



# CP'ING IS BELIEVING!

## Matt Brooks says the SMK CP1-M is a high-performance bargain

The CP1-M comes in an almost pistol-shaped box, with a polystyrene insert that holds the pistol nicely in place. There's plenty of information and paraphernalia on the exterior of the box to indicate key points, like the calibre, that it's Co2-powered, and its 'claimed' 5.5 ft.lb. power. The rear of the box shows you an almost-to-scale picture of the CP1 along with more key points; its adjustable rear sight, adjustable trigger, and wooden grip.

The SMK CP1 is well made and a bargain for the price. It has a lovely, chequered grip, a sturdy palm shelf, and the wood feels solid, which is something you'd expect from a pistol worth twice as much, and it's easy to hold even if you have small hands, like me. If I had one criticism about the grip it would be that it has no contouring for fingers, which could be easily implemented and would improve feel. The grip is held securely to the action via two screws, one to the front of the trigger guard and one to the very rear of the grip, running horizontally into the action.

### THE ACTION

Moving on to the action of this pistol; the trigger is a solid, silver affair with a decent amount of width on it which helps with feeling every movement of your shot. Unfortunately, it's just a single-stage trigger, although it can be adjusted to remove some of the travel before it releases. Rumour has it that these pistols were designed with a two-stage

trigger in mind, but for whatever reason, they were finally produced as a single-stage version with the facility to adjust. Why? Who knows?

### BREECH

The breech is where the single-shot and multi-shot versions differ slightly. If you opted for the single-shot version, you'll have a fixed breech and bolt; pull the bolt

back and a groove is revealed for you to sit your pellet in, then slide the bolt forward and the pellet pushes home ready to shoot. If you opted for the multi-shot version, you are left with a slightly different affair. Due to the magazine having more depth, you have the option to slide in a single-shot tray if you're not using the magazine. The tray raises the breech slightly to bring it level with »



CP1-M with its lovely chequering.



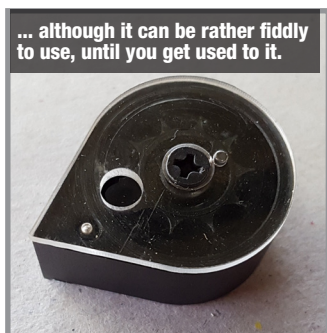
The palm shelf does its job.



You can see the calibre clearly.



The magazine lies close to the sights ...



... although it can be rather fiddly to use, until you get used to it.

the bolt and probe, and then the same method is used as mentioned.

## MAGAZINE

As for the magazine, I found it a slightly fiddly design. You must twist the clear plastic cover all the way around clockwise, until you hit the stop, but don't let go, otherwise the spring tension will release and it'll ping back around. You then load a pellet in it from the rear, skirt first, and once this is



Tremendous value and terrific performance come as standard.

done it holds the tension on the spring, so you flip it over and rotate the plastic cover back, one by one, each time loading a pellet into the magazine the correct way - head first - until you are fully loaded. This then slots into the breech via the grooves and is held in place by way of a rare-earth magnet, which although pretty strong, there is a small amount of play. You need to ensure that this sits lined up, to avoid damaging your pellet probe, pellets or

magazine. I find it far easier, quicker, and potentially more accurate to use the single-shot tray and load pellets manually.

## SIGHTS

There is a set of fully adjustable rear sights that can be altered for windage and elevation. This is paired up with a fixed front, metal foreblade which is non-adjustable. The barrel of the CP1 is 210mm or 8.25 inches in length, which is not so small that accuracy drops

off, and not so long that it loses its pointability. Just below the barrel is the main tube of the pistol, which houses the hammer, valve and hammer spring, along with the Co2 capsule toward the front. To load a Co2 capsule, simply remove the cap on the front, slide a capsule in and screw the cap back on until you have it finger-tight. At this point, we're ready to start shooting!

## SHOOTING



The accuracy of this pistol is truly impressive!

The CP1-M has the potential to shoot really well, and accurately, but it's slightly let down by the trigger. This can be fixed easily, though, and I'll touch on it later. Apart from that, and when the trigger is sorted, this pistol shoots flawlessly.

One thing to notice is that this pistol does not have a safety, so always make sure it's only loaded when you're ready to shoot.

## COCKING

Cocking the bolt feels solid and gives a positive click as the sear engages the hammer. Sliding the bolt forward pushes the pellet into the breech and loads the pistol. Because the CP1/M is designed as a target pistol, I believe it is intended to be held one-handed, so using a normal two-handed grip

Once knocked out, the trigger will slot out from its position. On the top of the trigger you'll see a grub screw and I advise taking this out and putting it in the opposite way. This grub screw makes contact with the sear, and in its current position there's a large surface area of contact, so we want to reduce that to give it a lighter feel. If it is flipped over, the other side of the grub screw is domed and has far less contact with the sear, which should make it feel better and lighter. Screw this out more than usual to remove travel on the trigger, but don't wind it out too much otherwise the sear won't engage.

At this point, I'm also hoping you purchased one of John Small's trigger kits. This consists of a new, longer, spring guide and

*"The gun is fitted with a relatively powerful spring"*

can feel uncomfortable because of the palm shelf getting in the way of your 'second' hand.

From the factory, the trigger pull is very long until you hit that release point, but due to having an adjustable trigger, this can be adjusted to how you like it. The noise from this pistol is very reasonable and I find it quieter than some of my other Co2 pistols. I do know that there are people who can make silencer adapters for these, so adding a silencer could help to reduce the noise even more.

With a steady hand and some practice, these pistols can be capable of 5p-sized groups up to 10 yards, and although I'm not that good, I've seen examples of this being achieved.

## TRIGGER MOD

Out of the box, the SMK CP1 has an adjustable trigger. This can be sorted by removing the grip via the two aforementioned screws and pulling it away. You will then be presented with the trigger block, which contains the trigger itself, the sear and the sear spring. With the uncocked and unloaded pistol pointing to the left you need to knock out the lower left pin, which holds only the trigger in place.

top hat, and a brass lug to sit over the second trigger pin. John Small can be found on Facebook if you wish to purchase kits.

## FITTING THE TRIGGER

Firstly, fit your trigger back in place by doing the above in reverse. Now you want to look at knocking the pin out to the immediate right of the pin you removed in the last step. This will remove only the pin, and the trigger and sear will remain in place. Place the brass lug in the trigger frame and slide the pin back in place, through the lug to reduce the travel and play in the trigger and give it a solid feel, with no creep whatsoever.

## FINAL THOUGHTS

If you're looking for an entry-level, target-style pistol, I'd definitely recommend one of these. They are very affordable and accurate and offer a good insight to precision shooting on a budget, before moving up to a far more serious shooter. Every time I shoot mine. I'm liking it more and more, and the better I get to know the pistol and the way it shoots the better I become with it. For around £90 new, you really can't go wrong, so go and get one now! ■