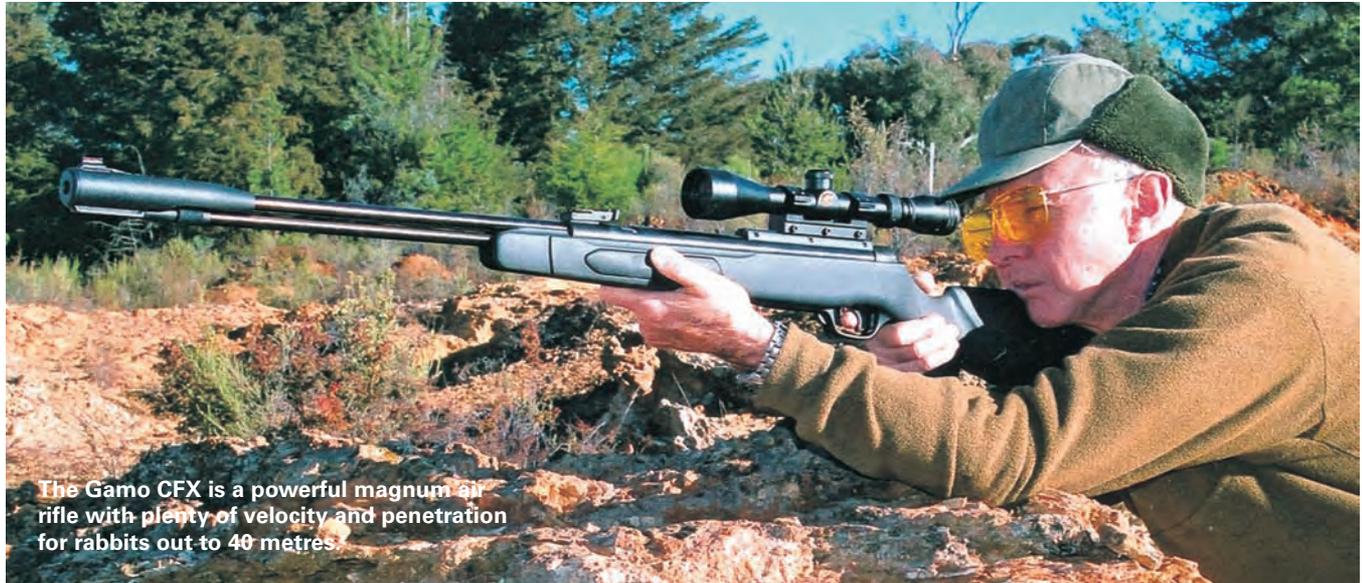


## TEST REPORT

# GAMO'S HARD-HITTING CFX AIR RIFLE



The Gamo CFX is a powerful magnum air rifle with plenty of velocity and penetration for rabbits out to 40 metres.

## AT A GLANCE

**At a glance:**  
Gamo's CFX is a worthy addition to the line, a hard hitting, accurate adult sized rifle well suited to pest control."

THE FIRST THING that draws attention to the Gamo CFX is its rather unique tubular underlever cocking lever, together with a silver-coloured rotating breech plug. The design has been common in spring-piston air rifles since the appearance of the powerful and solidly-built Lincoln-Jeffries design in the early 1900s.

The CFX offers the advantage of a fixed barrel. Controversy has raged for years over the supposed advantages of having a rigid barrel over a barrel-cocking gun. Some airgun experts insist that a fixed-barrel gun is inherently more accurate than a barrel cocker in the same class. They argue that minute discrepancies exist in barrel lock-up from shot to shot in the barrel-cocker which obviously can't exist in a fixed-barrel gun. I'm not going to buy into that argument, but I can tell you that the .177-calibre Gamo CFX on test was capable of fine accuracy with a variety of match and sporting pellets.

With their major focus on sporting air rifles, Gamo has always had an enviable reputation for making high quality, well-priced spring-piston air rifles. The CFX is no exception. It is cocked by means of a stout lever located below the barrel and action that must be pulled downward in order to retract the mainspring/piston assembly. Gamo's underlever has a wedge-shaped locking device which fits the cutaway underside of the muffler 50mm behind the muzzle. To release the lever for cocking, it is only necessary to pull back on a spring-loaded knurled button, pull the

lever down to cock the gun and then return the lever to its resting position. The spring catch re-engages and locks automatically as it is clicked into place. It's a very smooth-working arrangement.

Cocking the CFX doesn't require the kind of Herculean effort that some of the more powerful barrel-cockers do. The underlever at 546mm, is certainly long enough to make cocking quite manageable by the average teenager. After the rifle has been cocked and the lever returned to battery, the safety is engaged, and the breech plug rotated to the left. This reveals a dished surface with a groove which aligns with the chamber. The pellet is dropped into this groove and nudged directly into the barrel with a finger, then the plug is rotated back to the right to close it. The plug cannot be opened until the action is cocked, but it can be opened without the safety being ON.

The CFX is no child's toy; it is a potent magnum air rifle which delivers 1000fps in .177 and 722 fps in .22. By all current standards, the Gamo CFX represents state-of-the-art in the field of magnum spring-piston air rifles. The Gamo carries on the long and distinguished tradition established by the old classic Diana Model 50. The Gamo CFX doesn't suffer by comparison with that gun, which was introduced by Diana over 50 years ago, and was arguably the most elegant underlever air rifle produced since the end of World War II.

The Gamo, however, features modern design and materials. It has an ambidextrous, anti-shock,

composite stock with a cheekpiece on both sides and a ventilated rubber butt pad. The forend is grooved and the pistol grip has raised dots for a secure grasp.

Another thing I noticed about the CFX is that its heft appears to be a bit heavier than 3kgs. Shooting it, however, one quickly realizes that it is well balanced and its size is useful in maintaining a steady hold during the firing sequence in such a powerful magnum model. The gun measures 1160mm overall and has a 510mm precision-rifled steel barrel.

The well-designed safety system is non-automatic and should be manually engaged immediately after cocking. The safety lever is a steel tab handily located inside the trigger guard, and can be pushed off with a flick of the trigger finger prior to taking a shot.

The Gamo CFX has a sturdy, fully-adjustable rear sight, micrometer disc adjustable for windage and elevation. The front sight is also strongly built and a square notch at the rear outlined with two fluorescent green dots, aligns with a red fibreoptic foresight. The sight radius spans 475mm but that doesn't seem to affect accuracy in a negative manner.

This good production magnum air rifle is well-priced at \$370 but is probably a bit more than the potential new airgunner wants to spend just to punch paper targets and plink inanimate objects like tin cans in his backyard. One of the less expensive – and less powerful Gamos – would serve him as well under those conditions. The province of



the CFX is hunting small game and pest birds, maybe even shooting metallic silhouettes.

For regular target shooting a .177 air rifle is the best choice since .177 pellets are more accurate than .22, everything else being equal. It used to be that the latter had an edge when used against live quarry, but the new Gamo Raptor alloy pellets make up for any lack of kinetic energy with their extra penetration which has changed our normal perceptions of calibre effectiveness. It will punch through 25mm thick pine board as easily as a rabbit's head.

**The CFX utilizes a revolving breech plug which is grooved to make inserting a pellet into the barrel easy.**



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LM041

## SPECS

**DESIGNATION:**  
Gamo CFX Fixed-Barrel Air Rifle

**MANUFACTURER:**  
Industrias El Gamo S.A,  
Barcelona, Spain

**POWER:**  
Spring-piston,  
underlever cocking

**CALIBRE:**  
.177, .22

**OVERALL LENGTH:**  
1160mm

**MUZZLE VELOCITY:**  
.177, 1000 fps; .22 722 fps

**COCKING EFFORT:**  
15 kilos (estimated)

**BARREL:**  
510mm with muzzle weight

**WEIGHT:**  
3kgs

**SIGHTS:**  
Fully adjustable open rear,  
fibreoptic bead on ramp front

**TRIGGER:**  
Double-stage pull, let-off  
weight 1.8kgs

**APPROX. RRP:**  
\$370.00

**FOR MORE INFO:**  
Contact Highland Sports.  
Website:  
[www.highlandsports.com.au](http://www.highlandsports.com.au)



**A long underlever reduces the cocking effort, making the CFX manageable by younger shooters.**

The CFX really came into its own when I fitted the Gamo 3-9x40WR scope which comes complete with a mount suspiciously like the Nikko Gold Crown AirKing mount. Mounting is made easy with a dovetailed scope base attached to the grooved cylinder top. Gamo currently lists 23 scopes designed especially for use on spring-piston air rifles. These are rugged enough to take the awkward "double snap" that these high-powered magnum air rifles are capable of dishing out. Standard centrefire riflescopes have been known to fall apart after only a couple of hundred shots when mounted on a magnum air rifle. The Gamo CFX is capable of delivering all of its built-in accuracy only when it is equipped with a good scope.

Shooting the Gamo CFX is pleasant enough. It had no harsh recoil or vibration despite its rugged looks and heavy-duty power plant. The trigger broke cleanly without any roughness or backlash. Gamo lists The CFX in .177 as having a muzzle velocity of 1000 fps, and it chronographed 1053 fps with Raptor pellets weighing 5 grains. The heavier Gamo Rocket pellets weighing 9.5gn clocked an average 693 fps.

Benchrest testing with Raptor pellets produced groups of just under 5mm at 10 metres, the norm when high-quality Gamo pellets are used. Switching over to Rocket pellets slightly opened up the groups with average centre-to-centre 10 metre spreads of around 7mm. At 25 metres, a reasonable distance at which to test a sporting air rifle, the CFX kept all its pellets inside the 25mm square aiming mark. This was with 5-shot groups.

I didn't have time to take the CFX afield, but it should perform admirably out in the bush. Equipped with the Gamo 3-9x40 WR scope it should prove deadly on small game out to 30 or 40 metres in either calibre. All in all, I'd have to give an overall rating of excellent to the Gamo CFX. It merits serious consideration from those looking for a moderately priced underlever, spring-piston air rifle of traditional Gamo quality and design. ■