

# Airgun HYBRID

Brit gunmakers, Daystate have now begun production of their new Renegade bullpup. Ahead of our comprehensive test report, we give our first impressions on the rifle that combines a mechanical action with an electronic trigger unit...

**A**s the founding fathers of the modern-day precharged pneumatic, Daystate are synonymous with pushing the envelope of airgun design. With the new Renegade, arriving in gun shops any day now, the Staffordshire-based gunmakers have combined two of their state-of-the-art concepts in one... and delivered an extremely innovative airgun that sports a 'hybrid' shot-release system.

The groundbreaking MK3 and its MK4 successor – computer-driven, electronically controlled PCPs that set new benchmarks in airgun design – have now been superseded by the Pulsar. Comprehensively tested in our July 2015 issue, this incredible bullpup has proved such a success that Daystate have unashamedly chosen to base the Renegade around a similar configuration – except this one shaves hundreds of pounds off the price by virtue of its mechanically driven action.

No ordinary action, mind you, but one which incorporates the Harper-patented Slingshot Hammer – a system designed to stop the hammer bouncing on the main air valve after its first strike, thereby avoiding air wastage.

Already proven in the Renegade's Wolverine and Regal siblings, Slingshot provides not only a more controlled air output (for better shot-to-shot consistency), but a higher shot-count throughout the charge. A 200BAR fill of compressed air will typically return around 170 shots in .22 calibre for a sub-12ft/lb Renegade – although the output will be less in .177 and in high-power models, FAC-rated to 30+ft/lb.

Filling from a scuba tank or stirrup pump is done via Daystate's usual quick-coupler, secreted under the screw-off cap at the end of the Renegade's 300cc, non-removable air cylinder – and a gauge thoughtfully

secreted in the belly of the stock, nicely out of the way of the muzzle, shows the state of the air charge at all times.

The Renegade's stock is constructed from a composite nylon and covered in a matt black, soft-touch finish, either in black or green. While it follows the same lines as the Pulsar, complete with a ballistic nylon drop-down pistol grip and forend that usefully incorporates a Picatinny accessory rail, there are a couple of key differences.

Firstly, there's no integral laser as standard on the Renegade, although one could easily be retrospectively added. And secondly, the fillet on the left-hand side of the butt section lacks the LCD information screen of the all-electronic Pulsar. The result arguably gives the Renegade a sleeker overall look.

Like the Pulsar, the Renegade sports a shrouded barrel that incorporates a baffled, reflex-style sound-absorbing chamber forward of the inner barrel's muzzle, but should you want to add a silencer, a knurled collar unscrews to reveal the common 1/2in UNF thread standard.

At the shooter end, the breech is equipped with a synthetic rest for your cheek – a rollover piece which can be turned to suit right- or left-handed use. Similarly, the Renegade's sidelever can be user-adjusted to work on the right or left, making it a truly ambidextrous bullpup.

Drawing back the sidelever automatically indexes the 10-shot magazine. The rearward cycle also cocks the hammer – and despite the Renegade's on-the-limit power, there's hardly any effort required. Returning the sidelever breeches the pellet directly into the choked Lothar Walther barrel – and (as well as a hard case) the Renegade is also supplied with a no-tools-required single-shot tray should you want to opt out of fast-fire shooting.

Eye alignment with your chosen optic falls perfectly for the integral intermount that's dovetailed to take airgun-standard (11mm) scope mounts, and the curved butt pad can be raised or lowered to get a truly tailored gunfit if necessary. Combined with the integral anti-cant bubble, the Renegade offers every chance for the shooter to take the 'perfect' shot. And that's also



## FIRST LOOK: DAYSTATE RENEGADE

**Left and below:** The Renegade's shot-release comes courtesy of its Hybrid Trigger Unit – a unique system that eliminates the poor feel associated with linkage-based systems usually found in bullpup designs. The HTU (seen below in CAD and prototype forms) links the Renegade's forward-mounted blade to a fly-by-wire solenoid further back, which then trips traditional mechanical sears in a conventional manner



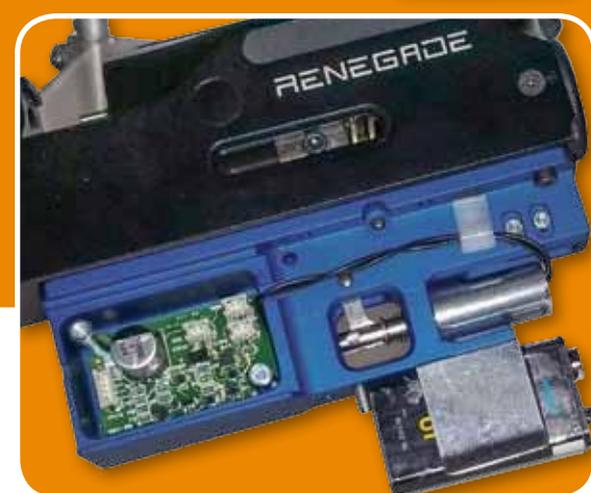
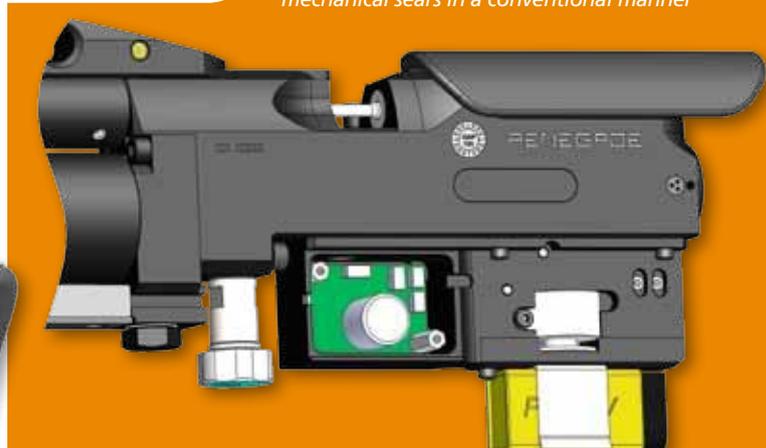
helped in no small part by the special trigger Daystate have designed in – the Renegade's unique selling point.

Historically, bullpup-style airguns have always had to compromise the trigger let-off because the more forward placement of the trigger requires some form of linkage back to the sears, placed in their usual position at the rear of the action.

Of course, this wasn't an issue with the all-electronic Pulsar. But neither is it with the Renegade – courtesy of a very clever 'hybrid' trigger arrangement that marries the hi-tech electronic system of the Pulsar's trigger with the proven, match-like feel of the traditional sear-activated units equipped on Daystate's mechanically driven PCPs.

Powered by a standard 9-volt PP3 battery and aptly called the HTU (Hybrid Trigger Unit), the operation of the forward-mounted trigger blade mimics the superlative feel that Daystate's electronic triggers give your index finger – except in the Renegade's case, a fly-by-wire system translates the blade's movement to a solenoid which 'trips' the sear in the traditional fashion.

As a concept, it brings the best of both worlds to the new rifle's handling and sets the Renegade up nicely as an alternative for shooters who either can't afford a Pulsar, or are still a little reluctant to accept its computerised operation (though with the MK3 having launched over 13 years ago, it's not like it's 'newfangled'!). Aside of Daystate's flagship Pulsar, however, the Renegade's HTU trigger is one of the best units ever to grace a bullpup-style air rifle – and yet another first for Daystate. ●



**Far left:** The quick-fill probe, and the 1/2in UNF thread for an optional silencer

**Centre left:** The rollover cheek rest and sidelever can be adjusted to work on the right or left

**Left:** The dovetailed, integral intermount takes 11mm scope mounts and features an anti-cant bubble

### TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS

<b>MAKER:</b> Daystate ● <a href="http://www.daystate.com">www.daystate.com</a>
<b>MODEL:</b> Renegade
<b>TYPE:</b> Single-/multi-shot PCP
<b>COCKING:</b> Sidelever
<b>CALIBRE:</b> .177 and .22
<b>MAGAZINE:</b> 10-shot rotary. Single-shot tray supplied
<b>FILL PRESSURE:</b> 200BAR
<b>SHOTS PER FILL:</b> 170 (.22 – manufacturer's claim)
<b>OVERALL LENGTH:</b> 747mm
<b>BARREL LENGTH:</b> 432mm
<b>WEIGHT:</b> 4.05kg (excl. scope)
<b>SIGHTS:</b> None fitted. 11mm intermount scope rail
<b>STOCK:</b> Polymer (ballistic nylon) with drop-down grip and forend accessory rail
<b>LENGTH OF PULL:</b> 366mm
<b>TRIGGER:</b> Two-stage, fully adjustable, hybrid electric/mechanical HTU
<b>SAFETY:</b> Manual cross-bolt, resettable
<b>POWER:</b> 11+ft/lb
<b>SRP:</b> £1,290 incl. filling adaptor, magazine, single-shot tray and fitted hard case