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On Test - BSA Superstar

[Backgardenplinker](#) · [Aug 21, 2024](#)

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Backgardenplinker

Super member

Joined: Aug 6, 2023

Messages: 6,752

Reaction score:
27,101

Location:

Midsomer Norton

Aug 21, 2024



#1

Afternoon AGF. This thread is a collection of tests and I suppose a review of sorts but mainly it's me putting a rifle through its paces.

A little extra information. Recently [@Danthepainter](#) contacted me about doing some testing of his rifles for him. How could I turn down such an offer? Thanks again mate



So the rifle. Here it is.

The BSA Superstar, a full size underlever with an interesting rotating breach. This one is in .22 caliber.











I'll have to admit Its an air gun I know little about so I won't pretend I do. A little digging on the serial number. RH prefix puts its as a 22 from 1990-2004. I'm guessing it's an earlier rather than later model.



It comes with iron sights of good quality, fully adjustable for elevation and windage. It's a large rifle but doesn't feel as heavy as say a HW77 to me. The stock is attractive and feels a good shape to hold, the monte carlo cheek piece and slightly raised comb suggests it is designed for scope use too. A raised rail with arrestor holes is parked atop the cylinder for mounting of optics. On the right side of the cylinder is the bsa manual safety that can be set to S/F as you wish.

Onto using the rifle. Dan informs me this is not running standard internals. A Welsh willy kit has been fitted and an Aussie seal on the piston.

(An important note) - the rotating breach must not be opened unless the rifle has been cocked. It damages the seals as I understand so the process is pressing the button on end of underlever to release. Pull through the stroke, return the lever then slide the breach open to load the pellet. Once pellet is seated, rotate the breach to close. The cocking stroke feels quite long but by no means hard going. Pretty smooth and low effort



I found the breach a bit strange to load to begin with. But it's a clever design. When you think about it as you don't have to hold the lever when loading as it's already been clipped back up. Does have a few advantages over sliding breaches. I'm thinking no chance of Injury or a noisy bear trap.

Shooting.

I did a few test shots and it certainly shoots well. Hard to go into too much detail here as it's barely had many shots through since the internals have been rebuilt. Recoil feels good, no twang or anything like that. Once I've shot a bit more lead through it I'll get onto some chrono strings.

First up today (as I was eager to try it out) I wanted to put a few shots on paper. Setting up the iron sights. Those will get a very good test before some scoped use at a later date.

I will do a little pellet testing as well but my hunch based on a slightly older supersport is that RWS superdomes work well. I set up a few targets at 15 meters and shot 2 groups once point of impact was getting on bull. Still some adjustments to be made to the open sights but here's my first results. Shows promise I'd say.



oddbob22

Proactive member

Joined: Oct 6, 2022

Messages: 268

Reaction score: 283

Location:

Middleton St.
George



oddbob22 said:

Loved mine when I had it and wished I'd never sold it.

The scope rail was designed to dampen the shock to the scope due to recoil back when most scopes had wire reticles. It was also a 14mm, not the standard 13 or 11mm.

The rumours, back then, were that Theoben were going to do a collaboration with BSA and produce a gas-ram version. There was also a magazine fed stablemate called the Goldstar.

Thanks for your insightful reply 😊👍

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👍 [brouwpa and oddbob22](#)



Backgardenplinker

Super member

[Thread starter](#)

Joined: Aug 6, 2023

Messages: 6,752

Reaction score:

27,101

Location:

Midsomer Norton



Stingray003

Proactive member

Joined: Jun 1, 2024

Messages: 283

Reaction score: 613

Location: Yorkshire.

Aug 21, 2024



#4

Great review, I have a .22 Superstar from 30 years ago with the original internals, and it's still gets used occasionally.
ST.

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👍 [Star7, Delbert, Danthepainter and 2 others](#)



brouwpa

Aug 21, 2024



#5

I have a Superstar and a Goldstar love them both, definitely keepers until I can no longer cock them!!

Super member

Joined: Jul 7, 2022

Messages: 663

Reaction score: 1,124

Location: Stratford upon Avon



Backgardenplinker

Super member

Thread starter

Joined: Aug 6, 2023

Messages: 6,752

Reaction score: 27,101

Location: Midsomer Norton



KT83

Super member

Joined: Sep 13, 2022

Messages: 1,781

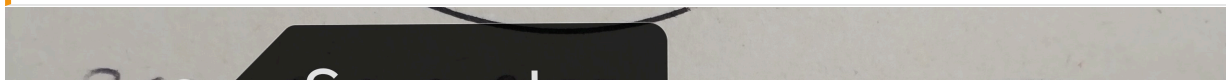
Reaction score: 3,440

Location: Kent



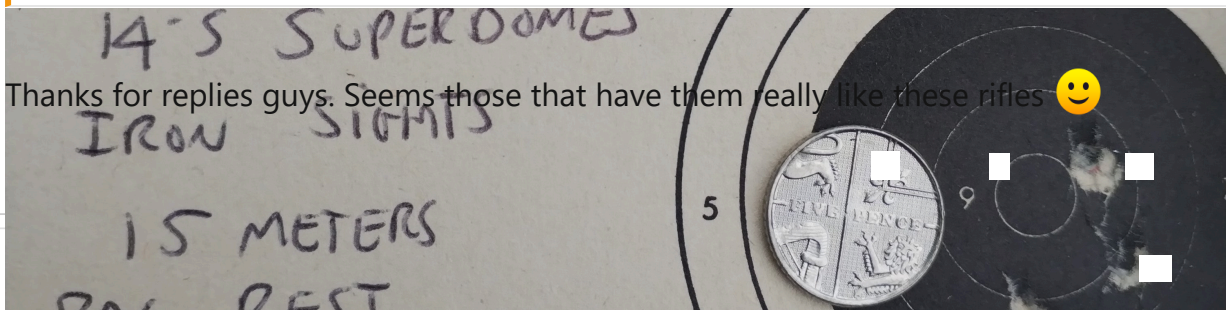
Salmo trutta said:

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ST.



brouwpa said:

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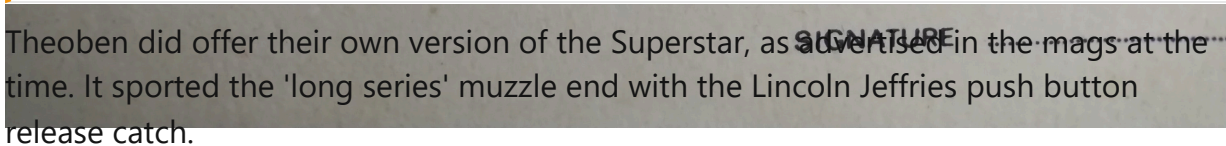


oddbob22 said:

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The rumours, back then, were that Theoben were going to do a collaboration with BSA and produce a gas-ram version. There was also a magazine fed stablemate called the Goldstar.



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Thanks for reading, I will be updating this thread quite often as the test continues

Aug 21, 2024

#8

Beautiful rifle!

L

Lemimarshall

Active member

Joined: Jun 23, 2024

Messages: 104

Reaction score: 145
Location:
Cambridgeshire



oddbob22

Proactive member
Joined: Oct 6, 2022
Messages: 268
Reaction score: 283
Location:
Middleton St.
George

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👍 Backgardenplinker

Aug 21, 2024 🔗 #9

KT83 said:

Theoben did offer their own version of the Superstar, as advertised in the mags at the time. It sported the 'long series' muzzle end with the Lincoln Jeffries push button release catch.

I thought I remembered seeing such an advert, bet they're rarer than a true word from a politician.

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👍 mattw975, aaron d, KT83 and 2 others



Beaver

Member
Extraordinaire
Joined: Jul 6, 2022
Messages: 8,490
Reaction score:
17,573
Location: Telford

Aug 21, 2024 🔗 #10

Nice 👍

Telford

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👍 Backgardenplinker



Backgardenplinker

Super member
Thread starter
Joined: Aug 6, 2023
Messages: 6,752
Reaction score:
27,101
Location:
Midsomer Norton

Aug 21, 2024 🔗 #11

Looking forward to the next bit of testing. Shame the nights are drawing in!

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👍 Danthepainter



Deejayuu

Aug 21, 2024 🔗 #12

Adjustable transfer port on some too. Nice rifles. The Goldstar repeater version is a must for those that like multi shot.
Had one in each common calibre but need to get real so they've gone.

Deejayuu

Super member

BANNED

Joined: Jul 7, 2022

Messages: 1,899

Reaction score: 2,050

Location: North Wales

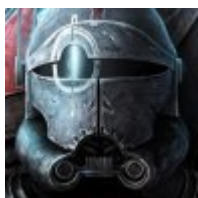
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👍 [Danthepainter and Backgardenplinker](#)



Rogue8

Busy member

Joined: Aug 2, 2022

Messages: 152

Reaction score: 128

Location: Nottingham

Aug 21, 2024



#13

Great Rifle and review 👍👏

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👍 [Danthepainter and Backgardenplinker](#)



Kevgsi

Proactive member

Joined: Jul 17, 2022

Messages: 274

Reaction score: 356

Location: Reading

Aug 21, 2024



#14

I'm not sure if this is 100% true but I'm sure I once got told the superstar started as .25 in fac. I've got a .22 that has been a proper workhorse, stock is a bit rough and the metal work has a few marks but no rust. I fitted new internals a few years ago and it's super accurate, I had it at Pete's a few years ago and everyone thought it was one of those bloody German ones it performed so well, I won't ever let mine go because when the air runs out the spring will still be there 👍👍

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👍 [slim63, Radlad, artygf and 2 others](#)



Backgardenplinker

Super member

[Thread starter](#)

Joined: Aug 6, 2023

Messages: 6,752

Reaction score: 27,101

Location: Midsomer Norton

Aug 22, 2024



#15

Kevgsi said:

I'm not sure if this is 100% true but I'm sure I once got told the superstar started as .25 in fac. I've got a .22 that has been a proper workhorse, stock is a bit rough and the metal work has a few marks but no rust. I fitted new internals a few years ago and it's super accurate, I had it at Pete's a few years ago and everyone thought it was one of those bloody German ones it performed so well, I won't ever let mine go because when the air runs out the spring will still be there 👍👍

Maybe someone knows about the .25 cal FAC part. I wouldnt have a clue there.

Out of interest can I ask what pellets your using in your 22 Superstar please?

Cheers 👍

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Kevsgsi

Proactive member

Joined: Jul 17, 2022

Messages: 274

Reaction score: 356

Location: Reading

Aug 22, 2024



#16

I've only ever used superdomes in it

Report

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👍 Backgardenplinker



Stingray003

Proactive member

Joined: Jun 1, 2024

Messages: 283

Reaction score: 613

Location: Yorkshire.

Aug 22, 2024



#17

Me too.

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👍 Backgardenplinker



Backgardenplinker

Super member

Thread starter

Joined: Aug 6, 2023

Messages: 6,752

Reaction score:

27,101

Location:

Midsomer Norton

Aug 22, 2024



#18

Kevsgsi said:

I've only ever used superdomes in it

Salmo trutta said:

Me too.

Good to hear, trying different pellets might be a forgone conclusion then 👍

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brouwpa

Super member

Joined: Jul 7, 2022

Messages: 663

Reaction score:

1,124

Location:

Stratford upon Avon

Aug 22, 2024



#19

Mine is the old .22 (5.6), so it quite likes the Marksman proper 5.6 and of course the (expensive on ebay) Eley ones. I have just bought some 5.55 H&N but haven't tested them yet.

Report

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👍 Robbo, Danthepainter and Backgardenplinker



frenchy3

Super member

Joined: Jul 7, 2022

Messages: 493

Reaction score: 814

Location:

Snetterton Norfolk

Aug 22, 2024



#20

oddbob22 said:

Loved mine when I had it and wished I'd never sold it.

The scope rail was designed to dampen the shock to the scope due to recoil back when most scopes had wire reticles. It was also a 14mm, not the standard 13 or 11mm.

The rumours, back then, were that Theoben were going to do a collaboration with BSA and produce a gas-ram version. There was also a magazine fed stablemate called the Goldstar.

I fitted a Theoben gas ram in my Superstar. Long since sold and the rams have not been made for years. The advert stated " do not fit a .177 ram in a .22 rifle as it may make the rifle shoot over 12 ft LD. It was a lovely rifle.

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👍 oddbob22 and Backgardenplinker

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