



Weihrauch HW100 BP Carbine

– its no pup and that's no bull

Alpha Militaria's Rich Saunders uses Weihrauch's bullpup to deal with some troublesome feral pigeons

Bullpups have been around a lot longer than air rifles and nothing, other than the .177 versus .22 debate perhaps, divides opinion. True Marmite guns – you either love them or you don't.

Personally, I'm a lover not a hater and in my view they can't be beaten, especially in confined environments. Weihrauch's HW100 BP comes either as a standard model with a 410mm barrel, or an even more diminutive Carbine – the version I reviewed for Alpha Militaria – with a 310mm barrel and an overall length of just 735mm including silencer.

At 3.3kgs, the HW100 BP is by no means a heavy rifle. However, it took me by surprise when I first picked it up because it was heavier than what my eyes told me to expect from such a tiny package. And in fact, like many bullpups, with most of the weight at the back of the rifle, the BP suddenly felt as light as a feather when I put it to my shoulder.

Bullpups are defined as rifles configured with the trigger forward of the breach. In most other respects, they are the same as traditionally laid out rifles. As a result, if you've shot an HW100 you'll immediately recognise the magazine, cocking and air filling features on the BP.

Having received the HW100 BP Carbine from Hull Cartridge to review on the Alpha Militaria YouTube channel I fitted a scope within minutes and headed to the range. With a tin of Air Arms Diabolo Field .22 (5.52) pellets beside me, the bullpup was soon printing one hole groups at 30 metres and delivering a little over 60 shots from the 105cc air cylinder at around 11 ft. lbs.

Other than satisfying my 'kid with a new toy' side, I was in a hurry to get the HW100 BP Carbine set up because I had an appointment with some troublesome feral pigeons later in the day. One of the permissions is a working farm that has developed a kind of informal petting zoo. Kids love to come and see pygmy goats, piglets, lambs, ponies and alpacas. The only trouble is that feral pigeons congregate in the barns and sheds on the working parts of the farm and poop everywhere.

Their faeces not only looks unpleasant but is a disease risk to the farm workers and, more importantly, the children who come to see the animals.

Like many older farms, the yard is a tangled arrangement of buildings and equipment. I've lost count of the number of times I've clonked my rifle when trying to get into position for a shot on a pigeon or rat. If ever an environment demanded a compact bullpup, this was it.

Shooting ferals is rarely much of a challenge and expecting shots in the 10 to 30 metre range, I'd zeroed the HW100 BP Carbine at 20 metres. Most of my .22 rifles are zeroed that way because I find the aim point to be the same at 10 and 20 metres with only a mildot of hold over at 30.

For once my plans came together and as the bullpup and I followed the feral pigeons as they moved between the insides of various barns and tops of roofs, I managed to claim around a dozen before they finally disappeared for good.

The HW100 BP Carbine performed without fault, putting all but one of the pigeons on the ground with a headshot. The other bird, probably the longest shot of the evening at just over 30 metres, was killed instantly with a neck shot.

What is more, the handy dimensions of the rifle meant I could move more easily than I ever could have done with a full size rifle and I managed to avoid taking any lumps out of it on farm machinery. If I can convince Hull Cartridge to let me hang on to it a bit longer, my next plan is to see how the HW100 BP Carbine performs as a hide gun.