



WEIHRAUCH HW101

£945 • WEIHRAUCH.CO.UK

Weihrauch's HW100 pneumatic has proved a super successful project from the off, and there are now a multitude of options and variants within the range, all utilising its robust and super reliable rotary magazine system. However, hands up those that weren't aware that a single-shot version exists, available as a special order? It goes by the name of the HW101, and it comes configured with a generous single-shot loading channel as standard.

So what's wrong with a magazine installed? Well obviously with modern manufacturing tolerances and Weihrauch's precision engineering, not a lot. However, where competition guns are concerned, single-shot is always preferable, in terms of safety, but mainly to push accuracy to its limit. Where a magazine is used, the system requires the pellet to jump from

the breech into a magazine unit and any slight misalignment can damage the pellet. Single-shot adaptors can help, but don't always avoid the problem, so for pure peace of mind, and if performance is to be maximised, a single-shot configuration makes perfect sense.

Back to the HW101, and in every other respect, this model carries all the usual HW100 features. Beech sporter or beech thumbhole are the stock options, and both cost the same apparently. The trigger is incredibly subtle, despite a nylon blade, and the barrel unsurprisingly, is Weihrauch's own. As for gaining stock mass and height up front, many shooters fit a DIY stock raiser to the forend, to beef up support, and there's plenty of wood to play with. Expect between 60-80 consistent shots from the regulated action.

DIANA 54 AIRKING PRO

£900 • SPORTSMK.CO.UK

This is an intriguing prospect and it sits out on its own as a unique rifle, being a spring piston-powered rifle that is actually almost recoilless in operation. Several manufacturers have toyed with the idea, perhaps notably Air Arms with its TX200 SR (now sadly discontinued due to production costs), but the Diana 54 Airking Pro carries a similar design in style.

The idea sees a conventional spring piston mechanism sitting on a small sliding sledge system, and as the mechanism fires, the entire action moves backwards around half an inch. That may sound alarming, but it works brilliantly in practice; with the result of almost no felt recoil, and accurate shot placement. Diana pushed the system with its bulky Model 56TH (Target Hunter), and while this has now been dropped, the 54 Airking Pro uses much the same side-lever

action. Just pull the sizeable lever back until the action moves forward slightly, and the sears connect and lock the piston and set the trigger. Chamber a pellet directly into the breech and close back the lever, and the shot is ready to go.

Diana is a famous old traditional German manufacturer, and still makes and fits its own barrels. The T06 two-stage adjustable trigger is a high-quality unit, and another highlight on this model. As for the latest 54 Airking Pro's red laminate sporter stock, it's simply stunning. But the downside for FT would again be that rather low cheekpiece. However, this is easily remedied, again with a cheap but highly effective padded neoprene/foam cheek set. Self-contained recoilless shooting awaits thereafter. Also available in walnut, incidentally. ■

