

Going Ballistic!

PART 1

Mark Camoccio gets to play with one of Weihrauch's new breed of airgun - the HW110K



My association with Weihrauch goes back some years, and of course, a certain affinity with this famous German brand was cemented from my glory days in field target. Competing with the company's all-conquering HW77 – admittedly heavily tuned Airmasters versions – was always likely to give me an appreciation of their products, but a tour of the factory in Mellrichstadt, back in 2017, just served to reinforce my respect for their operation.

That visit coincided with the launch of their first PCP pistol, the HW44, based heavily on the HW110 rifle, and I remember the fuss generated over copious use of plastics in its manufacture.

TRACEABLE

With 'soshal meeja' in certain quarters, agog, and dismayed, with the company's radical departure from traditional engineering methods, it remained to be seen how this new breed of airgun would be received, but over a very short time, sheer performance has surely won over the harshest of critics. On test here is the very latest HW110K. The 'K' denotes carbine, and first impressions are of a super-compact sporter, packed with features.

The same '110 action is here, yet with a shorter cylinder and shorter barrel, thus retaining all the advantages of the original rifle. The action is built around a main block constructed from ballistic polymer, yet whilst this could be seen as a massive departure for Weihrauch, and a seemingly risky strategy given their reputation, precedents have indeed been set in the industry. Just consider firearms such as Glock, Heckler & Koch and others, and the way ballistic polymer is being utilised for the entire chassis. As Hans Weihrauch explained to us at the factory, it's the way things are moving, and these modern

Carry the HW110K all day with ease



production methods represent the future for the company.

Thinking on a tangent, just consider the impact of 3D printing, and how it is creeping into areas previously dominated by traditional engineering, and it's clear that the future is up for grabs. Being willing to adapt in this fast-changing market place is the key, and Weihrauch's willingness to embrace the options opening up to them, is admirable.

SO WHAT'S ON OFFER?

Let's remember, Weihrauch launching a new model is a rare occurrence, so any new offering is a cause for celebration. So, just what are we getting then, with

the HW110K? Well, for a start, Weihrauch's own silencer comes fitted as standard, and there's also a quality two-stage trigger, 10-shot magazine (two supplied), side-lever cocking, manual safety catch, Picatinny scope rail, and probe-style charging.

As for the stock, the configuration is ambidextrous sporter. 'Soft touch' best describes the black rubber coated over wood, which feels really cosy. There's chequering neatly applied, laser-cut into both the fore end and pistol grip, and a solid rubber butt pad sits to the rear. Weihrauch are well known for making their own barrels, and the high-grade tube fitted here is just

12.5 inches. Consider that the standard model gets 16 inches, and you can see where most of the trimming exercise has been focused. A plastic barrel support is used, and whilst I didn't experience any problem for the duration of my test, I would consider its removal if this were my own gun – just so the barrel was unhindered with full clearance all around. Weihrauch fit the support to give protection to the barrel, but in the real world, it remains an unnecessary feature.

The barrel is chemically blued in ↘

The HW110K is radically different for Weihrauch



One of the best silencers available, comes as standard



Soft-touch woodwork, and it works well



A rubber pad is neatly applied



Pint-sized sporter, with Weihrauch's renowned build quality



Subtle and well thought out, the two-stage trigger



Note the barrel support

the traditional manner, whilst the cylinder has a matte black coating applied. Weihrauch prove that they do take customer feedback seriously, too, since the silver magazine release catch and safety on the original model, are now supplied in black.

CONFIGURATION

Weihrauch's first PCP, the HW100 Series, has been a major success, and the fact that it has remained in production, largely unchanged from the original concept, is testament indeed to the integrity of the original design. Yet if any criticism is to be levelled at this landmark model in the German giant's illustrious history, it is perhaps the two-part breech block, which could be construed as a source of weakness. The HW110, and now this HW110K offer a completely new, one-piece polymer block as part of the radical design, and that means rigid mounting, uninterrupted by the height of the magazine.

A Picatinny rail runs the entire length of the block, and whilst I still consider this mounting system overkill on a pneumatic recoilless airgun, the popularity of such a feature clearly isn't lost on the manufacturer eager to satisfy the demands of the modern enthusiast.

Next month we'll see how this groundbreaking model shapes up. Until then, safe shooting. ■

TECHNICAL SPECIFICATION

Manufacturer: Weihrauch, Germany

Model: HW110K

Country of Origin: Germany

Type: Regulated multi-shot PCP

Calibre: .177 on test/.22 available

Weight: 6lbs 8oz

Length: 34.5 inches inc silencer

Barrel: 12.5 inches

Stock: Black rubber-coated wood

Power Source: External bottle or pump

Trigger: 2-stage adjustable

Fill Pressure: 200 bar max

Shot Count: Factory claim 60

approx in .177/75 in .22

Velocity: On test using AA

Diabolo Field from 200bar

High 770fps

Low 751fps

Ave 766fps

Spread 19fps

78 shots before drop

Energy: 11 ft.lbs. ave on test

RRP: £700 guide price including

two 10-shot rotary magazines

and filling probe

Options: Thumbhole stock/ full-length action

Contact: Hull Cartridge Company
01482 342571

RRP £700



A neat accessory rail so you can add a bipod