

# EXPRESS YOURSELF!

Phill Price is deeply impressed by a new rifle with a famous name

In America airguns used to be seen as toys, in fact many of its citizens thought every airgun was a BB gun, i.e. a low-powered, inaccurate replica of a 'real gun'. For this reason it gladdens my heart to see evidence that they're changing their opinions. Take this new rifle from full-bore giants Remington. This manufacturer

American styling. It makes good sense that Remington would style their airgun like their most popular deer-hunting rifle, the model 700, because brand loyalty is a well-proven thing. We often become enamoured by the first rifle we have and stick to that brand for much of our lives, and Americans often have several rifles



The long rearsight unit is fully adjustable.

*"It really is impressive and doubly so when you consider that the rifle and scope package sells for under £160"*

sells vast numbers of rifles and shotguns and is a household name across the pond. Their recent tie-up with British airgun specialists SMK made it clear that they can see the airgun market is growing in importance, and they want a piece of the action.

In most regards, the Express is a very conventional break-barrel, spring-piston rifle, albeit with very

for different jobs such as deer hunting and 'varminting'.

## STOCK DESIGN

The shape of the stock is very clean and simple, something I like very much. This is a large gun with a length of pull that's close to 15", making it very definitely a man-sized gun. The reach to the trigger blade is pretty long as well,

so youngsters and those with smaller hands might not feel comfortable. The butt section is made like most American deer rifles, with little drop to heel and a high comb, giving good support to your cheek and consistent mounting. In Jim Tyler's recent article about how recoil causes muzzle lift, he noted that this style of stock can be beneficial in minimising the effects of recoil. I like the styling a lot and I'm sure the rifle's good looks will do wonders for sales.

Something else that adds to the deer rifle looks is the tapered 19" barrel. This offers plenty of leverage to drive the articulated cocking linkage and make the

effort needed comfortably manageable. There's little noise on the cocking stroke, telling us that the internals are well fitted and suitably lubricated. These rifles are primarily designed for the US market where they produce around 15 ft.lbs., but special batches are made for us so we get the sub 12 ft.lbs. performance we need.

## STUNNINGLY CONSISTENT

I chronographed the rifle with my standard test pellet, the Air Arms Field, which in .177 weighs 8.44 grains. This showed an average velocity of 781 fps for a muzzle energy of 11.43 ft.lbs. It was also stunningly consistent with a



Fibre-optic enhanced open sights come as standard.

This is a very handsome rifle with some nice figuring in the stock.

velocity spread of just 9fps over 10 shots, and remember that was straight from the box. That number will decrease as the rifle runs in. This rifle was really beginning to impress me. The firing cycle was quick and had no twangy spring noise at all, feeling more like a tuned gun than an inexpensive starter model.

Where this rifle is unusual is in the safety mechanism. It's automatic, with a button popping out of the left side of the action just above the trigger. The novel part is a secondary lever that, in effect, locks the safety on, so that it can't be disengaged by accident. As the lever is rotated up and back, the safety button is

isolated and the safety cannot be disturbed. I've never seen this system before, but I guess coming from the land of litigation we shouldn't be surprised to see a safer safety.

## BASIC GLASS

The scope that comes with the rifle is a simple 4x32 which is ideal for plinking and for pest control in decent light conditions. A basic set of mounts is also included along with a hex driver to assemble the kit. Fitting takes just a few minutes, although you'll need a thin coin or screwdriver to turn the adjuster turrets. Such a slim scope in low mounts means that it sits low to the action helping



Barrel lock-up was positive yet opened without a fuss.

you get onto it easily. Again, this mimics the way many Americans set up their deer rifles, making this an ideal practice tool for an upcoming hunt.

Of course, what really counts with any rifle is the way it shoots and I have to say again that I was impressed with Remington's first foray into serious adult airguns.

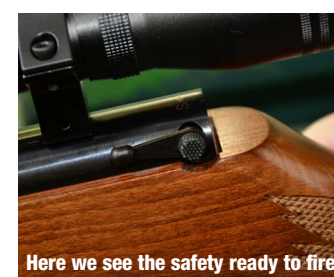
The trigger is heavy, as you'd expect, but breaks with little creep and is predictable, vital to useful accuracy. As mentioned earlier, there's no spring noise from the action and the firing cycle feels crisp and well balanced. It really is impressive and doubly so when you consider that the rifle and scope package sells for under £160. Sure a 4x scope makes long-range accuracy a little bit harder to achieve, but I shot plenty of ½" groups at 20 yards, with only the odd flyer spoiling the achievement. The rifle is so good

## SPECIFICATIONS

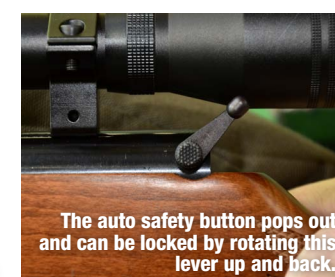
Manufacturer	Remington
Importer	SMK Ltd
Web	www.sportsmk.co.uk
Tel	01206 795333
Model	Express
Type	Break-barrel
Action	Spring-piston
Length	45"
Weight	8lbs
Barrel length	19"
Trigger	Two-stage adjustable
RRP	£159.99 (includes scope and mounts)

**RRP £159.99**

*"It was also stunningly consistent with a velocity spread of just 9fps over 10 shots"*



Here we see the safety ready to fire.



The auto safety button pops out and can be locked by rotating this lever up and back.



The firing cycle, trigger and accuracy were worthy of much more expensive rifles.