

# MKARC

**AN  
INTRODUCTION  
TO AIR RIFLE  
SHOOTING**

# WHAT IS THE GUN FOR ME?

## CHOOSING AN AIR RIFLE

### (1) WHAT DO I WANT TO DO WITH IT

(Hunter) Field Target    (.177 Recommended)  
Hunting                      (Any Calibre)  
Bench rest                  (Any Calibre)  
Informal Target Practice (Plinking) (Any Calibre)  
10m Match Shooting        (177 Required)

### (2) HOW MUCH CAN I AFFORD

	Budget	Mid Range	Premium
Spring (a)	<£300	£300 / £600	£600+
P.C.P. (b)	<£450	£450 - £800	£800 / Upwards

- (a) Premium spring and most P.C.P's usually come without open sights, you will need to budget for a scope and mounts.
- (b) A Pre-Charged Pneumatic (P.C.P.) will require a charging source. The club has charging bottles where you can fill your rifle for a small fee; otherwise you will need to budget for a pump or air cylinder (approximately £175 - £225 new).

### (3) WHAT SIGHTS WILL I NEED

Benchrest – High power scope recommended (x 24 magnification or higher)  
Field Target – Similar to Benchrest  
Hunter Field Target – Medium power scope (8 – 10X) recommended.  
Hunting                  - Low to medium power scope recommended  
Plinking                  - Whatever suits you  
Match Shooting – Diopter (Special match sight, not telescopic)

#### **(4) WHAT TYPE IS BEST FOR ME**

Spring guns require a degree of strength to operate

Spring guns exhibit movement on firing (Recoil)

Spring guns are self contained, a sighted rifle and some pellets are all you require

P.C.P's require little strength to load and fire, but air cylinders can be heavy and pumps can be physically demanding to operate

P.C.P's exhibit little or no recoil

A P.C.P's on board air cylinder holds enough air for between 40 and 500 shots, depending on model and calibre. To shoot more you will need to recharge the on-board cylinder

Before deciding on a gun, talk to other club members, some of them may be prepared to let you fire a few shots with their rifle to see how you get on. If offered, take the opportunity to try a variety of rifles to see what suits you best.

#### **CHOOSING THE RIGHT AMMUNITION**

- (1) Make sure you have the right calibre of pellet for your rifle. They come in .177 (4.5mm) .20 (5.0mm) .22 (5.5 and 5.6mm) and .25 (6.35mm) and will not interchange.
- (2) Where available, start with pellets made by the same maker as your rifle.
- (3) For all disciplines except match shooting, traditional round head pellets are usually the best ones to start with. Match rifles should use wad cutters (flat heads).
- (3) Be prepared to try other pellets until you find the one best suited for your rifle.

#### **SAFE AND PROPER RIFLE HANDLING**

- (1) When carrying a rifle around the range it should be pointed down at the ground. Where safe to do so breeches, bolts, etc, should be open unless actually shooting. Break barrels should be broken but not cocked.
- (2) When being transported to and from the range, the rifle must be carried unloaded in a secure gun cover. Magazine guns should not have the magazine in the gun, even if empty.  
N.B. It is a criminal offence to have an air gun in a public place, without legitimate reason.

- (3) When shooting the rifle, it should be supported at its fore-end, and at the wrist or pistol grip of the stock. The butt plate should be against the shoulder, and the head should rest against the cheek piece.
- (4) Magazines should only be fitted, or rifles loaded, when you are on the firing line and ready to start shooting.

## **SAFE LOADING**

- (1) Magazines should only be fitted, or rifles loaded, when you are on the firing line and ready to start shooting.
- (2) Under levers and break barrels, must be held continuously by the barrel, or under lever during all loading operations, until they are returned to their normal position for firing.
- (3) The muzzle must be kept pointing down range throughout the loading process.
- (4) Fingers must be kept away from the trigger, until the rifle is on target, and ready to fire.

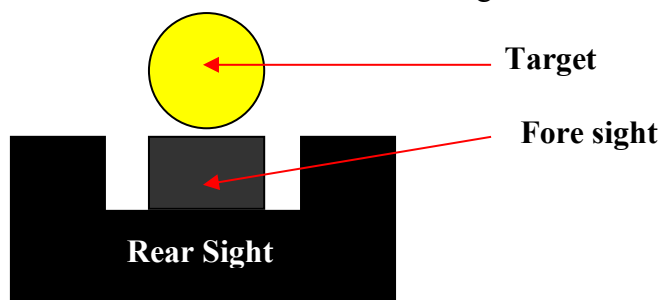
## **SIGHTS AND THE SIGHTING PICTURE**

### **OPEN OR IRON SIGHTS**

Only normally fitted on budget to medium priced spring guns.

—+—  
Included in price  
Tough and lightweight  
Relatively simple to use

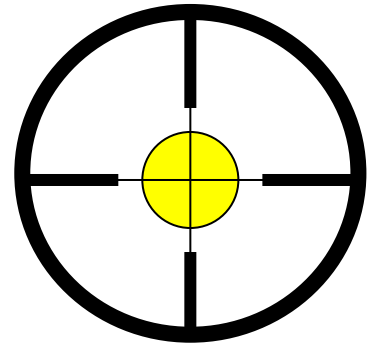
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Not very precise, especially as the range increases  
Difficult to focus on the target, fore and rear sight simultaneously



## TELESCOPIC SIGHT

Usually an extra to the cost of a gun; also allow for the cost of mounts.

+	Magnifies target
	Precise aiming
	Makes better use of available light
	“Parallax adjustable” can assist in range finding
—	Cost
	Weight
	Relatively fragile
	Magnifies wobble



## TRIGGER CONTROL AND MAKING THE SHOT

- (1) Fingers must be kept away from the trigger, until the rifle is on target, and ready to fire.
- (2) Do not adjust a trigger unless you know what you are doing. If in doubt ask your local gunsmith to make the adjustment, an incorrectly adjusted trigger can let go at any time without warning
- (3) Be aware that your rifle may be fitted with an automatic safety catch - you will forget to take this off occasionally just like we all do.
- (4) When on target, hold your breath and squeeze (never pull) the trigger with the pad of your index finger, until it releases the shot.
- (5) The shot should come as a slight surprise, it is very important to keep your head still, with your eye looking through the sight at the target, after you have fired. This is called follow through, and will make the difference between consistency, and scattering shots everywhere.
- (6) Release the trigger and start breathing again.

## ZEROING YOUR RIFLE

- (1) Set up a paper target at 12 yards for a .22, or 17 yards for a .177.
- (2) Fire 3 – 5 shots at the same target.
- (3) If you have a group, adjust the sight to bring the point of impact to the point of aim.
- (4) Continue to shoot groups until the pellets hit the point of aim.
- (5) Move the target back to 30 yards (.22) or 35yards (.177) and repeat the process.

- (6) If you are unable to shoot a group yourself, ask a more experienced club member to sight the rifle for you.

A group is where all your pellets land within a 40mm (1 3/4") circle.  
Once your rifle is zeroed, you are ready to start practising in earnest.

## **CARE OF YOUR RIFLE – AFTER SHOOTING**

### **Ensure the rifle is not loaded**

- (1) Wipe your rifle's metal work with a lightly oiled cloth. 3 in 1, sewing machine or proper gun oils are all satisfactory. Silicone oil is also good and keeps a shine on the woodwork.
- (2) Do not flood the gun with oil or apply oil to the internal workings, except as directed by the manufacturer.
- (3) Avoid aerosols as these may squirt oil into the internal workings.
- (4) Do not use silicone oil to lubricate metal-to-metal contact areas. Use gun oil or specialist grease as directed by the manufacturer.
- (5) Store the rifle and its ammunition to prevent unauthorised access. It is a legal requirement for guns and ammunition to be secured to prevent unauthorised use by persons under 18 years of age.
- (6) Never attempt to strip an air rifle without the proper tools, facilities and knowledge to do so safely.

## THE LAW - A Brief Summary.

### GENERAL

**When used unlawfully, airguns are regarded as firearms and attract the same penalties as illegally used shotguns or live-ammunition arms.**

### PUBLIC PLACES

You may never have an air gun in a public place without proper reason. An airgun must be covered and must be unloaded. An air rifle is **loaded** if there is a pellet, dart or anything else in the gun (whether it is cocked or not) or in the magazine, if it has one. A public place is anywhere where the public are allowed to go even though they may have to pay. Roads, streets, footpaths, canal towpaths, public parks and play areas are all examples of public places.

### AIR GUNS AND YOUNG PERSONS – PERSONS AGED UNDER 18

May not buy an air gun or air gun ammunition of any kind. If you are under 18 years your air rifle and ammunition, must be bought for you by someone over 18; this should generally be your parents, guardian or other responsible adult.

Aged between 14 and 18, you can use an air rifle on private property, where you have a right to be, without supervision. If a pellet goes outside these premises onto someone else's property you have committed an offence.

You may not be in possession of an air gun or ammunition in a public place.

### PERSONS UNDER 14 YEARS

Those restrictions applying to adults and the people in the 14 – 18 age group apply; additionally - **Anyone giving or selling an air gun or ammunition to a person under 14 years commits an offence.** Parents wishing to buy air guns for persons under 14 years to use, must keep control of it at all times. A young person under the age of 14 must be supervised by someone of, or over the age of 21 years, at all times when they have an air gun in their possession, even within their own home.

If a pellet goes outside these premises onto someone else's property both the child and the adult commit an offence.

### DISCLAIMER

This information is given in good faith, however it is the responsibility of the individual to ensure that they and those they are responsible for, know, understand and comply with all aspects of the law relating to possession and use of air guns and their ammunition.