



Fenix Rising

The editor looks at a less well-known springer from Spain

I think that it's fair to say that Cometa is not as well known as some airgun brands, and I'll confess that my contact with them over the years has been limited. I'd heard good things about their Fenix range, so I asked for the 400 Carbine variant to test because it looks like a really handy hunting gun. First appearances were good with a nice satin finish to the blued steel, and an appealing coloured stock which fitted me well.

I worried that such a short barrel might make cocking very difficult, but a firm tap unlocked the breech block and the cocking stroke was easy enough and pleasantly smooth. The .22 Air Arms Field Diablo pellets seated nicely, with no worries about the skirt getting trapped as the barrel closed. The wide plastic trigger blade is the only disappointing thing about the build, in my eyes. I don't recall ever feeling a trigger action quite like this one. The first stage is long and vague, and feeling the second stage is a little tricky, but once there, it broke with a light, clean action that's a great help to accuracy.

ACCURACY COUNTS

On that subject I was able to get consistent $\frac{3}{4}$ " groups at 25 yards with no flyers at all. I find that impressive from any springer, let alone one at this price. The firing cycle is smooth and quick with



ABOVE: Compact length and great handling make for a proper hunter's rifle

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no apparent vibration or spring resonance feeding back through the stock. This tells me that the internals have been well developed and suitable spring guides employed. I also noticed no dieseling at all, suggesting that only small amounts of high-quality lubricants have been used, which is just what we want. It also seems clear that the silencer is doing a good job because short barrels can be noisy and this is a very quiet rifle.

It's definitely a full-size, adult rifle and I found the handling very appealing. As I'd thought, I'm sure this would make a good walk-around hunter for many people. Average velocity was 534fps with the .22 Air Arms Field for 10 ft.lbs. muzzle energy, which might well rise somewhat as the rifle runs in.

I was glad to have the opportunity to test this rifle because I was surprised at just how much I liked it. At this price it's up against

some stiff competition, but its performance holds it in good stead and it's always good to have more choices in the market. ■

BELOW: The Fenix fitted me well and was stable on aim



INFO

Manufacturer: Cometa

Importer: ASI Ltd

Web: www.a-s-i.co.uk

Tel: 01728 688555

Model: Fenix 400 Carbine

Type: Spring-piston

Action: Break-barrel

Trigger: Two-stage adjustable

Length: 41" (104cm)

Weight: 7.5lbs (3.4kg)

RRP £260.00