

NOT JUST TACTICAL

Bruce Potts looks at a new precision rifle with a deal of versatility and potential



Spiral fluted bolt is practical and stylish, a 3-position safety is located on the bolt shroud

Not another tactical rifle!" I hear you say, yes but this new gun comes in many guises as we shall see!

Graeme Clarke heads up Sporting Services and now imports a new rifle from Germany called the Nimrod, which will satisfy tactical aficionados, varmint hunters, long-range geeks and savvy hunters alike.

From the outside, the Nimrod is a typical and reasonably conventional bolt action offering. But the magic is on the inside, with use of high-grade materials and design, with close tolerances for accuracy coupled to tough exterior coatings. The barrel is a stainless steel, match-grade Lothar Walther unit, enough said and available at this time in a limited number of popular calibres, such as 243 Win, 6.5x47 Lapua and of course; 308 Win of which I had on test.

Best of all is the Nimrod's ability to slip into different, after-market stocks to change its look and usage due to the Remington 700 action underside profile.

You can also substitute different Remington 700 clone trigger units, so further enhancing its credentials and appeal. So, and according to your preference, you have the choice of the following furniture - Accuracy International Chassis System (AICS) thumbhole and some of the GRS laminate range. I had the AICS folding option.

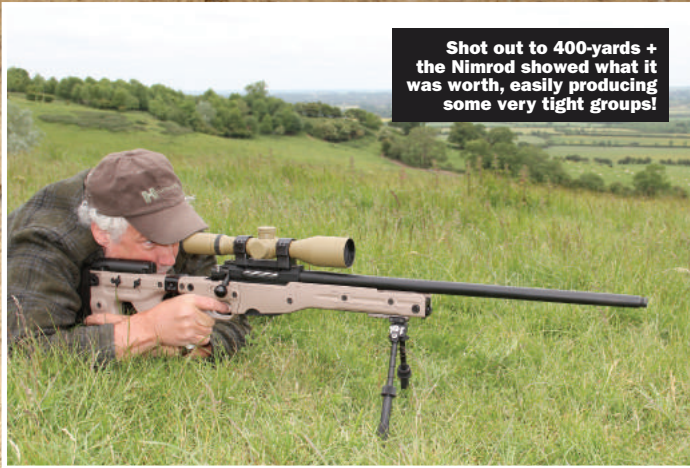
BARREL, ACTION AND FINISH

Being made in the Fatherland almost guarantees the Nimrod's quality, as the premium barrelled action is designed to extract the maximum accuracy potential. The action is fashioned from tool steel that has a tensile strength of 1200N/mm² and is then gas nitride finished with a phosphate and polyurethane coating. This makes for a strong action internally to the firing and operational processes and tough exterior that can brave the elements! The finish is good at resisting those annoying scratches from belt buckles and roe sacks that seem to play havoc with my other rifles.

The bolt action uses a 3-lug operating system that locks into a central action ring imbedded into the action body. Each lug is 0.54" long and 0.35" wide and offers near 100% contact when engaged, which is impressive and certainly aids accuracy. It has a 60° bolt lift and is 7" long with a solid 0.84" inch O/D, with nine, radial flutes to reduce bearing surface and to reduce any unwanted binding due to debris falling on to the action! These are shallow and blacked inside to contrast with the polished bolt body.

SAKO-TYPE

Cases are extracted by a Sako-type claw set into the right hand lug and cases are ejected in a timely manner by a sprung/plunger ejector in the bolt face. This .308 Win has a 25" barrel, with an outside diameter (O/D) at the muzzle of 0.86" and 0.92" just in front of the forend, so a varmint profile! The muzzle is threaded at 18/1.5mm (AI specification) and this can



Shot out to 400-yards + the Nimrod showed what it was worth, easily producing some very tight groups!



Push a button and the butt folds away on a single pivotal point and lays flat

be fitted with a large muzzle brake for an additional £120 or a moderator. I popped on an MAE Scout muzzle can, which worked rather well. The twist rate is 1 in 12"; personally I would prefer a 1 in 10, which would suit heavier, longer range bullets better! Exterior finish is black Mil Spec painted and sighting wise the Nimrod wears a one-piece Picatinny rail without MOA bias.

STOCK

This model wears the folding version of the AICS stock system. This build offers a strong and rigid, internal, aluminium chassis member that the action bolts into. On top of this is the actual outer stock made of a strong, impact-resistant polymer material. You have three colour choices - black, O/D green and desert/sand, mine was in sand, which matched the Schmidt and Bender scope on top nicely!

The barrel is allowed to free float well in the square profiled forend which has an accessory rail underneath for bipods etc. The trigger guard is moulded in and generous in size to allow easy access by the finger, but the blade does look a little lost inside!

The thumbhole pistol grip is large and gives comfortable position, with a long reach to the trigger. The stock folds via twin hinged sections located above and below the thumbhole. A large button is depressed from the right side, allowing the rear butt section to swing and fold flat on the left hand side. There is a good

FACTORY				
MAKE	BULLET WEIGHT GRAINS	BULLET TYPE	MUZZLE VELOCITY FPS	MUZZLE ENERGY FT/LBS
Winchester	150gr	Ballistic Silver Tip	2977	2953
Hornady	150gr	SST	3023	3045
Norma	150gr	Ballistic Tip	2812	2634
Geco	165gr	Express	2685	2642
Remington	168gr	Match King BTHP	2648	2616
S&B	180gr	Soft Point	2492	2483

RELOADS					
BULLET MAKE	BULLET WEIGHT GRAINS	BULLET TYPE	RELOAD DATA	MUZZLE VELOCITY FPS	MUZZLE ENERGY FT/LBS
Hornady	110gr	V-Max	44.0gr of Alliant RL10X powder	3291	2645
			44.5gr	3322	2695
			45.0gr	3353	2745
Nosler	125 gr	Ballistic Tip	40.0gr of Vit H4198 powder	3043	2571
			41.0gr	3099	2666
			41.5gr	3126	2713
Hornady	150gr	SST	44.0gr of Varget powder	2749	2516
			44.5gr	2778	2571
			45.0gr	2808	2626
Sierra	165gr	Game King	45.5gr of Vit N540 powder	2683	2637
			46.0gr	2708	2687
			47.0gr	2759	2788
Hornady	180gr	Interbond	42.0gr Alliant RL15 powder	2584	2669
			43.0gr	2641	2787
			43.5gr	2669	2847

adjustable cheek piece, which is set up via two wing-type nuts, that when slackened allow it to be positioned to suit your own shooting-style. The length of pull is adjusted by adding or removing spacers from the rubber butt pad.

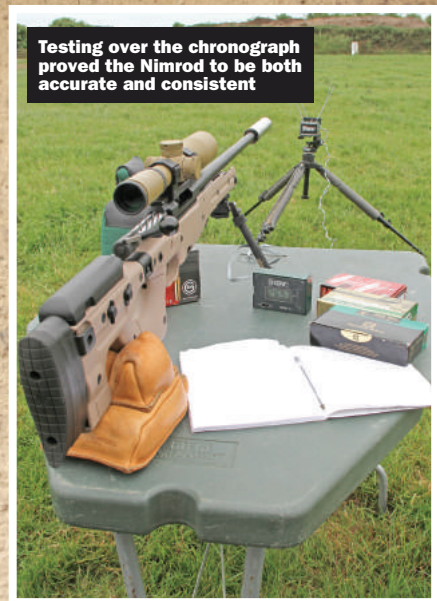
TRIGGER, SAFETY AND MAGAZINE

The trigger is a precision Shilen, with a precise single stage operation, which broke

very cleaning at 1.85 lbs on test. However, Sporting Services also stocks the excellent Trigger Tech and Cadex units, so you can specify what you want when you order. I have tried both and they are excellent alternatives for any Remy-based system. The safety is a wing-type lever that is sited on the bolt shroud and offers three positions. Forward is FIRE, middle is on SAFE with bolt operation and rear is



The Nimrod action is machined to close tolerances and is smooth and locks up like a bank vault



Testing over the chronograph proved the Nimrod to be both accurate and consistent

SAFE with the trigger and bolt both being locked. Nice and precise but not really a clear click in the mid position though.

The floor plate and magazine assembly is a quick detachable unit, designed to accept Accuracy International AICS 5 and 10-shot mags that are released by a large one inch push forward lever in front of the trigger guard. This is practical option that offers a decent payload, fast changes and even different ammo to suit a given situation!

FIELD TEST

I shot a lot of factory and reloads at 100 yards, then stretched its legs out 400 yard +, saying that and in the right hands; a good 308 should be able to reach out to 1000 yards easily. Truth is the Nimrod showed very good manners and was not at all fussy on what it was fed!

ACCURACY AND TARGETS

These Lothar Walther barrels are good and consistent, which showed in the groups the Nimrod was producing. Best factory load

was a toss up between the Rem Match 168-grain and the Hornady SST. The former producing 2648 fps/2616 ft/lbs and 1" groups. The latter shot 0.85-0.95" groups for three shots at 100 yards for 3023fps/3045 ft/lbs; impressive for a 150-grain bullet!

Reload-wise it would be nice to try some lighter loads with the 1 in 12 rifling twist barrel. Hornady's 110-grain V-MAX shot 3/4" groups with a max load of 45-grains of RL10X powder producing 3353 fps/2745 ft/lbs. The 125-grain Nosler Ballistic Tips gave healthy, 1/2" groups for 3099 fps with 40-grains of H4198.

150-grain bullets are more the staple of any .308 Win and this Nimrod liked the SSTs with a mid load of 44.5-grains of Varget, giving a mild 2778 fps/2571 ft/lbs energy and 1/2" groups. The best reload went to the 165-grain Sierra Game Kings, with 47-grains of Vit N540 giving 0.45", 3-shot groups and 2759 fps/2788 ft/lbs, a good deer load with excellent controlled expansion.

CONCLUSION

The Nimrod is well designed with a smooth bolt and positive cartridge delivery and good detachable mag system, which is further enhanced by the excellent Lothar Walther barrel. Accuracy was not only excellent but consistent and dependable in all field conditions. A good trigger makes all the

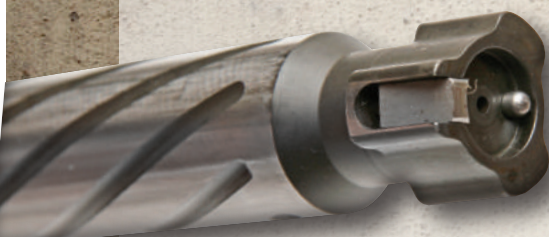


Accuracy International folding stock design is certainly versatile, if not to your liking, then a GRS stock can be substituted

difference too and the folding stock offers the convenience of a smaller package or carriage, yet maintains that Tactical look which is ever popular.

Prices start at £2175 and so offers performance at a good price, more calibres will be added in the future.

TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS	
■ Name	Nimrod Rifles
■ Type	Bolt Action
■ Calibre	308 on test
■ Capacity	5 & 10 DM (AI detachable)
■ Length	46"
■ Barrel length	25"
■ Weight	9.85lbs
■ Finish	Matt Nitrided phosphate
■ Stock	AI folding
■ Sights	Picatinny scope rail
■ Trigger	Single stage adjustable
■ Price	£2175
	Muzzle brake from £120
■ Contact	Sporting Services, 01342 716427, 07860 219902 JMS Arms 07771 962121 Quickload and MAE sound moderators Schmidt and Bender scopes



Sako type extractor and inset plunger ejector situated in the bolt head with three locking lugs

↑ FOR

Well made, ammo -friendly and shootable

↓ AGAINST

Very little

→ VERDICT

A quality rifle at a very good price
Serious ability