

SOCOM GEAR KEL-TEC PMR-30

A UNIQUE LOOKING, CO₂ POWERED
PISTOL THAT PACKS A MIGHTY PUNCH!

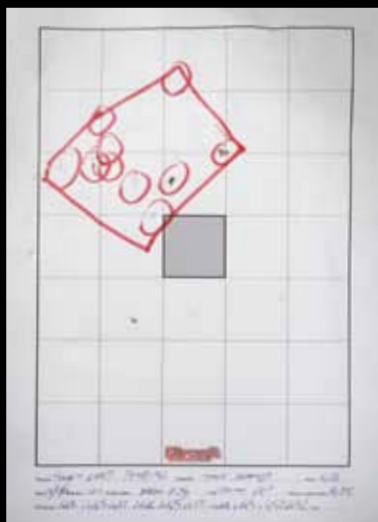
WORDS & PHOTOS BY JACK BAXTER



PRICE: TBC

SUPPLIED BY: WWW.SOCOMGEAR.COM
WEIGHT: 514G WITH MAG / 430G WITHOUT
AVERAGE FPS: 447 @ 15°C

**AI VERDICT: AN EXCLUSIVE GUN, IF A
LITTLE HOT FOR THE UK SKIRMISH FIELD.**



TARGET SHOT AT 10M WITH WEAPON
CLAMPED IN PLACE, USING EXCEL 0.25G

Our friends at Socom Gear really seem to be looking at pushing some exclusive guns onto the market. They're well known for their 1911 derivatives, but this is something we've never seen before... We're lucky enough to have got our hands on one of the very first Kel-Tec PMR-30s in the world - at the time of writing, they're still not available for sale, but you should expect them very shortly...

The real-steel PMR is a lightweight pistol that fires the .22 Magnum cartridge. The double-stack magazine carries 30 rounds, with the weapon designed for target shooting and hunting small game. Loaded, it weighs just 556g, with the slide made of steel, the frame of aluminium, and the grip, slide cover, single-action trigger and mag release all glass-reinforced Nylon.

This airsoft replica is relatively faithful to the original design, with its plastic grip assembly (the entire lower), metal outer barrel (cast aluminium as is usual with airsoft guns), and plastic slide cover. The fibre-optic sights match the real gun, and look great when choosing a target. Unusually, the replica gun carries less rounds than the real weapon, the slim single-stack mag only carrying 15 BBs.

Besides using metal for the trigger and safety, the design is accurate, with faithful markings on both sides of the gun. As the real thing has seams running down its centre, it's only the line of the CO₂ cartridge door on the rear of the pistol's grip that gives this away as a replica.

BUILD QUALITY

Socom Gear have an exciting, exclusive piece of kit on their hands here. The plastic lower does tend to creak a little in use, and close inspection reveals moulded 'nuts' and small cross-head screws where the real gun has hex-head fittings. Also, where a large pin is pushed out of the centre of the real gun to strip it down, the replica has a tiny pin above the front rail that needs driving out to take the slide off. Being a CO₂ pistol, the workings are quite different to those of a traditional Gas Blow Back gun, which probably explains the less realistic strip-down. The metal slide catch and mag release are painted black, but unfortunately this rubs off very easily - on other guns this can give them a cool 'used' look, but as the real weapon uses reinforced nylon for the safety, it looks a little out of place.

The recoil spring is quite light, so when held pointing upwards, the slide can sometimes droop backwards a little. You only notice it if the gun's getting shaken, but if you're running to a battle it can be a little disconcerting to feel the slide moving back and forth.

The mag release is, like the real gun, at the heel of the weapon. It feels strange at first, but you soon get used to popping the mag out with a squeeze of your palm. The mag itself is very slim, as the CO₂ cartridge lives inside the grip. Its locking guide and loading hole make filling it with BBs simple, but it's a shame it won't look as good as a standard GBB mag in your rig.





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USERS HEAD ON OVER TO [HTTP://FORUMS.ZERO1N.CO.UK/AI](http://forums.zero1n.co.uk/AI)



PERFORMANCE

The elephant in the room is the velocity of this gun. Besides the fact that some UK skirmish fields won't allow any CO2 guns, at an average velocity of nearly 450fps, this is way too hot for most responsible gaming sites in Britain. Of course, many buyers will enjoy this gun as a collector's piece, so as a target weapon it still has a place. If you're lucky enough to have access to a site that plays practical-pistol games (please someone, get one running in the Cambridgeshire area!), the Kel-Tec could still very much be of interest to you...

As you can see from the target, grouping is good for a pistol, if not quite the best. Its range is a little shy of a Marui Glock 17, but this isn't surprising when you realise it has no hop. Using the brute force of the CO2 cartridge (they cost less than a £1 each, and last a LOT of magazine reloads!), the gun relies on speed to put its ammo down range. I found BBs tended to veer off to the right at distance, and when combined with the heavy double-action trigger (it cocks the gun and fires

with one stroke), it's tricky to be really accurate.

Being hop-less, you need to experiment to get the best ammo – I found 0.2g to offer the best balance, although at shorter ranges, for instance 10m garden practice, you could happily increase the weight.

The fibre-optic sights are superb, picking up the ambient light and shining brightly as you look down the gun, and kick is very restrained – a combination of the weak recoil spring, and light slide. This would be good for accuracy if the gun featured a lighter trigger, but the design makes single-action use impossible. Racking the slide actually has no effect on firing – while it does lock back when the mag is empty (and a couple of times in use when it wasn't), the gun will continue to fire regardless – it's purely cosmetic, so unlike most GBBs we're used to, it doesn't assist loading of the ammo. Pulling the trigger actually pushes the inner barrel forwards (against a fairly heavy spring), allowing a BB to chamber, before the assembly flies backwards and the gas is released.

VERDICT

It's unfortunate that we won't be able to use this gun in most British games – if Socom Gear want to look at making a more traditional GBB version, with chunky gas mags and a more skirmish-friendly velocity, we're sure they'd be onto a winner!

As a curio or collector's piece, this looks likely to be a hit. For practical-shooting games it's also a fun option, let down slightly by its very heavy trigger, and mags that would be difficult to carry in a standard rig. As most practical-shooting requires at least one mag change, you'd probably find these easier to tuck in a MOLLE loop, close at hand.

Forums are buzzing with excitement over this gun, so if you want something really unusual, and aren't looking to skirmish with it, get in there!

USING THE BRUTE FORCE OF THE CO2 CARTRIDGE THE GUN RELIES ON SPEED TO PUT ITS AMMO DOWN RANGE.



OUR THANKS TO
SOCOM GEAR FOR
SUPPLYING THIS 1911
FOR THIS TAKEDOWN. GO TO...
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