

PERFORMANCE OPTIONS

Choose single-shot or auto-load multi - you'll be impressed either way

I'm a great believer in the old saying, 'the only interesting gun is an accurate gun', and that applies just as much to pistols as it does to rifles, in my book. Because of this, I like to test guns to the extreme edge of their performance and to do that I shoot from a bench with support, usually in the form of dedicated gun rests.

"I was surprised that just about every pellet I tried achieved almost the same accuracy"

When SMK sent me two bolt-action pistols, I knew immediately what I wanted to do - get down to Bisley and get some lead in the air. We have three ranges with stacks of different targets, so I can stretch the distance, little by little, to see how far away I can connect. It was just my luck that the weather was blustery. Pellets are

negatively affected by any wind, and the slower they fly, the worse the problem. Naturally, a pellet fired from a pistol is moving slower than one from a rifle, so I knew I'd have my work cut out.

CHOICE

The CP1 pistol is a single-shot, Co2-powered, bolt action with semi-anatomical grips and some neat open sights, but for maximum accuracy I fitted a 2 x 20 scope that I had on my desk from a recent test. More magnification would have been better for ultimate accuracy, but low mag' pistol scopes are easier to hold for most people.

The CP1 - M is identical apart from it's the multi-shot version, which has obvious appeal. Loading single pellets can be tricky, so just dropping in a magazine that holds seven shots in .22 and 9 in .177 makes life easier. It's supplied with a

single-shot tray, as well.

One of the first things I noticed about these guns is that they have the cocking bolt on the correct side! What do I mean by that? Well, let me tell you. Most of us are right-handed and therefore hold a pistol in that hand, so when we come to cock the gun, our left hand is free. Logically then, SMK chose to position the bolt on the left, making the whole cocking and loading procedure quicker and easier. The bolt handle is quite small and requires only a light pressure to compress the hammer spring. My test gun's bolt felt a little dry and I'd lubricate it if it were mine.

Loading the 12-gramme, Co2 capsule is as easy as unscrewing the end cap from the reservoir, dropping a capsule and then tightening up the cap - done. Loading pellets into the magazine takes a little time to learn, and some patience. Anybody familiar



The Co2 capsule takes just seconds to install.

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with FX magazines will know how this works. You rotate the faceplate anticlockwise until it stops, and then insert the first pellet backwards through the black body. Once this is done, subsequent pellets are dropped in through the clear face plate. My sample ran faultlessly throughout the test.

TRIGGER CONTROL

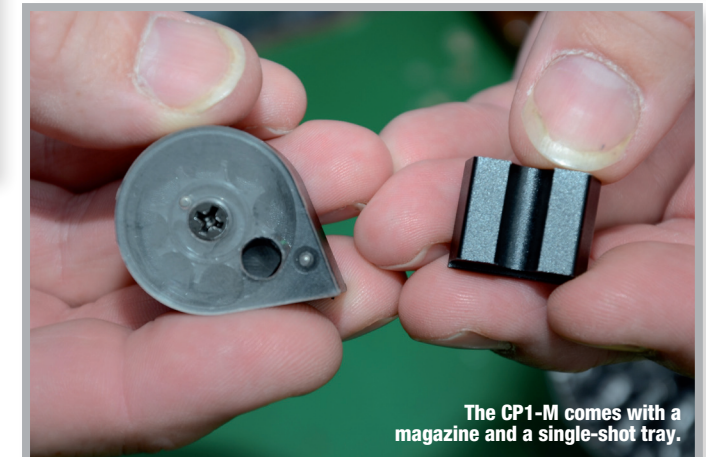
One of the biggest controlling factors in pistol accuracy is the trigger. If it's too heavy or overly long in its movement, the muscles in your hand will work too hard and make a steady sight picture almost impossible. The CP1 trigger broke at 2lbs and was a little longer than I'd have liked, but it was right up there with other pistols in this class. I

chronographed the pistols with two, high-quality Remington pellets that SMK had previously sent for review. The first was Thunder Field Target Trophy and the other was Thunder Sniper light. The first averaged 390 fps while the lighter Sniper averaged 419fps, so no big change between them; both exceeded 5 ft.lbs., which is a lot of punch for a pistol and should really get those tin cans spinning.

Next, I set about testing for accuracy. I used a dedicated shooting rest that cradles the fore end for maximum support and sat at a bench to eliminate wobbles. My best group was 2" at 20, which impressed me. I was surprised that just about every pellet I tried achieved almost the same accuracy, which is unusual.



The first pellet goes in backwards from the rear of the body.



The CP1-M comes with a magazine and a single-shot tray.

Most often, one or two will stand out from the crowd, but not this time.

These are fun guns to use and several of my clubmates were soon showing an interest. I was happy to let everyone shoot them so that I could ask their opinions. Pretty much everybody felt that they offer good value for money, and a number of people immediately saw the opportunity to customise them. SMK's Co2 rifles have a loyal band of customisers, and I can see these pistols being quickly accepted by them and, no doubt, modified extensively.

I'm sure SMK has another big

TECH SPEC

Manufacturer SMK
Web www.sportmk.co.uk
Tel 01206 795333
Model CP1
Type CO2
Action Bolt-action
Length 390mm
Weight 830g

RRP CP1 £129.95
RRP CP1-M £169.95



To eliminate human error I used this dedicated shooting rest.



Choices. Single or multi-shot - it's up to you.



The open sights are bold and fully adjustable.