

means, so a quick geography lesson is in order. The Trans-Pecos (with a hyphen) is a region which contains the mesquite-covered plains, plateaus, and mountains of western Texas drained by the Pecos River westward to El Paso. But to people who know the region, the name Trans-Pecos also carries other, more subtle meanings. It is big, uncrowded, and original. All three of those descriptions could apply to the Trans Pecos gun as well.

Briley's magazine-fed and single-shot Trans Pecos centerfires are solid guns sporting 24-inch and 26-inch Lothar Walther barrels. We tested a wood-stocked .308 Winchester and a composite-stocked .22-250 Remington, which respectively weighed in at 9.6 pounds (scoped) and 12.6 pounds (unscoped).

"A lot of the weight in those guns are in the barrels," said Webb. "We plan to build mostly No. 3 and No. 5 contours, which have more metal on them. These are guns made to shoot accurately and consistently first. It's very difficult to make lighter-contoured barrels perform within the accuracy range we're promising."

Other equipment includes parts made by Briley and pieces from other suppliers. The extractor, for instance, is a modified AR-15 piece. "They're indestructible and readily available," Webb said. The bolt spring is a to-spec item made by Wolff, the pistol-spring manufacturer. The trigger is a Jewell benchrest model. Many of the other pins and springs are picked up from existing parts supplies. Otherwise, where possible, Webb used already fabricated parts from their own house (such as the magazine release button, which is purloined from Briley's pistol division), and in-house machinery and talent, essentially soaking up excess machine and operator capacity.

"If you had to tool up from scratch and build this gun," Webb

**Briley Trans Pecos .308 Repeater**

*Retail Price...\$3,495*



**SPECIFICATIONS**

Warranty: Limited Lifetime

BARREL FINISH .....	Blued or SS	TRIGGER MFG. ....	Jewell
Action Finish .....	Hardcoat	TRIGGER PULL ....	6 oz. to 3 lbs.
WEIGHT (EMPTY) .....	8.4 lbs.	RINGS INCLUDED .....	No
OVERALL LENGTH .....	43 in.	STOCK MATERIAL .....	Walnut
BARREL LENGTH .....	24 in.	LENGTH OF PULL .....	14 in.
Barrel Mfg. ...	Lothar Walther	DROP @ COMB .....	0.5 in.
RIFLING TWIST .....	1-in-9	DROP @ HEEL .....	1.0 in.
MAGAZINE CAPACITY .....	3 rds.	DROP @ TOE .....	6.0 in.

**Our Recommendation:** This gun isn't for everybody. It shoots half-inch groups with factory ammo, has a great trigger and stock fit, and looks great. But its price is too steep for most of us.

Barrel free-floats.

The far-forward comb nose can get marked by the bolt shroud.



We would prefer a more tapered forend.



Briley's cartridge selection is limited to short and medium-length rounds like the .308 (in the magazine). Longer rounds like the .270 (bottom) may be offered in the future.

The gun's rear buttstock has a high cheekpiece and a lot of drop in the toe. This helps the shooter keep his head erect. The sprayed-on finish imparts a subtle sheen.

We would prefer the magazine-release button to be on the underside of the action.



The Jewell benchrest trigger adjusts down to 6 ounces. We liked the position of the safety inside the trigger guard.