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Is Brocock's New Ranger XR The
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THE BIG TEST

ON THE FIRING
LINE THIS MONTH:
BROCK RANGER XR

As soon as I heard about this rifle I knew it was going to be one that I had to get my hands on. It's not often you come across such a compact, lightweight hunting rifle, especially one that folds up small enough to put into a small rucksack!

THE LONG AND SHORT OF IT!

There have been a lot of 'armchair experts' spreading misinformation that this particular rifle isn't legal. Well, for a start do you really think that a company as big as Brocock would produce a rifle that wasn't UK legal? Here is an excerpt from a statement issued by Brocock on the matter;

"Brocock confirms that the Brocock Ranger XR conforms with the UK Firearms Act 1968 in that it is an air weapon and is exempt from defining gun length as specified under Section 5 (1) (aba).

Brocock further defines the Brocock Ranger XR as an Air Rifle, which does not exceed a muzzle energy of 12 foot pounds and is therefore not classified as especially dangerous and is exempt from the need for a Section 1 licence under the Firearms Act 1968."

So there you go, it is in fact a legal airgun, even if the barrel is only 255mm long!

SMALL AND MIGHTY

The Ranger XR is a full-power, UK-legal sub 12 ft.lbs. air rifle, yet thanks to an ingenious folding stock and removable silencer, I managed to get it to pack down to just 450mm, including the scope protrusion. It actually measures around 350mm minus the scope, but even with the scope fitted it's plenty small enough to fit into my small laptop rucksack! The pocket on the front of the rucksack, usually reserved for pens and a mouse, served well as a home for the mag' and silencer too!

The first thought that grabs you when you pick it up is its weight – it's as light as a feather, well nearly! Weighing in at just 5.5lbs it's one of the lightest hunting rifles on the market and is sure to find favour with serious hunters.

FOLDING STOCK

To collapse the stock you simply grab hold of it near the joint and lift the

Put It In Your Pocket!

Dave Barham tests the exciting new hunting rifle from Brocock





*Definitely one of
the most versatile
hunting rifles on
the market!*





butt of the stock upwards to release the mechanism. You can then fold the stock to the left so that it butts up against the main body of the rifle. To open it all out again, simply push the stock to the right until the locking mechanism goes 'click' and locks it all into place.

You can extend or reduce the

ABOVE LEFT: Look what's inside!

ABOVE INSET: That's a mighty fine laptop rucksack, Dave!

ABOVE RIGHT: It's tiny!

length of pull by depressing the small lever housed inside the skeleton butt section, then slide the butt in or out to your desired length. This truly is a 'one size fits all' rifle, with a wide range of adjustment for all body sizes. You can extend or reduce the length of pull from 350mm to 430mm.

The butt cap itself is made from a rubberised material, with horizontal grooves cut into it for added support.

HUMA TECHNOLOGY

As you would expect, a rifle of this quality requires the very best regulator, and just like their other PCP rifles, Brocock has installed



RIGHT: You can adjust the power too!

LEFT: I like the AR-15-style stock



LEFT: Lift and push to fold the stock





RIGHT: Fold out the stock ...



RIGHT: ... then screw on the silencer



FAR RIGHT: This drop-down sidelever is super sleek



a HUMA unit which is linked to a floating hammer system. There is also a variable power dial on the right-hand-side of the action, which allows you dial the power down – handy for shooting at close quarters in your back garden, or within the confines of a small barn.

SIDELEVER & MAG'S

If you like your sidelevers, then you're going to love this one. It has been ergonomically designed and uses a relatively short stroke with minimal effort to cock the rifle. It features a machined aluminium drop-down handle, which sits really well between your thumb and forefinger when cocking. I particularly like the way they have drilled it out to reduce weight and also add some grip for use in wet weather.

Brocock's new self-indexing mag's are also superb, you get 11 shots in .22 and 13-shots in .177. They're the 'flip-up' cover version and are extremely easy to load.

Incidentally, you get around 40 shots per fill in .22 and around 35 from the .177 model. The rifle also comes supplied with a single-shot tray.

FILLING UP

The air cylinder sits directly underneath the barrel and can be filled to 200 bar. It utilises Brocock's quick-fill probe, and the fill port is cleverly housed underneath a rotating shroud at the end of the cylinder, which also houses the fill gauge. It's really nice to see that Brocock hasn't

scripped on this, and it is in fact made from a solid alloy material and it rotates really smoothly.

TRIGGER AND SAFETY

The Ranger XR features Brocock's classic 2-stage adjustable trigger unit, plus a manual safety 'switch', which is housed inside the trigger guard

RIGHT: Brocock's new self-indexing mag's are great





LEFT: The shroud at the end houses the fill gauge and fill port



RIGHT: The shrouded barrel is threaded for a silencer



FAR RIGHT: I like the manual safety lever

immediately in front of the gently curved, flat trigger blade. As far as pull weight goes, it's less than a pound, according to my scales. The rifle sent to me for test had a reasonably long first stage set, which is just how I like it, and that comes to a definable abrupt halt as it reaches the second stage, which then takes very little effort to pull. It's clean, crisp and very easy to get used to – as you would expect from a Brocock unit.

LOADS OF RAILS

This rifle has more rail options than British Rail! It can be supplied with either a 11/12mm dovetail or Picatinny scope rail, and there are a further two Picatinny rails on either side of the fore end of the action to house lamps or lasers. There's also a Picatinny underneath to attach a bipod.

TESTING TIME!

This was another one of those rifles that I really struggled to put down. In fact, during my first session I

pumped a full tin of QYS Streamlined Heavies through it! I then took it round to my mate Roger's backyard target range, and we spend a good couple of hours taking turns on the spinners and knockdowns, as well as

the rabbits, and if my target practice sessions are anything to go by, I think the rabbits are in for a shock!

So on to price. Yes, it's a little bit on the pricey side for such a small rifle, but you're paying for exceptional

"If you're a hunter, like me, then you're going to love this little gem, I guarantee it"

having a friendly competition on the papers, which I won

I'm hoping to get out this week on one of my perms, before I reluctantly have to send this rifle back. It came fitted with an MTC 12x50 SWAT Prismatic scope, which not only helps to keep the weight down, but is also perfect for hunting situations. I think this little combo is going to be great on

quality and performance – never forget that. If you're a hunter, like me, then you're going to love this little gem, I guarantee it. ■

BELOW LEFT: Loads of rails!

BELOW INSET: Plenty of room for a bipod on here



SPECIFICATION

- Model:** Ranger XR
- Manufacturer:** Brocock
- Type:** Pre-charged, multi-shot
- Cylinder Capacity:** 480cc
- Max Fill Pressure:** 200 bar
- Stock Material:** Black synthetic
- Stock Type:** Ambidextrous
- Cocking:** Sidelever
- Trigger:** Two-stage, adjustable
- Calibres:** .177 and .22
- Safety:** Manual
- Overall Length:** 600mm to 680mm (23.6in to 26.7in)
- Barrel Length:** 255mm (10in)
- Magazine Capacity:** 11 (.22) 13 (.177)
- Weight:** 5.5lbs (2.5kg)
- Shot Capacity:** 40 (.22), 35 (.177)
- Variation (10 shots):** 7fps
- Average Energy:** 11.4 ft.lbs.
- Website:** www.brocock.co.uk

RRP: £1,244