



Walther's Terrus, the Do It All Entry Level Air Rifle

Is it a Walther Terrus or a Umarex 'Walther Terrus', you may see it linked with both manufacturers and you can take your pick.

A synthetic stocked, .177 calibre Terrus is the subject of this GUNS Australia review. The Terrus is Walther's new entry-level spring-piston air rifle, but the 'entry' status should be seen in the context of Walther's excellent line-up of quality air rifles. It operates by the simple and hassle free break-barrel mechanism, and falls naturally into the all-purpose, practical, 'made to be used' category. It is a full sized air rifle with sufficient power for informal target or hunting use. Its advertised velocity is up to 887fps for the Australian 16 Joule model. It has the options of versatile open sights or the mounting of a scope for more serious accuracy. A slightly unconventional black stock and almost black metal parts, give the Terrus a modern appearance,

likely to catch a young shooter's eye. The overall length of rifle is 1120mm and it weighs 3.5kg without scope or mounts. A .22 calibre version and beech timber stock alternatives are also available.

The cocking action is very smooth and there are no metal on metal sounds as the spring is compressed. The main spring is made of valve spring wire for a long trouble free service life, indicative of the quality of the components in this 'entry' level rifle. Effort required for cocking, when grasping the barrel just behind the front sight is no problem for an adult but most young juniors (starting at 12 years old in NSW) would struggle to cock this rifle. Cocking the rifle automatically sets the trigger safety to 'on' or safe, a good feature considering the potential damage an accidental trigger release during loading can do to the rifle and user. The Terrus mechanism allows for releasing the safety while the barrel is 'broken' to enable de-cocking and spring release in case a planned shot is not taken. The importance of a firm grip on the barrel during de-cocking and the subsequent removal of the pellet is emphasised in the manual.

The trigger is a new design, coded XT. It has a two-stage release and the first stage is adjust-

able for travel length. Trigger release is excellent for a general purpose air rifle in the lower price bracket. The first stage is light, smooth and short followed by a distinct creep free release at 600 grams. The safety release is located conveniently on the tang, under the thumb of both right and left-handed shooters.

The 15mm diameter and 450mm long barrel is well proportioned and deeply blued, as break barrels need to be, considering the extra handling they will receive. Fitted with TRU-GLO assisted open sights, the front sight is fixed and the rear is fully adjustable with a micrometre style numbered elevation screw and a thumbscrew for horizontal adjustments. Both screws have detent click positions ensuring easy sighting-in due to the consistent sight movement with each click. Numbering the click positions of the more frequently used elevation screw allows the user to learn the required settings for regularly used distances and dial the correct elevation rather than resort to the less accurate aim above or below, (hold off) method. These open sights offer the best of both worlds by having a target style square notch rear and a flat-topped front blade for maximum precision for



TOP: The Walther Terrus is a well-proportioned rifle. The subtle stock variations, including the classic Germanic 'hogback', distinguish it from the mainstream without detracting from ergonomics or looks.

LEFT: The full size and weight of the Terrus, plus the cheap and convenient nature of pellet shooting, makes it ideal for offhand shooting practise.

INSERT: Typical of the groups shot at 25m from the better performing pellets, RWS CO2 Target on the left and H&N Barracuda Hunter on the right. Beeman Silver Jet pellets, not pictured, shot the tightest hunting pellet groups.

1. H&N's sample pack below is an economical way of looking for a good pellet for a new rifle. The 500 packs above are for proven performers.

2. Rear sight is fully adjustable with regular sized clicks for repeatability.

3. The barrel pivot and locking mechanism look strong and well made, they should last well.



those with excellent vision. Just below, the majority of us have the TRU-GLO aiming option, these dots are easily and quickly aligned, even in low light, without the need for sharp definition or eye strain. (Many TRU-GLO sights have a round top front blade to support the dot and these lack target precision.) The open sights are dovetail clamped at the front and screwed to the barrel receiver at the rear, making them easy to remove or replace. For scope use, the receiver has dovetail grooves to accept 11mm scope mounts and a 5mm diameter locking recess is available to prevent the scope and mount from sliding to the rear.

The injection moulded polymer stock of the Terrus has advantages of low cost, stability, weather resistance and durability. It is a practical choice for a rifle that is likely to endure plenty of use. To keep the traditionalists happy the Terrus is also available with a beech stock) The black stock surface has sufficient texture to avoid a shiny look or slippery

feel, the shooting grip areas have scroll like embossed sections resulting in a very effective non-slip surface. The butt has a Monte Carlo style cheek piece on both sides, raising the comb height to suit the elevated open sights or scope use. There is no left or right bias in the stock shape or in the trigger or safety location so the Terrus is equally suited to left or right handed shooters. A swelled section in the middle of the fore end produces a short round bottomed beaver tail portion on the otherwise typical fore end. Whether it is a help hindrance or gimmick, should be left to individual preference and shooting style. It has a pull length of 360mm and a 15mm thick rubber recoil pad. As on many synthetic stocks, the trigger guard is part of the stock unit, but the uncommonly large size of the Terrus guard detracts from the visual neatness and sense of proportion of the stock and rifle.

If we want to find an accurate hunting pellet for an air rifle, we need to try a variety of pellets. Air rifle accuracy is significantly affected by pellet choice, particularly with hunting pellets, because they come in a large variety of shapes and weights. Even the most expensive air rifles will be 'choosy' about the pellets they shoot accurately. Most pellets are sold in 500 lots and experimenting to find the most accurate can be expensive and wasteful. To help shooters in their pellet selection, H&N produce a multi-pellet sample pack of (six different field pellets) about 80 pellets each.

Accuracy group shooting was conducted outdoors at 25m in light but inconsistent breeze, realistic conditions for air rifle use outdoors. Better performing hunting pellets in this rifle were the Beeman Silver Jet, weight 8.3gn velocity 805fps and the H&N Barracuda Hunter, 10.34gn at 690fps. Both easily grouped three pellets under 25mm at 25 metres. This is very good field accuracy and coupled with the respective muzzle energies of 11.95ft lb or 16.19 Joule and 10.99ft lb or 14.89J for the Barracuda, this rifle has plenty of power to despatch the average rodent or pest bird around the farm. The only flat point target pellets tried were RWS CO2 Target. They weighed 7.8gn, produced 817fps and averaged groups of 15mm.

This level of accuracy is more than enough to show up shooter error in offhand and rested position target practise.

Walther's Terrus is an enjoyable air rifle to shoot. It is easy to load, well balanced and holds well in all positions. Its weight is a good compromise between the weight needed for steady offhand aiming and being too heavy to hold comfortably. Stock dimensions will also suit most shooters, the 'palm swell' or 'beaver tail section' on the fore end ensured a comfortable grip without showing any negative effects during shooting. From this, thumb-on-safety grip position, the trigger is right on the first joint of the index finger as it should be. People with large hands will find the long pistol grip offer support for all fingers. The auto safety does take a bit of getting used to for a shooter who is not used to one but its dual safety roles, which prevent the barrel slamming shut during loading and accidental discharge when loaded, are important features.

Conclusions

The Walther Terrus has this writer's three fundamental requirements for a good general-purpose air rifle, namely sufficient accuracy, power and durability. It has the accuracy, 15mm grouping at 25m, to be a useful practise rifle for field or target shooting positions, it also has the power needed, right up to the manufacturer nominated 16 Joule, to combine with the accuracy. Durability is a fundamental need because such a rifle is expected to get a lot of use over many years. Walther's record and quality of components, such as the 'valve spring wire' mainspring, should ensure durability. In the spring-piston operated Terrus we get a number of other niceties, it is easy and fun to shoot, ideal for the development of safe shooting skills, requires minimal maintenance, is simple to operate and 'logistical support' means no more than keeping up the pellets.

Walther products are distributed throughout Australia by Frontier Arms Company – for information on all Walther products, check the FAC web site at www.frontierarms.com.au. 

SPECS

WALTHER TERRUS

Brand: Carl Walther

Model: Terrus 16J

Calibre: .177, (also .22)

Operation: Break-barrel

Power: Spring-piston

Velocity: Up to 885fps

Stock: Polymer (also beech)

Length: 1100mm

Weight: 3.3kg

Sighting:

Open sights + dovetail

Trigger:

Two stage, Auto safety

Price:

RRP \$445, shop around