

Stainless Reputation



RWS is not a name that's usually associated with fullbore rifles, but they do a nice line in centrefires as Ian Davies discovers

The stainless/synthetic version of the RWS Titan, here we see it fitted with the NXS 3.3 - 15 x 50 scope, bipod and Wildcat LW300 moderator. The only consideration with this build is the forend, as on/off a bipod the point of impact will shift

Overall, and at the money, the Titan 3 represents an accurate and well put together sporting rifle; certainly in relation to the other European switch calibre guns currently available

RUAG Ammotec UK Ltd has a hi-level portfolio that includes such prestigious names as Norma ammunition, Night Force optics and Perazzi shotguns. They also handle RWS, which is another great European brand of ammo, but this company also offers a range of centrefire bolt-action rifles called the Titan. Some years ago, as I recall, the editor looked at one of the Varmint guns with a heavy barrel and wooden stock. This time around it's my turn and I have the Titan 3, which is a stainless synthetic in a sporting build, though chambered in 223 Remington.

The guys at RUAG did me proud as they put a Night Force NXS 3.3 - 15 x 50 scope on top and supplied 40 and 50-grain Norma ammo, so keeping it very much in the family. First impressions put me in mind of a Sauer 202; especially as the Titan offers the ability to change

barrels and therefore calibre, which is getting more common with European rifles. This job is accomplished in a similar way to the 202, with a split front receiver and clamp screws.

Typically you may not have to change the bolt if you pick a calibre with the same sized case head. For example if you went for 22-250 Remington as a fox/small deer round (Scotland only) you could move up to 30-06 Springfield for a big hitter, as in both cases the bolt head dimensions are identical. All you would need would be the new tube and magazine. RWS include all the tools required to make the swap.

Black 'n' Silver

I have to say the rifle looked a little garish with its stainless barrel/action and black synthetic stock, but that's only cosmetics. The build goes for an alloy receiver with a split front that retains the barrel by a lug/slot system

and twin clamp screws. Locking is direct bolt to barrel, so the receiver takes no stress as it might on other designs.

The bolt is a solid, one-piece design with three locking lugs, a fully supported head and spring/plunger ejector. This gives a short lift angle and a fast and noticeably smooth stroke with no drop or drag and 100% reliable ejection. At the rear is a cocked action indicator that protrudes and shows red when the gun is ready to fire. Typically for this sort of rifle there is only one action size - long. This is done to accommodate all calibres and is carried on into the magazine design, which uses a plastic filler block at the rear to take up those cartridges with a shorter cartridge overall length (COL). The release catch is built into the side of the well and consists of twin plungers that must be pressed simultaneously to drop the clip. On that point you have the option of three or five shot capacities.

