

THE EDITOR'S TEST

It really is a thing of beauty.



GHOST BUSTERS!

The Ed gets excited at the launch of the new BRK Brocock Ghost PCP



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Rebranding is always a gamble, but when it comes to huge, multi-national companies it's a very bold move indeed. During the recent launch event for this rifle, we were made aware that Brocock is in the process of a gradual rebranding to BRK, and what better time to announce it than at the launch of their new Ghost.

HIGH POWER!

When I received the invitation to this launch event, held at the excellent Oakedge Shooting Ground in Staffordshire, I became rather excited. Not just because I wanted to find out what the Ghost was all about, or because I'd finally get to spend a day with our new Air Gunner editor, Mat Manning. No, the real reason why I was so excited was that I had been informed that I could spend an hour or more on the range with the 100 ft.lbs. Ghost in .30 calibre! I mean, who wouldn't relish the thought of that?

When we arrived at the venue, there was a short but very interesting presentation made by UK head honcho, Tony Belas, during which I learned just how much thought and development has gone into the Ghost – it's a stand-alone new rifle, built from the butt up, well almost all of it is.

LOOKS FAMILIAR

I say it's a brand-new rifle because it is, especially internally, but the main building block will definitely look familiar to many. Anyone who knows BRK's sister company, Daystate, will recognise the mono block as that of the Delta and Alpha Wolf rifles. The big difference being that the Ghost is a mechanical rifle as opposed to the electronic Daystates.

It's such a lovely rifle to shoot from any position.



Tony Belas gives us a quick brief of the rifle's development.

There are three main options; the Carbine, the Plus and a High Power. The Carbine option measures in at a gnats over 65cm long without a silencer fitted and has a 43cm barrel. This model is equipped with a cute little 300cc carbon air bottle, whereas the longer Plus and High Power versions both feature 480cc carbon bottles. The Plus has the same length barrel as the Carbine, but with a longer shroud pushing it to 73cm, whilst the High Power has a 60cm barrel and an overall length of 85.5cm. The one I have here on test is the sub-12 Plus model, so I'll give the spec's for that particular rifle, but I'll try to add as many different spec's into this review for all three versions as I go.

QUALITY COSTS

Right then, before I get to the nitty gritty, I know you're dying to know how much one of these little gems is going to cost. Well, it might sound high to begin with, but the more you discover about the Ghost, the more apparent it becomes that it is in fact very reasonably priced, especially in today's world where literally everything seems to be doubling in price year on year! Okay, so prices start at £1,440 for the Carbine, moving up to £1,500 for the Plus and £1,600 for the High Power, but bear in mind, these rifles will probably outlast many of us 'oldies', and probably our children too – they are solid, and manufactured to last. Just like the high-end car market, both Daystate and Brocock rifles have a history of holding their value very well, so I'd say it's a wise investment, given the countless years of enjoyment you'll have from owning such a magnificent rifle.

ADJUSTABLE POWER

One thing you'll notice from the get go is the massive potential for power adjustment with these rifles. All of the Ghosts are fitted with Huma regulators, with reg' pressure viewed on a gauge on the left-hand side of the stock, which can be adjusted on the FAC rifles by turning the knob above the neck of the bottle. They also feature a power wheel just in front of the butt pad, which adjusts the hammer spring tension with no less than 20 settings! It's not as practical for most of us Sub-12ers, but those of you who shoot FAC will have hours of fun tweaking and tuning, for sure.

That being said, there will most definitely be occasions when a subtle tweak of the dial will help with accuracy, but we're entering the realms of pellet testing and performance here

and that's a whole different story. It's just nice to know that it's there, especially if you're one of the many technically-minded airgunners who likes to fine-tune their hardware to the absolute best it can possibly be.

CLEVER DESIGN

The BRK Ghost is absolutely rammed with features, both internal and external. One of the key points raised at the launch was the introduction of a new rail system, which cleverly features a 0.3-degree forward slant to help eliminate the need for shimming scope mounts when zeroing at longer ranges. I don't know about you, but I've had problems in the past, mainly with digital NV scopes which always seemed to need shimming. Maybe that's because they're actually designed for use at longer ranges, rather than our usual 30-40 yards, I don't know, but it has been a reoccurring problem for me over the years.

Everything about the Ghost is geared to user customisation and fit. For a start, there's a height adjustable butt pad and cheek riser. The cheek riser sits on a small dovetail rail which can be slid back and forth



The mono block is at the heart of this rifle.



This new valve system is state of the art.

suchlike too. I should mention at this point that there is a whole heap of superbly machined accessories available for the

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to achieve correct positioning via Allen screws. This rail also holds the Picatinny scope rail and can be used to extend the length of the top section of the stock. The whole system is geared to perfect eye relief and gun fit, and it's very user-friendly to adjust.

There are Picatinny rails mounted on both sides and underneath for the plethora of add-ons, such as bipods, lasers, lamps and

I like how this adjustable cheekpiece system works.



Ghost from the guys at Precision Rifle Systems. They include such luxuries as Biathlon-style cocking levers, extended rails, butt-plate adaptors, cheek risers and more – all of which are very reasonably priced. Go check those out at: www.pr-s.co.uk

SEXY MAG'S

I love these new-style, flip-cover magazines, they're just so easy to load. You get 13 shots

in .177, 11 in .22, 10 in .25 and eight in .30, and because these mag's are magnetic you can use them in a 'double-up' formation, enabling you to fit two loaded magazines into the rifle and simply shunt the loaded one across when the first one is empty.

To load the mag's simply open the flip-up cover, turn the interior drum clockwise until it stops then drop a pellet nose-first into the bottom chamber to hold the spring tension. Then you just drop the remaining pellets in – that's it, you're done. Close the magnetic lid, insert the mag' and off you go.

Filling is by means of a Foster connection, and the fill port can be found underneath BRK's rather nifty magnetic port cover – simply pull it off, fill up and push back on.

SIDELEVER ACTION

Bearing in mind that the mono block was originally designed for the use with an electric rifle, the sheer excellence of manufacture shines through with the mechanical Ghost. The tolerances of engineering are so tight – we're talking tenths if not hundredths of a millimetre here – that the sidelever and internal workings run super-smoothly. Talking of internal workings, another key design feature of the Ghost is the brand-new valve system. BRK has spent a lot of time developing this to be a 'one valve does everything' unit. It's a completely new design and one that has been trimmed down to as few internal parts as possible to make it more efficient and more reliable – not that Brocock valves have ever been unreliable, it's just like everything these days, making it simpler with fewer parts means there's less to go wrong.

So back to that sidelever. It's a short

These 0dB silencers are superb.



You can remove the silencer and replace the thread protector nut if required.





It's very easy to fill, too.

stroke, drop down beauty with a drilled handle which effortlessly glides the pellet probe back and forth. Immediately in front of the drop-down handle on the main block you'll find the tiny push button manual safety. It's very well positioned and easy to use with the rifle mounted.

I was really surprised at how nice and

"The size of those pellets, the 'crack' of the barrel, the speed at which it hits cold steel"

crisp the trigger system is. Bullpup linkages often lead to trigger unit problems, not with operation, just 'feel', but this one 'feels' like a trigger you'd find on a regular-length Brocock such as the Commander or Sniper.

My mate Simon fell in love with it!



The Ghost has an ergonomically designed pistol grip.

There's no creep, the release is crisp and predictable, and I like the way it comes set from the factory with a decent first stage that stops unmistakably before the second stage release. It is, of course, adjustable, but it's very rare these days that I find myself messing about with trigger units, especially from the likes of Brocock or Daystate. The

blade itself is very flat-faced with the gentlest of curves on the vertical axis. It feels great against the pad of your index finger, both bare and when wearing gloves, and that provides a great deal of control.



The butt pad adjusts for height.

ED'S VERDICT

So how does this rifle perform? Well, as I mentioned at the start of this review, I managed to spend a good hour at the launch event shooting the .30 High Power on the 100-metre range. I was literally buzzing with excitement at just how powerful and accurate this rather unassuming little bullpup is. The size of those pellets, the 'crack' from the barrel, the speed at which it hits cold hard steel at 100-metres ... I was like a little kid bouncing up and down. Maybe it's because I haven't shot FAC or powder for quite some time, but the difference from sub-12 to this is huge. If only there was a reason to own one here in Lincolnshire!

There were spinners and knock-downs set at varying ranges on the day, and it took me less than two minutes to work out my aim

HUMA excellence.



The fill gauge is easy to read.





Short but sweet cocking.



I love this trigger blade.



Hammertime!

points on all of them. I hit the 30-yard rabbit for something akin to someone smacking a steel block with a hammer, right out to the 100-metre mark where impact seemed to happen before I'd even pulled the trigger! I loved every second of it. Then it was time to get to grips with the .22 and .177 sub-12 versions. Yes, it was a bit a reality check and I was soon brought back down to earth again, but even then, I was still buzzing about just how nice these rifles are to shoot. They're solid works of art with seamless, smooth operation. I got a little bored with how well they were performing out to 40 yards, probably because I was itching to get back on the .30 cal, but I soon found myself pushing my limits and reaching out to the 60 and 80-metre targets. Did I hit them all

The dinky Carbine performed seamlessly on the range.



consistently? No, of course I didn't, but I did hit them, and that's more down to my inability than that of the rifle. I was lucky enough to bring one of the sub-12 rifles home with me for a month, too, and that's had me shooting at three different ranges locally, both at clubs and in mates' gardens. I won't even bore you with the details of paper-punching-performance, let's just say that out to 30-metres you only need a target as big as your pellet, and another ten metres beyond that, make it two pellets!

There's something for everyone in the BRK Ghost range, from a compact Carbine hunter for those tight spaces, to the more sporty Plus model which will appeal to the majority of club/target/hunter enthusiasts, and of course, those epic .25 and .30 FAC models.

I've said it many times before, and I'll say it again. I drive a beaten up Mitsubishi Outlander, but if I could afford a brand new Range Rover I'd get one – the same applies to the BRK Ghost. If you can afford one, you can't afford to not own one! ■

TECH SPEC

Manufacturer: BRK Brocock

Model: Ghost Plus

Type: Multi-shot bullpup with variable power

Stock Type: Tactical

Cocking: Sidelever

Trigger: Two-stage adjustable

Safety: Manual crossbolt

Calibres: .177, .22, (.25 and .30 High Power FAC)

Overall Length: 731mm (28.8in)

Barrel Length: 430mm (17in)

Weight: 3.2kg (7lb) without scope

Fill Pressure: 250 bar

Shots Per Fill: Up to 500

Energy Of Test Rifle: Avg 11.5 ft.lbs. over 20 shots

Variation (10 shots): 6fps

Website: www.brocock.co.uk

**RRP £1,500
(FOR MODEL TESTED)**

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