

**Pictures to right:**  
**1. Profiled Monte Carlo cheek-piece; 2. Long scope dovetails; 3. Hooded foresight; 4. Fully-adjustable rearsight; 5. Direct-to-breech loading with anti-beartrap; 6. Two-stage trigger and manual, second-trigger safety; 7. Trigger adjustment screw.**

**T**hese days, splashing out £100 on sporting kit won't get you much – and in airgun terms, you really need to be spending upwards of £200 for a half-decent rifle, and almost as much again for decent optics.

But budget gun specialists, Sportsmarketing, have just moved the goalposts when it comes to affordable quality by launching a superb range of break-barrel, spring-powered air rifles that have shattered the price barrier... in a downwards direction!

Manufactured and subjected to a U.K.-specified quality control, SMK's new Super Grade rifles offer not just amazing value for money, but also a performance and finish that's hitherto been unseen on airguns emanating from the Oriental gun factories. In fact, Super Grade is a name that says it all!

At the lower end of the range, with prices starting at just £79.95 and £99.95, are the Super Grade XS15 and XS12 rifles respectively, aimed more for the younger shooter and newcomer, while the £199.95 flagship XS20 is a full-power hunting rifle that is ready-fitted with a silencer for the toughest of field assignments.

And one 'down' from the top is the £159.95 Super Grade XS19 sporter which we've topped with an SMK 3-9 x 50 scope ready for its exclusive unveiling to **Air Gunner** readers here!

Unshamedly a man-sized rifle, the 2.83-kilo XS19 is still no handful to hoist into your shoulder, coming on aim in a very well-



balanced manner.

Although there's no chequering on the hardwood stock, the XS 19's furniture has been crafted very much with the English airgunner in mind – and it's a handle that gives you a stack of advantages.

Firstly, there's a well-profiled, Monte Carlo cheek-piece that's the perfect height whether you choose to shoot with the supplied open sights or an optional

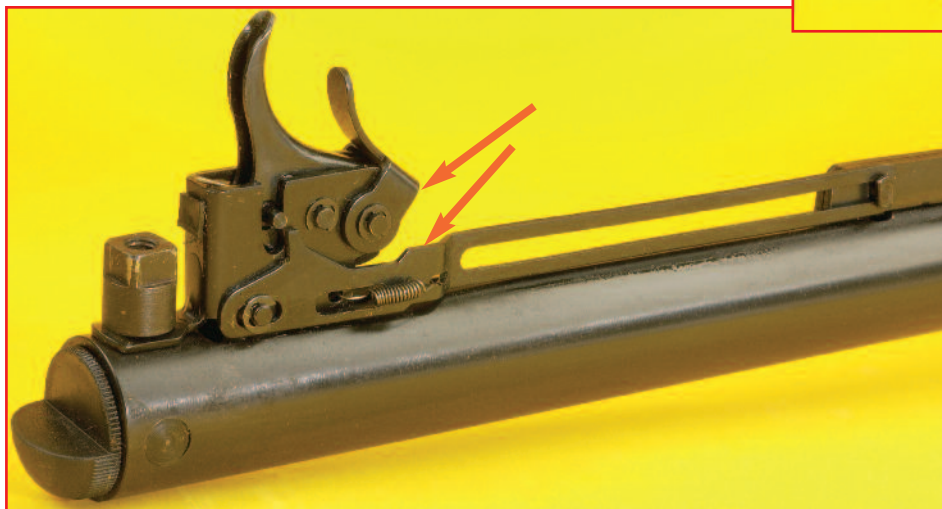
telescopic sight – and the rubber butt-pad helps your head position by comfortably nestling into your shoulder as you come 'on point'.

The gently-rounded and tapered fore-end has been extended to the very front edge of the breech block which, besides keeping the lines of the rifle neat, also gives you extra area to hold – ideal when you're taking aim from an awkward stance.

And if you thought that the XS19's lowly price might have resulted in the odd loss of quality in the woodwork department, think again – because not only is there some tricky

**Right: The articulated cocking arm avoids the need of a stock-weakening 'slot' in the fore-end. Note also the breech bolt – better than just a pin. Below: The trigger/safety unit and anti-beartrap link which ensures the gun can't inadvertently go off whilst loading.**

**Note: The stock was removed by an experienced gunsmith for these pictures.**

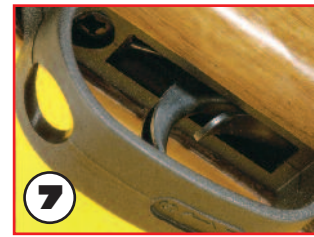
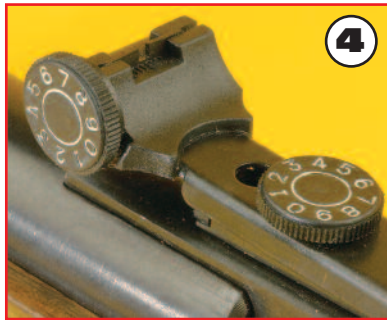
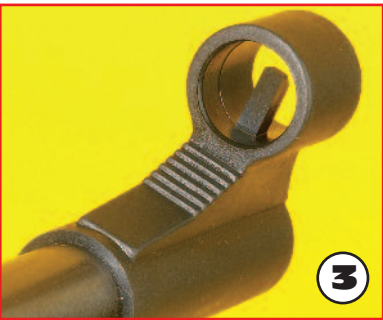


sculpting of the wood at the top of the fore-end to accommodate the rearsight when the barrel's at full-cock, but there's also a very pleasing grain pattern in the walnut-finish stain that's been applied well.

Add to that the very ergonomic thumb-muscle cut-out on the right side of the pistol grip and the fact that the rifle's cocking linkage has been articulated so that there's no long, stock-weakening slot running under the fore-end... and you can see that this is a very nice piece of furniture indeed!

But it's not just the woodwork that puts the XS19 into a league above where its price tag suggests – because the engineering

# FOR YOUR



doesn't fall short in any department, either! The parallel-bladed, moulded foresight unit has a sturdy, protective hood around it while the U-notch rearsight is made from metal and is fully-adjustable for windage and elevation via clearly-numbered, knurled thumbwheels.

Should you decide to fit a scope to this Super Grade, this rearsight is removable and the XS19's cylinder has been grooved along no less than 183 mm. so that you'll have no problems in mounting a telesight.

A scope is an option well worth considering with this rifle, too – because its down-range performance is certainly worth exploiting to the full.

Available in .22

this makes it easy to follow-through the shot an essential requirement for any marksman.

The trigger is another aid – it's a two-stage affair that breaks the shot away predictably and without any hint of creep. What's more, it's adjustable for weight of pull – so you can set it up to suit your personal preferences.

In front of the slightly curved, bent-steel trigger blade is a 'second trigger' safety catch – a manual catch that you flick forward for off, and pull back to the trigger

blade when you want it on, and there's an 'S-F' indication on the underside of the moulded trigger guard.

Hunters will be pleased that the XS19's catch is completely resettable – while everyone will be happy that SMK has had the additional safety feature of an anti-beartrap device fitted; an interrupter rod in the heart of the action makes it impossible for any accidental touch of the trigger to release the sears, so there's no chance of the barrel flying up dangerously whilst you're thumbing home a pellet into the breech.

Priced at under £170, the SMK XS19 is a rifle that offers an awfully lot of gun for an awfully little money.

You might expect to be buying something cheap and cheerful with an asking price that low – but what you'll actually get will far exceed your expectations.

If you're looking for a top-power, accurate sporter for serious vermin work, then the XS19 makes your choice pretty easy. In fact, the hardest thing about this rifle... is what to do with all that cash you've got left over!



## **“SUPERGRADE” A rifle with a name that says it all!**

only, the XS19 pokes out its pellets with a power well over 11 ft. lbs. – more than enough for serious vermin work – and does so with extraordinary accuracy courtesy of the 415 mm.-long, rifled barrel.

Its ability to group pellet after pellet in tight clusters comes from a number of other factors, too. Though a recoiling rifle, the 'kick' is minimal and, combined with the Super Grade's very user-friendly handling,



**The pistol grip and healthy thumb-muscle cut-out.**

# EYES ONLY!