

# THE BIG TEST

ON THE FIRING  
LINE THIS MONTH:  
THE NEW STOEGER  
XM1 COMBO

## It's Quite A Combo!





## Dave Barham reveals the much anticipated PCP from Italian manufacturer, Stoeger

I've been waiting for what seems like ages to get my hands on the final production model of Stoeger's first foray in the world of PCP air rifles. I first saw a glimpse of the prototype at the IWA Outdoor Classic show in Nuremberg last year, and even then there was a buzz in the air on their stand. I'm pleased to say that the buzz has most certainly continued here at Airgun Towers, because what Stoeger has produced really is a superb piece of engineering – and what's more, the finished product comes in at a rather interesting price point – but more on that later.

### SLEEK DESIGN

The first thing you'll notice about this PCP is the sleek design, typically Italian, it really looks the part from whatever angle you view it. As soon as you open the box you're greeted with a whole host of goodies, including a 3-9 x 40 scope, two mag's, a moderator, Picatinny rails, an interchangeable black pistol grip and a Monte Carlo raised cheekpiece.

The stock is clearly designed with ergonomics in mind, and I really wouldn't expect anything less from Stoeger, having used some of their springer rifles in the past.

As soon as I shouldered the rifle it felt comfortable and natural, and it feels extremely solid and well built. What's more, it's amazingly



**OPPOSITE PAGE:** It's a real game changer as far as mobile hunting is concerned

**ABOVE:** You can swap out this blue pistol grip for a black one

**BELOW:** You even get a decent scope included!

light, weighing just 5.5lb without the scope mounted!

### OPTIONAL EXTRAS

The XM1 comes fitted with a blue synthetic pistol grip, which I think looks really nice on the rifle, but if

**"a superb piece of engineering – and what's more, the finished product comes in at a rather interesting price point"**

you want to change it to all black, you can by simply undoing the Allen

screws and replacing the grip with the black one provided.

You can also change the cheekpiece for the slightly raised one supplied, but I found that I didn't need to do that once the scope was mounted.

Stoeger has thought of everything with this package. Inside the box are two Picatinny rail mounts that attach securely to the fore end of the stock with the four Allen screws provided. You'll need to mount these in order to add the Stoeger bipod, but it's worth mentioning that unlike many other rifles with similar configurations, once mounted I didn't find that the rails got in the way of my forehead grip in any way. One of the Picatinny mounts also has three magnetic slots built in, to house up to three spare magazines, which is a nice touch.

### MONOPOD BIPOD!

With the rail mounts attached to the stock I set about attaching the bipod. This doesn't come as standard, but Stoeger sent one to me to play with anyway. It's an interesting concept

involving two single legs, which attach to their relative mounts on each side of the foregrip.

With the bipod attached, it seems very stable and is really nice to shoot from the bench and seeing that the legs are quite long and extendable, I think they will be extremely useful out in the field when lying in the prone position hunting rabbits.

### INTERESTING TRIGGER

The trigger on the rifle is a single-stage type, but it is adjustable for length of pull. Stoeger call it their 'Pro Adaptive Trigger system', and by unscrewing with the small Allen key you can slide the trigger forward or backward to -4mm or +8mm to get the perfect length of pull you require.

I'm no competition shooter, but I found that the factory setting was more than adequate for my needs,







**ABOVE LEFT:** The supplied moderator simply screws on



**ABOVE RIGHT:** That's one of the bipod legs attached!

and after putting 30 or so shots through the rifle, I knew exactly where the release point was going to be each time I squeezed the trigger.

Safety wise, this is a manual push-button type situated immediately in front of the trigger guard. It's very positive in operation, with a solid push required to turn it on and off.

### A COUPLE OF MAG'S

The XM1 comes with two magazines and a single-shot tray, which will please competition shooters. The mag's themselves are 9-shot, self-indexing rotary types, which are really easy to load. Simply wind the clear plastic cover round against the tension of the internal spring, then

**BELOW LEFT:** First job was to attach the Picatinny rails

**BELOW RIGHT:** Stoeger's trigger is rather interesting

flip the mag' over and drop a pellet in skirt first. This locks the clear cover in place and then you just flip it over and load the rest of the pellets nose first, as you turn the cover until it's full.

Slotting the mag' into the action is a doddle, too. There's a small lip at the bottom of the mag' that slides neatly into the thin recess at the base of the loading port, then

### FILLING UP

Stoeger also sent me one of their stirrup pumps to fill this rifle with, but as I sit here writing this, I'm two weeks into having broken a couple of ribs, so that was most definitely out of the question. I haven't even unboxed it, but you can expect an in-depth review of the pump from Mark Camoccio in the next issue!

**"It's very positive in operation, with a solid push required to turn it on and off"**

you push the mag' into place and it's held there by means of a small magnet – simple, but very effective.

The fill probe provided slots into a standard, quick-coupler socket, like those used by Daystate and Brocock.







**ABOVE LEFT:** The bolt is ergonomically designed and smooth in operation



**ABOVE RIGHT:** The push button safety is positive

Once attached to the hose, you simply remove the plug in the end of the rifle cylinder and push it in, then fill. The air reservoir on the XM1 is tiny, it's not even an inch in diameter, yet can be filled to 200 Bar.

**TEST TIME**

One thing that kept on running around my head as I was screwing on the scope, Picatinny rails and bipod, is this rifle's price. Stoeger are selling the rifle (minus bipod) for just £395. Yes, you read that correctly! The more I shot it in my back garden, the more I wanted to keep shooting it, and I found it very hard to put down.

As always, I pushed two mag's

**BELOW LEFT:** A handy way to store spare mag's

**BELOW RIGHT:** The magazine slots in easily and is held there via a magnet

through the chrono', which gave me a solid 12.5 ft.lbs. in the .22 model I was testing. Then it was time to hit the range.

one flyer, with the other 44 shots grouped within half an inch at 20 metres. Very impressive for a non-regulated .22 rifle.

**"The more I shot it in my back garden, the more I wanted to keep shooting it, and I found it very hard to put down,"**

After quickly zeroing the scope, which I won't go into detail with here, maybe in the next issue, I settled down on my garden bench to see what this .22 can do. I wasn't disappointed either, and with each squeeze of the trigger I sent the pellet into the kill zone. After putting five mag's through the rifle, I'd had

I really like the magazine system, and cocking the action is extremely easy. I was expecting a 'click-clunk' type of affair, I don't know why, maybe that price point was still running around my brain, but the action is smooth and positive every time.

I gave the rifle the good old 'rattle test' and everything is solid there;







it's an extremely well manufactured piece of machinery.

**ABOVE LEFT:** This reservoir takes up to 200 Bar

**"it's far lighter than anything else I have shot before, which will make it ideal for youngsters and older shooters, too"**

**CONCLUSION**

I absolutely loved shooting this rifle in my garden. As I mentioned previously, I'm still really suffering with broken ribs, but I found the XM1 really easy to shoot whilst standing, and even easier to shoot from my bench. I think this is in part to the rifle's weight; it's far lighter than anything else I have shot before, which will make it ideal for youngsters and older shooters, too.

I can't wait to take this rifle out in the field hunting. It really is a

**ABOVE RIGHT:** Pull the plug and insert the fill probe

hunter's dream due to the accuracy and sheer lack of weight. I bet you'd notice the difference after a couple of hours carrying this rifle around a copse in search of squirrels and pigeons, compared to a traditional springer or heavier PCP hunter. Well done, Stoeger, on producing a very affordable and multi-functional PCP rifle. I have a feeling that sales are going to be very good! ■

**BELOW:** The real test took place on the bench



**SPECIFICATION**

- Model:** XM1 Combo (Includes 3-9 x 40 scope and silencer)
  - Manufacturer:** Stoeger
  - UK Distributor:** GMK:  
01489 579999
  - Type:** PCP, multi-shot rotary mag'
  - Stock Material:** Ambidextrous, synthetic
  - Cocking:** Bolt-action
  - Trigger:** Single-stage
  - Safety:** Manual, push button
  - Calibres:** .177 and .22
  - Overall Length:** 986mm
  - Barrel Length:** 565mm
  - Weight:** 2.5kg (5.5lbs) without scope
  - Fill Pressure:** 200 bar
  - Shots Per Fill:** 60 (.177), 80 (.22)
  - Energy of Test Rifle:** Avg 11.5 ft.lbs. over 20 shots
  - Variation (20 shots):** 8fps
  - Websites:** www.stoegerairguns.com or www.gmk.co.uk
- RRP: £395**