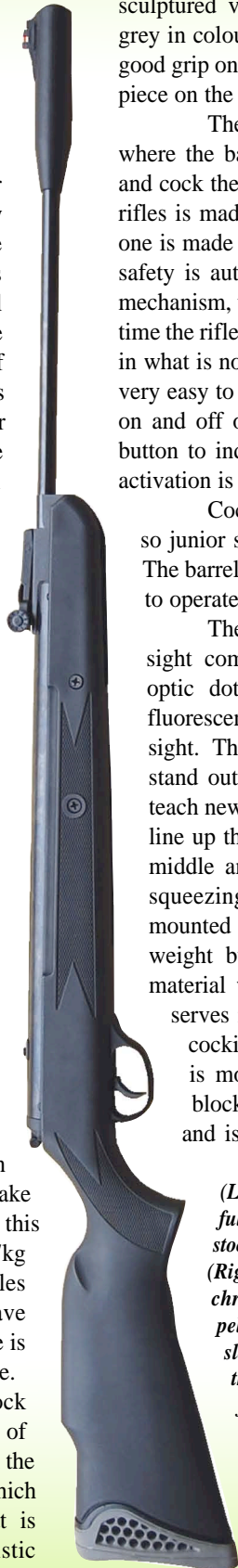


# Hatsan Model 125 .177 Air Rifle

In the past air rifles were often small enough that some considered them in the toy status and of little more use than to entertain the kids. Believe me that has changed and the modern air rifles of today are definitely not toys, and can be considered serious firearms for practice and casual competition. The practice area is where I see some of today's modern air rifles playing a role especially for those who don't get a chance to shoot in the field as much as they would like. If my performance is anything to go by I get rusty fairly quickly and I do a lot of shooting all year round. I actually make it a thing I do now before I start a test to have a few shots practice with any rifle I am testing so as to try and eliminate any mistakes I may make due to lack of practice.

If having a man sized air rifle is a major priority for a fun/practice rifle then the Hatsan 125 received for review will definitely fill the bill. This model is a large rifle by any standards coming in at 1.25 metres (49.25") long with a 380mm (15") length of pull. It is supplied with an extra 3 x 5mm spacers to make the pull even longer, so this rifle's handling, with its 3.7kg (8lb 2oz) weight, resembles larger hunting rifles I have handled. The only difference is it is a little trimmer in stature.

The synthetic stock has two generous panels of moulded checkering on both the pistol grip and forend which afford good grip. The butt is finished with a futuristic



sculptured ventilated recoil pad which is light grey in colour and has a rubber feel which gives good grip on your shoulder. There is a slim cheek piece on the left side and a monte carlo combe.

The action is of a traditional break type where the barrel serves as the lever to activate and cock the piston. The control arm on most air rifles is made from a piece of folded sheet, this one is made from a solid bar 8mm x 11mm. The safety is automatically engaged by the cocking mechanism, which means it has to be put off each time the rifle is fired. It is at the back of the piston in what is normally called the tang position so is very easy to operate, and has only two positions, on and off or fire. There is red in front of the button to indicate the rifle is ready to fire. The activation is forward for safe and back for fire.

Cocking requires very substantial effort so junior shooters will definitely require help. The barrel locking mechanism is also very stiff to operate although it is improving with use.

The sights are the traditional "V" back sight complete with fluorescent green fibre optic dots either side of the "V" with a fluorescent red fibre optic dot blade front sight. These high visibility sights certainly stand out in bad light and make it easier to teach new shooters, as all that is required is to line up the three dots with the red one in the middle and hold steady on the target while squeezing the trigger. The front sight is mounted in what appears to be a muzzle weight but it is constructed of a synthetic material which is fairly light in weight and serves more as a gripping area for cocking the action. The rear sight is mounted on top of the hinge block at the back of the barrel and is called a "micro adjustable

rear sight" in the operators hand book. It is adjustable for windage and elevation via numbered wheel adjusters. The sights are fairly fragile and the front blade is dovetailed into the synthetic muzzle grip and can be moved with very little effort. I bumped it when removing it from the safe and it moved about 2mm, it was easily corrected with my fingers. The rear sight also seems to be easy to move around as it is spring loaded so care needs to be taken when handling the rifle when not in use.

The trigger is a single stage type and is adjustable for more or less travel (read creep) prior to let off. The adjustment is achieved with a phillips head screw immediately in front of the trigger where turning the screw clockwise decreases trigger travel and counter clockwise increases trigger travel. This adjustment is explained in the owners manual. I did adjust the trigger to achieve a crisper let off.

## SHOOTING THE HATSAN

There was one surprise with the first couple of shots, and that is the amount of recoil (movement) created by the piston. After cocking the rifle a few times you can understand why it moves quite a bit when fired as it requires substantial effort to cock the action. There is a much wider array of pellets available now with two new types of pellets from Gamo - the first being the "Rocket" a fairly traditional waisted lead

*(Left) The Hatsan model 125 is a full sized air rifle with synthetic stock and open sights.*

*(Right) Hatsan target. We chronographed all the different pellets. The Gamo TS 10 was the slowest and also the heaviest, and the Raptor the lightest and the fastest by far. The speed achieved by each pellet is directly related to their weight. The RWS pellets lived up to their reputation and gave the smallest group.*





(Above) The trigger assembly of the Hatsan 125. (Right) The automatic safety activation bar which goes all the way from the safety at the rear of the cylinder to the front of the trigger assembly where it is activated by the cocking bar as the rifle is fully cocked. Note that all parts are steel. (Left) The other side of the trigger of the Hatsan.



pellet with the addition of a copper nose cap. The next and most expensive entry is the Gamo "Raptor" Power pellets which are lead free and made from "Performance Ballistic Alloy" (PBA). They are lighter and it is claimed they give 25% "more punch". According to the back of the pack, their "True gold 18 karat gold plating eliminates barrel corrosion and enhances

accuracy shot after shot". They are a fairly traditional waisted shape but are gold in colour.

After the usual sight and break in period and a bit of practice with the Hatsan 125, I fired 5 x 5-shot groups with four lots of traditional lead pellets and the Gamo Raptor. The RWS pellets gave the best performance, with Gamo Match coming in second, the Raptor were not as good, but I did notice a slight variation in pellet diameter. Because the Gamo Raptor is harder, and the Hatsan seems to have a tight

(Above) Break down of the Hatsan 125 - some things to note are the stock extensions, the sculptured ventilated butt pad, also the very long cylinder and piston assembly. The action is held in the stock with 5 retaining screws 2 each side at the front of the stock and a more conventional screw at the back of the trigger guard, all screws are phillips headed. The front of the trigger guard is held in place with a screw that goes into the stock.

loading port, these pellets were tighter to seat in the Hatsan.

The velocities were interesting as the Gamo Raptors claim to give 25% more punch. I thought it proper I chronograph all the different pellets and the results are on Table 1.

(Below) The robust hinge assembly and the solid cocking bar which runs under the cylinder. Also 2 of the 4 stock mounting points.



#### SPECIFICATIONS

##### Hatsan Model 125

**Maker:** Hatsan, Turkey  
**Action:** Break barrel, single cocking system  
**Calibre:** .177 (4.5mm)  
**Overall Length:** 1255mm (49.4")  
**Barrel Length:** 510mm (20")  
**Weight:** 3.65kg (8lbs)  
**Stock:** Synthetic with montecarlo cheekpiece and Triopad butt system.  
**Metal Finish:** Blue  
**Sights:** Front and rear with Truglo fibre optics  
**Safety:** Two position, automatic  
**Distributor:** Highland Sports  
[www.highlandsports.com.au](http://www.highlandsports.com.au)  
**Warranty:** 12 months  
**Price:** \$295



*(Far left) The Hatsan butt stock with the 3 x 5 mm thick stock extensions and the extra long screws for adjusting length of pull. The Triopad butt system is designed for maximum recoil absorption.*

*(Left) The rear sight has adjuster wheels and optical fibre that supplies the green dots either side of the "U" notch. Note the inscription on the front of the air chamber.*

*(Below) The synthetic muzzle weight and sight assembly note the red fibre optic blade front sight.*



**Table 1: Pellet Velocities Chronographed in Hatsan 125**

Pellet	Weight	Average Velocity	High Velocity	Low Velocity
Gamo Pro Match	7.3gr.	1140fps	1143fps	1139fps
Gamo TS10	10.3gr	966fps	987fps	946fps
Gamo Raptor Gold	5gr	1357fps	1378fps	1341fps
Gamo Match	7.3gr	1161fps	1168fps	1157fps
RWS Troisdorf	8.3gr	1098fps	1107fps	1087fps
Gamo Rocket	9.5gr	971fps	998fps	949fps

In conclusion the Hatsan 125 performed quite well and certainly gives that full sized rifle feel complete with recoil (movement) to simulate a centrefire when the trigger breaks. It is definitely getting easier to cock with work, though I'm not sure whether its getting easier or I'm getting stronger! The automatic safety is a little frustrating, but is a good idea on a training type rifle.

Because of its stature and weight it will work as a viable plinking and practice rifle.

