



THE
GUN TRADE
ASSOCIATION

AIRGUN SHOOTING AT HOME



PROTECTING, PROMOTING & REPRESENTING THE UK GUN TRADE

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Airgun Shooting At Home 2023 - Edition 1

Airgun shooting at home

Forward

Airgun shooting is a hugely popular and fascinating sport, providing fun and enjoyment for individuals, families, clubs and professionals alike. It is a superb way to start learning the skills required for shooting.

When given the gift of spending time at home, airgun shooting can be a great way of providing structured activities for individuals and families. Parents and children can enjoy spending time together, learning new skills and developing an interest in this wonderful sport. Careful consideration for safety and neighbours will allow many happy hours on the garden range.

The disciplines of safe shooting are a powerful influence on many other aspects of life. Safety is an essential part of shooting sports and should become second nature. Unsafe behaviour, is unacceptable and must be challenged wherever it occurs.

The skills of shooting aid strength, steadiness, psychomotor control, concentration, thought, self discipline and are key life skills which are powerful contributors to the development of responsible and socially developed young people. Every airgun owner is responsible to the entire shooting community for the safe control of their airgun.

Reading this booklet will provide invaluable information about airguns, airgun shooting, which will provide you with the necessary basic skills for safe shooting and hours of fun whilst shooting at home.



Introduction

This booklet has been produced to assist people joining the sport of airgun shooting. It provides a simple guide to the basics skills required to getting started and to develop your capabilities in a safe and efficient way. It covers the recognised safety procedures required to operate airguns safely and helps with the development of your own personal skills. It also provides a useful guide for parents and other supervisors with the information they need to introduce beginners to the sport.



Scope

The booklet refers to low powered air guns which function under 12ft/lbs for rifles and 6 ft/lbs for pistols. It is not intended to cover Co2 cartridge, pneumatic pump, airsoft, B/B airguns or air rifles, which exceed 12ft/lbs and require a firearms certificate. This booklet explains target shooting and does not cover pest control.

Airgun types

Spring operated airgun - break barrel/side or under lever

The spring operated break barrel or lever air guns, reflects the historical and original airgun type. Consequently they are one of the most popular, simplest and inexpensive rifles available today. Many rifle beginners opt for spring airguns, due to their simplicity and ease of use. The barrel or lever is “cocked” from the body using down or sideways force, compressing the spring until it is retained by the trigger mechanism. Care should be taken while exerting pressure to avoid, spring pressure reasserting the barrel/lever to its closed position, causing possible entrapment issues. Normally, once the spring is held by the trigger mechanism, the safety catch will automatically be engaged, but it is good practice to keep clear of the trigger until you are ready to fire.



Air Arms Pro Sport

Many modern spring airguns are fitted with an “anti bear trap” device which is incorporated into the rifles mechanism to prevent the premature closing of the breech/barrel during loading, thereby protecting the user. Side or under lever spring operated airguns have the advantage that there is no movement of the sighting system, thereby maintaining consistency between shots.



Cometa Fenix 400

Gas Ram Airgun

Gas ram airguns utilise an inert gas-filled cylinder instead of a spring piston. Like spring airguns, they are popular, relatively inexpensive, have quicker lock times, better longevity, are lighter and quieter, but due to the more sophisticated mechanism, requires higher maintenance costs. As with spring airguns, they can be suitable for beginners and require less ancillaries, such as charging equipment.



BSA GRT Lightning

PCP – Pre-charged Pneumatic Airgun

Pre-charged airguns are extremely popular, but are more technically advanced and therefore cost more. PCP airguns, especially the high-end models, produce phenomenal accuracy results with no recoil. They utilise a reservoir or buddy bottle which is charged using a separate air bottle or a compressor to approx. 230bar, which in turn provides, sufficient energy for 60 shots or more and therefore tend to feature multi-shot magazines. Other advantages of PCP are that the pressurised air isn't affected by changes in temperature and when fitted with a moderator are extremely quiet.



Air Arms S510T Tactical



Basic airgun safety

As part of your airgun safety culture, you should always apply the following basic procedure whenever you come into contact with an airgun, such as removing an airgun from a cabinet, picking up, collecting or handing over an airgun to another person. The essential parts of this procedure are:

- Always treat any airgun as loaded.
- Keep the airgun pointed in a safe direction, preferably towards the ground and never towards another person.
- Ensure safety catch is on, keep your finger away from the trigger.
- Remove any magazine.
- Check the chamber to ensure the airgun is unloaded.
- If you intend to pass the airgun to another person, show that the chamber is clear, before passing over.

This natural response is fundamental to basic safety culture, if somebody asks you to pick up or pass a gun, follow this procedure as it forms the basis for all shooting safety. Having mastered the initial handing skills when coming into contact with an airgun, let's discuss the airgun safety culture further by reviewing other important aspects of airgun safety.

Never point a gun at anyone, even in jest

It is a well known fact that any injuries involving airguns are due to the airgun not being pointed in a safe direction at the time of discharge. Therefore it is essential that during any training, cleaning, loading, passing to another person or during actual firing, the barrel must be pointing in a safe direction, so if the airgun was to accidentally discharge, it would not cause harm to a person, animal or property.



Never leave an airgun unattended or insecure

The law requires owners to take reasonable precautions to prevent unauthorised access by people under 18 and by prohibited persons. Whilst value is an important consideration, airgun security is crucial to prevent airguns falling into the wrong hands, causing possible misuse, animal cruelty and criminal activity.

- When unattended and during storage, it is essential that any airgun is unloaded.
- When in public, for general carrying, or when transporting in a vehicle, use a gunslip or case.
- When transporting in a vehicle, keep an airgun out of sight, place in the boot or under the parcel shelf. Do not place on the back seat, even when stored in a gunslip.
- For temporary storage, consider a trigger lock or security cord when at home or when transporting to sporting events.
- For longer periods of storage when at home, utilise a secure location, which can be locked, ensuring restricted access to the keys. Ideally this could be a gun cabinet. Do not leave or store airguns in vehicles, outbuildings or garages.

Air bottles, charging tanks & reservoirs

With the popularity of PCP airguns, our safety culture must expand to include air bottles, charging tanks and reservoirs. They contain a huge amounts of potential energy (230 bar) and must always be treated with the utmost care. They should be placed in position of stability, never permitted to roll around in a vehicle and should your vehicle be involved in accident, always notify the emergency services that there is a high pressure cylinder stored in the vehicle.

Never leave an airgun loaded when not in use

It is extremely unsafe to leave an airgun loaded when not required for immediate use. Never load an airgun until you are ready to use it. With spring or gas ram airguns, with no pellet in the chamber release the piston or spring when not being used. With PCP airguns, remove the magazine and ensure the regulator side of the reservoir is not charged. (i.e. air can be released when the trigger is depressed). A good idea to indicate the chamber is clear is to use a breech flag as seen in the image.



Never rely on the safety catch to make your airgun safe

A safety catch should not be relied upon to be the sole source of safety. It is your responsibility to make an airgun safe. A safety catch is a mechanical safety device which is used to help prevent the accidental discharge of an airgun. As a mechanical device it has the potential to fail unless properly maintained. Safety catches are generally divided into two categories, automatic and manual. Automatic is usually where the airgun mechanism applies the safety and the user has to disengage it. Manual safety is where the user has to manually apply or disengage the safety catch. Only disengage the safety catch when you are aiming at the target and ready to fire.

Always ensure your barrel is pointing in a safe direction and never fire your airgun unless it is safe to do so

Be muzzle aware!!! Always keep the barrel of the airgun pointing in a safe direction, either at the target or at the ground. Do not point the barrel in a uncontrolled manner or wave it about.

Take extra care with air pistols as their short barrel will make them easier to wave around. When pulling the trigger, you must know where the pellet will go, so look beyond the target as well. Typical air rifle ranges are 10-50 yards. However an air rifle accidentally discharged at 30° can propel an pellet out to 300-400 yards with the obvious dangers. Your target must be suitable and be aware of ricochets.

Pellets bounce off materials such as wood and hard plastics and can come back towards the firer or ricochet outside the property boundary. Use purposely designed pellet catchers, hard surfaces such as concrete or soft backstops, such as sand, Kevlar curtains or layered foam to absorb the pellet and reduce the risk.

Ammunition safety

Ammunition should always be stored securely and separately to an airgun, thereby reducing the risk of access by unauthorised persons. Unlike a metallic cartridge rifle with an extraction system, airguns with a pellet located in the chamber are difficult to remove. Therefore if you identify a pellet in the chamber when clearing an airgun or if a shot has not been taken, discharge the pellet safely into the ground, a few yards in front of you.

Environment

Airgun shooting at home is very environmentally friendly. You are not required to use your car, the airgun does not produce any harmful emissions and if you capture the spent pellet in a pellet stop, you can dispose of the lead safely and thereby prevent the lead entering the environment. If you do shoot pests, dispose of the dead carcass in your bin, thereby avoiding lead entering the animal food chain.

Hygiene, drugs & alcohol

Currently most pellets are manufactured from lead. After handling lead pellets or clearing spent pellets from the backstop, wash your hands to minimise any lead contamination.

Using any firearm whilst under the influence of drugs or alcohol must be completely avoided.

As an airgun is classified as a lethal barrelled weapon, there are two pieces of legislation, which you should be aware of. The Licensing Act 1872 which makes it an offence to be drunk in charge of a loaded gun, plus the Firearms Act 1968, which makes it an offence to transfer a firearm or ammunition to anyone believed to be drunk.



Setting up a garden range

Setting up an airgun range safely in your garden is one of the major benefits of airgun shooting. It's great fun, will help you to develop your target skills and is kind to the environment as you don't need to use your car. Although airguns are low powered they can be lethal, can cause serious injury and the pellet must never leave the boundary of your property. To do any of the above is breaking the law. Once discharged, pellets carry potentially lethal energy and having passed through the target must be slowed down and contained to avoid any major safety issues.



Range layout

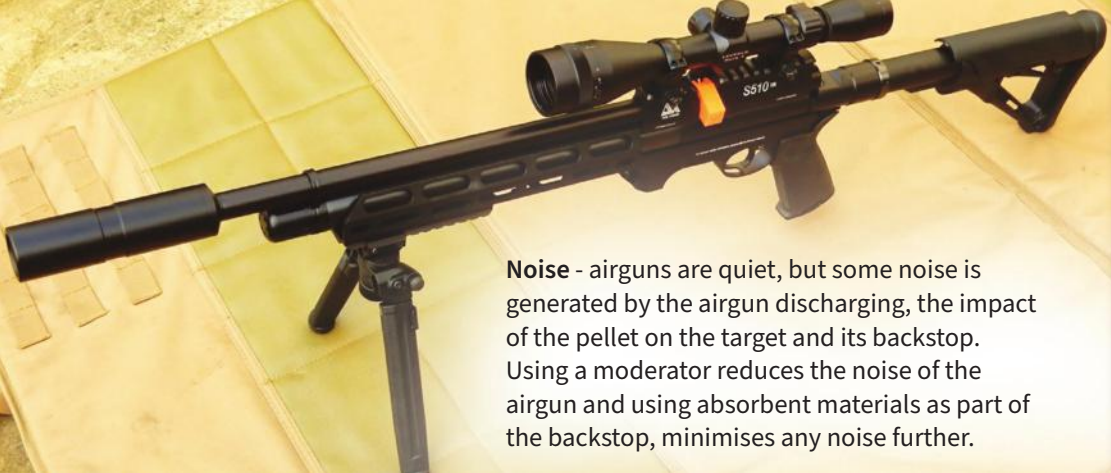
Many gardens these days are separated by nothing more than standard fence panels and therefore there is some preparation required to shoot safely and responsibly.

Isolate the garden - if there are any other entry points, such as back gates, lock them, so preventing any unauthorised or accidental access by people or animals. If necessary, fit a temporary sign, highlighting shooting is in progress.

Create a firing line - when shooting is in progress, no person, child or animal may cross the firing line (Ideally non shooters and animals should stay in the house). Make shooters aware that nobody can go forward of the firing line until shooting has ceased and the airgun has been cleared and made safe.

Communications - makes sure everybody in the property is aware that shooting is about to take place and that everybody should abide by the rules. It is essential that children and animals are kept safely out of the way.

Neighbours - Communicate to your neighbours that you intend to shoot with an airgun in your garden and explain the precautions you are taking to maintain safety and minimise any noise.



Noise - airguns are quiet, but some noise is generated by the airgun discharging, the impact of the pellet on the target and its backstop. Using a moderator reduces the noise of the airgun and using absorbent materials as part of the backstop, minimises any noise further.

Safe backstop

Airgun pellets can ricochet, bounce back towards the shooter, damage property, penetrate an unsuitable backstop and pass beyond your boundary. Therefore you must control your pellets to prevent them from travelling beyond your target. Wood, especially wet wood and plastics can cause dangerous ricochets and therefore make unsuitable backstops. Very hard vertical surfaces, such as metal, concrete paving slabs and soft materials that can absorb the pellet are the most suitable. Before you install your backstop, there are some elements you should consider.

- New, inexperienced shooters require a larger backstop to avoid any missed shots whilst learning.
- If the airgun requires zeroing, a larger backstop is required to avoid any missed shots.
- Metal backstops generate more noise.

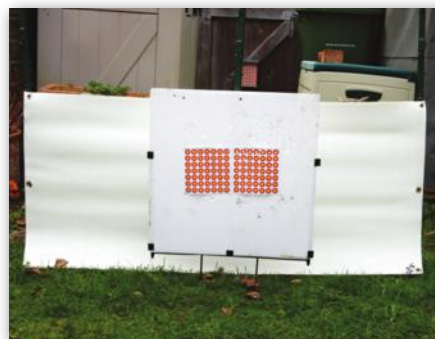


Metal target holders - are perfect for stopping and containing pellets. The pellet passes through the target, strikes the metal plate, deforms and completely loses all its energy, before falling to the bottom of the pellet catcher. They are relatively inexpensive and you can purchase a wide range of target types to fit them, ranging from professional to novelty targets. However they can be noisy and are fairly small at 170cm x 170cm, meaning they are more suitable for the more experienced shooter. Missing the target holder can mean the pellet passing through the fence panel. The target holder shown in the image is a good quality model which has added foam inserts to minimise the noise.



Absorbent backstops - The example shown is layered archery foam, which you can purchase at a modest price. In this case, the foam has been placed at the bottom of a large wheelie bin approx. 30cm (12") deep and laid horizontally behind the target. Typical .177 calibre pellets penetrate approx. 12cm (5") and are completely encapsulated by the foam and are unable to ricochet, making this an extremely safe way of capturing your spent pellets. This setup is good for the inexperienced shooter as any pellet that goes outside the immediate the target area will also be retained.

Kevlar curtain - Kevlar curtains are another form of energy absorbing material. Although the most expensive option, they cover a larger area and therefore are able to capture those wild shots, making an excellent and very safe backstop as can be seen from the image. Travelling at over 800fps, a typical .177 pellet will pass through the target, strikes the Kevlar material, the Kevlar will give slightly, absorbing the energy, the pellet deforms and falls harmlessly to the floor.



Spent pellets - Once a pellet passes through the target and strikes a hard surface or Kevlar curtain it will deform and lose all it's energy. The lower image highlights pellets that have struck a very hard surface such as steel or a paving stone, whilst the lower image reflects a pellet that has struck Kevlar. Lead is a valuable commodity and can be smelted. However please do not do this at home, as the fumes are extremely toxic and molten lead can generate severe burns. If you do collect sufficient spent pellets, take them to your local scrap dealer, where the lead may have some recycling value and can be disposed of correctly. Lead free pellets, which have entered the market recently, are manufactured from various metals or alloys and should be checked for the best way to recycle.





Target types

There is a huge variety of targets types available in the market place today with many being free. Minimum range for targets should be 10 yards, which aligns with airgun clubs, safety and the minimum parallax on most airgun scopes. As airgun ranges are relatively short 10 - 70 yards, card targets with typical circular aiming marks or concentric scoring rings are the norm. As range distances are short, scoring rings tend to be small to present a greater challenge. If you are practicing for Scout/Guide shooting competitions, avoid targets depicting human or animals, as these are not permitted in their organisations.

Card targets for pellet catchers - obtain card targets, rather than paper, as paper is easily effected by the elements and pellets tend to rip the paper, rather than make a neat hole. Pellet catchers are available in two sizes, 14cm x 14cm or 17cm x 17cm, so ensure you purchase the right size target. For beginners or inexperienced shooters, purchase a large singular concentric aiming mark to start with, before progressing onto smaller multiple aiming marks as the individuals shooting skills improve. These type of card targets are multi purpose and therefore can be placed on screens and different backstops to suit the shooter needs etc.

Chalk targets - are great fun, are fine for the garden and when struck produce a pleasing puff of white dust. However remember you still need a suitable backstop as the pellet will easily pass through the chalk target.

Metal knockdown targets -

metal targets or spinners or more suitable for large open space ranges rather than gardens. Although the pellet rapidly deforms, the moving or spinning metal plate can cause it to ricochet and therefore you cannot control where the pellet might go.

Spinners in particular are very small and therefore a suitable backstop is required to capture pellets when the shooter misses the target. If you wish to use a knockdown target in your garden, obtain the type where the metal plates are contained within a pellet catcher, thereby ensuring the pellets are retained. Also consider the noise, as this target type is much louder when struck by a pellet.



Unsuitable targets - avoid shooting drink cans, glass bottles, plastic bottles, aerosols and detonating targets. All of the above will cause ricochets, broken glass is a danger to adults, children and animals, aerosols can explode and detonating targets are very loud, causing upset to the neighbours and is stressful to animals.

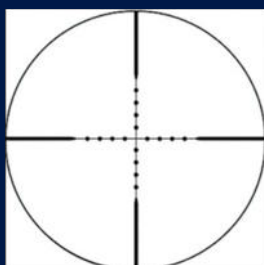
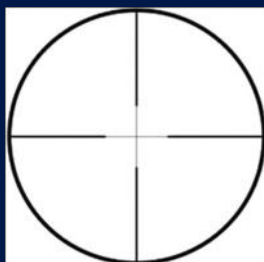
Accessories & pellets

Most shooters like to accessorise their airguns and for many, essential accessories include the telescope and moderator.

Telescopic Sights

Scopes are available for every need and the saying “what you pay for is what you get” is especially true when it comes to scope quality. Decide what you intend to do with your rifle, such as shooting in a club or in the case of this booklet, shooting in the garden. If you are shooting spinners, knockdown targets in a club or card targets in your garden, distances will typically be between 10 & 50 yards.

Avoid centrefire rifle scopes as parallax adjustment is usually a minimum of 25 yards which is insufficient for airgun use. The airgun scope shown on the previous page reflects the typical specifications you will need; parallax adjustment of 10m to infinity, magnification of 10-16 power, tube size 30mm, object lens 32-44mm. For a PCP rifle with no recoil, minimal eye relief is acceptable, however for spring airguns, eye relief of 5-8cm is required to avoid any recoil related issues.



Scope reticule - Standard crosshairs are known as duplex reticules, see top image. Because UK airguns are limited to 12ftlbs, airgun pellets travel at relatively slow velocities, (approx. 800fps for a .177 pellet) and therefore have a quite pronounced pellet trajectory. Due to their light weight, pellets are substantially influenced by the wind and therefore it is advantageous to purchase a scope with a mildot or similar reticule. This allows the shooter to aim off using the mildots to compensate for wind and trajectory.

Scope mount/rings - The mount or rings permits the fitting of your scope with precision and should be fitted correctly to maximise your accuracy. If you are not sure about this process, get your local gun shop to fit your scope for you. However, there are some basics you should be aware of. For air rifles, there is two sizes of base or rail which the mount/rings will fit onto. The first, known as an airgun or rimfire base, is a 11-12mm rail, which is sometimes an integral dovetail machined into the airgun receiver or secured as a separate base. The second more modern base, is the picatinny rail (20mm) which is design that has migrated from military rifles. Scope tube sizes are 25mm or 30mm, so ensure you match the mount/rings with both the tube and the base. Lastly, but no less important, is the mount/ring height. Make sure the rings provide sufficient height to clear any obstacles such as the magazine and the barrel.



Sound Moderators

In the last twenty years, moderators have become an essential tool for shooters. Originally fitted to rimfire and centrefire rifles, they are capable of reducing the noise signature considerably, thereby benefitting the shooter and the environment. With modern moderators being so efficient, hunting rifles are now rarely used without one. With such success, the transition to airguns was inevitable, however whilst the task of an airgun moderator remains the same, the two designs are very different and are not interchangeable, to do so is dangerous. Most air rifle moderators are fitted to the barrel using an 1/2 x 20 UNF thread, but there are other sizes, so ensure you get the correct one.

As with the muzzle thread, ensure you choose a moderator as per the calibre of your airgun, .177 - .22, .22 - .25 and .25 - .30.

As an example of noise improvement for a PCP .177 air rifle. Measuring from the ear of the shooter, without a moderator is approx. 108.4 db(A) and with a moderator the noise level is reduced to approx. 94.7 db(A).



Airgun Pellets

The most effective and accurate airgun pellets are currently manufactured from lead. The weight, density and malleability of lead makes it the ideal material for pellet production. With a good quality rifle and pellets, it is possible to place five pellets in the same ragged hole at 25 yards with little difficulty. There is a wide range of different pellets available depending on their intended use.

For example:

- Target shooting or plinking – Diabolo or wadcutter
- Hunting – Hollowpoint, pointed, double pointed



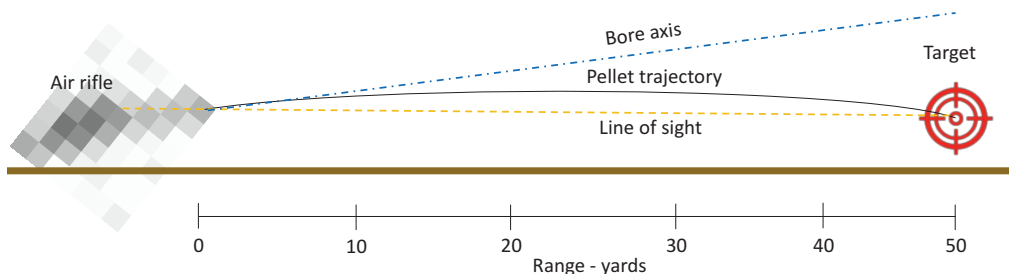
As this booklet is about garden/target shooting then domed (diabolo) or wadcutter pellets are the most suitable. You need to find the best brand of pellet that works best in your airgun. High quality pellets are available in different weights and different skirt sizes. For example .177 pellet is 4.5mm but you can purchase pellets with 4.48mm, 4.49mm, 4.50mm, 4.51mm and 4.52mm skirts. However you only want to go to these lengths if you are demanding the greatest accuracy and want to fine tune your quality air rifle. If you are just plinking with a basic rifle, then a standard .177 or .22 pellet in an average weight will suffice.

How it works

All spring and gas ram airguns use air from the atmosphere and PCP airguns use dry or breathing air supplied by an air bottle or reservoir as their propelling energy.

Internal ballistics

Having placed a pellet in the breech manually or by magazine, the shooter takes aim and when on target, depresses the trigger. This starts a mechanical process that releases a set volume of air (for air rifles approx. 11.5ft lbs). The air pressure strikes the rear of the pellet, expanding the lead skirt, sealing the pellet against the chamber wall. Pressure continues to exert force against the rear of the pellet and propels it down the barrel. The pellets skirt and the outer edge of the dome, engage in the barrels rifling which imparts a spin, (approx. 30,000 RPM) which when the pellet exits the barrel stabilises the pellet in flight and provides the accuracy you require to shoot with precision.



Exterior ballistics

Once the pellet exits the muzzle of a barrel, external factors influence its performance.

- **Gravity** - When the pellet is no longer supported by the barrel, it is influenced by gravity and will begin to drop. That drop or trajectory varies depending on pellet weight and velocity. A lighter pellet travelling at a higher velocity will have lesser trajectory curve. That is why for short range target shooting, the .177 pellet is favoured.
- **Drag** - The air around us generates resistance or drag. That drag will influence the pellet, reduce its velocity and therefore effect its trajectory.
- Example: a .177 domed pellet, weighing 7.33gr will exit the muzzle at approx. 802fps. At 50 yards, under the influence of gravity and drag, the pellet will have dropped approx. 25cm (10") and the pellets velocity will have reduced to approx. 500fps.

Muzzle energy

Muzzle energy is the kinetic energy of a pellet as it is expelled from the muzzle of an airgun. Muzzle energy is measured by knowing the weight of the pellet and then measuring the muzzle velocity.

Kinetic energy = $\frac{1}{2} MV^2$.

M being the mass in kilograms and V being the velocity in m/s – giving a result in Joules or pounds.

Without a firearms certificate (FAC), air gun ownership is limited to guns with the following muzzle energy:

- Rifle: 12 foot pounds (Approx. 16 Joules)
- Pistol: 6 foot pounds (Approx. 8 Joules)

You must never tamper with an airgun to increase the power. To do so, may place you above the limits stated on the previous page and therefore you will be in breach of various firearms laws. If you have doubts about an airguns performance, get advice and get your airgun tested by your local airgun dealer.

Example: .177 pellet, weighing 7.33gr, producing 802.2fps will produce a muzzle energy of 10.47ft lbs.

To measure your muzzle energy, you will require a chronograph and then shoot ten pellets to give you an average. Cheaper chronographs will require the use of an on-line calculator to provide your energy level, however more expensive models will do it all for you. It's worth checking to see that you are legal.



Marksmanship

Marksmanship is about a person's ability to hit a target accurately and consistently. The best shooting position to achieve this is called the prone position and therefore we will focus on this in the booklet. To achieve a basic level of marksmanship, there are four basic principles that should be followed. Support and position, natural body alignment, sight alignment, shot release and follow through.

1. Support & position

The prone position provides maximum support and therefore it is ideal for the inexperienced shooter. There must be three points of contact with the air rifle. The butt firmly supported in the shoulder, your trigger hand supporting the pistol grip and pulling the air rifle back into the shoulder and the front hand gently supporting the forend. This position ensures most of the rifles weight is supported by the body's skeletal structure rather than by muscular effort.

2. Natural body alignment

The air rifle must point naturally towards the target without any undue physical effort. Place yourself on the ground, in the prone position and balance the air rifle naturally in the palm of your hand. Looking down the length of the air rifle you will find that you point a little bit either side of the target. Re-adjust your position until you are naturally aligned with the target.

3. Sight alignment

Your sight alignment and sight picture must be correct if you are to shoot accurately and consistent.

Open sights

When using open sights the gap in the rear sight must be centred and level with the front sight and both be in line with the aiming point on the target. Ensure you use the same sight picture with every shot.

Telescopic sights

Ensure your head is upright and supported by the cheek piece. Obtain the correct eye relief/sight picture with the scope and centre your shooting eye with the scopes reticule.

If you struggle to obtain the correct sight picture, adjust your cheek piece or raise or lower the scope using different height rings/mount until the picture is correct. If your eye-relief requires adjustment, move your scope rearwards or forwards as required. With recoiling airguns, ensure the eye-relief is sufficient to avoid the ocular lens striking your forehead.

4. Shot release & follow through

Breathing

Breathing and muscle fatigue will cause your sights to move around the target. Concentrate on your breathing and on your second or third exhale, hold your breath and squeeze the trigger. Do not leave this process too long as your muscles will tire and your sight movement will increase.

Shot release & follow through

Trigger control is essential. This is the most important moment when everything comes together to fire the rifle accurately and consistently. Position, sight picture, breathing and squeeze. Do not pull the trigger, gently squeeze it, using the tip of your finger until the trigger mechanism releases that volume of air. Keep your eyes open, keep your position steady, following through, until the pellet has left the bore. This process may only take a few milliseconds, but anything the shooter does to interrupt this process, moves the muzzle and causes the group to widen or the shot to be missed.

Zeroing

Having mastered your shooting position/techniques, you should now zero your rifles sights/scope to the target.

- Place your air rifle on a bench rest, making sure it is stable and secure so it will not move. This removes the human element such as breathing, pulse and muscle movement.
- Place your target and backstop at 20 yards.
- Align the reticle with centre of the target and take your first shot ensuring your pellet strike is on the target. If it is, shooting from exactly the same position, shoot a further four shots. This will produce a group. The centre of that group is your mean point of impact.
- Utilising the scopes adjustment turrets, move the reticle until your shots falls into the centre of the target.

Cleaning & maintenance

After shooting has ceased, clean your airgun and check that it is serviceable. When shooting, lead/foreign deposits and moisture enter the bore. Light cleaning with a pull-through and an oiled patch, will remove those deposits, improve accuracy and prevent any rusting taking place in the bore. Check your seals/o rings and screws are secure.

Airguns and the law

Low power air guns, although not requiring a licence in England and Wales, are subject to controls under various firearms legislation.

Key points:

- The legal limit for power is 12ft lbs for air rifles and 6ft lbs for air pistol. More powerful air rifles require a firearms licence.
- It is illegal for those under 18 to buy, be given or own an airgun or ammunition.
- Owners are responsible for preventing under 18's gaining unauthorised access to airguns.
- Under 14s can shoot airguns under direct supervision of somebody over the age of 21.
- With permission, 14-17 year olds can use an air gun on private premises.
- Pellets must never cross the boundary of land where you have permission to shoot.
- In Scotland low-powered airguns require an Air Weapon Certificate and the Police have to visit gardens to judge them suitable for airgun shooting. This is not required in England and Wales.
- It is an offence to intentionally or recklessly kill certain wild animals, birds or kill or knowingly cause animal suffering.
- The Licensing Act 1872 makes it an offence to be drunk in charge of a loaded gun.
- The Firearms Act 1968, makes it an offence to transfer a firearm or ammunition to anyone believed to be drunk.
- Persons who are sentenced to a term of imprisonment for three months or more, but less than three years must not possess firearms until five years have passed since the date of release.
- Persons who are sentenced to a term of imprisonment or detention/ custody of three years or more are never allowed to possess firearms, including antique firearms, air guns or ammunition.
- The Anti-social Behaviour Crime and Policing Act 2014 extends the definition of a prohibited person to include persons with suspended sentences of three months or more.
- Know the law, shoot safely and responsibly.



THE GUN TRADE ASSOCIATION



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