

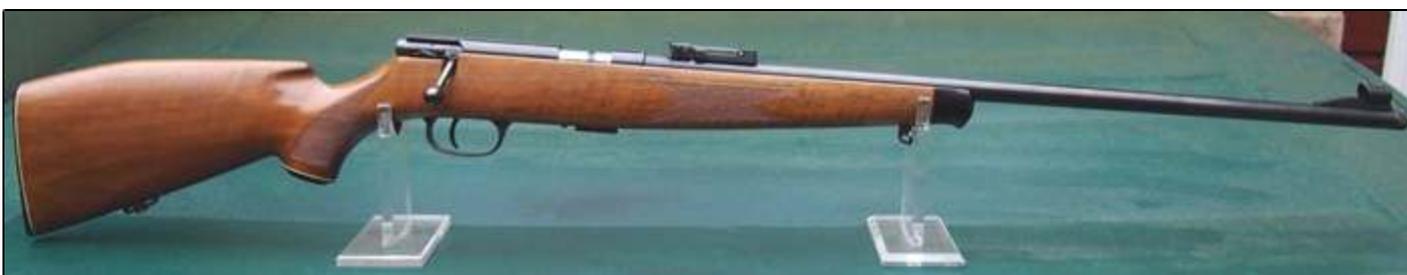
# Thames Valley Guns

## Krico 302 .22 Rifle

### Introduction

Krico rifles are not all that common in the UK and as a result my experience was limited to a single .243 that I worked on a few years ago. Therefore I was really excited when an absolutely pristine Krico model 302 .22LR became available. A quick phone call to the supplier to confirm its availability, I placed the order and the rifle arrived a few days later.

Whilst waiting for the rifle to arrive I did some research only to find information was in short supply, there is a website ([www.krico.de](http://www.krico.de)) which is only in German and is restricted to a few pages containing very little information. On the website there is a "Katalog" which is in German, English and Spanish and you can buy products on-line such as spare magazines, various products and rifles. Looking through the rifle pages gives you an idea as to the product range but little else. Address for the company is Kriegeskorte Handels, Vermietungs und Entwicklungsges GmbH, Nürnberger Straße 6, 90602 Pyrbaum, Germany.



### General Description

This rifle is a model 302 AL which I believe refers to the fully adjustable tangent rearsight and the Bavarian style hog's back walnut stock. Serial No: is 370895 but I am unable to identify its date of manufacture from this number and the only 300 series rifle depicted on Krico's website is of a more modern design, so therefore I am assuming this rifle is what they refer to as the second series and was manufactured in the 1990's.



The rifle has a traditional bolt action layout with a detachable 5rd box magazine. It has the roughly the same weight and dimensions as a centre fire sporting rifle with an overall length of 44". Barrel is a sporting variant and 25" in length and overall the rifle weighs 5.5lbs. This particular model is fitted with good quality Ironsights, a rimfire scope rail and a good checkered walnut stock. Overall the rifle has a feel of quality about it, trigger is of match standard, bolt operates very smoothly and feeds and ejects without fault.

### Barrel

The 302AL has a good quality 25" tapered sporting barrel which narrows to 0.686 at the muzzle and which I believe is supplied by Lothar Walther GmbH. The muzzle is nicely crowned and threaded for a moderator with a 1/2 x 20 UNF thread which was completed at the factory rather than post import. The thread has a thread protector which is parallel with the exterior of the barrel and rifling is traditional.

The barrel sports both typical British and German proof marks, manufacturers title, address, model, calibre and the Krico crest. The barrel is threaded to the receiver and the bluing is of a high quality. The barrel is not floated, touches the forend and sits precisely in the barrel channel of the stock.

The barrel is fitted with good quality front and rear sights. The foresight consists of a ramp, bead type foresight blade and foresight protector. The post is removable and therefore indicates the shooter can fit different blades of his choice. The ramp is secured with a single screw and can therefore be easily removed if required, especially if it interferes with the scope sight picture.

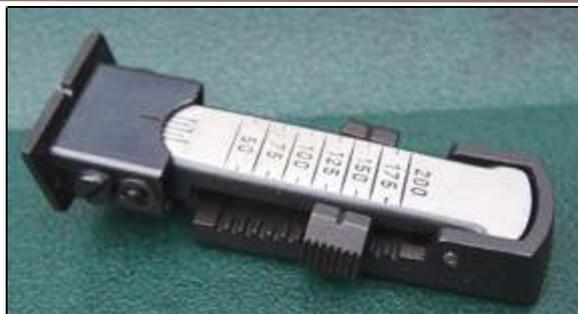


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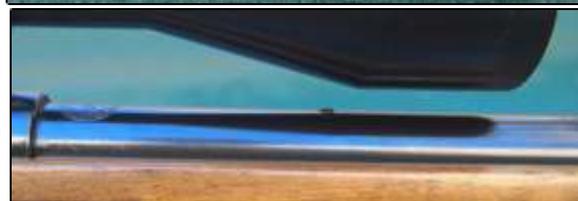
The tangent rearsight is fully adjustable and graduated to 200m. I would have thought this is quite ambitious for a .22 rimfire, even utilising hyper velocity ammunition, the target would have to be fairly large to avoid being hidden by the foresight blade.

Like the foresight the rearsight can be easily removed to avoid any conflict when fitting a scope. As one would expect with a German rifle the screws are metric and therefore to avoid an unsightly hole when the rearsight is removed I inserted a metric grub screw. The barrel is 25" long and if you add a moderator this increases the length by another another 6".



### Magazine

The magazine is manufactured from press steel stampings, there are four plates which are swaged together to form the magazine and a sliding base plate which retains the cartridge platform and its spring. This is a good magazine which inserts and ejects nicely from the rifle and feeds without fault with all ammunition types. It is supported by the magazine housing and the magazine release catch is located behind the magazine and has to be pushed forward to release the magazine. This layout is ideal and prevents the magazine being accidentally released. Another novel feature is the magazine guide, as shown in front of the magazine catch.



However the magazine is limited to five rounds and the 10rd magazine advertised on Krico's website is out of stock and can only be purchased by cheque or money order. This is really frustrating and ultimately must affect Krico's sales. I find it hard to believe that a company that sells its products internationally does not have a modern and effective International website.



One last point, magazines are integral to the efficient functioning of the rifle and therefore they must be kept clean at all times. When stripping this magazine make note of how the platform comes out as it must go back in the same manner. Failure to reinstall the platform correctly will reduce the magazines round capacity to four and it will struggle to feed the last round.

### Bolt

The bolt is long, highly polished and locks only on the bolt handle with a small detent ball at the base of the cocking handle which assists in retaining the bolt in the closed position. The bolt face, twin extractors, extractor spring and firing pin are all very traditional as can be seen from the picture and require no further explanation. At the rear of the bolt there is a gun state indicator which protrudes when the bolt is cocked and can clearly be felt when shooting at night.



With the magazine fully engaged there is very little presentation angle between the magazine platform/bullet and the chamber, therefore when the bolt is driven forward, feed from the magazine is parallel into the chamber reducing the risk of misfeed. Primary extraction is achieved by cams in the receiver working in harmony with the cam block at the base of the bolt handle and the bolt's length of travel is controlled by the bolt release.

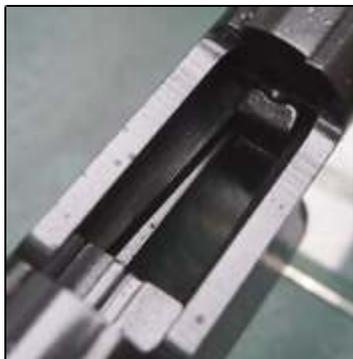
This is a well made bolt of high quality, its operation is relatively simplistic compared with other designs and the resulting combination is a bolt operation that is extremely smooth to operate with the rounds being feed, extracted with little effort and without fault.

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### Magazine Housing

The magazine housing is manufactured as a one piece aluminium casting and houses the magazine release catch, spring and guide plate. It is secured in place by two screws, the front one of these two screws secures a small plate which acts as the feed ramp. The rear screw is shared with the trigger unit and the stock.



Clearly shown in the picture is a square recess, formed between the trigger and the magazine housing, this provides access to the screw which secures the ejector.

### Trigger unit

Trigger unit is a self contained one piece unit secured with two screws, one of which is shared by the magazine housing. The trigger unit houses the trigger mechanism, bolt release and safety catch.

Trigger is fully adjustable for pressure and length of pull, all components are held in place by axis pins and clips and therefore the trigger is easy to strip, clean and repair. The trigger has a first and second pull and releases at a very pleasant 2.1lbs



The safety catch is located at the rear and on the right hand side of the receiver, it is easy to operate and has a positive motion when applied or released. The safety catch can only be applied when the bolt is cocked and the application of the safety locks the trigger and prevents the sear from being released, however the bolt can still be functioned and therefore the rifle can still be cleared and made safe.

On the opposite side to the safety catch is the bolt release. The bolt release serves three functions; bolt release, bolt guide and bolt stop. It is a relatively simple yet effective device which is positioned and functions under the influence of its spring steel plate.

### Stock

As this is a top end model it is clearly reflected in the stock which is in a typically German format with the butt sporting the Bavarian hogs back design. Butt plate is plastic and the action to wood fit is very precise. Checkering is pleasant cosmetically and well done for a factory stock. The stock is fitted with sling swivels and my biggest criticism of this rifle, the ebony fore end. The reason for the criticism is that it is painted, any damage reveals the walnut underneath and it looks cheap.



As the rifle is some 12-15 years old the sling swivels are somewhat dated and whilst the barrel is not floating it touches the woodwork ever so slightly. Therefore I replaced the sling swivels with modern QD studs and then fixed a small wooden insert into the barrel channel so the barrels contact with the fore end was constant rather than intermittent.

Not a criticism but an more of an observation is the trigger guard and floor plate. It consists of three components, the guard,

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the magazine housing and a small floor plate. When replacing the stock after cleaning it is important that these three components are assembled with some care and the screws tightened down in a balanced manner.



Failure to do so distorts the stock slightly and the action does not seat true.

### Scope

As this is a good quality .22 rimfire rifle which would be mainly consuming subsonic ammunition, engagement ranges will be typically around 75yds and against small prey such as rabbits, I wanted a decent scope which would compliment the rifle and its heritage.



In my scope collection I had a Pecar 4-10 variable. This is a superb 1970/80's scope designed for fullbore rifles of the period and the British Police used it on the Lee Enfield Enforcer as their Sniper Rifle. It has a 25mm tube and a 44mm object lens and would not

look out of place on this full sized rifle. Utilising a set of Warne medium height rimfire rings the scope sits 4mm above the barrel, providing the correct height and allowing suitable bolt clearance.

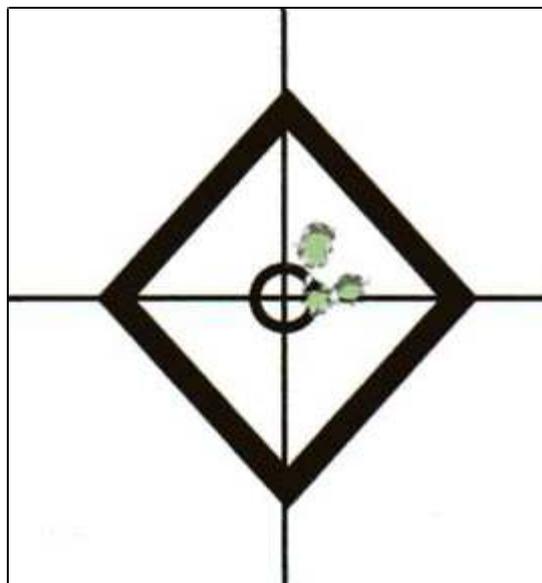
### Summary

With the rifle, stripped, rebuilt and serviced I initially functioned tested on a 25yrd indoor range. This exercise flagged up the fact that I had wrongly assembled the magazine and once I had re-assembled the magazine correctly, the rifle functioned, cycled and shot extremely well.

My second range test was at 75yds with the barrel now seated on the wood insert and using a A-Tech moderator. Shooting prone and from a tripod the best four round group was 8.75mm on a pleasant but blustery day using Eley Sub Sonic's. However I feel this could be bettered with Eley Tenex.

I must say I found no fault and could only praise the rifle. Although a different action the rifle operates with the same smoothness as the Weihrauch HW60J that I had previously tested and there are certainly some similarities with the bolt assembly.

My previous experience of Krico was very limited and non-existent with regards to their rimfire rifles. However I must say this is a good quality rifle and an absolute pleasure to shoot.



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