

# DAYSTATE X2W SPORTS



**First it was synthetic, now it comes in deluxe walnut – we’re talking about the very latest rifle from Daystate. Pete Wadeson hugs some tree as he tests the elegant X2W Sports...**

**D**aystate seem to press on with modifications and upgrades of existing models like most people change their socks. It’s good to see such fresh and innovative new products, based on a solid roster of rifles such as the firmly established X2 range. Morphing from the basic Harrier and gaining the praiseworthy 10-shot magazine system along the way, the X2 was initially available in a variety of stock options. But it now appears they have opted to discontinue the black synthetic

The Daystate X2W Sports – a rifle that could quite easily be considered to be in a class of its own.

## Wood Craft

As I’ve mentioned in the past, synthetic stocks do have their place in the field. However, I’m a sucker for a nicely figured piece of wood, especially walnut, and when the design is as good as the X2W Sports it all adds up to having the makings of a bone fide winner.

The cheekpiece is a high right hand roll over design that actually seems to ‘morph’ out of the pistol grip in sexy sweeping curves. Besides being visually striking, this modernistic design serves a practical purpose. It allows the trigger hand to feel just the grip and, due to the neck rake being scalloped well back, your thumb naturally falls over the woodwork allowing for an exceptionally comfortable hold. The stock also has a generously sized thumb channel. Not only does this allow for the ‘thumbs up’ hold, but also easy access to the familiar, and practical safety lever sited on the rear of the action block.

The pistol grip drops down steeply and shows panels of laser-cut chequering. This feature follows through to identical



version for a much more luxurious looking walnut-stocked model - the X2W Sports.

The X2 is available in a regulated or unregulated version, and it’s the latter I have here. Though the stock is based on the previous all-weather design, it shows a few cosmetic flourishes that’ll certainly turn heads as much as the performance of the rifle itself.

The set back alloy trigger blade coupled with the cleverly designed pistol grip means a very high level of control is easily achieved.



Now that’s style – the laser cut chequered panels and ‘stepped’ underside of the forend offer looks and a variety of leading hand positions



The primary silencer does a fine job but the muzzle is threaded to accept a screw on unit – notice the neat and practical air reservoir fill point and push fit cover cap.

areas on either side of the forend. The forearm is nicely configured and offers a number of alternative positions for the supporting hand. At the rear is a curved/ventilated rubber butt pad and the overall impression is of a comfortable and practical piece of timber to get hold of.

## Charging and Muzzling

Charging is via a bayonet connection at the front of the air reservoir. Protected and covered by a metal, push-fit end cap, once removed, the rifle is easily filled to the required 160bar. Now, I’ve mentioned fill pressures in relation to Daystates before, and the same applies again. You’ll get a recommended fill, but some experimentation (as long as you don’t exceed the maximum recommended) will soon have you running at the optimum charge. Fill correctly and you should comfortably get 60 full power shots in .177 and approximately 80 in .22 calibre.

The multi-shot action has been refined and re-modelled from the

original, and there's a lot to look over even before you get into scrutinising the magazine system.

First, you can't fail to notice the large and well shaped cocking bolt with its 'teardrop' knob. Sensibly finished in matt black, it not only compliments the look of the rifle, but is also practical and a doddle to operate. This of course 'runs' the rifle and in part the magazine, first cocking the striker on the rearward pull, then when pushed forward loading and seating a pellet into the breech. The magazine is 'sprung' and a lever in the loading bay cams the rotating inner drum round on the rearward stroke of the action.

Looking at the removable magazine shows the unit comprises an aluminium inner drum with a synthetic plastic outer casing - it's neat and works a treat. This feed system deserves full marks.

The other feature that shouts its presence is the manual trigger safety. Well sized and sited, a red lever sits at



The Daystate X2W Sports - almost too good looking to take hunting...

The cocking bolt runs a very slick and efficient action

Of all magazine systems Daystate's 10-shot stands at the top end - full marks on that alone.

the rear of the action and works by blocking the trigger blade and is easily operated with the thumb of the shooting hand without breaking your grip. Flip it to the left for SAFE and back to the right to FIRE. The trigger is no slouch either, being a 2-stage adjustable unit, with a nicely curved, set back polished alloy blade. And with the pistol grip being so well fashioned, a high level of control is easily achieved.

In the front of the barrel assembly, Daystate build in a multi-baffle system to act as a primary sound moderator. This does work, but they have also threaded it 1/2" UNF, so you can fit a secondary system to reduce the noise even more. For the test I used one of the Carbon



The thumb channel affords a comfortable hold at the grip and allows easy access to the manual safety lever.



Fibre cans from Sandwell Field Sports. Not only does it look the business, but it's possibly the most efficient for creating total silence on firing. Daystate offer their Airstream II and a new Compact moderators, but as I haven't tested those I can't comment - but if they're anything like the rifle, I'd say check 'em out...

### Stylish yet Practical Hunter

To remove the magazine, pull back the cocking bolt and slide the clip out to the left. You then turn the inner drum anti-clockwise against spring tension and feed a pellet into each empty chamber as you come to it. Slip it back in and close the bolt and you're ready to go. Incidentally, you can use the rifle in single-shot mode if you fit the magnetic loading tray, which is available as an optional extra. This clips onto the loading bay and is a clever and practical item. However, as a hunter, I say - a multi-shot makes a lot

more sense; especially when it's as good as this one...

This rifle gave me my first opportunity to test the AGS 4 - 16 X 50IR PA VIPIR scope. So new and hot it burns - look out for a review soon. But I digress, so back to the matter or should I say rifle in hand - the X2W.

After the first few pellets into the test I was soon appreciating everything I've previously praised. The free floating, Lothar Walther tube, which is strengthened with a forward band, ensures accuracy and consistency. With that S.F.S moderator up front it was superbly quiet as well. Yes, this is some rifle - and if the thumbnail groups at 30-yards are anything to go by I'd really like to see what the regulated version is capable of. The X2W does seem to prefer a longer pellet such as



A lovely slim neck, high roll over cheekpiece and well-curved ventilated rubber butt pad - not forgetting of course a very attractive grain configuration.

Daystate's own brand, Air Arms Field or Bisley Magnums. Oh, I haven't yet mentioned the rifle on test was in .22 calibre have I? Well it is.

### Conclusions

As I've said in the past, the 'X2' series now sees Daystate breaking into the niche market that was once dominated by two or possibly three popular rifles. Though I'm very impressed with the handling and performance, I have to admit the cosmetic appeal of the X2W is something that just can't be ignored (even though I did like the synthetic stocked version). However, putting personal choices aside; the X2W Sports handles superbly, is accurate, has a precise trigger unit, well sited safety, superb magazine system and, with a suitable moderator up front, is a very efficient hunting rifle. **SS**

### TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS

Name	Daystate X2W Sports
Action	Bolt action PCP
Capacity	10 (DM)
Stock	Walnut
Sights:	N, grooved for mounts
Weight	7.4lbs un-scoped
Length	38"
Barrel	16"
Trigger	2-stage, adjustable
Safety	Manual, re-settable
Silencer	primary baffle system, threaded ? UNF
Power	11.6ft/lbs
Calibre	.177 and .22
Price:	£560
Options:	Regulated version £660 Single-shot pellet tray £10
Contact	Daystate, 01782 791755