

Walther LGU Master Air Rifle

Walther's LGU, an adult spring-operated underlever air rifle combines state-of-the-art proven LGV technology with Super Silent technology and Vibration Reduction System to give superb accuracy.

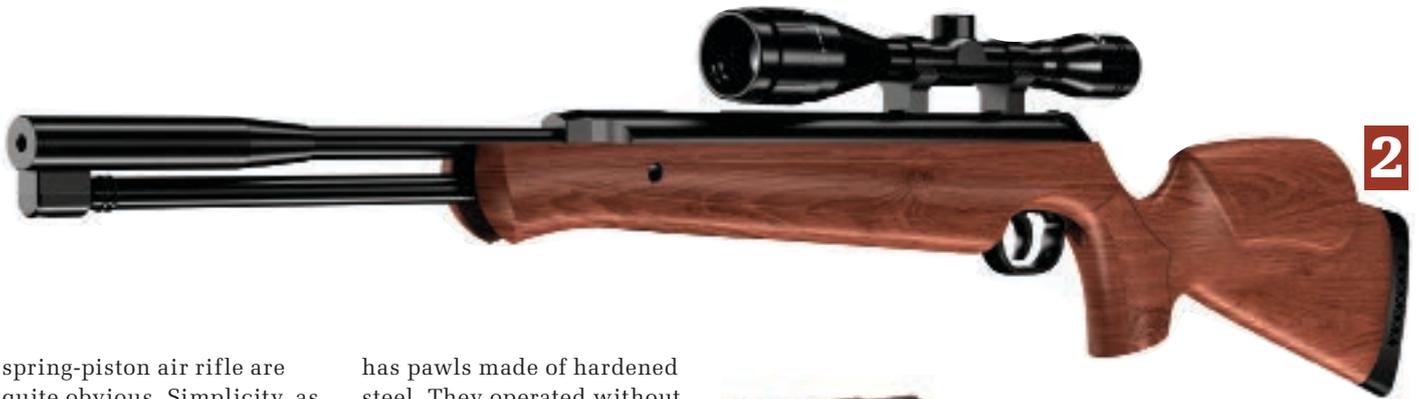


1 THE Walther LGU Master, to give it its full title, is a relatively new import from Germany for the precision air gun shooter. Features include virtually no recoil and excellent workmanship. Surprisingly enough, many of these fine rifles are not bought by dyed-in-the-wool target shooters, but by people who just appreciate owning a truly fine, precise rifle and enjoy the challenge of their superb accuracy in the field.

The LGU Master is a man-sized air rifle in every respect and is the culmination of decades of constant evolution and intensive development. This modern spring-piston air gun's potent power plant is capable of churning up 1100fps in .177 and is cocked by means of a heavy-duty under lever.

Exactly 50 years after the original LGV came on the market in 1964, the Walther LGV was launched in 2012, now Walther has combined the classic underlever principle of the LGU with the same technology that launched the LGV in 2012 with the slogan "The new sound of silence". It incorporates all the sophisticated high-tech components that compensate for all the well-known drawbacks of spring-operated air rifles.

The major components of a



spring-piston air rifle are quite obvious. Simplicity, as far as the limited number of parts in the system, is the hallmark of this type of air gun. There are, however, certain critical and complex interactions between the major components of the spring-piston powerplant that have to be properly balanced, if the system is to perform consistently at its highest level.

In the Walther LGU a powerful high quality helical piston spring made of tempered valve spring wire for longer life, pushes a rotary piston through a compression chamber located directly behind the breech. The LGU is powerful, but produces mild recoil and minimum vibration thanks to the large 30mm diameter rotary piston which eliminates friction losses and long travel of the underlever that cocks the spring. Ahead of the piston there are transfer holes drilled at optimum size to adjust air pressure for each muzzle energy level.

The LGU Master has an automatic safety which engages when the rifle is cocked. It is released by pushing a serrated button on the rear of the cylinder forward, and can be re-applied if the shot is not taken. The rifle has a new XM (Match) trigger which

has pawls made of hardened steel. They operated without stressing other parts, thus minimising the trigger weight. The XM trigger not only allows the adjustment of the first stage travel, but also the weight of the second stage.

An extra degree of safety when inserting pellets into the breech is furnished by having an automatic piston safety; as the breech bolt is retracted to expose the end of the barrel, a pair of lugs engage matching notches in the bolt and lock it in the open position. Before the lever can swung back up, it is necessary to press the release catch twice to release the breech bolt. This well-designed safety system prevents the breechblock and the cocking lever from slamming shut during loading, even if the trigger is pulled.

Barrel length is 300mm including a barrel weight and it has no iron sights. The top of the compression chamber is grooved for 11mm tip-off scope mounts. The test rifle came with a Walther 6x42 scope in two-piece airgun mounts. The scope has a focusing objective for parallax adjustment graduated from 10 metres to 300 metres and adjustments graduated in 1/4" clicks.

The ambidextrous beechwood stock has a high



ON THIS SPREAD

1 The Walther LGU Master was shot off a rest at 10 and 20 metres and showed exceptional accuracy for five shot groups.

2 Product pic; sleek and purposeful, the Walther LGU is a very capable underlever springer.

3 Serrated release catch at rear of loading port engages a pair of notches on breechblock to lock piston back.

4 First length of first stage travel and weight of pull of the XM Match trigger are adjusted through holes in the trigger guard.

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A pellet gun does jobs in the field through penetration and placement.”

ON THIS PAGE

5 Walther LGU Master has underlever cocking and automatic piston safety - a device which ensures safe reloading.

6 The cocking lever locks tightly against a spring-loaded ball in an attachment at the front of barrel weight beneath the muzzle.

7 Ambidextrous beechwood stock with high monte-carlo cheekpiece and nicely curved pistol grip with checkering as designed for scope use sans open sights.

rollover monte-carlo comb with a cheekpiece on either side, and has been stained to resemble walnut. The sharply curved pistol grip is checkered and the ergonomic fore-end has a schnabel tip and longitudinal grooves to afford a secure grasp. The butt is capped with a ventilated rubber pad that wouldn't look out of place on a .375 Magnum.

Walther has dedicated its design technology and production to the LGU Master and has succeeded extremely well. The fit and finish of metal and wood are excellent,

the cocking action is smooth and the trigger is easily adjusted with a screw driver through two holes in the trigger guard.

The LGU Master weighs 4.3kgs naked, increasing to a hefty 4.8kgs with scope and mount. That's 10.75 lbs which makes it a monster to lug around the bush looking for targets of opportunity. This has to be one of the largest sporting air rifles currently being made. Very likely, it may have the largest piston and spring.

Big and solid the LGU Master is also available in .22

calibre with a velocity of 575 fps. The term Magnum is applied to air rifles whose muzzle velocity exceeds 820fps in .177 and about 630fps in .22 calibre. A pellet gun does its job in the field through penetration and exact placement, and the miniscule energy of a .22 pellet in this model compared with that of a .177 pellet (16 joules against 23 joules) is accompanied by less accuracy, greater trajectory drop and inferior penetration.

Tested for accuracy at 25 yards, the LGU shot

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8 The LGU Master fitted with a Walther 6x42 airgun scope with focusing objective was tested with five different .177 pellets two groups cut one ragged hole at 20 metres.

9 Safety catch located at rear of compression chamber is automatically engaged when cocking lever is returned to its forward position.

“At 25 metres I had no difficulty keeping all shots inside a 12mm circle.”



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consistently over the course of several days and showed only minimal impact shift with a variety of pellets. I always gain pleasure from testing a super-accurate air rifle, and the Walther was no exception. The .177 model proved capable of razor-sharp accuracy with a variety of sport and match pellets. Single-hole accuracy was the rule when firing from the bench at 10 metres, and at 25 metres I had no difficulty keeping all shots inside a 12mm circle. Any rabbits the shooter can see, even out at 35 to 40 yards, could be head shot without too much trouble.

There's no flies on muzzle velocities in the 1000 fps range with lightweight zinc alloy pellets like Gamo Raptor and Gamo Rocket for varmints, both feathered and furred. But

it was rather surprising to find that the Walther actually shot its tightest groups with Gamo Rocket and Raptor pellets. Being ultra-light they can be driven fast, and being made of harder materials they penetrate deeply. They're certainly more than good enough to do just about anything an air rifle can be expected to do in terms of pest control. Rabbits can be nailed at up to 30 metres or more with this rifle, especially in view of its superb accuracy.

Heavier pellets brought the average muzzle velocities down to around 780 fps. The gun's firing behaviour was surprisingly mild, due in great part to the sheer massiveness of the LGU but no doubt also because of the Vibration Reduction System. The Super Silent

Technology accounts for an extremely low report on firing, consistent with that normally found on youth-oriented low velocity guns. Moreover, you don't have to be a weightlifter to cock this gun, even for long shooting periods. The cocking effort is well within the capabilities of most teenagers.

In the underlever department, the Walther LGU Master has already earned a well-deserved reputation for high quality, fine accuracy and rugged dependability. This fixed barrel rifle offers the advantages of a bolt system with direct-loading breech

and a more rigid barrel attachment to the receiver.

Although this rifle is a bit on the heavy side, I got more satisfaction from one afternoon of plinking and long range target shooting with it than with many of the more common air rifles. Muzzle velocities were very consistent, the rifle's point of impact remained constant and groups were round with nary a flier. Walther's high standard of craftsmanship, flawless performance and dead-on precision provides a great source of enjoyment and pride of ownership. ☘