

# BENEVOLENT DICTATOR!

Phill Price tries a rather smart new Model from Remington

Writing as somebody who is surrounded by the latest super-guns every day, I have to confess that I don't often think for too long about affordable plinking guns, which is a shame. Simple, inexpensive, break-barrel rifles are the bread and butter of the airgun community, and like most shooters, I started my rifleman's career with one. In reality, they're all that most people need, offering all the power and accuracy you want for hours of happy, back garden plinking.

Luckily, there are lots of suitable ones on offer today and Remington has just added another, which looks like a winner to me. The Tyrant is a simple break-barrel, spring-piston rifle nestled into a black synthetic stock, which in line with current trends is ambidextrous. Unsurprisingly, coming from Remington, it's styled like an American centrefire deer rifle and

handles similarly, too. It's relatively light at 7.3lbs, scoped, so is easily handled by anybody, but remember that it has a full-size, adult stock, so might not suit junior shooters.

### SHROUDED IN MYSTERY

The most visually striking feature is the thick barrel shroud that Remington refers to as a 'bull barrel'. It's actually a long, synthetic sleeve that envelopes the

a frosty morning. Thirdly, it protects the barrel from knocks and scratches and prevents it from rusting. The sweat on our hands contains salts that corrode steel, but they will have no impact on the shroud. What it isn't, is a silencer. Using a torch, I looked down the muzzle and I could see that the rifled barrel extends right to the end.

To cock the Tyrant, I gave the shroud a bump with the palm of

would pop on every time I cocked the barrel, but no. The safety tab is positioned in front of the trigger blade making it easy to push forward and off with your trigger finger while on aim, and I like this position, but some people think it's dangerous operating a lever that close to the trigger blade. I guess that's a personal choice.

### TOP TRIGGER

Rifles at this price have simple triggers and, to be honest, they're usually not too good, so I was pleasantly surprised by the one fitted to the Tyrant. It's sensibly heavy, but not too long in its travel, making it perfectly useable. This is a big advantage over its direct

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steel barrel, and offers a number of benefits. Firstly, it looks good, somewhat like a fullbore moderator on a deer-stalking rifle. Next, it makes the rifle more comfortable to cock, especially in cold weather. The polymer feels warm to the touch, unlike steel on

my hand and then pulled the barrel all the way down. The cocking effort was quite light and long, so won't be too tiring through a long plinking session. I was surprised to find that the safety wasn't automatic. Coming from the land of litigation, I thought it

competitors. The firing cycle felt quite snappy and there was little, if any, noticeable vibration after the pellet had left the muzzle. There was, however, a noticeable muzzle crack, which surprised me. With just a little concentration and proper technique, I soon



The barrel shroud offers several benefits

**TECH SPEC**

**Manufacturer** Remington

**Importer** SMK

**Web** [www.sportsmk.co.uk](http://www.sportsmk.co.uk)

**Tel** 01206 795333

**Model** Tyrant

**Weight** 7.3lbs (3.3kg) (with scope)

**Length** 41 1/4" (106cm)

**Trigger** Two-stage

**Stock** Synthetic (ambidextrous)

**RRP** £159.95

**Gunslip** £24.95

**Pellet catcher** £12.95

**RRP £159.99**



*"I simply shot off-hand, as most plinkers do, and enjoyed the freedom"*

Shot off hand the Tyrant felt good



Rifle, scope, gun slip, pellets, targets and their holder for under £200

found it easy to connect with plinking-sized targets and I made a conscious decision not to test the Tyrant as I would a top-end rifle. Instead, I simply shot off hand, as most plinkers do, and enjoyed the freedom from the test bench.

The 4 x 32 scope was bright and clear and I was glad to see that Remington included a recoil arrester in the double-bolt rear mount, to keep it secure. No open sights are fitted, but I think pretty much everybody wants to use a scope these days, and with one included at such a bargain price, I feel it's the right choice.

### RIGHT ACCESSORIES

The UK importer for Remington is SMK, who included some Remington-branded accessories that are typical choices for anybody taking up the sport. First

off was a tin of their round head Hammer pellets, which are inexpensive, yet good quality. Next out of the box was a steel pellet trap, and target cards to fit, and finally a very important accessory that we all needed, which is a secure gun slip to carry the rifle in. Remember that it's illegal to carry an uncovered rifle in a public, so always use a proper case.

This whole set-up costs less than £200, which has to be an absolute bargain and a great way to get into our sport. The combination of a synthetic stock and a polymer barrel shroud should help make this rifle pretty tough. Beginner's guns can get some pretty rough treatment, so the super-strong synthetic parts are a very good choice. The Tyrant stands out in this price range and I think is well worth a look. ■



The accuracy was more than good enough for plinking