



## This smart new junior gun gets Phill Price's approval

I didn't get my first air rifle until I was 16, which is something I've often regretted. Like many experienced shooters, I'm a firm believer in teaching youngsters to shoot from as young an age as possible. Safe gun handling, once carefully taught, will protect them and everybody else and should be deeply ingrained into the thoughts of every person who handles a gun. Nobody in my family shot, so I had to teach myself in my parent's garden. Luckily I didn't ever cause any damage but it would have been much better if I'd had an experienced adult to show me how to be safe and shoot straight. It was only when I joined a club that I received any formal training.

### TEACH EM' YOUNG

If you're going to teach kids to shoot, I feel it's vital to find them a gun that's correctly proportioned for their height and build. Kids will try to shoot anything that they're allowed to, so there no good asking them if they find a gun comfortable because they're always going to say yes. If they say no the fun might stop, and they're never going to want that. Guns that are too long and too heavy cause bad habits such as snatching at the trigger as the sights drift past the target.

With this in mind I was glad to receive the new Remington Express Compact for review. I've recently tested the full size version and was impressed with the

handling and build quality. It's styled on one the most popular full bore rifles in the world, the Remington 700, which has sold millions over the years, so it's logical that people would like an airgun lookalike. The Compact version keeps all the good looks of its parent rifle but is much cuter because of its neater dimensions.

are found on the full-size version are there. There's an automatic safety that pops out of the left side of the action. This has a rotary lever that locks it, making the safety safe, if you follow me. This is made from steel like most of the gun. Even the trigger blade and guard are made from metal, adding to the feel of a 'proper gun'.

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### SOLID BUILD

But this is no flimsy 'kid's gun'. It's solidly built and impressively well built, especially when you consider its modest price of just £160, including the scope and mounts. All the great features that

I mentioned earlier that guns that are too long force learners into bad habits so I was pleased to measure the Compact's pull length at just over 12", a full 2 1/2" shorter than an average adult rifle. I'm constantly amazed at

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manufacturers who claim to have built junior rifle that have a full length stock. No matter how light a rifle might have been built, unless the stock is shortened kids will never get the best from it. To offer good handling the Compact balances in the middle of the fore end just as it should.

### AT THE CLUB

Not having a suitable kid around the place I visited our club where by good fortune I bumped into a member who had brought his granddaughter along for the day. Sophie is 13 and looked like the kind of youngster the Compact was designed for. I asked her to handle the rifle and she quickly said that she found it comfortable and easy to aim. However, we then ran into a problem. She wasn't able to cock it. I think she has an average build for her age and certainly put everything into

trying, but no matter what she did just couldn't do it.

Getting the rifle home I chronographed it, which perhaps shone some light onto the cocking force needed. Shooting the SMK Black BS55 domed pellet, which weighs 15 grains, the Compact averaged 564 fps for a calculated muzzle energy of 10.6 ft.lbs. That's full power, enough for hunting and much more than most junior guns make. Perhaps a lighter spring could be fitted that would allow young arms to cock this fine gun. The cocking issue needn't be a show stopper. I strongly feel that all juniors should be supervised by a responsible adult at all times, so they could cock the rifle until the pupil grows a little stronger.

The rifle comes fitted with fibre-optic open sights and many people believe that everybody should be taught with them before moving on to a scope. This



No matter how hard she tried, Sophie couldn't cock the Compact.



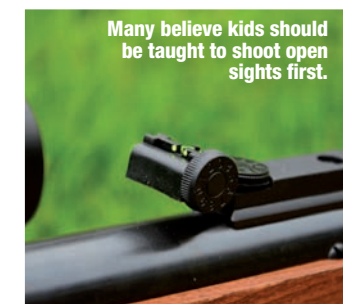
The simple 4 x 32 scope included is just right.



Sophie found the Compact easy to handle.



At just over 12", the pull length is ideal for teenagers.



Many believe kids should be taught to shoot open sights first.



The all-metal safety is automatic.



Fibre optic inserts enhance the open sights.

package offers both. A neat little 4 x 32 scope and mounts come with the Compact and I feel it's a good choice. It's light and as simple as can be, plus the 4x mag' is plenty for close range plinking, which is what this gun is all about.

I liked the Compact every bit as much as I did the full size version and recommend it if you're looking

for a rifle to begin your own youngster's shooting career. ■

## SPECIFICATIONS

Manufacturer	Remington
Importer	SMK Ltd
Web	www.sportsmk.co.uk
Tel	01206 795333
Model	Express Compact
Type	Break barrel
Action	Spring piston
Length	39 1/4"
Pull length	12 1/4"
Weight	7 1/2" (including scope)

RRP £159.95