



WONDERFUL WEIHRAUCH

Dave Barham explores the superb Weihrauch HW100 X KT LAM ADJ carbine, complete with adjustable laminate stock

THE NEXT GENERATION

I reviewed Weihrauch's HW100 X at the back end of last year, explaining that the original HW100 had become a modern classic in all its various guises over the years. However, the new 'X' series sets the bar even higher with some huge improvements over previous incarnations. What makes the new

'X' models better than the original? Well, Weihrauch has stripped the original down and reworked it to produce what I still believe to be the best Weihrauch rifles ever made.

I couldn't wait to get my hands on this X KT model. Most folks who know me will know that I'm a sucker for a decent carbine, mostly because I perform a lot of pest

control duties here in Lincolnshire, from barn rats and ferrets to rabbits and squirrels. A decent carbine, with the more user-friendly shorter length and reduced weight, makes the job so much easier.

WEIHRAUCH HISTORY

Weihrauch recently celebrated its 125th 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



TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS

MODEL: HW100 X KT LAM ADJ
MANUFACTURER: Weihrauch Sport
DISTRIBUTOR: Hull Cartridge
TYPE: Pre-charged, multi-shot
MAX FILL PRESSURE: 250 bar
STOCK: Ambidextrous laminate
COCKING: Sidelever
TRIGGER: Two-stage adjustable
CALIBRE: .177 and .22
SAFETY: Manual
OVERALL LENGTH: 955mm (37.6in)
BARREL LENGTH: 310mm (12.2in)
MAG' CAPACITY: 14 .177, 14 .22
WEIGHT: 2.9kg (6.4lb) unscoped
SHOT COUNT: 100 in .177 and 135 in .22
MUZZLE ENERGY: 11.7ft/lb
VARIATION: 7fps over 10 shots
WEBSITE: weihrauch.co.uk
PRICE: £1,399

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.

Move forward to the 1950s and it is Hermann Weihrauch's 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 its now world-famous Rekord two-stage sporting trigger, a trigger that many would argue is still the best in the business some 70+ years later.

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. It continually invests in the most up-to-date production machinery, maintaining quality while maximising output.

ADJUSTABLE LAMINATE STOCK

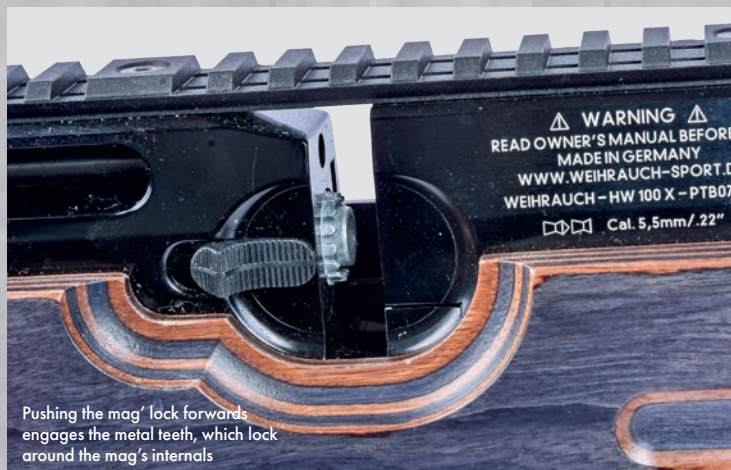
This HW100 X KT model comes supplied with a beautifully crafted laminate thumbhole stock, with shades of grey and brown throughout – this rifle blends in

beautifully to its surroundings in a woodland hunting situation. Incidentally, the 'K' stands for 'Karbine', while the 'T' stands for 'Thumbhole'.

The fore-end design feels great in the hand, with a very comfortable, gentle curve to it. 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. When it comes to the pistol grip, this has ample stippling around 360



Weihrauch's magazines are excellent



Pushing the mag' lock forwards engages the metal teeth, which lock around the mag's internals



The mag' is now locked securely in place

degrees and is designed in such a way that it is equally comfortable for the thumb-up or thumb-round grip.

The 310mm-long barrel on this Karbine features assisted stability via the barrel band/cylinder retention block. It's as solid as they come. With an overall length of 955mm and weighing just 2.9kg or 6.4lb (unscoped), this is one of the lightest rifles that Weihrauch has ever produced, and I absolutely love how it performs out in the field.

More key features added to the HW100 X KT model include all-round adjustability for perfect gunfit. The adjustable cheekpiece is one of the easiest to adjust and most solid units I've ever come across. It's a solid piece of laminate, cut from the same block to ensure it all matches and lines up with the cheekpiece closed down. I do wish more manufacturers would do this, it makes such a difference to the overall aesthetics.

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, 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.

NEW REGULATORS

All of the new 'X' models feature Weihrauch's new internal regulator. The previous HW100 models had a self-regulated valve system, which, as we all know, worked exceptionally well – the HW100 series has always had a reputation for reliability and accuracy. The addition of an internal regulator provides even more finesse with increased shot count, while consistency is significantly improved.

The only thing to remember is that every new rifle must have the new air cylinder removed from the rifle in order to fill it for the first time. Simply

This biathlon-style drop-down handle is optional – you can leave it as a plain sidelever if you prefer



screw the cylinder off from the rifle and then fill it using the fill probe provided. You can then re-attach it to the rifle. After that you can leave the cylinder attached and fill your rifle as usual 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 reg 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.

NEW CYLINDER

While Weihrauch was beefing up the internals of the HW100 into the new 'X' model, it decided to do the same to the air cylinder too. 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 240g in this carbine version, providing around



When the manual safety lever is pulled back the rifle is 'Safe'



The two-stage match-grade trigger is adjustable



This adjustable cheekpiece is nothing short of superb, and it's cut from the same stock



The butt pad is also adjustable for height

135 shots in .22 and 100 shots in .177 from this X KT model.

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

SIDELEVER OPTIONS

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 sidelever adds a touch of class to the HW100 X KT, 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 KT model comes supplied with a drop-down biathlon-style grip. Weihrauch has left it up to you to decide if you'd rather have the bare 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 the rifle is cocked, you can operate the manual safety lever, which can be found immediately above the top of the pistol grip on the right-hand side. Push it forward to Fire and pull back once the rifle is cocked to Safe.

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

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 the modern day/night scopes on the market.

EXCELLENT MAGS

You get two magazines of the robust metal casting variety supplied with this HW100 X KT, and these are easy to fill. Nothing has changed here, there's little, if anything, that Weihrauch could do to improve the reliability and user-friendliness of its excellent magazine system.

To load, simply push a pellet flush into each chamber, pull back the sidelever, locate the magazine into its slot within the action, push the magazine retaining catch forwards, and it's ready to go. If the catch won't engage, just gently rotate the mag, and it will all quickly find its home and lock in place.

MATCH TRIGGER

Weihrauch's two-stage match-grade trigger is fully adjustable and is one of the most highly regarded units found on any air rifle. Right out of the box it has a relatively short first stage that comes to a noticeable halt and a hair-like second stage that requires next to no pressure



Make small adjustments and you have the perfect gunfit for you



I absolutely love the stippling on the pistol grip, there's definitely no slippage going on here



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



It comes with a high-efficiency Weihrauch moderator



You can see the 11mm dovetail rail underneath the removable Picatinny rail

to release, with absolutely zero creep detected.

Yet again, the guys at Hull Cartridge, which distributes Weihrauch in the UK, did the dirty on me and sent me a .22 X KT to review – they know my preferred calibre is .177! But they did this on purpose, to show just how efficient and accurate this rifle can be in both calibres.

At my local club range I was putting pellet on pellet with this .22 rifle at 30m. I was hitting fingernail-sized groups out at 40m-plus, which for a .22 in my hands is really proving a point.

A UNIQUE EXPERIENCE

There really is something special that gives the HW100 X KT a unique feel and shooting experience. It's slick, faultless and so smooth to operate.

Weihrauch's multi-shot magazine system works perfectly, too, and that's a credit to the design team who got it right from the word go.

This beautiful X KT model from one of the most respected brands in the business comes highly recommended from me. 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 serves as a reminder of why the HW100, in all its many guises, remains a firm favourite with so many airgunners all around the world.

It's not often I fall in love with an air rifle, but I've put the HW100 X KT onto my Christmas wish list. I wonder if Santa will come good? ■



You get two 14-shot mags and a fill probe supplied