

The 1084 Carnivore has centrefire styling, yet despite the lengthy proportions it handles quite nicely



Imported Beef

Pete Wadeson tests the Beeman 1084 Carnivore break barrel springer and reckons it will deservedly attract the frugally minded airgunner...

I can hardly remember the last time I reviewed an air rifle from Sportsmarketing (SMK.) If I remember correctly though it was one of their main sellers at the time – the SMK B2 Carbine.

I think they still import them – the rifle being a very cheap 'n' cheerful springer of Chinese origin. However, since I last reviewed a rifle marketed by them they've grown out of all recognition as a company, buying in the right products, offering

decent rifles at sensible prices and becoming a market leader not only for budget guns but also for top quality air rifles, certainly since they've now taken on distribution of air rifles from the famous German manufacturer, RWS Diana.

They also have a vast stock of CO2 rifles and pistols not forgetting the huge range of airgun related accessories. All are well priced in my opinion, so there's a springer for everybody in their range.

Beeman

They're currently 'showcasing' their Beeman branded products



The manual safety blade sits midway within the plastic trigger guard

including air pistols and the spring powered air rifles, most being bundled with an alternative sight for pistols while the rifles come with a scope plus two piece mounts.

The 1084 Carnivore is advertised as one of three in the Beeman family that includes the well regarded Beeman Dual (twin barrel), which is available in two versions, one with



The rifle doesn't show a cheekpiece, rather a low comb for head position and the 'ventilated' black rubber butt pad has a rather stylish pattern to it

a hardwood stock or one with a black ABS stock.

The Carnivore comes complete with a Beeman 3 - 9 X 32 scope and two piece mounts as mentioned previously - and a nice scope it proved to be during testing.

First impressions of the rifle is the lengthy synthetic stock but the twist here is that it's covered with what is termed 'Next (GI)' camouflage - a pattern that is proclaimed to be the 'next generation of concealment'. It's a photo-realistic design having a typical blend of branches, leaves and twigs. The overall hue is a quite light grey background overlaid with a mix of brown leaves and twigs. In fact it's reminiscent of a pattern I favoured for certain terrain but sadly no longer available in the UK - that being Hardwood 20/200.

Even though this lengthy centrefire styled air rifle pushes the tape to 47" from butt to muzzle. I was surprised that after scoping up it didn't feel unwieldy or front heavy. The overall fullbore based appearance with the eye-catching camo covered stock really will stand out when displayed on any gunshop rack.

A whole lotta' stock

The synthetic camo covered stock is fully ambidextrous and quite lengthy - I guess to accommodate for the 16.5" barrel. There's no cheekpiece, rather a low comb for head position with a very stylish pattern to the ventilated black rubber butt pad. The neck is quite slim with a shallow rake and is slab sided even at this position, which continues all the way down the chequered pistol grip.

Shrouded barrel

From the mid-section the stock begins to slightly curve outwards allowing the forend to be much thicker, with



The 1084 Carnivore - an attractive individual looking springer designed for plinking and powerful enough for hunting/pest control at medium range



The tapered forend has generously chequered panels

two pairs of generously cut chequered panels on either side running up to the black plastic cover capped stock screws. The underside is also nicely rounded, tapering slowly upwards to the rounded tip.

Here you can see the quality of engineering on the breech loading face, with a neat breech seal and the sprung stainless steel ball bearing for locking in the closed position



Dominating the front of the rifle is the outer fluted barrel shroud, giving the Carnivore the look of a custom barrelled centrefire. The shroud is purely cosmetic and measures 15 5/8" from muzzle to the front of the relatively long breech block. The very front of the shroud doesn't show the barrel but instead is hollowed out extending approximately 2" back with an inner diameter of 5/8" and an O/D of 3/4". The barrel it hides is rifled steel and measures 16 1/2".

The Carnivore un-latches at the breech very easily for cocking, due to the lengthy barrel acting as a lever, and it locks securely back in the open

position at the end of the stroke, allowing safe, direct barrel loading. Here you can see the quality of engineering on the breech loading face, with very neat breech seal and the sprung stainless steel ball bearing used for locking the detente in the closed position. The cocking stroke isn't overly strenuous and a direct cocking linkage arm is used rather than an articulated type. You'd think this would make for a 'cranky' feel to the cocking stroke but it's quite smooth and certainly does the job.

A manual metal safety blade sits midway within the plastic trigger guard when engaged. Disengage it with

the back of your trigger finger and it travels a good way forward out of the way from the nicely curved, inner ridged, chrome effect trigger blade.

Range time

With the Beeman 3 – 9 X 32 scope sitting on top, backed up to the removable metal arrestor strap, you can now begin loosing the lead down range to set zero. Though the rifle weighs in at 10lbs un-scoped I didn't feel it too much of a problem taking shots in the standing position, and also took kneeling shots as I fine tuned a 25-yd zero. The 2-stage adjustable trigger unit isn't bad at all, and releases shots quite cleanly without any creep.

The Carnivore on test was in .22 calibre and as I've been testing the range of Power-Force pellets from Henry Krank, I used the Field Power Force Pellets that have certainly shown they're good quality roundheads for the price. Running them in the Carnivore I was soon making sub-one-inch groups at the zero range I set. I'm also pleased to report recoil was minimal and muzzle report was surprisingly low.

Conclusions

Overall there's nothing really to gripe about, as this is quite an attractive individual looking springer designed for plinking and powerful

The 1084 Carnivore comes 'bundled' with a Beeman branded 3 - 9 X 32 scope and two piece mounts



The 'Next(GI)' camouflage is proclaimed to be the 'next generation of concealment'



The outer fluted barrel shroud, gives the Carnivore the look of a 'custom barrelled centrefire'



enough for hunting at medium range. It's certainly capable of knocking over rabbits at 25-35-yds and showed 11.2ft lbs of muzzle energy over my Combro Chrono Mk 4 using .22 Cal 14gr Field Power-Force Pellets.

I'd say though the 1084 Carnivore is aimed (no pun intended) at the frugally minded, it's a good buy for anybody, considering you also get a decent quality scope and mounts. The rifle/scope combination handles well and is certainly accurate, but due to its length I feel it's more of an adult sized gun or teenagers of a

larger build – but there are plenty of other SMK models to suit the younger shots.

If you want a reasonably priced and powerful rifle/scope outfit that looks a little out of the norm with its fullbore styling, then I'd certainly say you should take a serious look at the SMK 1084 Carnivore. **GM**

The cocking mechanism uses a direct linkage rather than an articulated one



TECHNICAL SPECIFICATION

Model:	Beeman 1084 Carnivore
Stock:	Fully ambidextrous camo dipped synthetic sporter
Overall Length:	47"
Barrel Length:	16.5"
Weight:	10lbs un-scoped
Calibre:	.22 on test, .177 available
Trigger:	2-stage adjustable
Safety:	Manual (in trigger guard)
Price:	£279.95
Contact:	Sportsmarketing (SMK) 01206 795333 www.sportsmk.co.uk