

Pump It Up!

Pete Wadeson looks at the Hill Mk4 Air Pump and, although there are many like it, details why this latest model is definitely still one to consider...

When PCP air rifles began to become far more popular amongst shooters, the stirrup pump came on the scene as an alternative to conventional charging gear. These negated the 'hassle' that some feel comes with having to store, use and maintain such equipment; and of course, if you don't have a diving centre nearby, which fill charging cylinders, they're basically your only choice.

One of the first to emerge was the 'Hill Pump', which was and is still built by the very established pump manufacturer Ernest H Hill Ltd. of Sheffield, who first began making pumps in 1841 for inflating tyres. Now, since the pump was first launched well over a decade ago, it's been further developed and upgraded to now carry

Retrofit Dry-Air Kit upgrade units are even available for earlier models of Hill Pumps, except the Mk1



the Mk4 denotation. They come delivered to your door flat-packed but it's no big deal having to assemble it, as there aren't many components that make up the pump; handles, base plate and of course the heart and soul of the pump, that being the cylindrical body tube. The precision air gauge (which is replaceable) is rated at 0 – 275-bar, which means that you are able to fill any 12ft/lbs PCP on the market to its required fill pressure. Once assembled, the pump is a solid and robust unit, so will withstand many years of use. Also, the latest model has an 1/8-inch BSP Male to 450mm Microbore hose, which is longer than those on earlier models. This, the air gauge and Dry-Air kits (detailed fully later) can be purchased separately.

Compact unit

It stands approximately 25-inches from its base and weighs just under 7lbs. The rubberised outer of the well-proportioned and chunky sized handles offers the user a very comfortable grip. At risk of stating the obvious, as you should never really need to fill your rifle from a completely empty state, then pumps are a good device for top

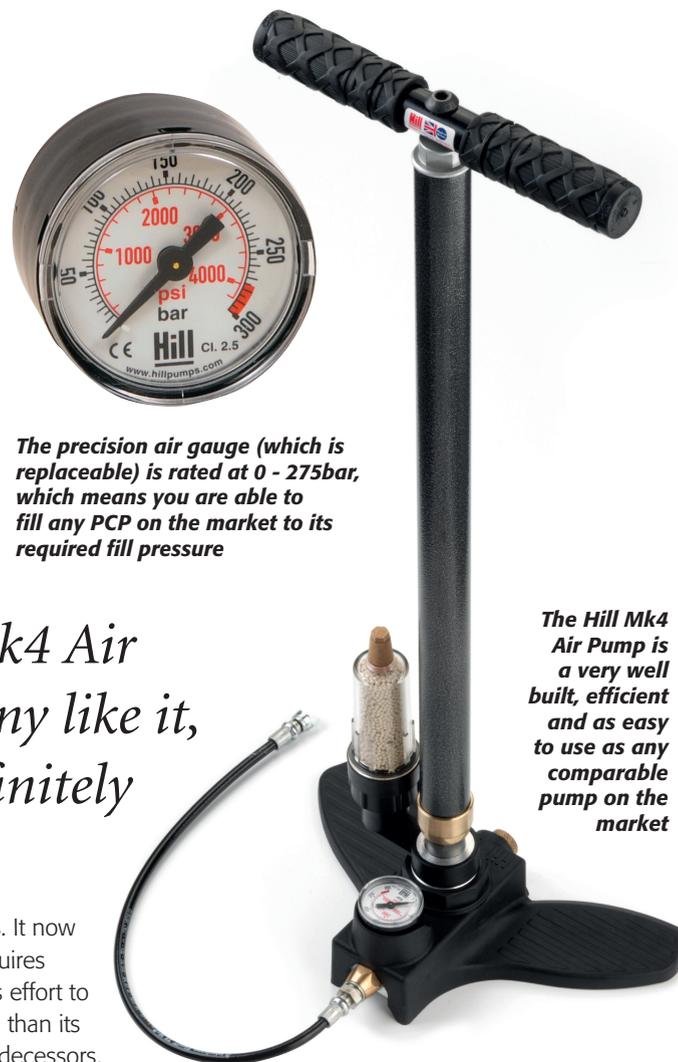
ups. It now requires less effort to use than its predecessors, as it has a high-volume output, can easily be stripped should it require a service and carries the company's lifetime warranty. Now, an important factor to consider, which applies of any stirrup pump, is due to how it works, which is by taking in air from the outside, there's a need to filter out the moisture content that 'fresh air' contains. In this case, the Hill Pump has



A spare kit is included

TECHNICAL SPECIFICATION

Name:	The Hill Mk4 Air Pump with patented Dry-Air system
Price:	£175 Dry-Air retrofit upgrade units for the Mk2 and Mk3 £32.50
Contact:	Best Fittings. best-fittings.co.uk and airrifepump.com



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The Hill Mk4 Air Pump is a very well built, efficient and as easy to use as any comparable pump on the market

what is known as a 'Dry-Pac', which is a self-contained unit that connects to the body of the pump positioned at its base, clearly seen at the front. This removes up to 90% of the naturally occurring moisture and other particle contaminants as the air first coming in passes through it. It's recommended that you replace the packs internal filtering medium every few months or so but obviously this is also dependant on how often you use it. Incidentally, as well as full-service kits, you can also purchase retrofit Dry-Air up-grade kits for the Hill MK2 and Mk3, which contain all suitable connectors required and one sachet of the Dry-Pac medium. **GM**