

PROS AND CONS OF F.A.C. AIR RIFLES

Having just received my licence for an FAC air rifle, and have had the opportunity of accessing the rifle I now own, I thought that it may be of some interest to share with you my findings.

My first problem was what rifle to purchase? If you have a bottomless pocket as far as money goes then you do not have to think too hard as to what rifle to buy. It would have to be one of the large air reservoir models, such as Theoben or Daystate with the large 500cc bottle or even BSA S10 with the 400cc bottle, but as most of these are in the £1000 range for a FAC version, I am afraid they were not even considered. Spring guns and gas rams can be tuned to FAC levels but generally only to the high teens or low twenty's but they all suffer from the same problem, very high cocking effort, so they were discounted. That left me with a very limited choice Logan or Air Arms. After much looking and reading the different specifications, I decided on the Logan Solo mainly because it was the shorter of the two but giving the same power and number of shots.

Having now had it for three weeks and I have carried out some test, here is the results.

Firstly checking it out over the chronograph

Make of pellet	Weight in grains	Speed ft/sec	Power ft/lbs
RWS s/dome	14.5	930	27.8
A A Field	16.25	885	28.3
Logan pen	20.5	775	27.4
Bisley mags	21.0	770	27.6

As each of these pellets proved to be as accurate as each other I decided that AA 16.25 was the best both for speed and power.

Now to zero it, having mounted a 3x9x40 mil dot scope on standard mounts I found that I was unable to get a good eye position without forcing my cheek down hard on to the comb. This was rectified by fitting higher mounts, the scope is now coming to my eye easily. I had to wait several days until I was able to get a day that did not have too much wind, as I had to zero it on one of my shooting grounds, for as you are aware NO FAC guns are allowed to be used on the club premises. It is only at a time like this that you realise how lucky we are in having the barn to zero our rifles in. But back to the job in hand. Using my car as a rest I set up the target at 15yds and adjusted the first zero. I moved back to 40yds and was delighted to find that it was spot on for the second zero, with all shots grouping in a 20mm circle. At approx 30yds it was shooting less than 1/2 inch high, which means that I am able to shoot from 12 to 45yds without having to consider trajectory.

As you can see from the above table using AA pellets they are travelling faster than an 8.5 grain .177 pellet from a standard air rifle, with a flatter trajectory.

So far so good, but now for the crunch test, how would it perform where it counts most, out in the field, after all it was purchased for vermin control.

On Saturday the 2nd Derek and I decided to take a trip out to a farm at Auchterarder where we had not been for several weeks. The field in question runs along side a railway embankment which is riddled with rabbit burrows. We are not allowed to shoot on the embankment, but the rabbits cause so much damage to the field we are in, the farmer does not even attempt to cultivate it any longer, he just leaves it in set aside..

On opening the gate we were expecting to see a few rabbits out feeding as it was early evening, but we were not prepared for the carpet of feeding rabbits that fled before us, back to their burrows. We parked the 4x4 collect our shooting gear hides etc and walked to our chosen shooting positions. We decided to shoot with our backs to the embankment facing into the field, Derek moved further down leaving about 75yds between us. After setting up our hides and sitting down in our folding chairs we both prepare for a long wait until the rabbits settled down and came out to feed again. We did not have long to wait until the first of the rabbits appeared, and were successfully dispatched. I won't bore you with a blow to blow description of the nights shooting, sufficient to say I ended up with 13 and Derek with 11. My furthest rabbit was shot at approx 73yds, but the rest was between 15 and 45yds. The night was very still with no wind and I was able to use the side of the hide a rest, so I was shooting from virtually a bench rest position or I would never have attempted the 73yd shot.

The rifle did every thing I asked of it and proved itself to be up to the job I bought it for.

PROS.

The rifle allows me to shoot from 12/45yds - without having to consider trajectory. The pellet has much greater striking power.

My shooting range has been extended out to 45yds (shots further than this would only be taken in exceptional circumstances)

CONS.

The expense and hassle of obtaining the licence.

The expense of the purchasing the rifle

The restrictions placed on where you can use it.

The added security you need at home (police approved gun cabinet)

Conclusions

Does the rifle being more than twice the normal power give you twice the shooting distance? **NO** it may have the power but the light pellet is to susceptible

to wind drift unless in very unusual circumstances, besides if it is necessary to shoot at these ranges I would revert to my rim fire.

Do I regret all the hassle and expense ***NO***

Am I glad that I have got it ***YOU HAD BETTER BELIEVE IT***

Hope you find this interesting.

Stan