



Tim Finley discovers fun at the double with the unique Beeman Dual series 22

Beeman have a massive name in the States, always have done. To many over there they ARE airguns. Remington Outdoor (UK) LTD, another massive name in the States is the firm behind Beeman in the UK, and boy, have I got a treat in store for you here! Beeman have been doing a dual calibre rifle, which is one with a single interchangeable barrel, .177 and .22 for years now, but what we have here is a Beeman dual rifle with a difference; it has two fixed barrels, like a shotgun. Amazing right!

It is a perfectly normal spring-powered, break-barrel air rifle, but that's where the normality ends. The breech-block is a solid piece of engineering, and it has to

be to accommodate the two 450mm-long steel barrels, which are fitted in an over/under configuration. The 11mm barrel liners run down the two 15.8mm conjoined tubes of the barrel, and it gives it the look of a shotgun until you get to the muzzle end,

"Just remember to load two pellets, and not one"

where we find a synthetic clamping section with a fibre-optic rod on the top. The gun has no rear sight so its presence is a mystery to me.

COCKING

Cocking is done as usual, slap the top barrel with the flat of the hand

to break the detent latch and then in one stroke pull down the barrel through its arc to cock the action. The safest way to cock a break-barrel gun is to brace the butt pad in the top of the leg, with your trigger hand on the stock; grip the barrel, cock the gun, and

leaving the cocking hand on the barrel, load a pellet (or in this case pellets) in the open breech with the hand that was supporting the cocking/loading sequence. The barrel lock-up on the Dual is solid with no play in the jaws at all. Just remember to load two pellets, and not one, otherwise this will

damage the gun upon firing.

TWO OF EVERYTHING

It has a big, fixed-link arm, and on cocking you can then see the two breech seals, and looking back into the action, the two transfer ports. It has a single trigger and an automatic safety catch in the trigger guard in front of the trigger; forward position to fire, and back toward the trigger for safe. It can be reset at any time. The Dual cannot be de-cocked because it has an anti-bear trap system for the barrels during the cocking sequence.

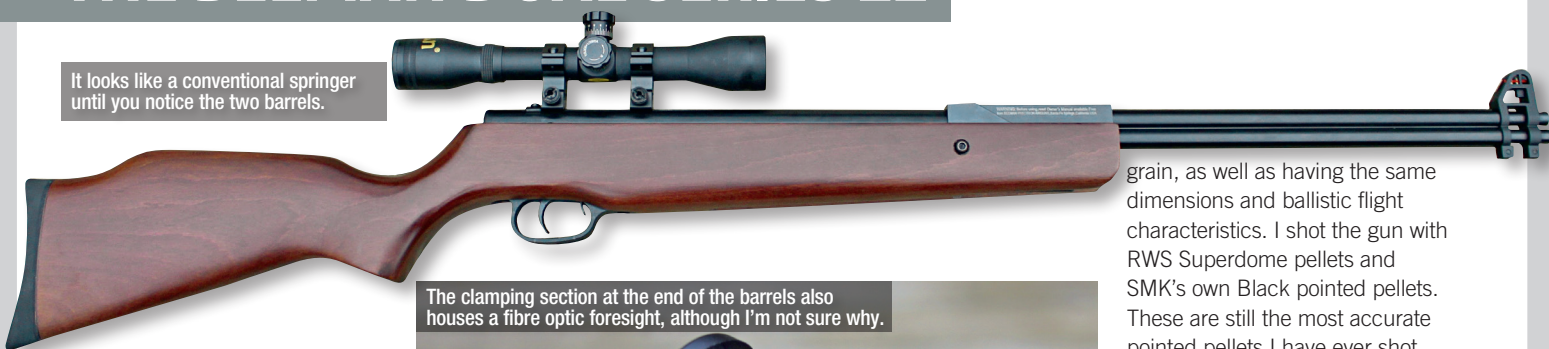
It has a 120mm long 11mm scope rail machined into the top of the cylindrical action, and at the rear of this is an arrestor block. »



It's a big heavy rifle on aim.

THE BEEMAN DUAL SERIES 22

It looks like a conventional springer until you notice the two barrels.



SPECIFICATIONS

Distributor SMK 01206 795333

www.sportsmk.co.uk

Model Beeman Dual Series

Type Spring-piston

Barrel length 450mm

Calibre .22 (5.5mm) and .22 (5.5mm)

Action Break-barrels

Stock Sporter with recoil pad

Sights Foresight only

Trigger Two-stage

Trigger weight 1.2kg

Safety Automatic safety catch

Overall length 1145mm

Pull length 377mm

Weight 4.2kg with scope & mounts

Features Two barrels, Scope rail, Recoil pad.

RRP £195.95

Remington sent a Beeman 4 x 32 scope complete with a set of their two-piece mounts.

INTERESTING

Now for the interesting bit; over the chronograph it gave me readings of 411 fps, and remember that my chronograph can only pick up the speed of the start and end of an object. It cannot differentiate that there are two pellets going through it, even if they are very close to each other. I did wonder just what power it was set to because I would not expect

The clamping section at the end of the barrels also houses a fibre optic foresight, although I'm not sure why.



each pellet to be doing 12 ft.lbs. That would make the gun over the UK legal limit because it would, in fact, be doing 24 ft.lbs. I need not have worried - it was doing 11.6 ft.lbs. with the equivalent of 30.8 grains worth of .22 Black pointed pellets; two at 15.4 grains, that is. 'A 6ft.lbs. .22 airgun, what use is that?' you may ask. Well plenty actually, there are two, yes two, pellets going downrange with one pull of the trigger. I'll let you process that for a while.

TRIGGER

The trigger weight measured in at 1.2 kg (2lb 4oz) using my electronic trigger gauge, which as we all know is very good for a spring-powered air rifle, and the curved plastic trigger has a grid pattern on its surface to aid feel. The right-handed sporter stock has a cheek swell only on the

left-hand side, for right-handed shooters, and the world famous Beeman logo is cut into the stock on the left-hand side just above the trigger, and it is also coloured in gold, very classy looking. It also has a rubber butt pad and is a big, heavy gun weighing in at 4.2kg with the scope fitted.

UNIQUE GROUPS

I set range cards at 10, 20 and 30m, and it was going to be interesting! The centre line of the barrels are 13.6mm apart so the potential group size is governed by that distance between them. At ten metres it gave me 40mm groups with five operations of the trigger, that's ten pellets - not five. It opened out to 90mm centre to centre at 20m. Accuracy would improve if you shot two pellets that weighed exactly, and I mean exactly the same to 0.01 of a

grain, as well as having the same dimensions and ballistic flight characteristics. I shot the gun with RWS Superdome pellets and SMK's own Black pointed pellets. These are still the most accurate pointed pellets I have ever shot, with them shooting groups more or less the same as the Superdomes through the Dual. I might be tempted to use it on very close-range rats or feral pigeons in barns at 10m if fitted with a red dot sight, two pellets delivered at once would be devastating, but nothing past that 10m mark for pest control due to the 6ft.lbs. power level of each pellet.

A REAL HOOT!

As a plinking rifle this is a real hoot, and I mean fun. The double smack of the pellets on a metal target is unique in the world of airgun shooting. You could even put a heavy and a light pellet in the gun at the same time to make use of the whole Dual concept to its fullest.

INSTANT OBSERVATIONS

I love this gun: it's unique in the airgun world and it's bound to be a big hit! ■

The two breeches are like nothing else.



The trigger guard contains the manual safety.



The scope rail has an arrestor block at the rear.

