

# STROKE YOUR EGO

Phill Price has a blast with this single-stroke pneumatic



The open sights have fibre-optic inserts.

Shooting pistols accurately is much harder than shooting a rifle, which is no surprise. You're handling something much lighter and it lacks the extra point of contact with your shoulder, but like



The target system was ideal for this kind of pistol.



The muzzle brake looks cool.

have quite low muzzle velocity compared to a rifle. The pistol packaging said we should expect 'up to' 300 fps, which sounded quite ambitious. These velocities are often gained using ultra-

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many people, I enjoy the challenge. Spring-piston pistols are especially tricky because ultra-consistent handling and trigger release is demanded. For this reason, I was keen to try this pneumatic pistol from Beeman because I hoped it would be more forgiving to shoot. Pneumatics are close to recoilless and often have nicer triggers than spring guns because they're not under such high loads.

The P17 is a single-stroke pneumatic that's cocked by pulling back on the dummy hammer and swinging the fake slide up and forward. This exposes the breech, allowing a pellet to be loaded. This was a little tricky at first, but I soon found a technique that worked for me. SMK, the Beeman importer, packed some of their Victory Punch .22 pellets with the pistol, so they were what I used. To complete the cocking procedure you then swing the 'slide' back and down until it locks.

It has to be said that this requires a fair degree of strength and I doubt junior shooters would be able to do it. You also need to place the heel of your hand carefully to avoid the red-dot sight and the rear sight as you force the action shut.

The safety is placed just above the trigger blade on the left of the frame and comes on automatically

I shot well with the Beeman and enjoyed it too.



as the action is cocked. I found it ideally placed for the thumb of my weak hand in my normal combat hold. The trigger action was simply superb. It's a two-stage design, the first stage being light and smooth, whilst the second stage is also light and breaks beautifully

cleanly. It's definitely one of the best pistol triggers I've ever experienced, which is a great help to accurate shooting.

The Victory Punch pellets are flat-faced and weigh 13 grains, which is quite light for a .22. This could prove useful because pistols

lightweight pellets, so I was expecting a much lower velocity with the Victory Punch. So, imagine my surprise when the chronograph showed an average velocity of 360fps for a muzzle energy of 3.7ft.lbs! That's powerful for a pistol, plus the velocity was





# P17 PISTOL



To release the slide you pull the hammer back.



When the action is fully open you can see the compression tube.



Loading the pellet takes a bit of digital dexterity.



Closing the action is a knack you'll soon learn.

very consistent from shot to shot.

## NICE SIGHTS

On top there's a set of fully adjustable open sights that have fibre-optic inserts to enhance them, plus the test gun was fitted

*"It's definitely one of the best pistol triggers I've ever experienced"*

with a Beeman red-dot sight. This simply clamps onto the 11mm rail that's mounted into the 'slide' allowing almost any type of sight to be fitted if you choose. Inexpensive red-dots can suffer badly in bright light conditions, the dot being almost impossible to see, but I'm happy report that this one was bright and clear even on a sunny day. It was also a nicely defined dot, which is another aid to precise shooting. This pistol and sight combination really does have a lot going for it.

Alongside the pistol and pellets, SMK packed a Milbro target system that has four ducks in a row which fall when struck. In the

middle is a round target that resets the ducks when hit, so there's no need to walk down-range to set targets up each time, which makes it all the more fun. Even after shooting the target for several hours with the powerful P17, it remained unmarked, looking almost like new.

The most important test of any gun is accuracy, so I placed a target card at 10 metres and shot some groups. The red-dot sight suited my poor eyesight well, and the superb trigger made consistent shot release possible so I was hoping for good things, and I wasn't disappointed. When I did my bit I got 1" – ½" groups, which is probably at the limit of my shooting ability with a handgun. Zeroing the red-dot was simple and the adjustments moved consistently and accurately.

I found the shape of the grip comfortable for my medium-sized hand, although the reach to the trigger blade was quite short, but that's much better than being too long. Because the P17 makes so much power there is noticeable muzzle flip which adds to the excitement of firing, yet I don't think it made accurate shooting more difficult. It does have a muzzle brake moulded in, but I don't believe that these work in this situation. I think it just looks good.

I had really good fun with the P17 and it offers so much. A great trigger, consistent high power and a good sighting system thrown in and I have no hesitation in recommending it. ■



The Victory Punch pellets appear well made and are good value for money.

## TECH SPEC

Importer	SMK Ltd
Web	www.sportsmk.co.uk
Tel	01206 795333
Length	½" (23cm)
Weight	1lb 12oz (800g)
Pistol	£79.95
Pellets	£5.99
Target	£34.95

**RRP £79.95**