

# BEEMAN SMILE

Phill Price tries a new rifle from one of classic big names.

When I was in my early 20s, I lived for airguns and dreamed of top-class rifles from Weihrauch, Feinwerkbau and Webley. I loved adding scopes and mounts and modifying stocks to make sure my rifle stood out from the crowd, being personalised to suit my tastes. What I'd have loved even more would have been to add neat touches like different trigger blades, trigger guards and

treasured it all the same.

Today, we're spoilt for choice, with companies like Rowan Engineering offering stacks of beautifully engineered upgrades for just about every popular rifle. Beeman imported all the major European brands into the USA where they renamed them and also asked the makers to make special versions of their guns to better suit American tastes. He

airguns to be for kids, not 'real shooters'.

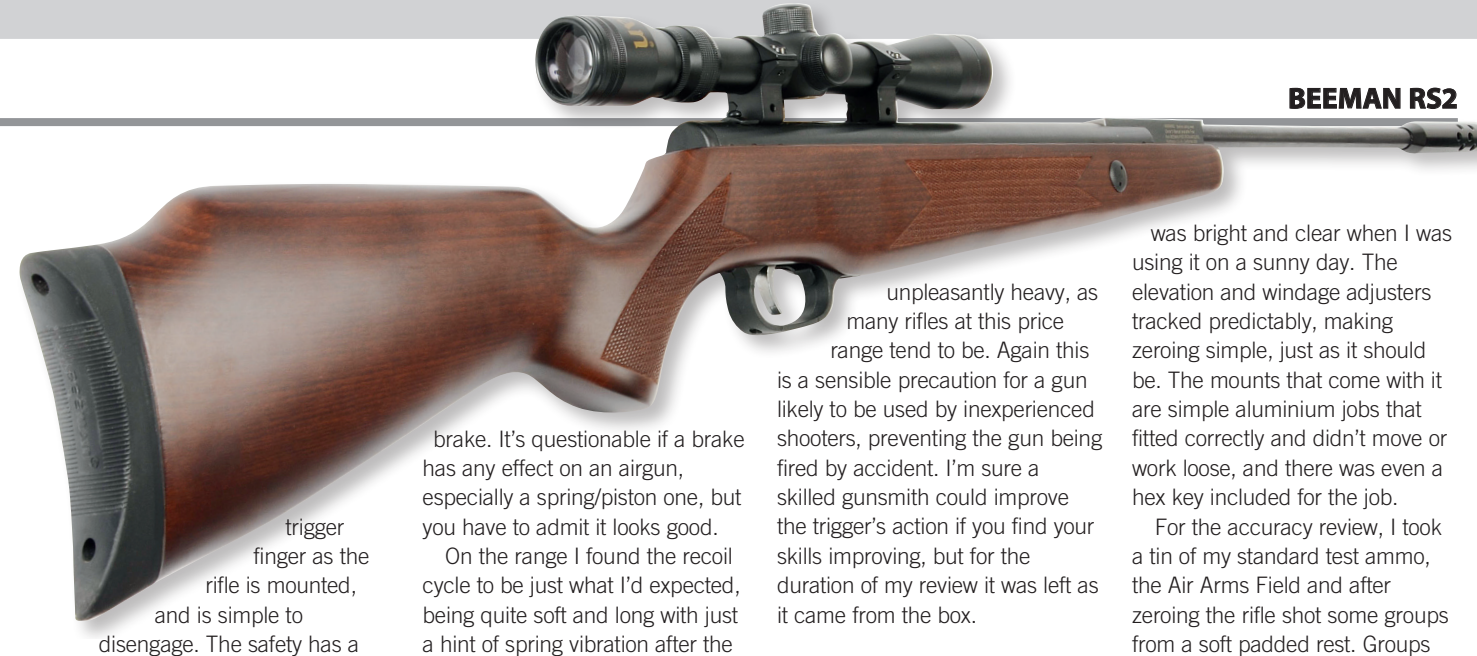
## GOOD TO HEAR FROM YOU

We don't hear much about Beeman today so I was a little surprised when SMK sent me this RS2. Unsurprisingly, it's made to resemble an American-style, full bore, deer-stalking rifle, because it seems that every Stateside hunter owns one. First impressions are of a long and bulky gun, which didn't surprise me because Beeman championed 'magnum' airguns, such as the Weihrauch HW80. However, when you pick up the RS2 it's surprisingly light and well balanced. The fore end is long and slim, extending right to the front of the breech block. There are chequering panels just where you'd expect them which are pressed rather than cut, but that's normal for a rifle of this price.

In keeping with modern trends the stock is ambidextrous with no

raised cheekpieces but it does have a rubber butt pad with a concave surface, holding the gun into your shoulder well. An unusual feature is a plastic Beeman badge attached to the stock just above the trigger, on the left. The pistol grip of the stock is quite thick and is swept back quite a way making for a long reach to the trigger blade. This is definitely an adult airgun, suited to larger hands. This fits in with the general stock dimensions with the length of pull being 14¾", just a smidge longer than average, and adding to the feeling of a large gun.

The trigger unit sits inside a classically-styled, synthetic trigger guard. The blade is metal and has a square pattern on its face which looks nice, but I didn't notice it in use. As the rifle is cocked, an automatic safety is engaged and a tab drops down in front of the blade. This can be felt by your



trigger finger as the rifle is mounted, and is simple to disengage. The safety has a

brake. It's questionable if a brake has any effect on an airgun, especially a spring/piston one, but you have to admit it looks good.

On the range I found the recoil cycle to be just what I'd expected, being quite soft and long with just a hint of spring vibration after the

unpleasantly heavy, as many rifles at this price range tend to be. Again this is a sensible precaution for a gun likely to be used by inexperienced shooters, preventing the gun being fired by accident. I'm sure a skilled gunsmith could improve the trigger's action if you find your skills improving, but for the duration of my review it was left as it came from the box.

was bright and clear when I was using it on a sunny day. The elevation and windage adjusters tracked predictably, making zeroing simple, just as it should be. The mounts that come with it are simple aluminium jobs that fitted correctly and didn't move or work loose, and there was even a hex key included for the job.

For the accuracy review, I took a tin of my standard test ammo, the Air Arms Field and after zeroing the rifle shot some groups from a soft padded rest. Groups hovered around 1¼" at 25 yards which is right up there with other rifles in this class. It was a nice experience for me to handle a Beeman product again as happy memories flooded back. Priced at £199.99 you get a lot for your money, and products that feel well made and solid, so if you're tall and like American styling this could well be the rifle for you. ■

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secondary effect in that the trigger won't fire until the barrel is closed, an excellent idea when you consider that this rifle might well be used by beginners and other inexperienced shooters.

shot was away. The trigger was set to be rather firm with quite a long second stage, but it wasn't

## BRIGHT AND CLEAR

Included in the kit is a Beeman branded 3-9 x 32 scope which

## REAL SPRINGER

Cocking is pretty easy in part because the barrel is quite long (18") and also because these rifles are designed to work at higher power for the US market and are detuned for UK use. What is unusual is that the rifle uses a conventional spring-piston power plant when almost every other rifle today is changing to a gas-ram. On top of the cylinder there's a conventional scope rail machined in with a very welcome recoil arrestor. All springers need one and I'm happy to see Beeman spec's one here. Beeman used to offer plates that covered the mounting screw holes that were left when we fitted scopes and removed the open sights. On the RS2 the top of the breech block is left plain, keeping the looks neat.

Another accessory Beeman championed was a barrel weight that was a combined cocking aid and muzzle



Cocking was easy, partly because of the long barrel.

The metal trigger blade has a grid pattern on its face.

## SPECIFICATIONS

Manufacturer	Beeman
Precision Airguns	
Importer	SMK Ltd
Web	www.sportsmk.co.uk
Tel	01206 795333
Model	RS2
Type	Break-barrel
Action	Spring-piston
Length	46"
Weight	8lbs (with scope and mounts)
Trigger	Two-stage

RRP £199.99

