

# The Walther LGU Master

by Paul Miller



The Walther LGU Master combines traditional and futuristic aesthetics.

Following our review of the impressive entry-level Walther Terrus in the September 2014 *Australian Shooter*, Chris Papps, from Australian Walther importer Frontier Arms in South Australia, kindly provided for review one of its high-performance LGU Master air rifles.

The LGU Master is a traditional-looking underlever spring-powered firearm. The stained beech wood stock is made by Minelli in Italy and is extremely functional

and comfortable. The rifle has a high, non-adjustable Monte Carlo stock and features a Schnabel fore-end, which always looks elegant to my eye. The nice, tight pistol grip features laser-cut chequering and the Walther logo below the panels. There is no chequering on the fore-end, but the scalloping on the sides gives a comfortable grip.

The two-stage match trigger on the rifle is adjustable for first-stage travel and weight. It was set at around 1.36kg

(3lb) and was responsive and crisp on firing. The safety is automatic on this rifle, as it was on the Terrus model, so when you cock it, the safety automatically engages. Being on the tang at the rear of the compression chamber, this is highly convenient. It means you can disengage the safety comfortably with your thumb, with the rifle mounted ready to shoot. I was impressed with the fit and finish of this rifle. The blueing was superb and the metalwork and timber surfaces matched perfectly.

The LGU Master is a big, substantial, high-performance air rifle that features a rotary piston and provides serious results. The test rifle was chambered in .177, from which you can expect about 970fps velocity, while in .22 calibre, you can expect about 625fps. These figures translate into a flat-shooting trajectory over the limited ranges that are appropriate with air rifles. Accuracy was amazing at 15m and beyond, and several groups were just one ragged hole. Time constraints meant I was unable to chase any rabbits or pest birds, but the tight groups bode well for success in the field.

The other interesting features that are highly touted by Walther are the 'super silent technology' and 'vibration reduction system', the design of which involved a serious redesign of the rotary action and the application of high-end industrial nylon in some of the components to



The 'bear trap' safety was effective and protects fingers while reloading.



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reduce noise and dampen recoil.

As far as I could tell, these highly touted technologies definitely provided a comfortable and quiet shooting experience for such a powerful spring-operated air rifle. Vibration in air rifles is always a problem with mounting scopes and in the comfort in firing and being able to keep the scope on target. The vibration reduction system certainly seemed to live up to expectation and meant I could watch as the pellets hit the target.

From a physical point of view, this rifle took quite a bit of effort to cock with the underlever cocking system. The 'bear trap' safety system worked to perfection. This consisted of three positions on the sliding inner compression chamber which meant that the rifle could not fire and trap fingers while loading a pellet in the



The almost too generous Monte Carlo stock and excellent recoil pad.



When the underlever is fully cocked it goes beyond 90°.

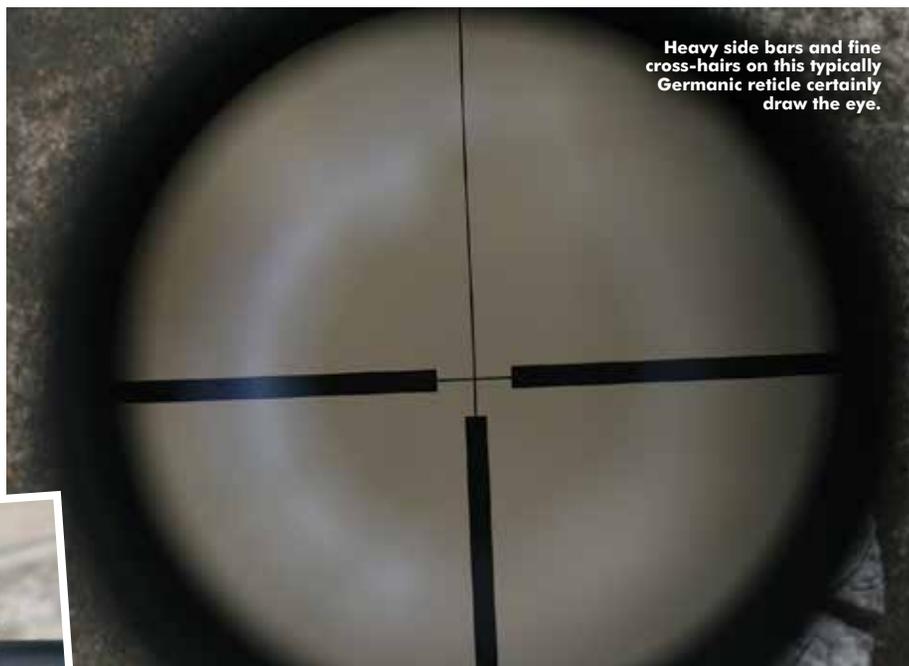
breech. It also allowed an easier three-part loading cycle by working the underlever three times and letting the bear trap hold until the lever was worked almost effortlessly again to move to the next stage of the bear trap. As unorthodox a system as it sounds, it worked for me. The alternative is cocking with one motion, which is quick, but requires a deal more strength on the part of the shooter. The underlever sat neatly under the barrel

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and was retained by a spring-loaded ball bearing detent and this system worked perfectly.

A quality rifle like this needs a quality scope to help bring out its full potential. Supplied with the rifle was a Walther 6x40 AO scope with No. 4 reticle. This gave clear vision and with its adjustable objective allowed a precise focus from close in to infinity. It was ideal for an air rifle and certainly looked the part.

Unfortunately for me, the LGU Master has a quite high, non-adjustable Monte Carlo stock, which was actually too high for me to take a really comfortable look through the excellent Walther scope. This was ironic when you consider how



Heavy side bars and fine cross-hairs on this typically Germanic reticle certainly draw the eye.



Quality tip-off mounts were attached to the dovetail and secured the Walther scope perfectly.

gun writers often talk about the advantage of mounting a scope as low as possible on your favourite rifle to gain a better cheekweld and therefore more comfortable and accurate shooting.

The scope was mounted exactly in this way, to the distributor's credit, with a minimum of clearance to the cylinder, but the unusually high Monte Carlo meant I had to really push my head down on the stock to have any sort of view through the scope. That was not the end of the world. >

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A higher set of scope mounts would have had me raving about the excellent cheek-weld and upright head position. Thinner-faced individuals might find this combination fine, but I needed higher mounts. It was no big deal and easily fixed.

My only criticism, if you could call it that, was the slight difficulty I experienced loading this rifle as a left-handed shooter. The loading port was quite generous, but I would prefer to see the cutaway go right

across the receiver, making it easier for ambidextrous operation.

The Walther LGU Master .177-calibre air rifle is a well-built and substantial air rifle. The fixed barrel almost certainly contributed to the outstanding accuracy I achieved, although the comparable break-action LGV model, which preceded the LGU, is also extremely accurate and is held in great regard around the world.

The LGU Master retails for around \$750

or around \$925 if you decide to add the Walther 6x40 AO scope and mounts. For more information, ask your local firearms dealer or visit [www.frontierarms.com.au](http://www.frontierarms.com.au) ●

### Specifications

**Manufacturer:** Carl Walther, Germany  
**Model:** LGU Master, fixed-barrel spring-powered air rifle

**Calibre:** .177 (tested), .22

**Velocity:** .177: 970fps, .22: 625fps

**Barrel Length:** 445mm (17.5")

**Overall Length:** 1104mm (43.5")

**Weight:** 4.3kg without scope

**Trigger:** 1.36kg (3lb)

**Cocking Mechanism:** Underlever

**Safety:** Automatic

**Sights:** No open sights, Walther 6x40mm with adjustable objective supplied

**Mounting:** 11mm dovetail

**Stock:** Stained beech, Monte Carlo raised cheekpiece

**Distributor:** Frontier Arms

**RRP:** \$750, with scope and mounts \$925

