

Titan 16 straight-pull rifle



The bolt is operated by a right-sided handle, and the large thumbhole is well designed

The Titan 16 is a straight-pull rifle at a decent price, says Bruce Potts

The Titan range of well-made, well-priced rifles has been available in Britain for some time through various distributors; now Country Sports Wholesale has taken over the dealership. The rifles come from Rosler, a small family-run business, based in Austria since 1996. The firm offers a traditional bolt-action designed rifle, Titan 3 or 6 dependent on action length, and the newer Titan 16, which is a straight-pull bolt-action. Both have exchangeable barrels, differing calibre and stock options with practical finishes and detachable magazines.

I had the Titan 16 .308 Winchester rifle on test as a package with a Vortex Hog Hunter scope 3-12x56mm, plus rings for £1,595. This offers a straight-pull designed rifle for people who like the design but without the expense. The rifle alone costs £1,505.40

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

MANUFACTURER: ROSLER AUSTRIA

BARREL LENGTH: 22IN

OVERALL LENGTH: 42.5IN

CALIBRE: .308 WIN ON TEST

STOCK: THUMBHOLE WALNUT

WEIGHT: 3.1KG

TRIGGER: DIRECT TRAVEL, ADJUSTABLE

SAFETY: THREE-STAGE, TANG-MOUNTED

MAGAZINE: DETACHABLE THREE SHOT

PRICE: £1,505.40

CONTACT: COUNTRY SPORTS WHOLESALE, TEL 01223 208110

FIELD TEST

FACTORY	BULLET WEIGHT (GRAIN)	BULLET TYPE	MUZZLE VELOCITY (FPS)	MUZZLE ENERGY (FT/LB)
Norma	150	Ballistic Tip	2,755	2,529
Hornady	150	SST	2,972	2,943
Federal	150	Barnes TSX	2,883	2,769
S and B	168	Barnes TSX	2,553	2,432
Geco	165	Express	2,670	2,613

RELOADS	BULLET WEIGHT (GRAIN)	BULLET TYPE	RELOAD DATA	MUZZLE VELOCITY (FPS)	MUZZLE ENERGY (FT/LB)
Hornady	110	V-Max	47.0gr of Varget powder	2,914	2,075
Nosler	125	Ballistic Tip	40.0gr of RL10x powder	2,876	2,296
Sierra	150	GameKing	47.5gr of RL 15 powder	2,791	2,595
Hornady	150	SST	44.5gr of Vit N140 powder	2,688	2,407
Speer	165	Spitz	45.0gr of IMR 4064 powder	2,702	2,676

Action/bolt and barrel assembly

The action on the Titan 16 is an encapsulated bolt design — that is, the bolt reciprocates within the action, but the bolt handle stops it fully exiting the rear-action shoulder.

The action is 8in long and the bolt is operated by a right-sided handle that is 2in long, with a rounded plastic knob to grip. To unlock the bolt, you pull the knob 90°; it moves 4.75in rearward to eject or cycle a new round. The bolt itself has 16 locking lugs that lock directly into the barrel — that's playing safe! There is a Sako-type extractor and stepped plunger-type ejector.

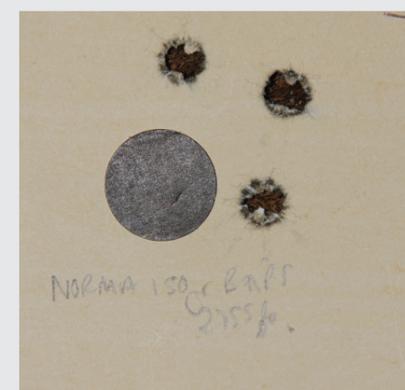
To remove the barrel, you remove the stock and loosen two Allen screws, then a replacement barrel can be installed with the appropriate bolt size to suit the calibre change. The barrels,

sourced from a famous Suhl barrel maker, are hammered and drawn with precision rifling on this .308 Win model. They are 22in long. Two barrel diameters are available — 15mm (on test) or 19mm, with optional lengths as desired. There is a good range of cartridges, from .243 Win to .338 Win Mag, but sadly no smaller cartridges such as .222 Remington, .223 Rem or .22-250.

There is a tough carbonitrided and oxidised finish that gives good corrosion resistance and a non-reflective surface that's ideal for hunting.

There is a fast lock time (the time from trigger-pull to firing pin hitting the primer in the cartridge) which aids accuracy. The bolt operation is smooth but the handle could be longer as it is too close to the stock's woodwork.

AMMUNITION GROUPINGS



ABOVE: The Norma 150-gr Ballistic Tips produced consistent 1.25in groups



ABOVE: Accuracy was good with Sierra GameKing 150-gr bullets propelled by RL 15

Trigger and magazine

The trigger is nice, crisp and single stage in operation, with no lag or creep at all. The weight was 2.75lb when tested and this can be adjusted if you wish. The safety is sited like a shotgun on the tang section and has three positions: forward to fire, mid-point is safe, but the bolt operates, or fully rearward to lock both the trigger and bolt.

The detachable magazine is calibre-specific for a range of cartridge sizes and is released from the stock via twin buttons either side of the magazine's base. The .308 Win had a three-shot capacity.

Stock

This model wore the standard thumbhole stock, though higher grades of "Luxury" and "Exclusive" can be ordered. A more conventional profile Sporter is available in all three grades, but you can also opt for a

synthetic stock. The standard grade is plain and has a dry-oiled finish that will improve with use.

I like thumbholes and this is a good design with a straight raked pistol grip area that keeps the firing hand close to upright. This is a more natural hold and the actual thumbhole is large for assured grip, though there is no provision for a thumb rest.

There is a typically Bavarian-styled cheekpiece with little to no rise to the comb, but it's fine for scope use and the fore-end is nicely finished with a Schnabel tip. Fine-cut chequering adorns both sides of the fore-end and pistol grip, and a small, solid recoil pad finishes off a good function hunting stock.

Accuracy and targets

Both factory and reloads shot well in the Titan 16 with no hiccups, and all cycled without fault. Recoil was well contained by the thumbhole stock design. The Vortex Hog Hunter scope

HOW THE RIFLE SCORES

ACCURACY

CONSISTENT HUNTING ACCURACY WITH FACTORY OR RELOADS.

HANDLING

NICE WEIGHT AND FEEL BUT THE BOLT HANDLE NEEDS TO BE LONGER FOR ME.

TRIGGER

GREAT WEIGHT AND VERY PRECISE, WHICH AIDS ACCURACY.

STOCK

COMFORTABLE BUT PLAIN IN STANDARD GRADE BUT A GOOD PRACTICAL THUMBHOLE DESIGN.

VALUE

GOOD VALUE STRAIGHT-PULL RIFLE CONSIDERING THE ALTERNATIVE STRAIGHT-PULLS.

TOTAL 85/100

CONCLUSION

Straight-pull rifles usually command a premium, but the Titan 16 offers a good-value alternative with a good range of hunting calibres and stock/barrel options. The barrel exchange feature adds to the versatility, making it one rifle that does everything. If straight-pulls are not your choice, the Titan 3 or 6 models with conventional bolts are of equally good quality.

3-12x56mm supplied with this package deal was particularly good.

The Norma 150-gr Ballistic Tips were the best factory ammunition tested. They produced consistent 1.25in groups at 100 yards, with a velocity of 2,755fps producing 2,529ft/lb energy.

A heavier load such as the S and B 168-gr Barnes TSX also shot good 1.4in groups, making them ideal for those wanting a lead-free option. Reloads tightened up the groups to below 1in for three shots.

Those wanting a faster load will like the Nosler 125-gr Ballistic Tips, which gave a velocity of 2,876fps for 2,296ft/lb with an accurate load of 0.95in.

The all-round 150-gr bullet weight was well represented by Sierra's GameKing bullet propelled with 47.5 grains of RL 15 powder for 2,791fps and 2,595ft/lb. Again, accuracy was good with 0.85in groups possible. **BT**

