

## FOLLOW-UP TEST

Presenting the RAW HM1000 X Chassis.  
It's a genuine performance machine  
- however you dress it up.



# CLASSY CHASSIS

The Editor revisits the Rapid Air Weapons HM1000 X – in a perfectly practical way

The very best follow-up tests teach me something new about their subject, rather than merely confirming what I learned in my initial encounter. This is one such test, and all the better for it. That said, it was pretty much nailed on that I'd be getting a different view of the RAW HM1000 X, because I was going to swap its adjustable laminate stock for an even more adjustable, tactical version, which gave the rifle an entirely different look and feel.

Before any looking and feeling could take place, though, the job of swapping the stocks had to be completed, and I was immediately wary about this, mainly because Stuart Grant, the Sales Director of Elite Optical, the rifle's UK importer, assured me, 'it can be done in a couple of minutes, and you only need a hex wrench.' Hmmm ... we'll see about that.

### STOCK OFF - STOCK ON

As it turned out, Stuart was entirely correct, but before I could use that hex wrench to withdraw the HM1000's stock-fixing bolt, I was required to remove the rifle's carbon-fibre air bottle, and this brought back uneasy memories. You see, the first generation of Theoben Rapid 7s, upon which the RAW HM1000 X is based, were

charged with air after their buddy bottles were removed, and I always disliked doing this.

### LOSING THE BOTTLE

First, it was a faff, because the buddy bottle had to be unscrewed a few turns, then the rifle had to be repeatedly discharged to vent the air trapped between the main firing valve and the bottle union. If I didn't unscrew it enough, the

Swap done, and it took under three minutes, with no dramas.



Chassis stock fitted, adjusted to my peculiarities, and helping the rifle and its user to achieve fine things.

rifle just kept on discharging air, and if I wound it out too much, the bottle came right off its seal with a disconcerting 'pop!' Let's say, I was not overjoyed when going through these motions, and Ben Taylor, the 'Ben' of 'Theoben' would mock me for my obvious discomfort. Let's also say that I was absolutely overjoyed when Theoben had the good sense to incorporate a quick-fill connector.

Thus, my former lack of joy returned when I had to remove the RAW's 480cc bottle. Joy of joys, a couple of turns of the bottle, followed by three 'dry' shots, and the rifle's discharge note was reduced to a welcome splutter, signifying that the bottle was ready for removal. No 'pop', no girly trepidation, just a simple, assured process. Marvellous.

### FITTING THE CHASSIS

With the bottle off, it was a swift matter of just unbolting the HM's laminated woodwork, swapping it for the tactical Chassis, and refitting the buddy bottle. The entire process took just over three minutes, and because the scope didn't have to be removed, the rifle remained in perfect zero, or at least it did until I shifted the scope forward a few millimetres to adjust my eye-relief to the Chassis stock's new geometry. Truth to tell, I could have left that scope where it was, and most shooters would do exactly that, but rifles of this standard are no-compromise deals, and I needed to get my stock fit absolutely right.



## TECH SPEC

**Model:** HM1000 X

**Manufacturer:** Rapid Air Weapons

**Country of origin:** U.S.

**Price:** Chassis model £1949. Laminate stock £2149

**Type:** Pre-charged pneumatic, fully-regulated, sidelever, multi-shot sporter

**Calibre:** .177, .22, .25, .30, .357

**Cocking/loading:** Sidelever via removable rotary multishot magazine

**Trigger:** Two-stage, adjustable match-grade unit, backed by a manual, resettable safety

**Stock type:** Synthetic tactical design with height-adjustable cheek piece and length-adjustable butt section

**Weight:** 7.4 lbs (rifle only as shown)

**Length:** 39 ins including silencer shown

**Barrel:** Lothar Walther match grade, 17ins (432mm)

**Shots per charge:** Varies according to calibre and set-up. Test rifle produces over 400 shots at 11-plus ft.lbs. from a 230 bar (3,300 psi) charge

**Average muzzle energy:** 11.5 ft.lbs.

**Contact:** Elite Optical [www.eliteoptical.co.uk](http://www.eliteoptical.co.uk)

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For more information go to [www.rapidairweapons.com](http://www.rapidairweapons.com)

**RRP £1949**



Butt section with adjusters fully retracted ...

### WHERE THERE'S A WHEEL ....

The RAW Chassis stock has the facility to adjust the height of the cheek piece and the pull-length, with the latter being a particularly pleasing push-button system. The up-down adjustment of the cheek piece involves turning a ridged thumbwheel on the right-hand side of the butt, which provides a full inch (25mm, or near offer) of shift before the threaded support comes off the thumbwheel altogether ... and in my case falls into the undergrowth, requiring a 10-minute search to find it. Be aware that there's no 'keeper' on that cheek piece

**I'd love to see a palm shelf option in place of this cover. Over to you, RAW.**



... and fully extended. Don't lose that adjustment wheel!

support, and although the fitments on this Chassis stock are made by AB Arms in the US, perhaps the clever folk at RAW could think up a simple fix to stop 'technically challenged' shooters like me losing that adjustment wheel. I have another suggestion, too. Go me and my searing innovations.

### GET A GRIP

The dropdown grip fitted to the RAW Chassis seems small, although some of that could be down to the size of my hands. However, I'd like to suggest something that I know would improve the handling of the entire rifle in its Chassis mode. The base of that grip has a sliding cover to provide access to the grip's fixing bolt, which is handy, but if that cover was turned into a palm shelf, I know it would reduce muscle tension in the shooter's hand, and significantly improve trigger function. There's even a hole in the cover to accommodate a grubscrew if an extra fixing point is required. The palm shelf wouldn't need to be an elaborate construction, just a something that provides a resting place for the trigger hand. I'd definitely have one made if I were a RAW HM1000 X Chassis owner.

### VERDICT

Having now used this rifle for a solid two months, I'm confident I know what it is and what it can do. The HM1000 X is, as I

declared in my first test of it, a full-on performance machine. Its downrange accuracy is truly impressive, and just as importantly, easy to access, whichever stock you go for. Personally, I prefer the laminate but most of those who tried this rifle disagreed with me, and I can understand that.

For the record, I tried loading the rifle manually, and I eventually mastered 'flipping' the pellets into the breech via the dished access area, but the RAW magazine is so easy to use and it holds 17 pellets in .177, so I stuck with that, mostly.

Finally, it's great to see these rifles back on our side of the pond and I really look forward to testing more from RAW, via Air Force and Elite Optical. If the HM1000 X is anything to go by, and I'm pretty sure it is, there are exciting times ahead for UK airgunners who demand peak performance. ■

