

Tikka T1x Multi-Task Rimfire

rely on it

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The rifle shot exceptionally well out to 200m.

When *Australian Shooter* offered me the chance to review another new release from Tikka, I didn't need much convincing. I've previously reviewed the excellent Tikka T3x TAC A1 in 6.5 Creedmoor and that rifle shot exceptionally well with factory ammunition.

This time the package was lighter and aimed squarely at hunters and shooters requiring rimfire performance. The rifle utilises the same stock options and excellent adjustable trigger group as the Tikka T3x centrefire rifles. The receiver footprint is the same as the centrefire T3x series but the dovetail on the T1x is 11mm whereas the T3x dovetail is 16.5mm, which makes perfect sense as the T1x is chambered for the much narrower .22LR and .17HMR rimfire cartridges.

The .17HMR sports a 510mm barrel and the .22LR version may be had with either a 400mm or 510mm barrel. The review rifle in .17HMR unloaded without scope, rings or attachments tipped the scales at a nominal 2.6kg.

The first thing I noticed and liked about the T1x MTR was its familiarity with Tikka's T3x centrefire series - there just weren't any surprises. This is not a cheapened version of the famous Tikka T rifle

concept, this is a T series rifle chambered for rimfire duty.

It can be ordered on its own or with the Bunny Buster package which is the subject of this review. Although I didn't have the chance to target any bunnies with the T1x, its range accuracy makes it a certainty for success when harvesting rabbits out to 200m in .17HMR.

Berretta Australia is the local wholesaler for Tikka and many other fine firearms and hunting accessory brands which places them in the enviable position of being able to launch the new T1x rimfire in a package that includes T1x MTR in either .22LR or .17HMR, Tikka rubber bolt knob (owner can choose to run with or without, I chose to and liked it), Burris 1" rimfire rings, Burris Droptine 3-9x40 scope with Ballistic Plex reticle, two 10-round polymer magazines (Bunny Buster package only, rifle on its own comes with one magazine), Hy-Skor 6"-9" swivel bipod, Tikka Raptor sling, Tikka gun bag and NEXTORCH 1040 lumen hunting torch with scope mount.

Because the T1x is a hunting rifle I chose to test the unit in its package format and without the use of a benchrest or benchrest-style butt bag. Instead, all accuracy testing was conducted with the Hy-Skor bipod, excellent value Burris

Droptine 3-9x40 rimfire scope and my own lightweight butt bag. I use this style of bag in the field when taking prone shots or resting over an obliging log or branch. I wanted to see what the rifle was capable of when shot the way it was designed to be used - in the field - and I wasn't disappointed.

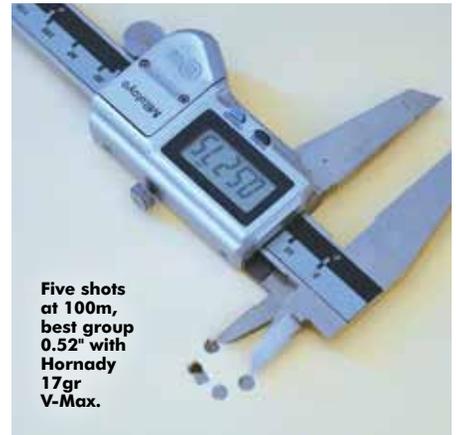
I tested the package out to 200m. Because we have been conditioned by the market to opt for larger magnification scopes I'll admit I was apprehensive with only 9-power magnification and a fixed parallax of 50m. I'm pleased to report the Burris Droptine punched well above its weight. I don't know how they do it at the price-point but the more than adequate ocular viewing box, dioptre range, glass, coatings and positive ¼ MOA click adjustments make the scope a great pairing for the T1x MTR in .17HMR.

All that was needed to put the package into action was to remove the barrelled action from the stock and clean the bore. At this point I weighed the trigger pull which came from the factory at 3.5lb. The factory-set trigger weight is excellent for hunting but should you wish to lighten the trigger further this is easy to do.

After reassembling and torquing the action screws I mounted the Burris



Trigger pull as shipped from the factory was crisp and clean at 3.5lb.



Five shots at 100m, best group 0.52" with Hornady 17gr V-Max.

Droptine scope in the steel Burris rings and bore-sighted the package before heading to my local SSAA range.

Accuracy testing

Four ammunition options were sent for review: 17gr Winchester Varmint HV, 20gr Gamepoint from CCI and two from Hornady, 17gr and 20gr V-Max. All four rendered tight groups at 100m with the 17gr Hornady standing out from the pack but it was at 200m the 17gr V-Max really caught my attention.

Testament to the longevity of the .17HMR is the range of ammunition options. Of the four choices sent with

the rifle, all shot well but Hornady's 17gr V-Max was the pick. This was more surprising at 200m where I expected either the CCI 20gr Gamepoint or Hornady's 20gr V-Max to take the honours but not so as the screaming 17gr V-Max won on the day.

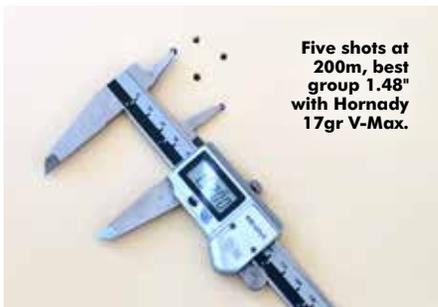
Conclusion

Tikka's T1x MTR in either .22LR or .17HMR is an excellent rimfire rifle, great value on its own and even better in the Bunny Buster package. I've owned and used Tikka centrefire rifles for many years and they're synonymous with quality, accuracy and balance and I really value the adjustability of the excellent trigger group.

In my opinion Tikka is on the money by making the T1x on the same basis as its centrefire rifles and with the same trigger group. This makes production and tooling cost sense which translates to better value for the consumer. It also means stock options from Tikka and the aftermarket are readily available should the user wish to modify the rifle to his or her specific requirements. Options include coloured vertical pistol grips and wider fore-end grips.

The review rifle shot exceptionally well out of the box with nothing more than a thorough clean and scope fitting prior to range testing. All ammunition gave great results with the 17gr Hornady V-Max being this rifle's preference on the day. The trigger was excellent and because it's the same trigger used in the centrefire series, adjustability is a breeze. I can't over-emphasise the fact that this is a great trigger, not a cheapened version because the rifle is a rimfire. I believe that in addition to the precise manufacturing processes and close CNC tolerances maintained by Tikka's skilled technicians, the trigger really ensures the accuracy potential of the T1x MTR.

For shooters looking for a great value rimfire rifle on its own or for a package that has everything you need to go out in the field to garner bunnies for the table or fur, you can't go past the T1x MTR from Tikka. ●



Five shots at 200m, best group 1.48" with Hornady 17gr V-Max.



An ideal choice in terms of balance and versatility.

Specifications

- Total length:** 1020mm
- Barrel length:** 510mm with threaded muzzle and steel thread cap
- Barrel material:** Chromium Molybdenum
- Twist/lands:** 1 in 9" - 6
- Weight:** 2.6kg
- No open sights**
- 11mm receiver dovetail**
- Receiver pre-drilled and tapped for Picatinny rail**
- Single stage trigger same as centrefire T3x series**
- 2 x 10-round polymer magazines**
- RRP as reviewed (Bunny Buster package):** \$1739
- RRP rifle only:** \$1019