



MARK CAMOCCIO

The P25 Blowback is undeniably stylish



Blowback



Mark Camoccio reverts to 007 mode whilst testing this rather sporty little Gamo P25 blowback pistol

I don't mind admitting I was late to the CO2 party, and there's no doubt that an obsession with chasing silverware rather blinkered my awareness to this side of our sport. Just look around at this booming sector of the market, and there's an incredible array of hardware designed to appeal to the fun shooter. CO2 as a power source allows for relatively lightweight airguns, and so often at rapid rate of fire, so it's popularity should come as no surprise.

LOOKY LIKEY

On test here is a neat little pistol – the P25 Blowback from Spanish maker Gamo, and with a current RRP of around £112, it's sensibly priced. Gamo specify this model as 'Full Metal ... from the Heavy Weight Series', which is a little misleading, given the lower section is a synthetic moulding, integral with the grips. However, the metal upper slide and trigger are enough to add a pleasing amount of weight overall. It also feels well put together, and the overall impression is of a satisfying piece of airgun, with the bonus of its visual similarity to the legendary Walther PPK. I've always been a huge Bond fan, so couldn't help getting a little carried away on test, and with the Gamo's mechanism offering that 'blow-back' sensation, there's plenty to get excited about.

PREPARATION

The P25 is powered by one standard 12g CO2 capsule, and these cost 80p to £1 each. The capsule is contained within the grip. To gain access, first apply the safety catch, a task which is a bit fiddly on this model. Push the sprung clip to the rear (very stiff on test), and this allows the safety bar to slide down – not a task to be carried out in the aim, but a handy feature for maintenance purposes.

The grip panel needs to be

Beauty!



removed, which is just a pressure fit, and with this out the way, slacken off the tension bolt in the base. Now insert a new CO2 capsule head first into the chamber, and tighten the bolt hand-tight. At this point, you might hear a hiss as the CO2 is pierced. Ensure that the bolt head is folded in, and snap the grip panel back into position.

The P25 is designed with a stick-style magazine that holds eight shots at each end, and this needs to be primed. First, eject the stick mag' by pressing the small button to the left rear of the trigger guard. Now push a pellet head first into each aperture of the rotary clips, clicking them round as you go, and when both ends are full (16 shots), insert the magazine back inside its recess in the base of the grip.

THERE SHE BLOWS

OK; enough delay ... it's time to be Bond - sorry, I mean, see what the P25 can do! First, a boring word of warning - CO2 is invariably associated with low-power models



ABOVE LEFT: Inserting a fresh 12g CO2 capsule

TOP RIGHT: Thumb off the mag' release button

ABOVE RIGHT: The blow-back system adds an authentic feel to the firing cycle

LEFT: Guide dots on the rear sight, too

and can cause more ricochets, so I would advise the wearing of safety glasses for the duration. The P25 comes with fixed open sights and has no provision for the fitting of other sights. That said, it does have positive white dots forming both the post fore sight and rear sight notch, so the result is basic, but very usable.

BELOW LEFT: Note the 8-shot pellet carriers at each end of the stick-style mag'

BELOW RIGHT: The pistol's inner workings - CO2 chamber and magazine

If you've never encountered the blow-back style of pistol, the shooting sensation is great fun, and here, the P25 excels. Get in position, relax, firm the grip, and just blat away. Shots will come just as fast as the trigger can be pulled, in semi-auto fashion. The blow-back feature sees the top slide move back and forth in quick succession, and it's this sensation, along with the gentle bounce of the Gamo as it fires, that adds real feel to the proceedings. In theory, the trigger is double-action only, but I found for enhanced performance you could squeeze through the first stage, and then just minimal extra pressure from that pleasant metal blade would release the shot, but hey - fast-fire, fun shooting is the name of the game here. Rattle off the first eight, eject the mag', quickly flip to the other end, snap it back in, and eight more shots are instantly available. If it all sounds super-quick, you'd be right, Gamo even claim that eight shots a second are possible! My best was five or six, but that's still blinking quick!





LEFT: Simply packaged along with instruction book



RIGHT: With the grip in place

RANGE STATS

Results are largely academic, given the emphasis on fun, but for the record, over the chronograph at the start of a fresh 12g CO2 capsule, the P25 generated in the region of 2.2 ft.lbs. This will drop over the charge,

I would recommend, given they're free and reactive. Just remember the secure backstop behind it all! One final precaution – keep the cleaning rod handy because the nature of low-power CO2 models means that a pellet jammed in the barrel is almost

RIGHT: Integral sights get a handy white dot as a guide



SPECIFICATION

Model: Gamo P25 Blowback
Manufacturer: Gamo Industries, Spain
Type: CO2-powered, multi-shot pistol
Calibre: .177 pellet only
Weight: 1.6lbs
Length: 8"
Barrel: 4.75" rifled
Power Source: 12g CO2 cartridge
Shot Count: 40 shots per capsule on test, approx
Sights: Fixed non-adjustable open sights
Magazine Capacity: 16-shot pellet only (8 in each end)

Grips: Synthetic
Trigger: Double action
Velocity: 346fps at start using BSA Target pellets
Energy: 2.2 ft.lbs. approx at start of sequence
Contact: BSA Guns
www.bsaguns.co.uk

RRP: £112

“Rattle off the first eight, eject the mag', quickly flip to the other end, snap it back in, and eight more shots”

and as for shot count, expect around 40, dependent as usual with CO2, on temperature and pellets used. As for accuracy, I had similar results, whether I shot the P25 from a rest or freestyle, with groups around 2.5 inches at 10 yards. Highly usable performance then, given the size of the bottom of a drinks can – a target

inevitable as power runs out at the vital moment!

VERDICT

In short, the Gamo P25 is an awful lot of fun for the money. Yes, it is fairly basic, but it's well thought out, slickly executed, and hard to fault for its price. ■

BELOW: Gamo's P25 Blowback is an attractive CO2 model

