



# *Rattler*

## **Western Airguns Rattler Semi-Automatic Pre-Charged Pneumatic Air Rifle**



# **User Guide**

**READ THIS GUIDE BEFORE USING YOUR GUN FOR THE FIRST TIME.  
IT CONTAINS USEFUL INFORMATION TO HELP YOU SHOOT YOUR AIR RIFLE  
SAFELY AND CORRECTLY**

Western Airguns are proudly made in the USA

## Warnings:



**WARNING:** THIS PRODUCT CAN EXPOSE YOU TO CHEMICALS INCLUDING LEAD, WHICH IS KNOWN TO THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA TO CAUSE CANCER AND BIRTH DEFECTS OR OTHER REPRODUCTIVE HARM. FOR MORE INFORMATION GO TO [WWW.P65WARNINGS.CO.GOV](http://WWW.P65WARNINGS.CO.GOV).



**WARNING:** NOT A TOY. THIS AIRGUN IS FOR ADULT USE ONLY. MISUSE OR CARELESS USE MAY CAUSE INJURY OR DEATH. MAY BE DANGEROUS UP TO 1,000 YARDS (915 METERS).



**WARNING:** THIS IS A HIGH-POWERED, SEMI-AUTOMATIC AIRGUN. EACH TIME YOU PULL THE TRIGGER, THE RATTLER FIRES AND AUTOMATICALLY LOADS ANOTHER ROUND READY FOR THE NEXT SHOT. THIS MEANS THAT YOU NEED TO EXERCISE CONSIDERABLE CARE AND USE THE SAFETIES RIGOROUSLY TO AVOID UNINTENTIONAL DISCHARGES.



**WARNING:** DO NOT BRANDISH THIS AIRGUN IN PUBLIC. IT MAY CONFUSE PEOPLE AND BE A CRIME. POLICE AND OTHERS MAY THINK IT IS A FIREARM. DO NOT CHANGE THE COLORATION OR MARKINGS TO MAKE IT LOOK MORE LIKE A FIREARM. THAT IS DANGEROUS AND MAY BE A CRIME.



**WARNING:** EXPLOSION DANGER. USE ONLY DRY COMPRESSED AIR IN THIS AIRGUN. THE USE OF OTHER GASES, INCLUDING OXYGEN OR NITROGEN CAN CAUSE A FIRE OR EXPLOSION AND MAY RESULT IN SERIOUS INJURY OR DEATH. DO NOT OVERFILL BEYOND THE MAXIMUM 250 BAR (3,625 PSI FILL PRESSURE).



**WARNING:** EXPLOSION DANGER. DO NOT INTRODUCE PETROLEUM-BASED LUBRICANTS INTO THE HIGH PRESSURE AIR BOTTLE OR ANY PART OF THE ACTION OR AN EXPLOSION MAY RESULT, RESULTING IN SERIOUS INJURY OR DEATH.

## Welcome to the Rattler!

Thank you for choosing a Western Airguns Rattler air rifle. We hope that you will be happy with your new airgun!

The Rattler is a powerful semi-automatic air rifle that is powered by High Pressure Air (HPA). It will repay your care in ownership with many years of trouble-free service.

Being a semi-automatic airgun, each time you pull the trigger, the Rattler fires AND automatically loads another round ready for the next shot. This means that follow-up shots can be made very quickly. It also means that you need to exercise considerable care to avoid unintentional discharges.

The most important piece of advice we can give is for you to read this entire manual very carefully. Here you will find information to help you use the airgun safely. Safety is the top priority for all shooters, as you will undoubtedly agree.

Before using the Rattler, the owner and user must understand and obey all applicable laws. Check town, state and federal laws in your area.

If you intend to hunt with the Rattler in the USA, the Airgun Sporting Association website provides a state-by-state guide to hunting laws and links to specific State Agencies for further investigation. <https://airgunsporting.org/laws/>

The Rattler requires a correctly-mounted riflescope for accurate shooting. It also requires appropriate HPA supply equipment to function. Check with your dealer for advice on suitable accessories and ammunition to use with this air rifle.

Any damage or injury resulting from mis-use or incorrect handling is the sole responsibility of the owner and/or shooter.

Please read and digest the instructions in this User Guide. If anything is not clear, or you do not understand, DO NOT TAKE A CHANCE. Instead contact the dealer you purchased the gun from. They are authorized to handle any service issues and will be happy to help you.

The logo for the Rattler air rifle, featuring the word "Rattler" in a stylized, bold, italicized font with a small graphic of a rattlesnake head to the left.

Western Airguns LLC,  
Sheridan, WY, 82801 USA.

## **SHOOT SAFE BY FOLLOWING THESE RULES:**

### **1. PERSONAL SAFETY:**

**ALWAYS** treat the Rattler as if it is loaded and ready to fire.

**NEVER** point the airgun at any person, even if you know it is unloaded.

**ALWAYS** keep the muzzle pointed in a safe direction, including when carrying the rifle.

**ALWAYS** handle the Rattler with the same respect as you would a firearm.

**ALWAYS** wear shooting glasses and wear ear defenders. Ensure others around you do the same.

**NEVER** put any part of your body over the muzzle.

**ALWAYS** keep your finger off of the trigger until it is safe and you are ready to shoot.

**ALWAYS** have the safety set to “safe” with both safeties on when carrying the gun, handing it to others or preparing to fire.

**NEVER** load ammo into the gun until it is safe and you are ready to fire.

**NEVER** set the safety to “fire” until the moment you intend to shoot.

**BUT NEVER** trust the safety 100%. It is a mechanical device and could fail. Safe gun handling is the real best safety!

**ALWAYS** remember that the Rattler is a semi-automatic airgun. Each time you pull the trigger, the Rattler fires AND automatically loads another round ready for the next shot.

**NEVER** leave the Rattler loaded and unattended.

**NEVER** hand the gun to another person unless it is unloaded and the safeties are set to “safe”.

### **2. STORAGE AND TRANSPORT SAFETY:**

**ALWAYS** store the Rattler unloaded and with the safeties set to “safe”. Do not store ammo with the gun.

**NEVER** store the Rattler where it could be accessed by children.

**ALWAYS** transport the Rattler in a secure, opaque, protective gun case.

**NEVER** open the gun case until at the firing point, ensuring the muzzle points safely down range.

**ALWAYS** ensure the Rattler is uncocked, unloaded and on “safe” when carrying it in a vehicle, building or any public place.

**NEVER** walk, run or jump when carrying a loaded airgun.

**NEVER** climb a tree, fence or jump a ditch when carrying any loaded gun.

### **3. DOWNRANGE SAFETY:**

**NEVER** point the airgun at anything you do not intend to shoot.

**ALWAYS** consider what’s behind the target you are shooting at. You may miss, or the Rattler may shoot clean through the target!

**ALWAYS** have a strong, safe backstop behind the target so that no person can be injured or property damaged when shooting.

**NEVER** shoot at targets on water or at hard surfaces that can cause ricochets.

**ALWAYS** ensure that no ammo remains in the Rattler at the end of a shooting session. “Dry fire” it in a safe direction to be certain.

**ALWAYS** engage brain before pulling the trigger!

**Improper handling use or handling of the Rattler is not the responsibility of Western Airguns or the dealer selling the gun. The owner and/or shooter is responsible for any harm or damage, however it may be caused.**

## Knowing the Rattler:

1. Trigger
2. Primary Safety
3. Trigger Safety
4. HPA Bottle Pressure Gauge
5. Regulated Air Pressure Gauge
6. Regulator Adjuster
7. HPA Fill Male Connector
8. HPA Bottle
9. Magazine
10. Magazine Release
11. Power Adjuster
12. Shrouded Barrel
13. Scope Mounting Rail
14. Riflescope (Not Included)
15. Bipod Mounting Rail
16. Pistol Grip
17. Buttpad
18. Sideplates
19. Loading Gate
20. HPA Bottle Clamp

RIGHT SIDE - Below      LEFT SIDE - Opposite



## Things To Know Before Filling The Rattler With High Pressure Air:

The Western Airguns Rattler is designed and intended to be filled with clean, dry High Pressure Air only. No other gas or gas combination can be used.

**NEVER OVERFILL BEYOND 3,625 PSI/250BAR**  
The Rattler's maximum fill pressure is 250 bar (3,625 PSI).

The minimum fill pressure is 140 bar (2,030 PSI): if the HPA bottle's pressure falls to this point, the Rattler must be re-charged with additional High Pressure Air.

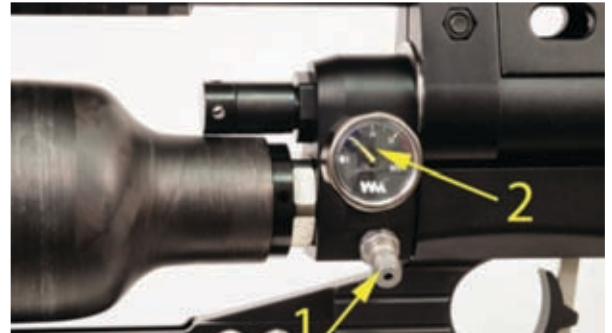
Filling to a higher pressure than 250 bar (3,625 PSI) will NOT increase the power - in fact power may actually be reduced or the gun not fire due to valve lock. It can also damage the air rifle.

Charging the Rattler requires an appropriate HPA tank or compressor. Check with your dealer for advice on suitable equipment. Ensure that you know how to operate all the charging equipment properly before filling the gun.

**Do not over-fill or under-fill the gun.**

## Filling Steps:

1. **ALWAYS** wear safety glasses when filling with High Pressure Air.
2. **ENSURE** that the Rattler is completely unloaded and pointed in a safe direction.
3. Attach the female quick disconnect of the tank or compressor hose securely to the male connector on the gun (1).



4. Ensure the tank or compressor bleed valve is closed. Then charge the gun, monitoring the gauge on the tank or compressor for pressure. Confirm with the Rattler's fill gauge (2).
5. Fill the Rattler slowly to minimize heat buildup and to avoid over-filling.
6. After the maximum fill pressure is reached (3,625 PSI/250 bar), close the tank or compressor valve. Then use the bleed valve to completely remove air pressure from the hose. If you do not do this the hose may whip dangerously when disconnected, causing injury.
7. Disconnect the fill hose. The Rattler is now ready to load with ammo and fire.

**Note that when filling the Rattler for the first time, a large HPA tank must be used. You will hear "clicking sounds" when this is accomplished.**

**A small HPA compressor cannot be used for the first fill as it does not supply pressure rapidly enough. A small HPA compressor can be used for subsequent fills, however.**

## Understanding And Operating The Safeties:

For maximum security, the Rattler has two safeties. One is on the left side of the gun, the other on the right.

For the gun to fire, both safeties have to be “off”.

The Primary Safety is at the rear on the side of the receiver, as pictured below. Rotate to operate.



The Secondary Safety is located above the trigger. Rotate to operate.



In addition, if you swing out the magazine locking lever to the 90 degree position – as in the photograph below – the result is that no pellet can be placed in battery in the gun.

If you pull the trigger with the locking lever out, all you will get is the sound of escaping High Pressure Air.

Effectively this is a Third Safety.



## Proving “Safe”:

**WARNING:** The Rattler has a semi-automatic action, combined with a non-removable magazine and no charging handle or bolt.

This means that it’s not possible to prove “Clear” in the normal manner, as with a semi-auto firearm, for example.

To prove that the Rattler is safe, with no pellets or slugs remaining in the barrel or magazine, the gun should be fired repeatedly in a safe direction until proven empty and clear.

When empty, the magazine may be seen to rotate with all the chambers empty.

In addition, the gun makes a different sound when fired on an empty chamber.

## Loading The Magazine:

Note that the Rattler uses a fixed magazine that cannot be removed from the airgun.

1. **ALWAYS** ensure that the Rattler is pointed downrange in a safe direction.
2. Set Both Primary and Secondary Safeties to "Safe".
3. Raise the Magazine Release lever to the 90 degree position so that it points at right angles to the receiver.



Now move to the right side of the gun.

4. Slide the Loading Gate to its full-open (up) position.



5. Now load airgun pellets or slugs into the visible chambers of the magazine with their heads facing towards the muzzle.
6. Once you have filled the visible chambers, rotate the magazine **CLOCKWISE**, filling the fresh chambers as you go.

Continue loading until the magazine is full.

7. When the magazine is full, close the Magazine Key on the right side of the gun by sliding it back down fully. Now lower the Magazine Release lever on the left side back into the "down" position against the receiver.

The Rattler is now loaded and will fire when the Safeties are "Off" and the trigger pulled.

**Note that the Rattler does NOT have a charging lever that requires operating before the gun will fire. In this respect, the airgun is very different from a semi-automatic firearm.**

## Trigger:

The two-stage trigger is set at the factory for best performance and is not adjustable. This is to ensure correct functioning with the semi-automatic action.

Note that the trigger blade is held in a fixed position by its setscrew. The trigger blade position is not adjustable.



Note that it is necessary to completely remove pressure from the Rattler's trigger between shots. If you do not do this, the gun may not fire again until you do so.



## Installing And Removing The High Pressure Air Bottle:

The Rattler is supplied with a detachable High Pressure Air (HPA) bottle. This air provides both propulsion for the airgun pellets or slugs and operates the semi-automatic action.

This makes it possible to carry spare, filled HPA bottles and replace them in the field if required.

The bottle must be attached to the gun and filled with air before pulling the trigger.



First, loosen the clamp screw at the top of the bottle support. (See page 11). Then screw the HPA bottle clockwise onto the gun until tight for use.

Note that the threads are very fine. Be cautious, NEVER force the threads during installation or removal of the bottle.

The Rattler's HPA bottle is fitted with an internal check valve. This means that the bottle can be removed from the gun even when filled with High Pressure Air.

To remove the air bottle from the gun, carefully rotate it COUNTER-CLOCKWISE. After a turn or two, a brief burst of air will be released. This is normal. Continue to unscrew the bottle until removed from the gun.

It is possible to increase the air capacity of the Rattler by attaching a larger HPA bottle, or - with a special adapter - TWO bottles. This can give significantly more shots per fill of air. However the power remains the same. Your dealer can advise you on the appropriate upgrade parts.

## Power Adjustment:

A Power Adjuster knob is provided on the underside of the Rattler.



To increase the power, rotate the knob COUNTER CLOCKWISE as viewed from the underside.

To decrease the power, rotate the knob CLOCKWISE as viewed from the underside.

Increasing the power will reduce the shot count per fill as more High Pressure Air is used for each shot. Conversely, reducing the power will increase the shot count.

Changes to the Power Adjuster will cause the Point of Impact (POI) on the target to rise or fall. It is advisable to re-sight in the scope after making any power changes.

Note that a suitable Chronograph is required to understand changes made to the Power Adjuster knob.

If you do not have access to a Chronograph, it is suggested that you do not change the factory power setting.

## Removing And Reinstalling The Barrel

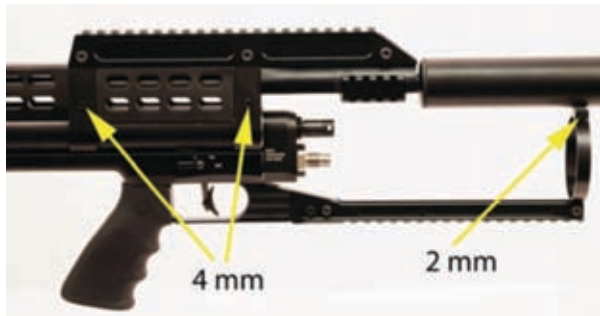
The Rattler is equipped with a removable barrel that threads securely into the receiver.

Reasons for removing and replacing the barrel include cleaning, clearing a serious jam and changing to a different twist rate barrel for enhanced accuracy with your choice of ammo.

1. **PROVE THAT THE GUN IS SAFE!** See page 7 of this Guide.

2. Remove the HPA bottle. See page 9 of this Guide.

3. Next loosen the two barrel clamping screws using a 4 mm hex wrench.



4. Grasp the barrel shroud and rotate counter-clockwise. Keep rotating until the barrel assembly is unscrewed from the receiver.

5. Pull the barrel assembly out to remove it from the action. The side plates will come away during this action.

6. To replace the barrel, first unscrew the shroud



from the barrel assembly. Then screw the barrel back into the receiver, ensuring that the two side plates are in place and orientated correctly.

7. Screw the barrel clockwise into the receiver until it is a snug - but not tight - fit.



8. Then back-off the barrel 1/8 turn counter-clockwise.

9. Re-tighten the two barrel clamping screws.

10. Now raise the Magazine Release lever (see page 8) and rotate the empty magazine clockwise. **DO NOT LOAD WITH AMMO!**

11. If the magazine does not rotate, loosen the barrel clamping screws and rotate the barrel very slightly counter-clockwise. Repeat steps 9 and 10 until the magazine rotates freely.\*

12. Fully tighten the two barrel clamping screws.

13. Screw the shroud clockwise back onto the barrel until snug.

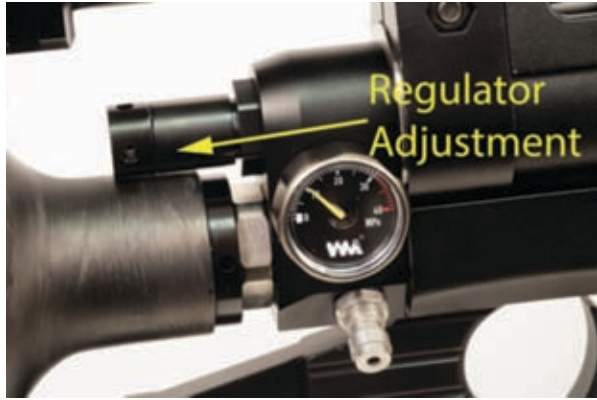
14. Now re-install the HPA bottle. See page 9.

Load and carefully test-fire the re-assembled Rattler.

\*If you feel a burst of air blowing against your face when the Rattler fires, it is probably because the barrel has been backed-off slightly too far. Loosen the barrel clamping screws, rotate the barrel **A VERY SMALL AMOUNT** clockwise, re-tighten the screws and test again.

## Regulator:

Power changes can also be made by changing the regulator set pressure. Rotating the regulator adjuster **CLOCKWISE** (rifle facing downrange) will increase the power. Power is reduced by rotating it **COUNTER CLOCKWISE**.



However, Western Airguns strongly recommends that you **DO NOT ADJUST THE REGULATOR**.

The regulator is set for optimum performance during assembly. Making adjustments can cause the action to malfunction and not fire.

**NEVER** adjust the regulator below 140 bar or above 190 bar as damage to the system may occur and will void your warranty.

**NOTE:** Increasing the regulator set pressure should be undertaken when the gun's HPA bottle is under pressure at 250 bar. Fire a couple of shots to encourage the regulator to settle to the new pressure

However, if you want to **REDUCE** the regulator pressure, **THE BOTTLE MUST BE REMOVED AND THE GUN COMPLETELY DE-PRESSURIZED** before making any adjustments.



**WARNING:** INCORRECT ADJUSTMENT OF REGULATOR SET PRESSURE CAN INVALIDATE THE WARRANTY.

## Maintenance Tips:

**ALWAYS** keep at least 140 bar (2,030 PSI) HPA pressure in the Rattler when it is stored between use. This will help to prevent air leaks.

**NEVER** use petroleum-based lubricants with the Rattler. These can lead to an explosion risk due to the High Pressure Air in the gun. They can also rot the rubber O rings that maintain pressure. Instead, use a high quality, pure silicone oil or grease.

If you drop your Rattler, make a careful visual inspection to check for damage before using it again.

Ensure that the ammo you plan to use in the Rattler is of the correct caliber and is not too long to fit in the magazine. Otherwise a jam may occur.

## Troubleshooting:

Do not use the Rattler until you have read and completely understood this User Guide.

In the unlikely event that your airgun malfunctions, exhibits poor performance or defects, **DO NOT** attempt to fix the problem yourself. Contact the dealer you purchased the gun from.

The Western Airguns Rattler is operated by High Pressure Air. It must only be repaired or dismantled by a competent, trained airgunsmith and with the correct parts.

**DO NOT** attempt to dismantle or repair any part of the Rattler yourself. If you do, serious injury - even death - and property damage may result if these instructions are ignored.

Always assume that the airgun is pressurized with air and loaded with ammo until you prove that it is not!

To fully de-pressurize the Rattler, first unscrew and remove the HPA bottle. Then pull the trigger repeatedly until all High Pressure Air is removed from the action.

## If The Gun Will Not Fire:

1. NEVER LOOK DOWN THE BARREL!
2. Be sure that the HPA bottle is filled to 140 bar (2,030 PSI) or more, with clean, dry High Pressure Air. No other gas or gas combination can be used.
3. If the gun is filled with HPA to a greater pressure than 250 bar (3,625 PSI), remove the HPA bottle as described on page 9, point the gun in a safe direction and pull the trigger repeatedly to depressurize the action.
4. Ensure that no ammo is stuck in the barrel. Set the Rattler to safe, remove all ammo from the magazine and run a cleaning rod through the barrel from the muzzle. If necessary, remove the barrel. See page 11 of this guide for details.
5. Be certain that either of the safeties are not set to safe when you are expecting to fire.
6. Be sure to completely remove your finger from the trigger after each shot! If you do not do this, the Rattler may not fire.
7. Confirm that there is ammo in all of the magazine chambers and that it is of the correct caliber.

## Warranty:

The Western Airguns Rattler carries a 12-month limited warranty against faulty workmanship and defective materials.

This warranty is provided to the original retail customer for 12 months from the date of purchase. Proof of purchase is required.

This warranty does not cover any damage caused by tampering with the rifle, modification, abuse, improper use or attempted repairs by users or unauthorized repair providers.

Nor does it cover damage to scopes or other gun sights, slings, bipods and other accessories. Wear and tear from regular use and failure to perform normal maintenance is also not covered.

You are responsible for costs incurred in returning the Rattler to Western Airguns. It's suggested that you purchase insurance to cover shipping and pack it well. Western Airguns will not be responsible for any loss or damage to your airgun in transit.

In the event of a defect under this warranty, Western Airguns will repair the Rattler, or replace it with a product of comparable value and performance. If Western Airguns determines that a repair is not covered by this warranty, there could be a charge to you.

Western Airguns will cover the costs involved in returning the gun to you unless the defect was caused by incorrect operation.

Note that this limited warranty does not include consequential or incidental damages. This includes damage to property or any other expense. It does not include implied warranties of merchantability or fitness for purpose.

Some US states do not allow the exclusion or limitation of incidental or consequential damages, so these limitations may not apply to you.

For warranty claims or service issues, contact your authorized Western Airguns dealer.

The logo for the Western Airguns Rattler, featuring the word "Rattler" in a stylized, bold, serif font with a small graphic of a rattler snake head to the left.