

Howa STREETWISE Review

This review is done by individuals off the street that have purchased Howa rifles, and this is what they had to say:

By Rudi De Jongh



HOWA M1500 HOGUE

Let me start by saying we all have heard the stories of the ultimate rifle or the ultimate scope or the impossible shot that was made with it, this is sometimes very interesting and very intriguing. Usually after some investigation you will find that the rifle or the scope that was used is truly top of the range equipment that is far beyond the average budget of the regular hunter. This is what I want to discuss today.

I truly want to tell you of one of the most rewarding experience I have had. I would like to start by giving you some back ground of myself; I was and always will be a gun fanatic and a very active collector of rifles and other firearms. I was part of the South African Collector Association and am part of the South African hunter and conservation association. During this time I have won the shot of the year award at my club in 2006 and 2007 and was runner up in 2008 before injuring my left shoulder. I was part of the Presidential shoot and did well. Most of my free time I spend working on my rifles and those of friends and help out at a gun shop, I am also registered as a firearm trader, and I am also a qualified reloader. I own many makes of rifles Sauer, Sako, CZ, Brno, Ruger, Musgrave. Most of these rifles I use for hunting and sport shooting (includes bench rest). I needed well-priced rifles for multi purposes.

- My 10-year-old son must be able to shoot with it.
- The calibre should be able to kill antelope size up to Blackbuck size.
- It will also be silenced as it will be used for culling.
- It must be very accurate and dependable.
- Must be affordable and user friendly and durable, must withstand rough treatment as this will become a working rifle.
- The calibre must have a good trajectory for long range shooting at Springbuck.

After browsing the Internet and reading up on Boddingtons "make it accurate" and Sweeney's book on gun smithing and precision made rifles I now knew a few basics of what a rifle must have to be very accurate. I stumbled on Howa rifles, reading the one review after the other founding the so claimed saying... "The most accurate rifle out of the box". After reading the specifications on the Howa site and discovered the unbelievable selling price of R6 900.00 I decided to order one at my local gun shop. After much anticipation it finally arrived: a M1500 HOGUE (black rubber) in a 243 win. The 22 inch barrel was fully floated, the action

pillars are aluminium and solid, the action fitted very tight, there was no movement of the locknut even when the action screws were loose, the trigger could be adjusted... which I did. The action was very smooth and feeding from the magazine was smooth and dependable, it even impressed my friend that owns a Remington model 700 varmint in a .243 win.

I mounted my extra scope that I had, it is a Nikko Stirling DIAMOND (JAPAN) 4.16 X 50 MIL DOT, I am a true believer like "Graig Boddington", that a rifle must be tested with factory ammo to the full extent to determine how accurate the fabricated rifle is. With a barrel turn of 1/10 I decided to try Winchester's CXP 100gr. Now take note that there are procedures for breaking in new barrels to many to mention, I decided to clean it first then sight in the scope and then have a look at the results. After the scope was sighted in I sat down at the bench, barrel had cooled down and now the big question.... Will this Japanese manufactured rifle be a project or will this become a pleasure. Five shots later I could not retain my pleasure, no bedding job was needed, no change of scope was needed, no additional expenses on other ammunition was needed it printed a group of 16.2 mm at 100m on its first test, what a rifle!

I have added a silencer for culling purposes, the same scope is used and I am proud to say that after reloading this rifle – I group 3 shots consistently under 10 mm at 100m. I have taken shots up to 435m at Springbuck (body shots) and at night I cull with headshots of up to 200m. Farm owner Dr. CH Derksen can testify this. I know that this is not sniper shooting and extreme long distance shooting and bench rest shooting and I am not mentioning this to blow my horn, but "WOW" what a rifle for what a price.

After spending countless hours bedding and pressure bedding similar and more expensive rifles with limited success, I would without a doubt recommend this rifle for a hunter with an average budget there are according to me no equal in its price range. Is this the most accurate rifle out of the box? "HOWA-ABOUT" if not, it's damn close.

