



Gamo Black Coyote PCP .22

Gamo's Coyote is a sturdy serviceable PCP air rifle for a price that you won't need to take out a second mortgage to buy.



THE modern PCP air rifle is the most versatile shooting instrument there is. It can perform well in a variety of applications, such as competition shooting, firearms training, pest control, small game hunting, plinking and other types of recreational shooting. The relatively low power of the air rifle, coupled with its general availability, makes it a highly attractive proposition to a lot of shooters nowadays.

The airgun industry is growing in several directions at once. This is good for the consumer, because competition is fierce among manufacturers, which results in higher-quality and a greater choice of products at reasonable prices. There is a staggering variety of airgun models and types being produced today. The Spanish company of Gamo in Barcelona, Spain keeps adding new models to their product line-ups with increasing regularity. they're also upgrading existing models to keep pace with the growing demand for quality and power. Gamo offers over a dozen

series listing over forty different models, not including four Special Edition Models. The latest Gamo sent me for review is the Black Coyote - a futuristic-looking



10-shot PCP (Pre-Compressed-Pneumatic) which is much more affordable than comparable German models. It may not be as high-quality nor as fancy to look at, but it gets the job done.

Somewhat surprisingly, it was the British who brought back the concept of the pre-charged pneumatic, developing it to a significant degree for the tremendously popular sport of field target shooting in the U.K. Field shooters wanted an accurate recoilless air rifle capable of attaining muzzle energies just below the 12 foot-pound limit imposed by British law; This was in order to reach out far enough to knock down heavy steel targets. Pre-charged pneumatics fulfilled all these chores, with the added bonus that their power can be boosted easily to relatively high levels in export models, making them ideally suited for hunting.

Gamo has long enjoyed a good reputation for its line of accurate and affordable spring-piston air rifles. Now Gamo has taken the plunge and produced its first precharged pnuematic called the Coyote. The Coyote is short and light, the thumbhole stock is composite with rubberlike inserts on fore-end and grip which substitutes for checkering quite effectively.

Disengage the safety when you are ready to fire the rifle."

The comb is adjustable for height and the buttstock is capped with a thick SWA (Shock Wave Absorber) rubber recoil pad. The fore-end is square in cross-section but offers a secure grasp for offhand shooting.

The air reservoir (compression chamber) is a long tube enclosed in the stock recess below the barrel which stretches forward from the receiver to within 45mm of the rifle's muzzle The front end of the reservoir has an enclosed manometer (pressure gauge). The Gamo Coyote is refilled with compressed air by pulling the end cap from the front of the reservoir. If this air chamber is empty, you first cock the rifle, insert the filling adapator of the hand pump into the filling port and press it home. Then, after making sure the bleed screw on the pump is closed, start pumping. Operation of the pneumatic

system is simple when using

the Gamo hand pump to accumulate and compress air in the tank. When the pump handle is worked up and down, it withdraws a piston, on the up stroke and air enters a cylinder which closely encloses the piston; on the down stroke, the piston forces the trapped air into the rifle's compression chamber through a valve which lets air in but not out.

With each stroke of the pump handle, an equal volume of air is pumped into the air tank and compressed. Using the gauge fitted to the charging unit, slowly fill the air reservoir to the recommended charge pressure, then close the air tank valve, or cease pumping. Pull the filling adaptor from the filling port and replace the end cap. Quickly open the bleed valve on the pumping unit to allow any pressurized air in the hose to escape. As air pressure within the reservoir builds up, it registers on the gauge. The Gamo PCP has a maximum fill pressure of 232 Bar (3,365 psi) which must not be exceeded. Doing so will reduce the power and may cause damage to the rifle.

The basically simple PCP mechanism is complicated by the need for a sealed breeching system which must be opened for loading, and by a firing system which opens a self

regulated valve. This valve is locked in a tightly closed position by high internal pressure. Early PCPs utilized a knock-open valve that did a fine job, but I believe the Gamo Covote incorporates a new, completely redesigned valve system capable of producing not only more shots per charge, but better shot-to-shot consistency as well. When the bolt is cycled to feed a pellet into the barrel and the trigger is pulled to fire the gun, a valve opens at the rear end of the cylindrical compression chamber and the regulator device releases a precise amount of air into the barrel for each shot. This has two major advantages: first it ensures very consistent shot-to-shot variation: second its efficient use of air contained in the

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L Coyote's receiver is short and has a full length integral dovetail base for 11mm scope rings. Magazine is inserted and removed from the left side.

2 The bolt handle is easy to cycle and the rifle is a 10-shot repeater.

3 The safety catch is located inside the trigger guard ahead of the CAT trigger and is operated manually.

4 The eye sits right behind the ocular, thanks to intelligent linear stck design.









Gamo Coyote Black

Manufacturer: Gamo, Barcelona, Spain

Type: Pre-Charged-Pneumatic with multi-shot mechanism

Calibre: .177 and .22

Bolt: cock-on-opening, ambidextrous

Number of shots per fill: 60 to 80 in .22 calibre

Barrel: BSA hammer-forged; length; 470mm; no sights

Trigger: New version of the Gamo SAT (smooth Action Trigger) Weight of pull 977 grams

Overall length: 960mm

Stock: black polymer thumbhole; ambidextrous; comb adjustable for height

Length of pull: 382mm

Weight: 3kg

Price: Around \$950.00

Distributor: Outdoor Sporting Agencies. Web: www. osaaustralia.com.au reservoir allows a higher number of shots before the rifle needs to be refilled. The Gamo Coyote is cocked on opening by pulling the bolt back against heavy spring pressure.

The rotary 10-shot magazine has a rotor housed in its base retained by a cover plate and screw and advances automatically whenever the bolt is worked. The rotor is spring-loaded and its movement is confined by a stop. Gamo warns against turning the rotor and releasing it against spring pressure as it may damage the stop.

To load the rifle, apply the safety catch, lift the bolt handle, pull it back as far as it will go, and remove the magazine. Holding the magazine between finger and thumb with the cover plate screw uppermost, push the pellet, nose first into the magazine chamber and press down until the pellet skirt is under the cover plate. Rotate the magazine rotor anticlockwise until the next empty chamber shows up. Hold the rotor in this posiiton until all chambers have been loaded. As the magazine is slid back into the rifle, it is

pulled into alignment by a magnet housed in the cylinder assembly. When it is fully home close the bolt. Disengage the safety when you are ready to fire the rifle.

Each time the rifle is fired, the magazine will automatically index to the next chamber when the rifle is re-cocked. Gamo warns against re-cocking the rifle more than once without firing as this will load more than one pellet into the barrel, potentially causing a blocked barrel and possible damage to the rifle.

This shouldn't happen unless you are careless, because the magazine rotor is numbered to indicate how many pellets are left in the magazine. The number will remain the same after the pellet has been fired, and will change only after the rifle is re- cocked. When the tenth pellet is indexed into position, the number 1 will become visible. Once the rifle has been fired, the magazine is ready to be refilled.

One advantage of the PCP repeater seldom gets a mention. In most airguns it is important to press the pellet into the barrel so that it is squarely and firmly seated in the rifling. The pellet in the rotary magazine being almost perfectly aligned with the rifling does away with sloppy loading that often results in the skirt of the pellet becoming dented or crooked as the bolt is closed. And that plays hell with accuracy.

Another advantage of this Gamo PCP is that it is recoilless. Some spring-piston air rifles are not easily adaptable for scope use and require mounts with some kind of recoil anchor to prevent the scope shifting rearward under recoil. They also require a special rugged air gun scope. The Gamo has a full length integral dovetail base which accepts standard 11m rings and lacking any recoil a special airgun scope is not needed. OSA sent me a Nikko Stirling Panamax 4-12x50mm scope together with a Nikko Stirling match mount set which served my purpose admirably. The Gamo Coyote has a

new two-stage custom trigger, an upgrade of the Gamo CAT (Smooth Action Trigger) that's adjustable for length of travel and weight of pull using two screws accessible through a hole in the trigger guard. Pull weight is varied by the second screw, and should not be reduced below 1.36kg or the rifle may fire if dropped. The safety catch is housed inside the trigger guard and is manually operated.

If you ready the rifle for firing and don't take the shot, you may want to decock it instead of relying upon the safety catch. To do this, release the safety catch, pull back the bolt and while holding it, pull the trigger and slowly allow the bolt to move forward until it is back in the rest position. The principal advantage of

The principal advantage of PCP is fast and effortless operation. The speed and ease of shooting the 10-shot Coyote means it can be fired more

... 25m printing five shot groups that averaged just .75-inch."

freely than other type of air rifles because unlike Co2powered guns, air is free for the pumping. The PCPs are very useful for cheap target practice.

The Coyote is offered in a choice of .177 or .22 calibre and number of shots per cylinder in the .22 calibre Gamo under review ranges from 60 to 80.

| PERFORMANCE GAMO COYOTE .22 CALIBRE | | | | |
|--|-----------------|-------------------|-------------------|------------------------------------|
| Pellet (Make) | Weight (gns) | Velocity (fps) | Energy (ft/lb) | Average Accuracy (inches @ 25m) |
| RWS Hobby | 12.2 | 876 | 20.79 | .90 |
| Silver Bear | 12.6 | 846 | 20.02 | .84 |
| Gamo Rocket | 14.2 | 762 | 18.31 | 1.00 |
| Gamo Pro Magnum | 15.3 | 675 | 15.48 | .75 |
| H&H Terminator | 16.36 | 587 | 12.52 | 1.10 |
| Gamo TS-18 | 18.0 | 580 | 13.44 | .96 |
| Velocity and energy figures are the average of ten shots Accuracy measured as the average of ten 5-shot groups at 25 metres. | | | | |

The review rifle has a 470mm hammer-forged barrel, crowned for optimum accuracy and fitted with a 28mm compensator with four large holes. the barrel is made by B.S.A and no doubt contributes its fair share to the near-match accuracy that this economical PCP delivers.

Airgun calibres: this is another area where mistakes can be made when selecting an air rifle. As in the case of magnum airguns, some shooters adhere to the "more power is better" syndrome and buy something that is not well suited to most of their airgunning activities. The .177 calibre should always be the first choice if the airgun is going to be used primarily for target shooting and plinking. As a general rule .177 calibre airguns are more accurate than the .22 calibre models of similar quality and power due to the flatter trajectory of the smaller pellet. However, for small-game hunting the larger .22 calibre has a telling advantage due to its superior kinetic energy.

With the reservoir fully charged, the test gun delivered forty to fifty shots. However, due to its larger (and thus more efficient) bore size, the Coyote's ballistic performance was superior by 3 to 4 ft/lbs. Standard weight .22 pellets in the 14 to 15gn range produced velocities nudging 750 fps with energy levels averaging 18.74 to 21 ft/lbs for the first 20 shots. The highest muzzle energy was obtained with 12.2gn RWS Hobby pellets averaging 16.74 ft/lb for the first 20 shots.

The Gamo Coyote proved to be extremely ammo tolerant, grouping well with five different pellets. In fact, so much so that determining a real standout was difficult. At 10m the 15.3gn Gamo Pro Magnum held a slight edge over several other .22 pellets, averaging .25-inch centre-tocentre for five shots. The pellet also performed well out to 25m printing five shot groups that averaged just .75-inch.

Dominating the long range accuracy race were the Barcuda Hunter and Gamo TS-18. Despite a slight breeze springing up every now and then, most brands would routinely group just under or over one inch at at 25m. Again there were a couple of standouts, although I recommend Gamo Rocket and Gamo Pro Magnum as the prime choices for most field sport applications.

In conclusion: the Gamo Coyote PCP is a solid, reliable performer. Truly an imposing example of PCP technology and the realities of the airgun market dictate that its reasonable price will hold lots of appeal to shooters who are not willing to pay serious money for a German sportingclass air rifle no matter how well made.

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5The Gamo Black Coyote was tested for velocity and accuracy with with six different .22 calibre pellets.

6 Using a foot pump and is good for over 30 shots in .22 before it needs recharging.