

JET SET

Phill Price tries a new model from the Remington stable

There's no doubt that the modern airgunner likes the tactical look. Perhaps that comes from all those Hollywood movies where tough cops defeat the bad guys with assault rifles, or the unlimited number of shoot-em-up video games that feature this type of rifle so heavily. Whatever the reason, SMK knows how to give their customers what they want. They've just added some new models from Remington that fulfil this need and the first I was able

to get my hands on was the Thunder Jet. This is a curious name for a rifle that features such a huge silencer. It really is quiet rifle; no thunder here! At 17" long, the huge barrel shroud dominates the rifle's 47¾" length. This is a big, man-sized gun for sure. It weighs 9½ lbs, so anybody picking it up will know that what's in their hands wasn't designed for kids.

As you'd expect, the long silencer keeps the muzzle noise to

a minimum and the action noise is well controlled too. I noticed no spring noise, although I could feel a little vibration. The firing cycle felt long and slow, giving a soft shove rather than a snappy jab in my hands. To get the rifle in the mood, I started with a chronograph session using the Remington Thunder Field Target Trophy pellet which weighs 14.6 grains in .22. Muzzle velocity was low to begin, but within some 20 shots it soon rose to an average of

550fps, which is what I'd expect for a rifle in this price range.

RUNNING IN

With the action loosening up, I set off to the range to get the gun zeroed. Settled into the rest bags, the length and weight made for a very stable aim. The fore end of the synthetic stock is very broad, being almost 2½" across at its widest point. This is just how stocks are made for shooting off bags, which helps explain some of the stability. Another feature used on firearms used for this type of shooting is the hook in the underside of the butt section. This is designed to allow your non-shooting hand to pull the stock back into your shoulder. Whether this technique is a good idea for spring-powered guns is open to debate. I didn't use it because I belong to the school of thought that says that you should hold a spring gun as lightly as possible. This allows it to recoil in the same way, shot after shot. If you grip it tightly for one shot and loosely for the next, you'll be inconsistent.

The stock is ambidextrous and features a nice matte finish with some stippled panels at the main contact points. The barrel shroud matches this well and has long flutes moulded in for some aesthetic interest. To match this look, the metalwork has a slightly

Now that's one long silencer!



"The Thunder Jet clearly preferred the Sniper Light, producing some groups around the 1.5" mark"

matte finish too, so there would be no need to worry about reflections.

In keeping with the tactical look, Remington added an 11mm-to-Weaver rail and then fitted the rifle with a 3-9 x 40 scope that has an illuminated reticle. The rail, Weaver mounts and scope are included in the price and make for a complete, range-ready package.

TRIGGER TIME

To control a recoiling rifle well you need a decent trigger, and the

Thunder Jet's is typical of rifles of this kind designed for the American market. In the USA they subject guns to a drop test in which they're cocked and then dropped onto their butt pad from a set height, to see if they'll go off. To ensure that their guns pass, the manufacturers set the trigger heavy and long, and the Thunder Jet's is exactly that. It breaks at 5lbs after a good long pull. However, it is quite smooth and consistent. Big hands will be better suited to this trigger,

The Weaver rail suits the 'tactical' look.



The butt hook can be used to pull the butt into the shoulder from the bench or prone.



The tactical look is all the rage today.

from strength-to-strength at the moment. I've tested a number of interesting rifles from them over the last year, and it's clear that they're serious about gaining a good chunk of the break-barrel market here. If the tactical look is your thing then have a look at one of these. I'm sure you'll like it every bit as much as I did ■

TECH SPEC

Manufacturer	Remington
Importer	SMK
Web	www.sportsmk.co.uk
Tel	01206 795333
Model	Thunder Jet
Type	Spring-piston
Action	Break-barrel
Stock	Ambidextrous synthetic tactical
Trigger	Two-stage
Length	47¾"
Weight	9½ lbs

£219.95

Remington seems to be going

"As you'd expect, the long silencer keeps the muzzle noise to a minimum and the action noise is well controlled too"



Off the bench this rifle was very steady.



The long shroud gave lots of leverage for cocking.