Maintenance Man

HILL PUMPS PART 2

Following on from my article last month about my trip to the Hills factory in Sheffield, I wanted to talk more about the EC3000 compressor. I have a lot of questions about it and so decided to do a more in-depth review of it, to answer all the questions you might have. I took a while to make the decision to purchase a compressor – after all, it is a substantial investment – and I conducted a lot of research, speaking to other people, reading online reviews, and working out if I could justify the expense. I decided to go for the Hill EC3000 because I am local lad from Sheffield, the reviews were excellent, and it didn't blow the budget. My compressor has now had more than 20 hours of use since I purchased in it February 2021 and whilst I still make use of my 5-litre air tank for quick jobs, I have found the compressor to be an invaluable piece of equipment in my kit.

QUICK SET-UP

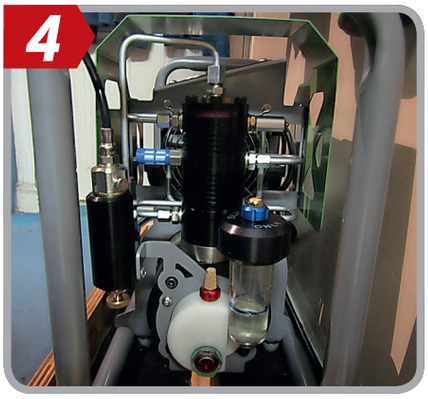
1 Set up, was quick and simple; find a stable base to stand it on, check the instructions, add the fluids, plug it in and away I went!

2 The oils used in the EC3000 are specially formulated and blended by a specialist lubricants company based in South Yorkshire for Hill. They are available to purchase from the website when refills are required. The red oil is crank oil, as labelled, and the clear is silicone oil.

3 The EC3000 is a very competent compressor, useful for individuals or clubs. It can be used to fill both a rifle, and an air tank, up to 3-litre capacity, providing you check that your air tank has a non-return valve fitted. Compressed air in a tank is as good as a bomb, so safety is paramount at all times.

4 There is a small amount of noise, as you would expect, but I have found that even when using it at home in the kitchen,

Richard Nash concludes his recent tour of the Hills factory with a closer look at the EC3000 compressor



it is not enough to disturb the whole household. A quick check with a decibel app shows a working volume of 82dB at 2 foot, and 72 dB from 8 feet away. The footprint of the compressor is surprisingly small. I have it on a little stand just in front of the back door to keep it cool when in use, but tucked out of the way under a coat rack. Dimensions are: 18¼ inch (46.3 cm) by 9 inch (22.8cm) by 15 inch (38.1cm).

5 I have found it very simple to use – a one-button operation. The adaptor on the whip allows for any fill adaptor to be used, just like with an air tank.

STEP BY STEP GUIDE

6 Once switched on, it will ask you to check the lubricant. Once visually inspected and confirmed, press the centre of the dial to confirm and continue.

7 Next, set the required pressure. For example for a rifle, 200 bar. Set the pressure by turning the dial and pressing the centre to confirm.

8 Set the required units; for both rifles and air tanks, this is bar pressure.

9 When all is confirmed, and the rifle/air tank is connected, press the button to start. The unit will automatically switch off when the set pressure is reached. On a longer fill – i.e. an air tank – the compressor will rest and cool and start filling in cycles until the required pressure is reached.

10 This is the moisture trap/release valve. This must be opened and air released before removing the fill probe from the vessel. The compressor will prompt for decompression.

11 This is the particle filter, ensuring that all air is clean before it reaches the vessel being filled.

Am I happy with my purchase and would I recommend this compressor? Quite simply, YES! I have found both the quality and customer services second to none, and whilst I appreciate that it is a considered purchase, for a dedicated and busy shooter it could be a cost-effective addition to a home shooting set-up, or indeed a rifle club. For an occasional shooter, it might not be as cost-effective as an air tank, but would still be a useful piece of kit. ■

INFO
For more details, visit: *www.hillpumps.com*