



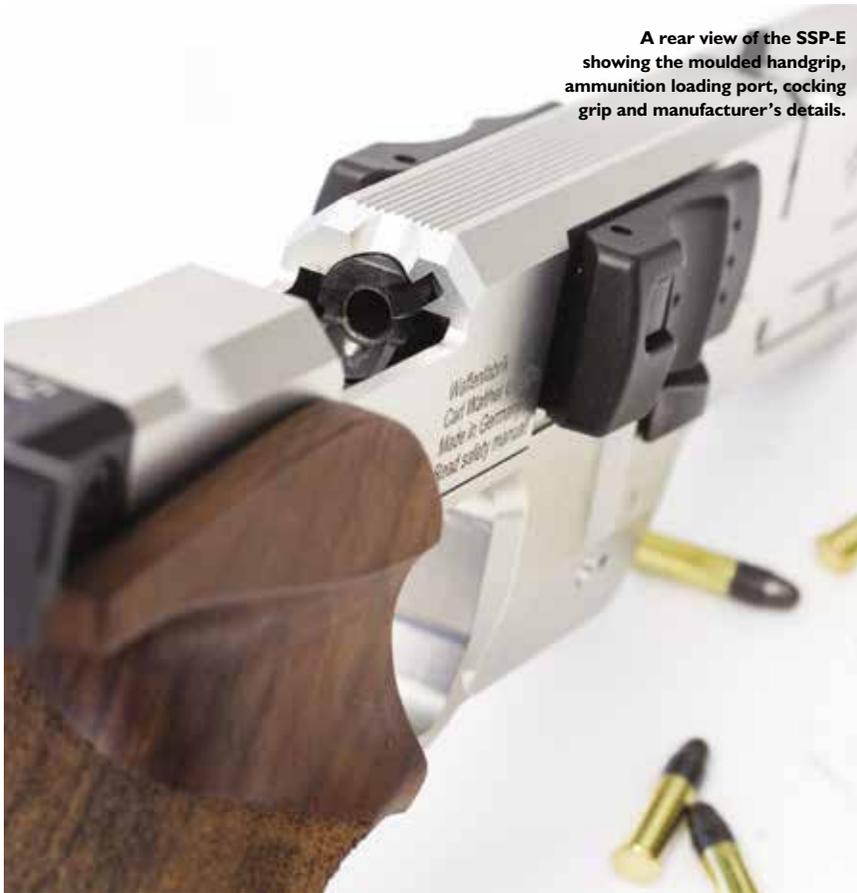
The Walther SSP-E .22LR in its box with all instructions and accessories.

# Walther's SSP-E

*- premium precision*



Walther's immaculate attention to detail is evident in the clean, futuristic lines of the SSP-E.



A rear view of the SSP-E showing the moulded handgrip, ammunition loading port, cocking grip and manufacturer's details.



The recharging port of the SSP-E at close quarters.

by **Tony Xanthopoulos**  
photos by **Aleksandra Payne**

**W**alther. The name is synonymous with quality and precision. I have had the pleasure of 'road-testing' the latest Walther target pistol, the SSP-E, and it has been a joy to work with to say the least. Living up to the glowing reputation of the Walther brand, the firearm is unlike any pistol that I have shot before.

Carl Walther GmbH Sportwaffen, better known as Walther Arms, has been manufacturing quality firearms for more than 125 years, with the founder, Carl Walther and his son Fritz paving the way originally in Germany with the first self-loading pistol in 1908. In 1929, Fritz Walther succeeded in the production of the first pistol with a single-/double-action trigger, the Walther Model PP.

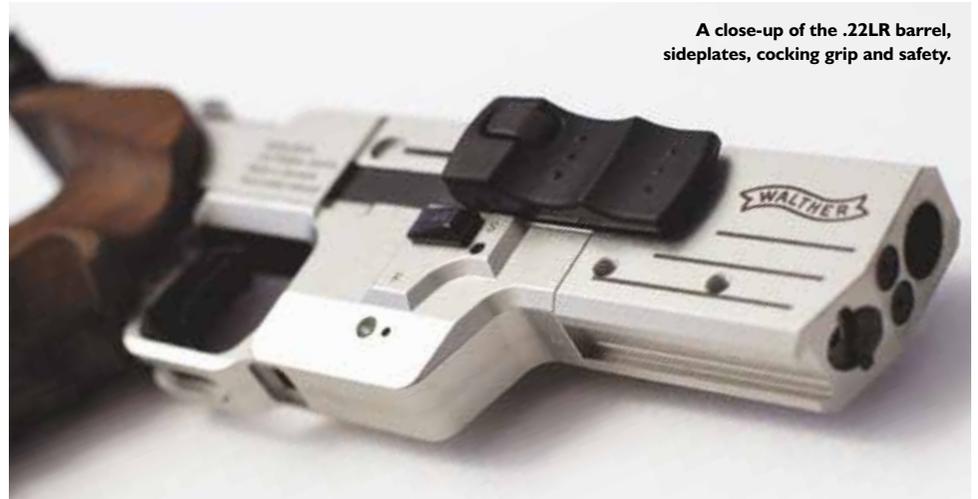
The Walther model SSP-E under review is an adaptation of the original SSP precision target pistol, which in itself superseded the earlier Walther OSP. The SSP-E has a 'wear-free' electronic trigger with exact settings for up to 500,000 rounds. Walther claims that at a total charging time of 90 minutes, the SSP-E has a capacity to fire around 6000 rounds. The manufacturer also claims that a one-minute charge will provide the capability to shoot 100 rounds. Hence, charging via the mini-USB cord from any USB port on a computer, car or other 12-volt source makes the electronic trigger an interesting adaptation that should not be a concern to the shooter. Of course, I have not had the opportunity to test the 6000-round-per-charge claim, but I am sure that the market will soon prove this assertion as shooters take hold of the SSP-E and put it through its paces.

So, about this electronic trigger. It has an adjustable weight of 1000 to 1360g, and it also has adjustments for the take-up and travel of the trigger, which makes it great to customise to any shooter's needs. However, the factory setting seemed pretty good straight out of the box. The trigger itself was great to use. It was crisp and clean compared to a standard mechanism or even a match trigger. I am not sure whether or not it was solely because of the electronic trigger, or whether it was a combination of this plus other features of this precision pistol, but my target shooting scores improved by about 50 per cent compared to my scores using my other .22-calibre pistols. The SSP-E is only currently available in the .22 Long Rifle self-loading calibre and it is just perfect for the ISSF disciplines. >

Supplied in the box are two five-round removable magazines, which may be installed internally through the top of the pistol. Also supplied is a dry-firing device, cleaning equipment, specific tools for the firearm, user manuals and cleaning instructions plus a bench firing target as you would expect.

Without trying to confuse the reader too much with various dimensions, the SSP-E has a barrel length of 153mm, a sight length of 220mm and a weight of 970g. Dimensions overall are 290mm long, 135mm high and 50mm wide.

Now, the walnut handgrip is something to talk about. The almost perfectly moulded handgrip, in combination with the pistol's balance, makes it feel like an extension of your arm when raising the pistol and acquiring the sights on the target. While recoil on a .22-calibre is admittedly minor, at the point of squeezing the trigger, the recoil is managed very well by the pneumatic motion controlled dampening system. Muzzle raise would be less than 0.25" and allows for any follow-through shots on the target to be easily obtained. Now, the reason I say 'almost perfectly' moulded handgrip is because the base-plate has only a minor adjustment, and those of us with wide 'man hands' may find it compresses the hand in the grip and could use another 0.25" of



A close-up of the .22LR barrel, sideplates, cocking grip and safety.

adjustment. That being said, the base-plate is removable, but it would be missed if this was not on the gun.

The front and rear sights of the SSP-E are positioned low on the pistol, allowing for a minimal gap between the centre of barrel and the top of sights. When viewing the sight-picture, there is the perfect amount of gap between the front pin and edges of the rear-sight, allowing for

minor windage adjustments.

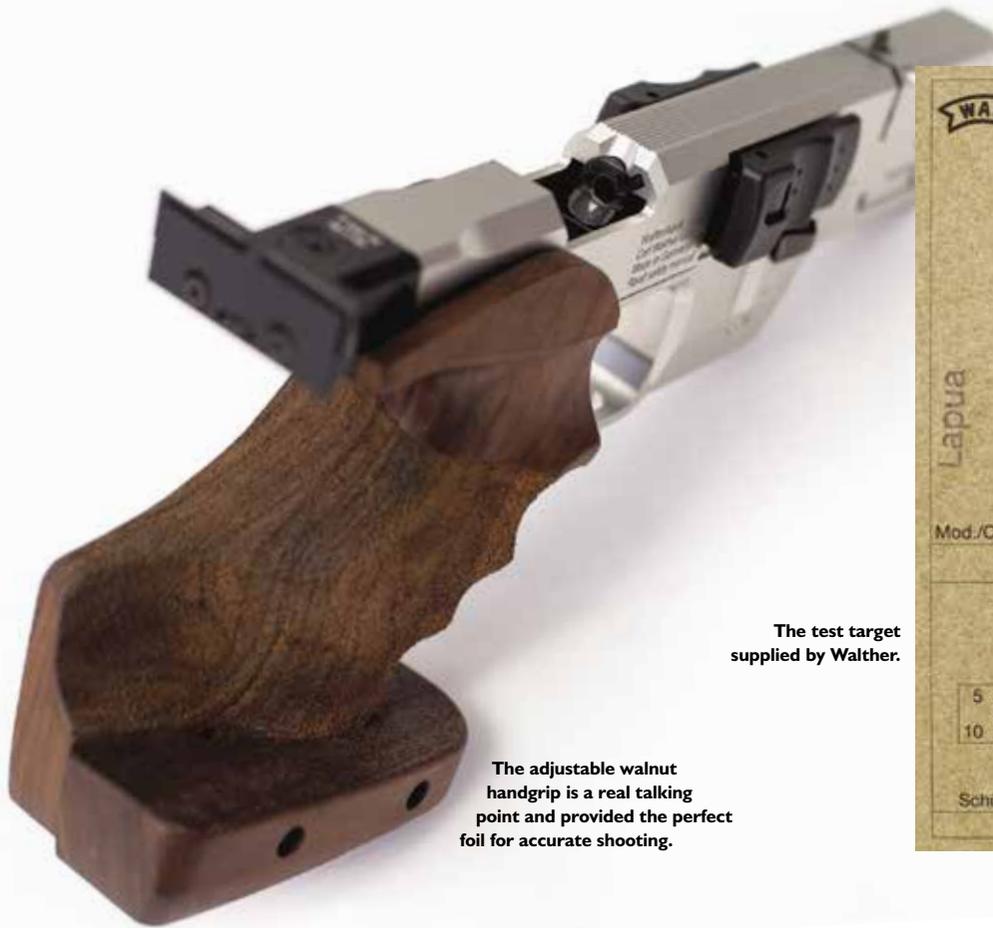
During review, I tested the SSP-E with five different types of ammunition, with varying velocities and projectile weights. While I am sure there would be some minor differences to the grouping results between different ammunition manufacturers - and indeed, this does tend to happen with rimfires - I did not find any discernible variances between the



The sights lined up and ready for action.

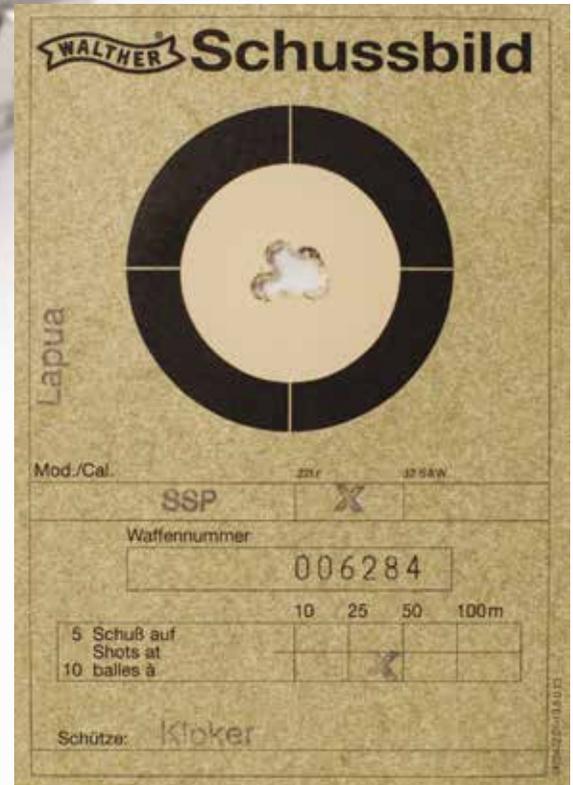


The SSP-E's wear-free, fully adjustable electronic trigger has exact settings to shoot up to 500,000 rounds.



The adjustable walnut handgrip is a real talking point and provided the perfect foil for accurate shooting.

The test target supplied by Walther.



different ammunitions in my testing of the firearm. The ammunition tested included 40-grain Lapua Pistol King at 935fps, 40-grain Nammo SK Pistol Match at 1131fps, 40-grain Geco Semi-Auto 2.6g at 1148fps, 40-grain SK Standard Plus at 1073fps, and finally 36-grain CCI Mini Mag hollow-points at 1260fps. Each brand of ammunition loaded, cycled and ejected perfectly with no misfires, jamming or feeding issues to report.

One trick for new players that should be mentioned. When ejecting the magazine from the firearm it is wise to hold your hand over the top as the new springs do truly eject the magazine out of the pistol and you may find your magazine in the dirt as opposed to your hand if you are not prepared.

All in all, I found the Walther SSP-E to be a sensational piece of equipment. It was great

straight out of the box and easy to use, but at the same time, this pistol is a premium product targeted for the professional target shooter and is, in my opinion, an Olympic-grade handgun. The personal advancements in my scoring by firing this gun directly as it came from the factory were impressive, and it would be a joy to be able to own one of these pistols as it allows the shooter to fine-tune and advance their skills by partnering with a pistol that just wants to perform.

The Walther SSP-E target pistol retails for around \$3415 and is distributed in Australia by Frontier Arms. The friendly staff at Frontier were found to be more than happy to assist with any queries in relation to the firearm and were quite knowledgeable in regard to its workings and features. For more information, contact your local gunshop or visit [www.frontierarms.com.au](http://www.frontierarms.com.au) ■

## Specifications

**Manufacturer:** Carl Walther GmbH, Germany

**Model:** SSP-E

**Calibre:** .22LR

**Capacity:** 5-shot magazine

**Action:** Self-loading

**Dimensions:** 290x135x50mm (11.4x5.3x1.9")

**Barrel Length:** 153mm (6")

**Weight:** 970g

**Trigger:** Electronic, wear-free, fully adjustable

**Grip:** 3D walnut adjustable grip in right or left

**Sights:** Turnable front-sight in three widths, adjustable rear-sight

**Battery:** Rechargeable via mini-USB, 6000 rounds per full battery, LED indicators for battery charge level

**Distributor:** Frontier Arms

**RRP:** \$3415