



Smallbore rifle shooting is the "Formula 1" of the shooting world. Those who step onto this stage need training, experience and, by no means last, good equipment. Over the 50 metre distance, many small aids can be used to optimise the position, vision and operation of the rifle. Over decades, Johann Zähringer and Maik Eckhardt count among the best smallbore shooters in Germany. Over the years, they

have developed a number of ideas into products, which have been widely welcomed because they bring noticeable advantages.

Take for example the **Handstop** for prone and kneeling shooting. The first characteristic of this accessory is the comfort it offers. The pressure-pain in the hand is noticeably reduced, even when the competition drags out, because the shape has been formed to the position of the hand on the stock. This design is further supported by the various adjustment possibilities to the height, the width and the angle; large and small hands are equally well accommodated. One detail of this handstop is the ability to slide it back and forth without the use of a tool. If you ever felt the need to adjust a few millimetres when in position, you will know how valuable this is. We have developed the even slimmer-profiled **HANDSTOP Start-Line** for juniors and those with delicate hands; it is also cheaper.

The purpose of the **VIBRAKE** is to equalise the weak point in the action, the loading port, which causes unequal vibrations to travel through the action. This aluminium bridge crosses over the loading port, so having a stabilising effect on the action. Vibrations are reduced, often leading to a significant increase in barrel performance.

In smallbore shooting, additional weights are usually attached to the stock, so as not to influence the vibration of the barrel. This function can be elegantly realised by means of the user-friendly 'stabilisers' **Carbon** and **Steel**. The flexible movement of the weight bars and their elements permits fine variations in balance and weight distribution of the rifle. This allows the sys-



tematic perfection of the rifle's vibration and muzzle jump characteristics.

The ability to adjust without the need for tools is incidentally a feature which has become a principle for us. On the **MARK I**, barrel weights, palm shelf and even the butt and cheekpiece, can all be moved without an allen key. These satellite components can all be loosened in position and also securely fixed in place, just using the strength of the fingers. This avoids over-torquing the bolts and screws, as can easily happen in the heat of the moment, leading again and again to screws and threads becoming damaged. A detail which makes using our fittings both secure, which at the same time allowing necessary adjustments to be undertaken more fluently.



For many shooters, the handstop and its uses is a book with seven seals. Study the positions of a lot of shooters, and if you know what to look for, you will see again and again, simple mistakes which at first lead to pain in the left hand and then later, when the results list is published, also pain in the soul.

The first and foremost consideration for the sling positions is a suitable cross-section of the stock. Wide profiles force small hands into a spread-out and therefore tense position. Add the pressure from the weight, the sling and the long shooting times and this mess quickly becomes a physical torture, which dulls all attempts at concentration and above all, takes the fun out of things. So when buying a rifle, look for a fore-end that is slim enough. If necessary, get your stock profiled. The same goes for the handstop, here too a slim profile and adjustability are the keys. Especially the younger shooters who are beginning with air rifle three positions shooting, are dependent on good advice from their coaches in matters such as this.

Good handstops can be adjusted sideways, so that the thumb can be lightly positioned alongside the stock. This little difference helps not only to reduce the tensions in the hand, it helps to provide a 'cleaner' recoil as the shot breaks. This is a significant secret, especially in the smallbore disciplines. The shot will only impact at the point you expect, when the muzzle jumps cleanly.

