

A TEKNO TWIST!

Phill Price tests the gun shop favourite £199 springer combo

I have a friend who owns a gun shop and I always ask him what he thinks about the latest superguns and if they're selling well. With a long sigh, he always tells me that the way he makes his living isn't from the latest BSA, Air Arms or Daystate. It's from the chap, perhaps with his son, who comes in on a Saturday morning with £200 in his wallet. He doesn't know all that much about them and doesn't read the magazines. He just wants an airgun. The shop will sell five or six such rifle packages most weekends, and that's how they keep the lights on.

It seems that £200 is a threshold for many people coming into the sport, and often, they'll get a scope and mounts thrown in. All

they need to add is a gun slip and some pellets and they're shooting. Break-barrel springers still dominate this part of the market because they can be made relatively cheaply, and they're

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simple and reliable too.

NICE PACKAGE

Just such a rifle package is the Beeman Quiet Tek on test that, as the name suggests, includes a silencer, alongside the 4 x 32

scope and mounts. It's a long rifle at 47" and feels like a very manly model. This is no junior's rifle, that's for sure. Perhaps the feature that grabs your attention first is the Quiet Tek silencer, which is like no

other I've seen. It appears to be part of an over-moulded barrel sleeve that flares radically from the barrel diameter to some 1¾" around the muzzle. Along the length of the barrel sleeve there are flutes, and these continue and

are exaggerated along the sides of the silencer. They add grip to the area you grasp to cock the rifle, adding security to your hold.

Away from this, the rifle appears very conventional, with its long, slim, hardwood stock that shows no chequering or cheek piece, and is ambidextrous, of course. A small, oval Beeman badge on the left side above the trigger guard is the lone embellishment. The length of pull is the industry-standard 14½", which surprised me, because the rifle felt longer than that. A neat, rubber butt pad finishes it off. The fasteners that attach the fore end to the action are unusual, being slightly domed button-head bolts that have two small holes to accept a driver tool.

"I noted that despite the obvious spring noise, the Quiet Tek did seem quiet for a rifle of its type"



I've never seen a silencer like this, but it appears to work.

I found no matching tool in the box, nor any reference to them in the manual. I guess the right sized 90° circlip pliers might get the job done.

TRIGGER TIME

The trigger blade has a broad face with a pattern of squares impressed upon it. Directly in front of this is the automatic safety blade that moves back for 'safe' as you cock the action, and is pressed forward to get ready to fire. I like this very much because

you know from the second you reach for the trigger whether or not it's on, and it can be left on until the very last second before firing. It also disengages silently, which is something that hunters will appreciate.

As is the norm for rifles in this class, the trigger was on the heavy side and had a long second stage, and it took me a while to get used to it. I know that rifles designed for beginners shouldn't have triggers that are too light, though.

Cocking was smooth and quite light, which I imagine is partly due to the long (19½") barrel and silencer combination. The barrel arc stops not much beyond 115°, suggesting to me that this rifle has had its stroke shortened to suit our 12 ft.lbs power limit, and is probably offered at a much higher power setting in other countries in the world. SMK sent me a tin of their excellent Thunder Field Target Trophy pellets, which in .22 calibre weigh 14.66 grains. The average muzzle velocity was 570fps, which equates to 10.58 ft.lbs, and I'd expect this to rise a little as the rifle beds in, yet you'll

The automatic safety tab is right in front of the trigger blade.



CONSISTENT

Shot from a bench rest, off very soft cushions, I was able to get consistent 1¼" groups at 25 yards, and these should tighten with more experience. The 4 x 32 scope was bright and clear, and the reticle well defined. I noted that despite the obvious spring noise, the Quiet Tek did seem quiet for a rifle of its type, so perhaps that big silencer helps after all. If you're looking for a £200 all-in package, then take a look at this one and I'm sure you'll like it as much as I did. ■



I was happy to see a recoil arrestor bolted to the scope rail.

This is a full-size adult gun, for sure.



The compact 4 x 32 scope was bright and clear.



Cocking was smooth and easy.

TECH SPEC

Manufacturer Beeman

Importer SMK Ltd

Web www.sportsmk.co.uk

Tel 01206 795333

Model Beeman1153QT

Type Spring-piston

Action Break-barrel

Trigger Two-stage adjustable

Length 47"

Weight 7.3lbs

RRP £199.99