

The

This month: **DAVE TUCKER** tests the latest version of the award-winning BSA SuperTen – the Bull-Barrel Carbine

TUCKER TEST

TUCKER'S TEST FORMULA

DAVE TUCKER'S test results are based on 10 separate categories, where points up to the maximum value of 10 are awarded in each of the 10 categories.

A score of '5' represents average in that category, so an overall total of 50 means the gun Dave's been testing is average value for its asking price.

A higher score than 50 means it's better value – and a lower score represents poorer value.

It's a well-known fact that I love pneumatic air rifles but, in the main, my likes have always leaned towards the more 'traditional' looking guns. However, over the last decade or so, buddy-bottle rifles have not only gained a massive following, you could argue that these types of sporter have become the 'modern' traditional rifles.

Just because I like traditional stuff doesn't mean I'm an old fuddy-duddy; I'm also a big fan of modern developments. So, when BSA launched the new, improved 10-shot Bull-Barrel Carbine model of their award-winning BSA SuperTen, I was itching to get my hands on a .177 version of it!

FIRST IMPRESSIONS – 9

Unwrapping the package found me staring at an absolute cutie – the BSA SuperTen Bull-Barrel is *very* pretty... in the most 'manly' of ways!

The chunky barrel – more on which later – perfectly complements the 200 c.c. buddy-bottle sitting underneath it and I took to the Beeza's sleek look the instant I clapped eyes on it.

Looking very business-like, the SuperTen is obviously a rifle that simply demands to be taken out shooting, so let's do just that...

HANDLING – 10

Wow! If I was impressed with it sitting there in its box, I was simply knocked-out by the way the 850 mm.-long carbine cuddled into my shoulder!

Standing at six-foot, I'd have thought that the SuperTen wouldn't be a good 'fit' for my size – but I was wrong. Its 3.4-kilo mass came to point with ease, feeling much lighter than the scales showed.

I'd expected the rifle to be front-heavy due to its buddy-bottle but, once again, I was wrong. In your shoulder, the Bull-Barrel's balance falls in its 'centre', just where the single stock-fitting screw is, in fact. That's perfect for me,

giving maximum control over your point and aim and I reckon this rifle's just about ideal for those standing or kneeling shots. Its short length makes it perfect for hide-shooting, too.

CONSISTENCY – 10

First some facts: The Bull-Barrel carbine is available in both .177 and .22 calibre; a carbine rifle will not have the same quantity of shots as a full-length rifle; and .177 is the least efficient calibre when it comes to shooting.

So I'd chosen what, on paper, appeared to be the least efficient rifle for my test – and was therefore sure that if this model had any short-comings, my rigid testing regime would show it up.

I selected various

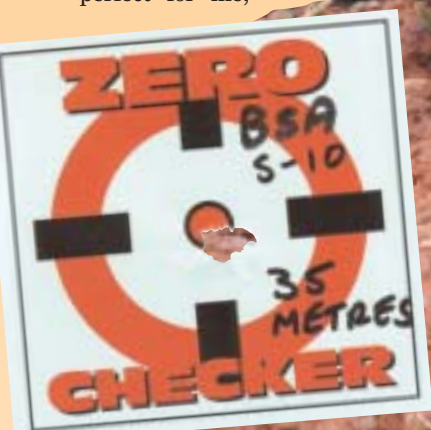
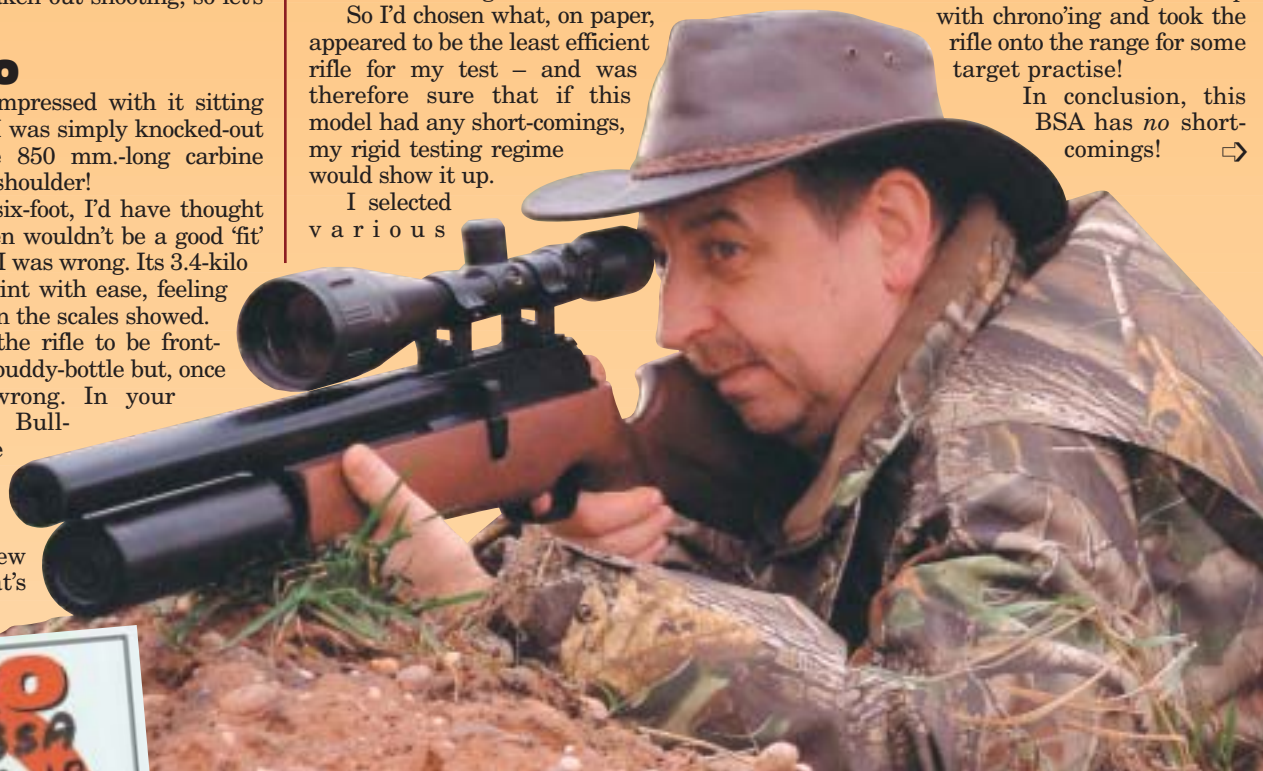


BSA's brilliant Bull-Barrel – it's a little cracker, says Dave!

weights of pellets to blast over my Skan Pro1/S3 chronoscope – and thanks to BSA's time-proven internal regulator (which pulses out each shot with extreme consistency), all brands returned a similar shot-to-shot variation of under 10 feet per second!

Not only that, the lightest pellets, often the least efficient in precharged rifles, gave me seven magazines'-worth of full-power shots – that's 70 – before I got fed up with chrono'ing and took the rifle onto the range for some target practise!

In conclusion, this BSA has *no* short-comings! ➔



"The accuracy of this rifle is nothing short of phenomenal, giving Olympic-quality results at four times the distance!"

⇒ ACCURACY – 10

Like most top-end pneumatics, the BSA is a scope-only rifle so in keeping with it being a new gun, I rigged up the BSA 4-16 x 50 Contender scope with Beeza's new ScopeMaster Professional mounts. Somehow, the cradles' wrap-around design with recessed screws added to the overall looks of the SuperTen, besides holding the scope firmly and correctly.

With a full 10-shots on board courtesy of BSA's time-proven rotary magazine, I settled down for some serious testing. At 20 metres, I soon got fed up slamming one shot after the other through the same hole on the target card – and at 30 metres, things were just as 'boring'!

Even at 40 metres – a long way even for a recoilless pneumatic! – the Bull-Barrel was capable of recording 10 mm. diameter groups. The accuracy of this rifle is nothing short of phenomenal, giving Olympic-quality results at four times the distance!



The 10-shot magazine slips home with ease, even in the dark!

However, out in the field, when your fingers should be well-away from the trigger as you mooch about, this won't be a problem – so maybe I'm being a little harsh.

STOCK – 8

A well-sculptured beech stock comes as standard, featuring an adjustable butt-pad and excellent chequering on the raked palm-grip. The cheek-piece has a very comfy roll-over comb that perfectly lines up your eye with the scope.

For me, though, the stock was a minor disappointment – the SuperTen is so superbly engineered and performs so faultlessly that I think this flagship

Beeza deserves a more classy 'handle'. As a purely functional unit, I couldn't fault it – but if BSA offered a deluxe, chequered walnut (or even thumbhole) version of it,

I reckon it would be every airgunner's dream air rifle in looks as well as performance!



The SuperTen's trigger, glider safety and breech bolt.

TRIGGER – 10

Okay, my accuracy was so good thanks to the Beeza's snappy little trigger unit which slips away each shot with no sign of slip, creep or premature let-off.

A fully-adjustable, two-stager – and I mean *fully* adjustable as you can alter pull-weight, length, travel and blade position – it's one of the most perfect triggers your index finger can come to rest on!

SAFETY – 9

Any multi-shot rifle should have a safety. It should also be a manual one, easy to operate, silent to slip on and off and, in my opinion, be very easy to reach.

The Beeza's safety catch is all of those things, bar one; I had to move my trigger finger a whole four centimetres to operate the resettable, slider safety that's inlet into the right side of the stock!



"It's only this big!" The BSA SuperTen – small, yet perfectly formed!

ENGINEERING – 10

With around two centuries of gunmaking expertise to draw upon and with over a decade of producing the SuperTen alone, I can't see how BSA can improve on this latest version!

The overall engineering is simply spot-on, the blueing deep enough to float a boat and when you get to finally operate the slick, jam-free bolt-action, then you know you're in the serious shooting business!



The SAS silencer's internal baffles keep noise to a minimum.

VALUE FOR MONEY – 10

Of course, so much good stuff comes at a price – £642.55 to be precise – but the BSA SuperTen Bull-Barrel Carbine is wellworth it.

To be honest, I think you're getting a bargain considering exactly what you're getting – an extremely efficient rifle with superb power deliver, amazing accuracy, a sexy silencer and top-notch engineering.

Add-in fabulous handling, brilliant balance, superb

"This has simply got to rank up there with the best..."

FEATURES – 10

Drawing back the bolt smoothly cycles the spring-loaded 10-shot magazine and breeches a pellet without a hitch. Best of all, so well-

silencer to the Bull-Barrel, instead replacing it with a brilliant concept.



The fully-adjustable, two-stage trigger is terrific reckons Dave.

engineered is it, that you can even cycle your shots while keeping the rifle shouldered.

Removing and replacing the magazine is a doddle; with the bolt back in its 'locked-open' position you can replace the magazine with your eyes closed! Not only that, with the bolt in this position, the SuperTen boasts a 'second' safety, too!

The biggest feature I've deliberately left until last. Remember I mentioned the chunky barrel? Well this is more than just a cosmetic exercise. Carabines are notoriously difficult to silence, but the BSA boys have performed miracles.

They've chosen not to fit their sound-soaking Volumetric

What you're looking at is 336 mm. of hollow-steel shroud wrapped around a stubby barrel. Inside the end 146 mm. of this shroud sits BSA's new SAS – Sound Attenuation System – or silencer to you and me. So as the pellet leaves the barrel, all

that high pressure air surrounding it gets dissipated into the

SAS. The result is that the pellet begins its down-range life in non-turbulent air (great for accuracy) – and without a whisper.

It's a clever, highly-effective system that also makes the rifle look the biz, too!

after-sales service and top it all off with a 200-year pedigree – and I'd say you're quids-in!

BSA's 200 cc buddy-bottle, enough for 70 full-power shots.



BSA SUPERTEN BULL-BARREL – FACTS

MANUFACTURER: BSA.

CONTACT: 0121-772 8543.

CALIBRE: .177 (4.5 mm.) (on test) and .22 (5.5 mm.).

ACTION: 10-shot, precharged pneumatic.

FILL PRESSURE: 232-bar (3,364 p.s.i.).

LOADING: Bolt-action.

LENGTH: 850 mm. (33.4 ins.).

BARREL LENGTH: 380 mm. (15 ins.).

SIGHTS: None.

WEIGHT: 3.4 kg. (7.5 lbs.).

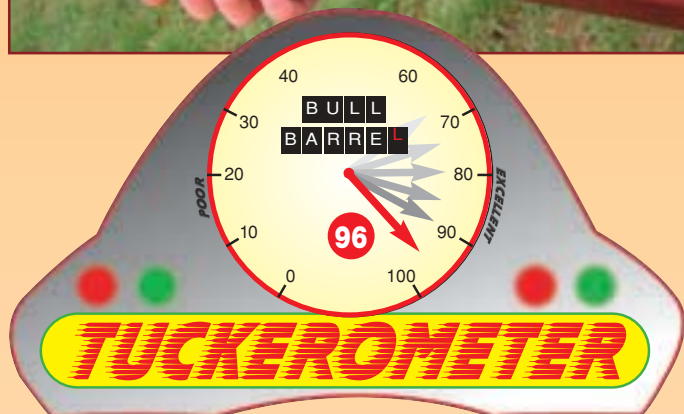
TRIGGER: Two-stage, adjustable everything!

SAFETY: Side-glider, resettable.

STOCK: Right-hand, beech sporter.

POWER: 11.5 ft. lbs. (15.6 J).

PRICE: £642.55.



TUCKER'S VERDICT – 96

AS RIFLES GO, this has simply got to rank up there with the best. Whether you want a hunter, target shooter or combination of both, the BSA SuperTen Bull-Barrel Carbine will handle anything you, or I, could throw at it!