

# Exclusive preview... A Pair of Austrian Titans

**E**rich and Walter Rossler operate the smallest rifle making factory in Europe and maybe the world. With one full-time employee and four casuals on call, they produce 2000 hunting rifles each year.

It was mid-winter when the train rolled into the station at Kufstein in the Austrian Tirol. Snow was deep on the ground and

drifted up against the fences, two metres deep everywhere. Walter Rossler was there to meet me and ten minutes later I was sitting in an oak-panelled tavern warmed by an open log fire, talking guns with Walter and his father Erich.

My old friend Hubertus Dowidat of Dynamit-Nobel had arranged my visit to the Rossler factory which is three hours by train from Furth, Germany. RWS are distributing

the Rossler Titan rifles which are destined to arrive in Australia later this year.

After a few beers the Rosslers drove me to my hotel, the Gasthaus zur Schanz which had a sign out front "Jagdhof" (hunter's home). The hotel was in a picturesque setting with a 2,000 metre mountain rising sheer as a backdrop, while on the grounds in front red deer and fallow grazed quietly. That night we dined at the hotel and next morning Erich



Walter Rossler shows Nick Harvey his Titan 6 rifle which features interchangeable barrels.



Rossler picked me up and drove me to the family factory where the Titan rifles are manufactured.

The Rossler Waffen KEG is small factory-type operation: actually, this is a semi-custom outfit, because every rifle is made as an individual firearm by individuals, not on an

assembly line. That means that each unit can be given a little extra attention.

The Titan 3 and the Titan 6 are based on the same action, stock wood is Italian walnut in varying grades. Two stock designs are available; standard classic with straight comb and cheekpiece, finely checkered pistol grip and

forend, and rubber recoil pad with American-style detachable sling swivel bases. The Luxus has a Germanic hogsback comb, with Bavarian square-edged cheekpiece and an oil finish.

The Titan is a modern modular design with interchangeable barrels. Rifles are chambered for most popular US cartridges as well as the most widely used European metric calibres. Perhaps the most effective way to acquaint readers with the various features found on the Rossler Titan rifle is to give you a thorough rundown on it.

The cylindrical receiver is milled out of a solid block of aircraft-grade alloy on CNC machinery. Its rounded top is drilled and tapped for scope mounts which are the same as that for the Sauer 200. The six-lug bolt locks directly into the rear end of the barrel. The bolt is machined out of a single piece of steel. The face of the bolt is recessed to a depth of 3mm and fully encloses the cartridge head. The outer surface is machined to leave three rows of two lugs in staggered formation - six in all. This lug arrangement ensures a large contact surface with the face of the barrel, providing maximum safety.

The locking lugs are formed by grooving and channelling the bolt head. The Titan 6 has a six lug array, while the Titan 3 has three lugs in a single row. The resulting full-diameter bolt pattern was made popular by the Weatherby Mark V and others. Advantages claimed for the non-protruding lugs are that they eliminate the necessity for broaching long and deep raceways in the receiver side-walls. Also, the shoulder formed on the bolt helps confine gas escape to inside of the barrel breech. There are two holes in the bolt body which vent any gas that gets inside the



The Titan 3 bolt (right) has a shorter body and firing pin than the Titan 6. It also has three locking lugs instead of six.



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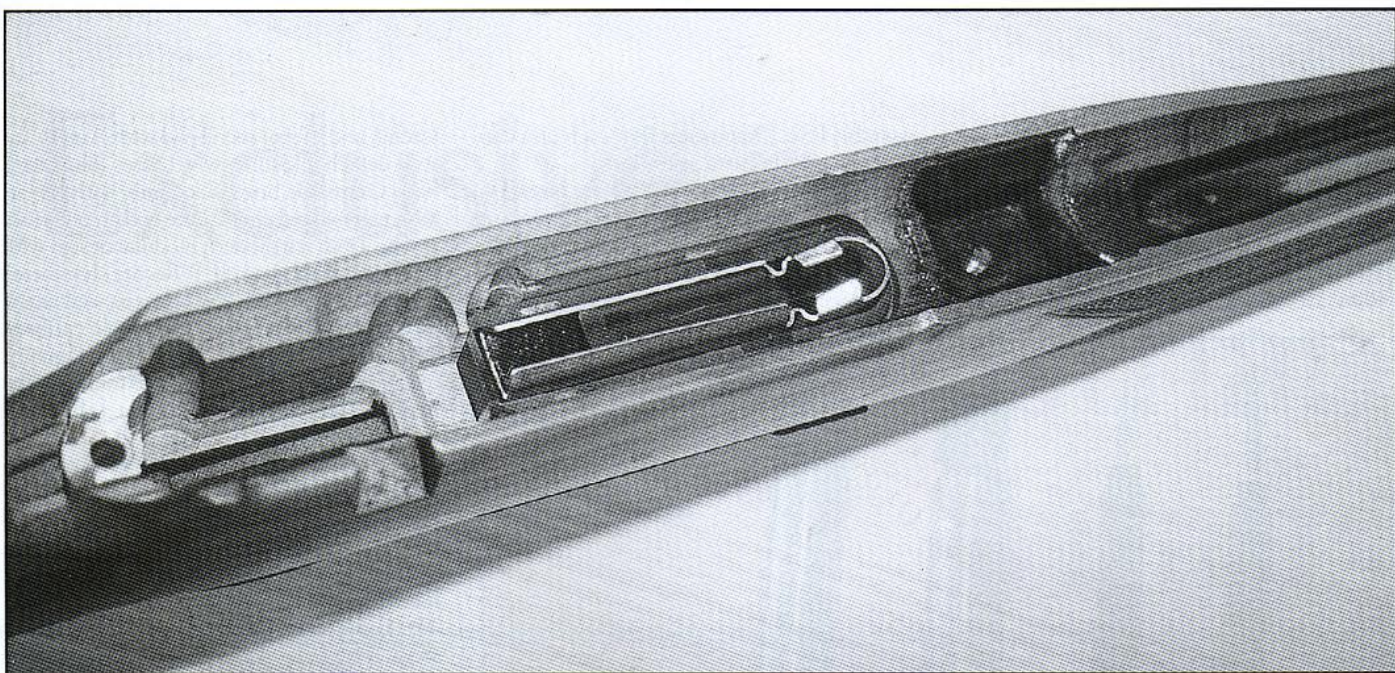
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**ABOVE:** The Titan bedding system has the recoil lug mated with a glued-in fibreglass insert. The tang is supported by an aluminium block.

**RIGHT:** Titan Stocks: the Luxus has a Germanic shape while the standard version has classic styling.

bolt via the firing pin hole, out to the side. Any remaining flow is blocked by the solid bolt sleeve. In all, a thorough and positive gas-handling system.

Another advantage which could be claimed for the Titan's one-diameter bolt is smoother operation with less tendency to bind. Action strength is not a factor, however, because of the way the bolt locks into the rear of the barrel. The bolt is distinctive, its handle is long and graceful.

The rear end of the bolt is contoured to blend in with shape of the receiver, giving it a streamlined appearance. When the rifle is cocked the end of the firing pin protrudes to act as a firing indicator and can be easily seen or felt with the thumb.

The locking lug area is equal to that of the Mauser 98 which has a lug shear area of .316 square inch and a lug bearing area of .054 square inch. A hook extractor some 3.5mm in width is installed in the front edge of one of the locking lugs to preserve the integrity of the bolt face counterbore.

The Titan rifles have the very fast lock time of 1.7 milliseconds - one of the fastest in the industry. For comparison the Remington Model 700 short action has a lock time of 2.6 milliseconds.

The firing pin of the Titan 3 which is a shorter action made for cartridges in the .308 family, is 20.25mm long against 28.36mm for the standard length Titan 6. The firing pin cocks using a double tension guide with a low bolt lift of 60-degrees.





The bolt too, is shorter overall by 8.5mm, but both use the same length shroud. The bolt and receiver are similar to those of the modern Mauser 94 and 96. The finish on all parts of the action and barrel is excellent, with no tool marks visible anywhere.

The Titan has a separate tang which is held on by the same pair of screws used to attach the trigger unit to the underside of the receiver. The bolt stop is a longitudinal groove in the underside of the bolt; the sear slides in this groove and abuts the rear end. Except for lack of an over travel stop due to the sear acting as the bolt stop, the design is good.

The single-stage trigger is adjustable for weight of pull from 0.8kg to 2kg, and leaves the factory set at 1.6kg. The sear is made from specially hardened high tensile Bohler steel



**ABOVE:** The Titan's detachable box magazines are single column and feed cartridges into the chamber like silk.

**LEFT:** Two large screws in the split recoil lug are tensioned to clamp the barrel solidly into place.



1200 Newton MM2 which simply doesn't wear. The sear engages the cocking piece squarely and is actuated upward by a small coil spring.

The Titan has a three-position tang safety on the tang where it is conveniently placed for the thumb. In the rear engaged position it locks both trigger and bolt handle; in the mid-position it locks the trigger, but allows the bolt to be cycled to remove a loaded round from the chamber; when pushed fully forward it is in the firing mode, and a red dot appears behind the button.

The large recoil lug under the receiver ring is split and tensioned with two large hex head screws to act as a barrel clamp. To change barrels it is necessary to remove the stock and loosen off the two hex head screws with the special wrench furnished with the rifle. Once the clamp has relaxed its grip on the barrel's shank, the barrel can be withdrawn from the receiver ring. Another barrel in a different calibre is slid fully home and the two screws are re-tensioned.

Calibres can only be changed within the limitations of the bolt face, ie, standard or magnum. A magnum barrel will not interchange with a standard one, and vice versa. Also, after changing the barrel, you have to sight-in the rifle again, as the scope is mounted on the receiver and the barrel.

Rosler uses barrels from Wilson, USA and Heym in Germany. Rifles for Europe are fitted with iron sights, but export models will have slick barrels. Standard calibre barrels have a length of 56cm and magnums 61cm.

The recoil lug fits into a recess in a special



fibreglass insert which is glued into the stock mortise, while the rear tang rests atop a special alloy bedding block. The full-floating barrel is inletted into the stock much better than most machine inletted stocks.

The Titan rifles use a quick-detachable,

## SPECS

### Titan 6

#### MANUFACTURER:

Rossler Waffen KEG, Ing. Walther  
Simmer-Weg 11, 6330 Kufstein,  
Austria.

#### MECHANISM TYPE:

turnbolt action with interchangeable  
barrels

#### CALIBRES:

.243 Win., 25-06, 6x62 Freres,  
6.5x55, 6.5x57, 6.5x65, 7x64, 270  
Win., .308 Win., .30-06, 8x57 IS,  
8x68S, 9.3x62, 7mm Rem Mag.,  
.300 Win Mag., .338 Win Mag.,  
.270WSM, .300 WSM.

#### OVERALL LENGTH:

108cm (magnum calibres 113cm)

#### BARREL:

Std cals 56cm; magnum cals 61cm

#### BOLT:

6-lug, locking in rear of barrel; 60-  
degree lift

#### TRIGGER:

single stage, adjustable to 1000  
grams

#### WEIGHT:

approx. 2.9kg (magnum calibres  
3.0kg)

#### TRIGGER:

single-stage 1.36kg pull

#### SIGHTS:

none, drilled and tapped for scope  
mount

#### MAGAZINE:

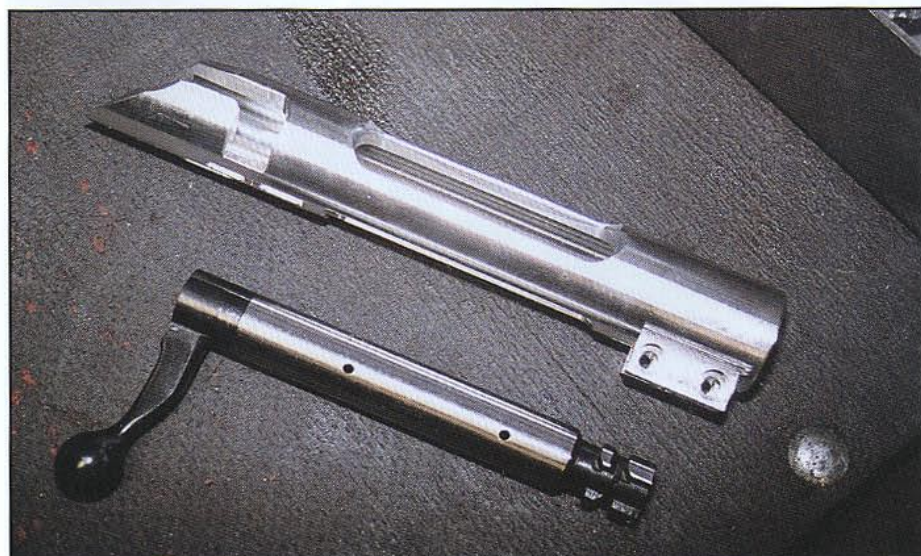
single-row, detachable, holds 3  
rounds in std. cals and 2 in magnum

#### STOCK:

Italian walnut: matte lacquered; std  
model classic-style; Luxus  
hogsback comb with Bavarian  
cheekpiece

#### PRICE:

not available at this time.



**TOP:** The recoil lug slots into a fibreglass stock that is moulded to be an exact fit.

**ABOVE:** Titan receivers and bolts are CNC machined and held to very close tolerances. Only the best quality materials are used.

**RIGHT:** Multiple head lugs lock into recesses in the barrel's breech. The cartridge head is completely encircled by two rings of steel.



single-column box magazine of stainless steel. The follower in the Titan 3 is anodised aluminium alloy and the box has a synthetic floorplate, while Titan 6 has fibreglass magazine frame. The magazine holds three cartridges in standard calibres and fits flush with the belly of the stock.

The magazine is designed to feed each cartridge "in-line" rather than a staggered formation as in most Mauser 98-based designs. This type of cartridge feed system is a lot smoother and more reliable, since the cartridge is held by both lips of the magazine

and fed straight into the chamber. This way the cartridge doesn't have to turn any corners and seems to leap into the chamber of its own volition. The trigger breaks crisply, just like a glass rod.

The magazine frame is synthetic with integral trigger guard, glass fibre reinforced to be stable in shape and impact resistant.

All of the stocks I examined were of straight-grained, dark-brown walnut checkered in a point pattern on grip and forend. I





Erich Rossler takes great pride in Titan rifles. Here he displays a standard Titan 6.

particularly liked the standard classic-styled stock with its high, straight comb sloping upward toward the heel. The buttstock is slim, with a well-shaped cheekpiece and the forend is slim and rounded, just the way I like

it. The butt was fitted with a thin, black recoil pad, and Q/D swivel bases are standard. Rossner offers an optional black synthetic stock which is identical to the standard classic stock, but without a cheekpiece. The over-

all fit and finish of this rifle deserves a triple-A rating in all respects. At the EWA Show in Germany this year, Rossler introduced a true left hand version of the Titan 6.

In the field every shot counts and as much depends upon the inherent accuracy of cartridge and precision of the rifle as the hunter's marksmanship. The Titan is nicely balanced, handles well and operation is impressively fast and smooth. Accuracy, as might be expected with such an even and consistent bedding system is excellent. Compared to most European rifles, the Titan is likely to be well-priced.

My visit to Rossler in Kufstein was unexpectedly pleasant, just like visiting old friends. The father and son team were very down-to-earth and their hospitality was unexpected. They were very forthcoming and honest about how their Titan rifles are made, and I appreciated the trouble they went took to show me how everything is produced. This was a stark contrast to another firearms factory I visited in the Czech Republic a few weeks earlier; they didn't allow me to take a single photograph!

All enquiries to RWS stockists



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