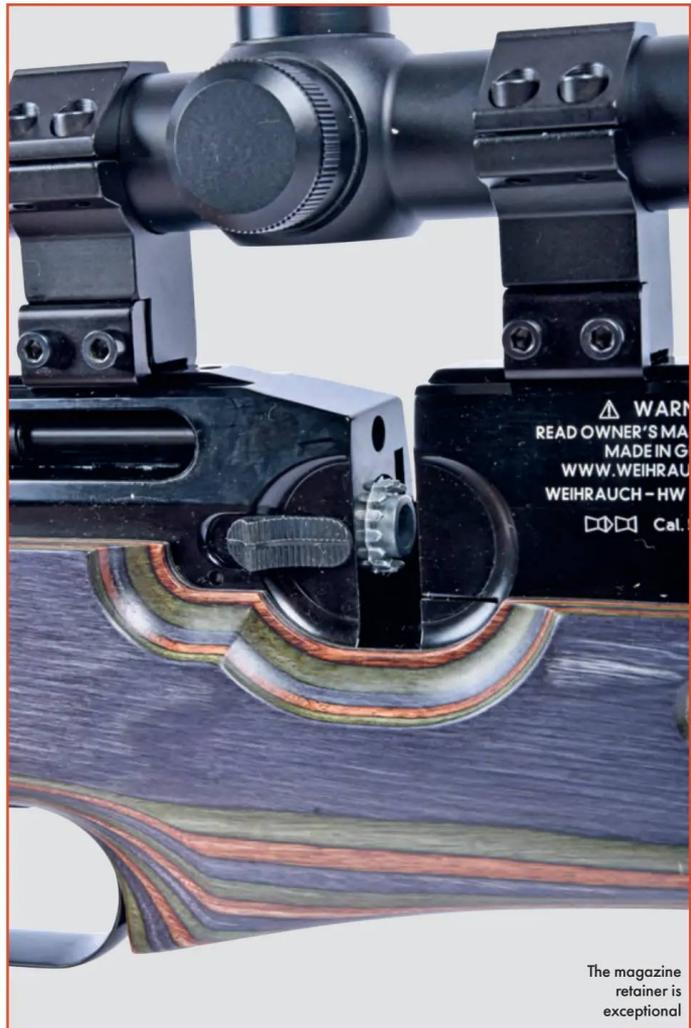
IMPORTANT NOTE

Before I begin to tell you just how much more advanced this HW100 X model is compared to previous incarnations, I must begin with a word of caution. This particular model, and all future models, will be switching to Weihrauch’s new regulated system. Yes, you read

that correctly, the HW100 X has its own regulator inside. The previous HW100 models have a self-regulated valve system, which as we all know works exceptionally well – the HW100 series has always

had a reputation for reliability and accuracy. With the addition of an internal regulator, the shot count and consistency is significantly improved.

As a result of having this new internal regulator, every new rifle



The magazine retainer is exceptional

WEIHRACH HW100 X SPORTER

must have the new air cylinder removed from the rifle in order to fill it for the first time (yes, the cylinder is completely new, too). It's a simple screw-off screw-on system. After that you can leave the cylinder attached and fill your rifle with no problems, it's only the initial fill from 0 bar to 250 bar when it needs to be removed. If you don't remove the cylinder for the first ever fill, it will knock the internal regulator down to give a silly pressure and something in the region of 2ft/lb power output and then there's a lot of stock removal and fiddling to do. You have been warned.

When you decide to beef up the internals of a rifle, you may as well do the same to the external at the same time, and that's exactly what Weihrauch has done with its new air cylinder. This little gem can now be filled to 250 bar, compared to just 200 bar on the previous models. It's manufactured from high-grade aluminium, which offers an overall decrease in weight of 360g in the standard length and 240g in the carbine version. Speaking of which, you're still going to get 130 shots in .22 and around 77 shots in .177 from the carbine version.

Weihrauch claims that this new cylinder and regulator system on the full-length Sporter gives a massive 90% more shots than its predecessor on the full-length rifle in .177 calibre, producing up to 210 shots! If .22 is your bag, then you're going to be getting around 250 shots per fill, which is an 80% increase from previous models.

As far as charging the cylinder goes, that too is very easy. Simply pull out the nylon plug from the filler valve up front, insert the fill probe and then fill to 250 bar – that's an extra 50 bar compared to the previous cylinder design.

There's a colour-coded fill gauge on the end of the cylinder that is very easy to read. In fact, I'd go as far as to say that it's the best fill gauge out there in terms of user friendliness.

STOCK AND M-LOK

The full length Sporter launch model of the new "X" series I have here comes supplied with a beautifully crafted laminate stock. It's got every shade of grey, brown and green you can imagine that makes it really stand out in your gun case or at



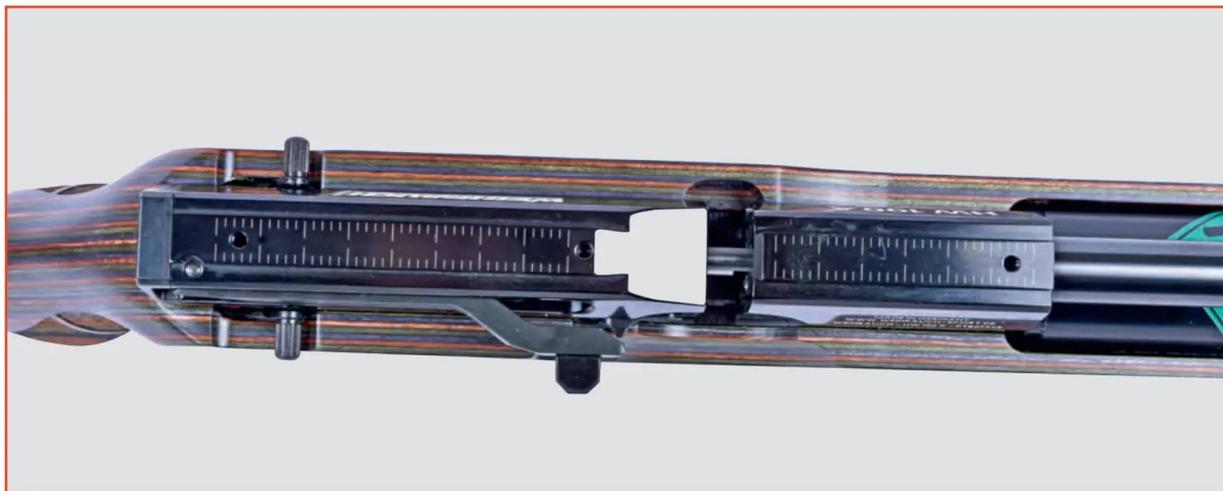
Slide the safety back to make the rifle safe



The air rifle comes with a high efficiency Weihrauch silencer attached



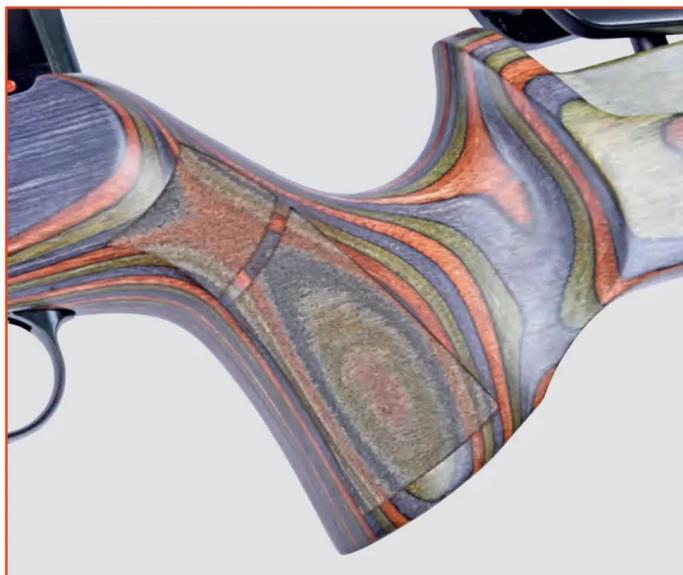
The fill port is easy to find



The manual safety lever is ambidextrous and on both side of the block

the range, but blend in beautifully to its surroundings in a woodland hunting situation. This is one of those rifles you'd want mounted on your wall in the living room as an ornamental piece. The carbine version is only available in walnut at present, to my knowledge.

The forend design feels really great, with a very comfortable gentle curve to it and ample stippling for added grip. The classic Weihrauch thumb and finger recess rails run along both sides of the stock, and these really do help with quick acquisition when picking the rifle up to take a shot. The same can be said for the pistol grip. That too has ample stippling and is designed in such a way that it is equally comfortable for the thumb up or thumb round grip.



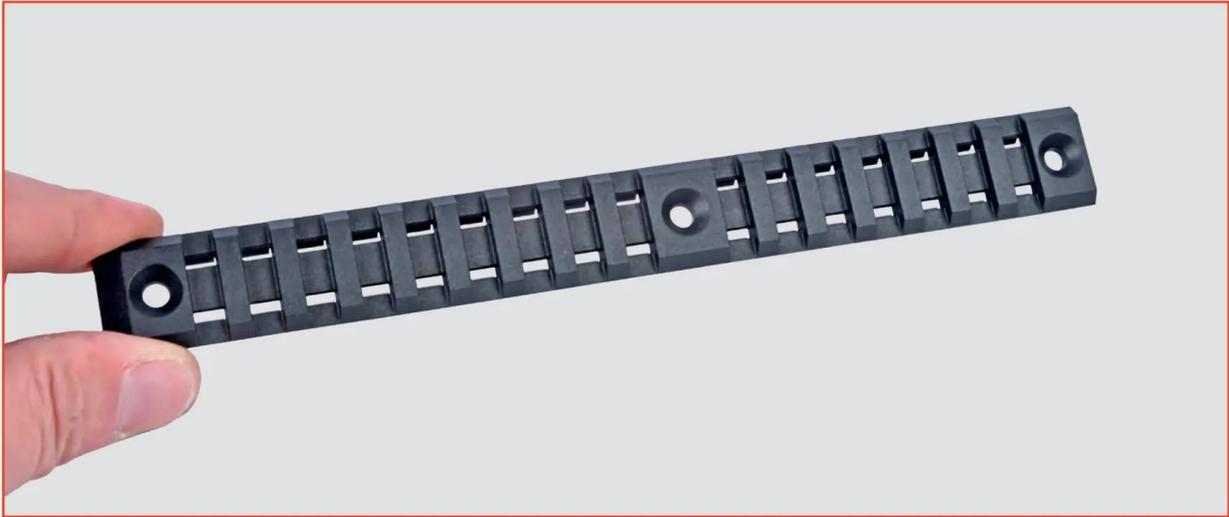
There's ample stippling on the pistol grip

You get a box of magazines, a fill probe and a cylinder cap in the box



On the underside of the forend you'll find an M-Lok rail that sits flush to the stock – it's the future! There are so many amazing bipods out there now with M-Lok fittings, I think Weihrauch has done the right thing and brought the HW100 right where it needs to be.

Up top on the block you have the standard Weihrauch 11 mm split dovetail rail for mounting your glassware, with handy 1 cm markings split into millimetres so you can position your mounts with precision. Inside the box you'll also find a Picatinny rail that can be added over the top of the dovetail – very handy for all the modern day/ night scopes on the market. Yes, it's plastic, but it's free and it really does not detract from



There's a plastic Picatinny rail included, too

the way your chosen optics are mounted – it works a treat.

LEVER CHOICE

Let's talk about some of the other major new improvements then – it's not just the internals and new cylinder that have been overhauled. Weihrauch's side-lever adds a touch of class to the HW100, and that's helped by the way the lever is assisted. A gentle tweak sideways and the lever flies back on its own, just requiring the lightest pull backwards to cock the action and a gentle slide forward to engage the pellet probe and load the rifle.

This new HW100 X model comes with a drop-down biathlon style grip supplied in the box but not fitted. They've left it up to you to decide if you'd rather have a more sleek and slender, simple lever instead. If you want to add the drop-down handle, it's a simple Allen screw assembly. This is fixed for right-handed use and cannot be swapped over.

Once cocked, you can operate the manual safety lever, which has also had an overhaul – it's now ambidextrous and can be operated from both the left and right sides. Push forward to "Fire" and pull back once the rifle is cocked to "Safe".

The HW100 X also comes with a Weihrauch high efficiency silencer fitted too, which has also built a reputation as being one of the quietest units available for airguns.

FULLY ADJUSTABLE

The 410mm-long barrel on this full-length sporter features assisted stability via the barrel band/cylinder retention block. It's as solid as they come. With an overall length of 1,060mm and weighing just 3.48kg or 7.67lbs (unscoped), this is one of the lightest full-length rifles that Weihrauch has ever produced.

More key features added to the HW100 X model include all-round adjustability for perfect gun fit. The new adjustable cheekpiece is one of the easiest to adjust and solid units I've come across. No, it's not a "soft touch" material that will go all "sticky" after a couple of years. It's a solid piece of wood that has been black lacquered.

A simple push button operation allows you to manoeuvre the cheekpiece to the exact height required for perfect scope/eye alignment. The increments of adjustment are minute, but noticeable. I stopped counting at 12 increments, there's a lot to play with here. Likewise, the new ventilated butt pad is also adjustable for height, but that requires the use of the supplied Allen key in order to adjust it.

RELIABLE MAGAZINES

You get two magazines of the robust metal casting variety supplied with



Weihrauch's fill gauge is one of the best on the market



this HW 100 X, and these are very easy to fill. Nothing has changed here – if it ain't broke, don't try to fix it, as the saying goes.

With a pellet pushed flush into each chamber, pull back the side-lever, locate the magazine into its slot within the action, push the magazine retaining catch forwards, and all is ready to go. If the catch won't engage, just gently rotate the magazine and it will all quickly find its home and then lock in place.

WONDERFUL TO SHOOT

There really is a subtlety and slickness to the shooting experience that gives the HW100 X a unique feel. Weihrauch's multi-shot magazine system works perfectly, and that's a credit to the design team who obviously got it right from the word go.

The two-stage match-grade trigger is fully adjustable and one of the sweetest units around. Right out of the box it has a relatively short first stage that comes to a noticeable halt, and then a hair-like second stage that requires next to no pressure to release, with absolutely zero creep detected.

Down on the range I was putting pellet on pellet with the .22 rifle sent to me for review, which as many of you who read my reviews is not my favourite calibre. When I pushed it out to 40-plus metres I was still hitting fingernail-sized groups, which fills me with confidence to say that this new regulator and cylinder system is an absolute winner.

ONE TO OWN

This beautiful new airgun comes highly recommended from yours truly, and it's from one of the most respected brands in the business. It's lighter, has improved shot count and is even more consistent than its predecessors. It's everything you need in a hunting rifle or a range gun, and I suspect that a fair few competition shooters will be jumping on this too. Either way, it should be

right near the top of your wish list, and it serves as a reminder of why the HW100, in all its many, many guises over the years, remains a firm favourite with so many airgunners all around the world.

I've got to tip my hat to the team at Weihrauch, they've made an already brilliant platform even better, and I stick to my guns that I believe this to be the best rifle that Weihrauch has ever produced. ■



NEW!

HW 100 X

90% EXTRA SHOTS

NEW HW100X SPORTER LAMINATE ADJUSTABLE

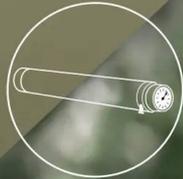
- NEW ULTRA EFFICIENT REGULATOR - 250bar
- CUSTOM FIT ADJUSTABLE CHEEK PIECE & BUTT PAD
- SAFETY LEVER ON BOTH SIDES
- CUSHIONING VENTILATED BUTT PAD
- UNIQUE LAMINATE STOCK DESIGN
- UPGRADED COLOUR CODED GAUGE

EXTRA SHOTS PER FILL UPTO 90% MORE SHOTS

.177 X | now 210 SHOTS

.22 X | now 250 SHOTS

FULL LENGTH VERSION



HIGH GRADE ALUMINIUM
LIGHTWEIGHT AIR CARTRIDGE - 250bar
with existing quick fill system



NEW ERGONOMIC
M-LOK RAIL SYSTEM

EXTRA PRESSURE
EXTRA SHOTS
EXTRA CONSISTENCY
LESS WEIGHT



HW100X Sporter Laminat Adjustable launch model available NOW.
Complete range of HW100X to follow in 2026.
All HW100X models to feature increased shot count.

**Scopes and mounts at extra cost.*



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