



by Rick Eutsler, Jr.

The AT44 line has been very popular for Hatsan. There are several variations, such as the standard AT44S Side lever Synthetic, the AT44PA pump action, and the AT44W Side lever in Turkish Walnut stock. This year Hatsan is adding the AT44 Long to the lineup which is a slightly longer version with a slightly larger air cylinder. While I've been a fan of the AT44 line of guns for a while, I was really excited about the AT44 Tactical. HatsanUSA agreed to lend me one ahead of their main shipment for this article so long as I return it when I'm done. I'm pretty sure that possession is 9/10ths' of something, right?

After handling the AT44 Tactical in person at the shot show in Vegas, my comment to the CEO of Hatsan USA was to suggest that he order a few more containers of just the AT44 Tactical. In a word, this airgun is simply awesome. It is truly bad to the bone with an ambidextrous, tactical synthetic stock that incorporates an adjustable buttstock with adjustable cheek piece, ergonomic pistol grip, additional mag storage, and a tri-rail mount in the forearm for all your tactical accessories.

Unlike a lot of PCP manufactures that assume everyone wants to scope their rifle, Hatsan keeps with the tradition of providing front and rear fiber optic sights. Ok, realistically, most of us will scope this gun and Hatsan's provided well for that too. The scope rail will accept either 11mm mounts or weaver mounts making it simple to add a tactical red-dot scope or your favorite optic.

For this review I asked Hawke sport optics for their 2-7x32AO Sport HD MD IR scope. It is lightweight and more compact than other scopes. I've taken to using Hawke's match grade scope mounts as well. They center pretty well for universal mounts, and hold extremely well, even on magnum springers. The other reason I chose the Sport HD IR series, is that they feature an illuminated etched glass reticle vs the cheaper wire reticle. This makes them more rugged and better suited for a wide range of airguns. You'll find that you'll get spoiled by the clarity of Hawke Optics.

The AT44 Tactical is a PCP airgun that stores high pressure air in a removable 180cc cylinder under the barrel. (Additional cylinders are available for extended hunting excursions.) The recommended fill pressure is up to 200 bar. Each cylinder has a gauge that lets you know exactly how much pressure you still have left for shooting. Expect 20 to 30 good shots between fills.

Lastly, the AT44 Tactical comes with Hatsan's fully adjustable Quattro trigger that breaks cleanly at only 2pounds 5 ounces.

The Hatsan line of PCP airguns has a fairly narrow magazine, so pellet choices will be limited. For example, you will not be able to use Predator Poly mags or the long Eun Jin pellets. I found the most accurate for the AT44 Tactical was the 15.9 Grain JSBs. They averaged 943.5 fps, with an extreme spread of 17.1 fps, and a standard deviation of 5.7fps. The average energy was 31.44 foot pounds.

Shooting the AT44 Tactical is a real joy. The highly adjustable stock makes it suitable for shooters of almost any



size. The stock really collapses down to accommodate even very young shooters. With proper supervision this would be a very good training rifle. By mounting a bi-pod to the bottom front tactical rail, you get a rock solid shooting platform where anyone can feel like an expert marksman. Do bring your ear protection however as the AT44 is pretty loud. It topped out at 113.2 db in my indoor tests.



Accuracy was nothing short of incredible. I shot groups from 20 to 60 yards. The first group at 20

yards measured only 0.131" ctc. The second group was shot at 40 yards and measured .441" ctc. The final group was shot at a whopping 60 yards in the wind and measured a mere .474" ctc.

I want to thank Hawke sport optics again for providing the glass for this review. Having good optics is critical for achieving consistent accuracy and the 2-7x32AO Sport HD MD IR with Hawke match grade 2 piece scope mounts was a perfect match for this rifle.

At this time pricing has yet to be announced. You should expect to see the AT44 Tactical and the AT44 Long start hitting the store shelves sometime middle to late April as long as everything stays on schedule. To learn more about the expanded AT44 lineup from HatsanUSA, please visit www.hatsanusa.com.

