



Walther's KK300 Alutec The Bucket List Rifle

For those who have been living on another planet, a 'Bucket List' is a list of things you want to do before you 'kick the bucket' (i.e. pass away, shuffle off your mortal coil, die, hand in your knife and fork...etc)

I have had a long standing interest in accurate .22 Rimfire rifles and have slowly built up a small collection of exceptionally accurate bolt action .22's that includes three Anschütz rifles – an old Model 54 target, a Model 64 Ms R silhouette target rifle, a 1422 sporter and a vintage (1972) Brno Model 2. On a good day with ammo that they like, each of these guns will shoot better than 12 mm groups at 50 metres.

However, for the last decade, as my use-by date is not as far away as it used to be, on my 'Bucket List' has been the desire to acquire a full-house smallbore, Olympic standard .22 target rifle.

They are almost never seen on the used gun market, as I presume they are snapped up by other smallbore rifle members as they become available, and the 'over \$4000' price tag for a new gun kept this particular Bucket List project on the back burner.

One development that appears to be gaining momentum is that of Rimfire Benchrest competition, and the smallbore Club that operates in my area has a fairly active program in this discipline, as does SSA.

My pistol club, which has a range license for smallbore rifles as well, also has an active group of members who drag their .22 rifles out once a month and shoot a friendly match of 50m Benchrest on official smallbore Association targets. To the serious smallbore bench rest shooters, \$4000 is about the starting price for a competitive rifle, so such value is relative to the use.

My luck was in, in 2011, when Frontier

Arms advised me that Walther was running a 2012 London Olympics promotion on some of its full-scale target rifles that would be available at significant discounts – more than \$1000 under normal retail. That was enough for me, and following some advice from Frontier Arms' Chris Papps, a Walther KK300 Alutec smallbore rifle was ordered from a shipment whose arrival was imminent.

After a lifetime of accumulating rifles of my own as well as receiving literally hundreds of other people's rifles that have come my way for review, I normally don't get too excited about the arrival of a new gun, but I admit to some eager anticipation awaiting the arrival of my 'Bucket List' rifle that pleasingly turned up much earlier than expected.

Olympic smallbore competition is extremely demanding on equipment performance. The 10 Ring on an Olympic (Is F) 50 m smallbore target is 10.4mm in diameter. Given that the shot must touch the line to be counted as the next highest score, approximately 5.5mm can be added to this diameter to indicate that the maximum grouping capability of the rifle and the ammunition needs to be around 15mm for the competitor to consistently shoot 'possibles' given that there is no shooter error involved in the execution of the shot.

Those of us who have shot the 50 m Bench Rest program that uses the same 10.4mm bullseye will know how challenging it is to score 200/200 when shooting the match from a bench rest.

The bottom line is that the rifle and am-



TOP: The Walther KK300 is a spectacular looking precision shooting machine. The scope is a BSA 8-32x44 with Mil – Dot reticle.

ABOVE: The less expensive ammunition can do well – the SK Pistol Match shot almost as well as the \$30+ Lapue Midas Plus and X-Act, although the 0.25" X-Act accuracy from a less than ideal rest is outstanding.

munition combination needs to shoot consistently around 12mm groups or less to stay in the 10 Ring, given shooter variables, particularly bench technique, as well as wind effects that are a significant factor at 50 m on outdoor ranges.

The Walther KK300 is one of Walther's 'Ready for London' match firearms, that includes its air rifles, air pistols and .22 target pistols. There are 5 models in the KK300 small Bore series. Their main variation is in the configuration of the forend and other aspects of the stock. The KK300 Anatomic has a greater range of adjustments in the stock to accommodate 3-Position shooting.



clockwise from left:
 Along with the MEC adjustable butt plate, the cheek piece is also fully adjustable vertically and sideways, with precision graduated adjustment scales on the adjustments.

The sights supplied with the KK300 are Walther micro-adjustable aperture rear and a Centra foresight assembly with three dioptre inserts.

The left side of the KK300's butt with its MEC fully adjustable butt plate system.

The Walther's bolt has dual locking lugs, a large diameter body and speed lock firing pin.

The MEC adjustable butt plate system comes with shoulder hooks for Smallbore positional shooting.

The KK300 Alutec has an all aluminium inner stock that supports the action, with laminated timber components attached to it to provide the contacts with the human interface. The KK300 appealed to me as the most versatile in the model range. It has a shallow, flat bottomed forend with a moveable block for use if shooting offhand, to provide a deeper forend for offhand shooting. The butt has a fully adjustable cheek piece that can be set for angle as well as height and the pistol grip is fully orthopedic, so the rifle can be set up to fit like the proverbial glove.

Compared to my old classic walnut and blued steel Anschütz Model 54 .22 match rifle, the Walther KK is an eye catching unit of shooting equipment with its blue powder coated aluminium inner stock, cream and blue laminated timber, blued barrel and polished aluminium adjustable stock components.

The KK300 comes with a set of Walther rear aperture sights and a Centra score tube foresight with three ring inserts. I use these types of sights on some of my silhouette pistols but as the KK was intended for Bench Rest shooting, the intention was always to fit it with a scope.

The Walther match action has been around for a while and is well proven, with its dual locking lugs, speed lock firing pin and heavy walled action.

The trigger system on the rifle, as would be expected, is a fully adjustable, two stage match grade system that is adjustable from

50 to 130g, as well as being adjustable for position and cant.

The action is single shot and without a scope, the rifle is definitely not in the rabbit rifle class, as it weighs over 6 kg with its heavy 650mm barrel and is 1200mm long.

The forend has a long accessory rail along its full length, so the sliding hand-support block can be positioned from the forend tip almost back to the receiver. An accessory hand stop comes with the rifle, and this also allows a single point sling to be fitted for prone shooting. The rail can also be used to attach an F Class type bipod.

The shallow, flat bottomed forend is well suited to shooting off the bench and because it is parallel with the barrel, as is the underside of the butt, the rifle's recoil characteristics when shooting off bags is very predictable.

The butt plate on the KK300 Walther is an MEC system which is better illustrated in the photos. It has an almost infinite array of adjustments, and like most things German, is of superb quality of fit, function and finish.

While the KK300 looked the part, my main interest was how well it would shoot. The 50m test group that came with the rifle had ten shots in just on 6mm listed as being shot with RWs R50 ammunition.

A BsA 8 - 32 x 44 Mil Dot centre focus scope was fitted to the rifle and the KK was then sighted in. As with all .22 Rimfire rifles, the ammunition is vital in their per-

formance. Regardless of the quality and cost of the ammo, individual rifles will usually show a preference for a particular brand, type and batch of ammunition.

The Walther KK was no exception as over several months, it was tested with a wide range of standard velocity ammunition ranging in cost from \$3 to over \$30/box. In general, the top grade ammunition will always shoot consistently better than the cheaper target .22's, but occasionally, a batch of the cheaper stuff turns up that shoots as good as the expensive stuff. It is for this reason that batch numbers are important. These are always stamped on the ammo box and if you find a brand that shoots in a particular batch, it is advisable to stock up on that particular batch number.

Newcastle's Smallbore & Air Rifle Club has its range right next to Newcastle Pistol Club's range and it is good to be able to plug into the knowledge of the serious smallbore shooters who are happy to pass on their knowledge. The experts there advised that the best results will always be obtained with ammunition that is not going faster than 1170 fps at the muzzle. Match ammo such as Eley's Black Box match (\$20/box) has its velocity printed on the box. I tried a box in the Walther that had a published velocity of 1063 fps. It was chronographed at 1065 fps with a standard deviation of 5 fps, which is excellent consistency.

I was very pleased to be able to reproduce the grouping of the test target on a number of occasions and have shot 198/200 with the rifle in our informal 50 BR matches. As expected, the ammunition was a big factor. Some brands of standard velocity target ammunition in the lower price range was not up to competition standard. Some other shot exceptionally well as shown in the accompanying photos. The main problem with the lower

On the aspect of the KK300's very adjustable stock is that it is not that easy to fit the rear of the butt onto a rear rest as all the adjusting bolts protrude from the butt.



Spec S

WALTHER'S KK300 ALUTEc

Model:
Walther KK300 Alutec

Calibre:
.22 Long Rifle

Action:
Single shot bolt

Barrel length:
650mm

Overall length:
1200 mm

Weight:
6250 g

Sights:
Rear - Walther Match Expert
Competition - Front - Centra

Trigger:
Fully adjustable 2-stage -
50 to 130g range.

Stock:
Aluminium inner with laminated
timber adjustable components
with MEC adjustable butt plate.

Distributor:
Frontier Arms Pty Ltd.
Ph: 08 8373 2855.

Email:
mail@frontierarms.com.au.

Mail:
GPO Box 2317, Adelaide SA 5001

cost ammo is occasional fliers and it can often shoot 3 or 4 shots into a tiny cluster and then drop a shot 20mm away.

With match grade ammunition, the KK300 will consistently shoot sub - 12 mm groups and mostly do better than that and keep 5 shots in 10mm or better.

The best 5-shotters the rifle has produced recently was just under 5mm at 50 m with SK Pistol Match ammunition (about \$8/box) and Lapua X - Act (\$38/box). It even produced a 6 mm group with Federal 510 semi HV ammo that cast around \$3/box, but this was not reproducible.

The only thing I have not been able to do with the Walther KK300 is remove the barrel and action from the aluminium inner stock. Two hex head bolts appear to hold the action on the stock but when they are removed, nothing happens, so the assumption is that the action is glued into the inner stock. The

nothing in the instruction relating to other than removing the bolt from the action.

One useful bit of gear, and the information to go with it, came with the cleaning kit supplied with the rifle. It is a 'Bore snake' type of arrangement, consisting of a very tough woven cord with an integral loop in one end, along with a supply of 'wicks', that are loosely woven lengths of string.

For a .22 barrel, 5 wicks are looped through the loop and pulled through the barrel from the muzzle. The wicks can be coated in solvent or gun oil to suit the end result. The advantage of this system is:

a. The barrel can be cleaned from the muzzle without risking any damage to that end of the rifling, and ensures that the critical area of the rifling right at the muzzle gets optimal attention.

b. Most of the abrasive debris arising from shooting .22 Rimfire ammunition accumu-

lates in front of the chamber, and this method of cleaning puts this residue out by the shortest possible route.

In the words of Liam Neeson in the movie, *The A Team* - "Don't you love it when a plan comes together".

That is about the size of it with my Bucket List rifle. The Walther KK300 has exceeded my expectations in its value and performance, and if there are any more of these precision shooting machines still available at a London Olympics discount, then anyone interested in precision Rimfire shooting should have a hard look. It would not be possible, in my view, to build a custom Rimfire competition gun for close to twice the cost of this KK300 Walther. As a further enhancement, left handed versions are also available and each rifle is supplied in a hard plastic lockable gun case. 