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*Feature Story*

Brandon Reystead recounts two amazing hunts he experienced with Little Dease Adventures.

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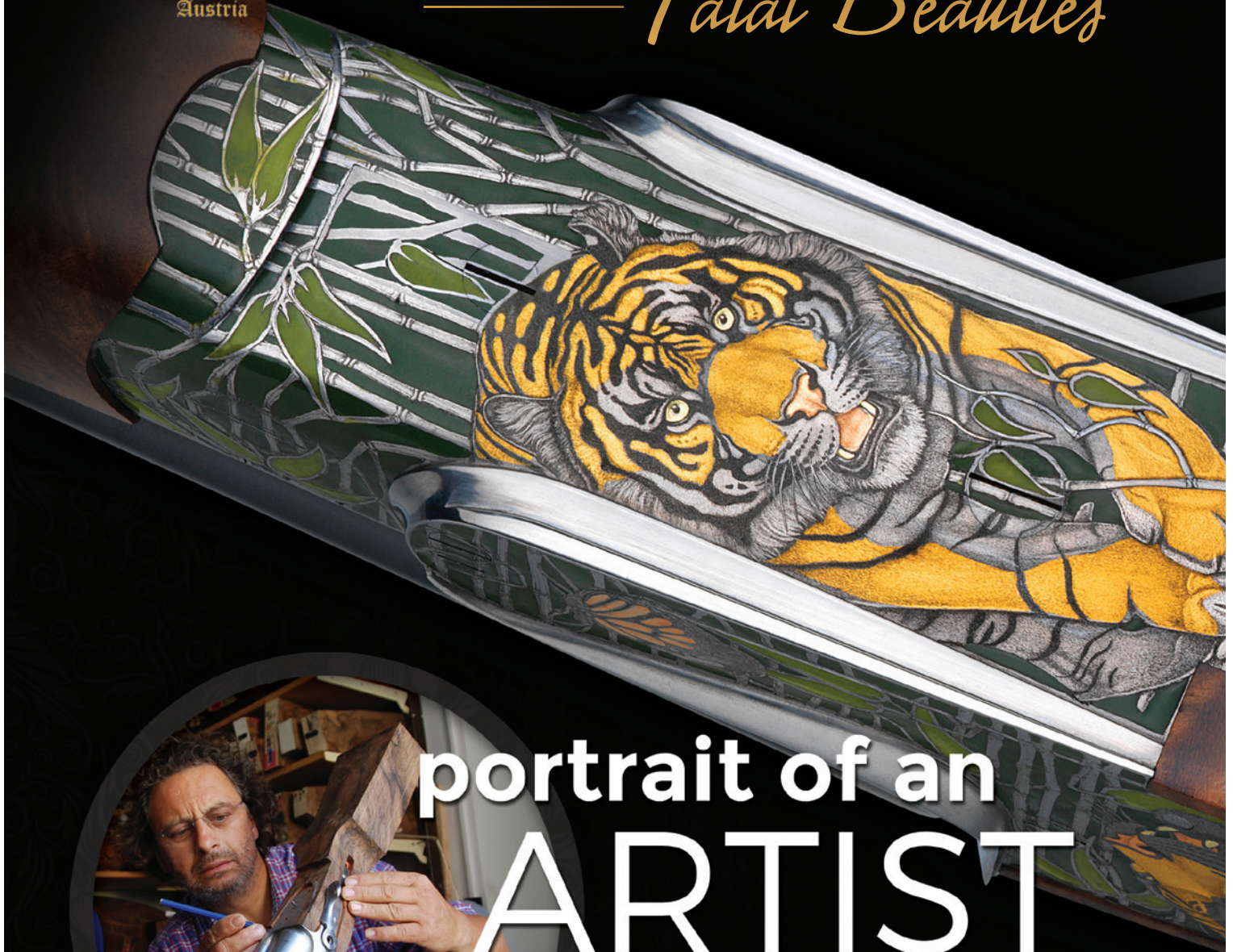




# PRESTIGE WEAPONS

BY PETER HOFER

*Fatal Beauties*



portrait of an  
**ARTIST**  
*Peter Hofer*

I believe that it is in a man's genes to want to be faster, stronger, smarter, better and just plain more successful than the next man. We are confronted with this urge day and night and never stop trying to reach this goal. It all started way back in the Stone Ages with the Homo Erectus. The urge to hunt, the need to be better than our neighbors is displayed especially by the things we aspire to, the things we surround ourselves with. In our early days a fight with an inferior weapon usually proved fatal – as was going after a dangerous animal with the wrong weapon.

If you can identify yourself with the above lines, sooner or later you will find yourself at Kirchgasse 24 in Ferlach, Austria with the master craftsman gunsmith Peter Hofer. Right now, he is the most outstanding gunsmith.

Peter Hofer's reputation didn't come easily through luck or family tradition. It is the result of permanent research and development. Every single weapon and every single part is worked with greatest precision.

His work is absolutely perfect. Anyone who has ever had the rare opportunity to look into the inside of one of Peter Hofer's weapons, will be reminded of a clockmaker's precision, even if the gun were still in the middle of the production process. No matter that many parts are hidden forever in the inside mechanics of the gun or rifle, it is filed and polished to the highest standards before being built into the weapon.

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*Peter Hofer Tiger Rifle  
Calibre 375/375 H&H*

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Nobody asks how much time goes into the making of such perfection. After all, no one wonders how long the creation of an art masterpiece may have taken. How long did it take Leonardo da Vinci to paint the Mona Lisa? That's totally beside the point, the important thing is that da Vinci's name will forever be remembered in connection with the beauty of his masterpiece. An artist like Peter Hofer isn't in direct competition with his gunsmith colleagues, he lives and works in a world of his own. On the other hand he has respect for the quality and ingenuity of his fellow gunsmiths when he sees it. But he will never copy anything, his creations are all absolutely unique.

Anyone can imagine that fitting pieces perfectly that will constantly be in motion in a sliding mechanism will take a lot of time. It would be a lot easier to allow a tolerance and not have to go through taking the mechanism apart, filing some

imperfections away and putting it back together again over and over again until the fit is absolutely perfect. Now one might think the fit doesn't need to be so perfect anyway, as long as the weapon functions, but without a perfect fit, the question remains how long will it function?

No matter how many different models Peter Hofer offers, they all have one thing in common: they are all tested over a period of several years in extreme conditions, especially in respect to their reliability. The weapons' special features were developed keeping their practical use in mind and with input from experienced hunters and gunsmith experts.

Besides the perfect technical execution, Peter Hofer's ingenuity is remarkable. His work shows so much creativity and is the result of so many innovative ideas, it would be difficult to find his equal worldwide.

He once built a shotgun which had a

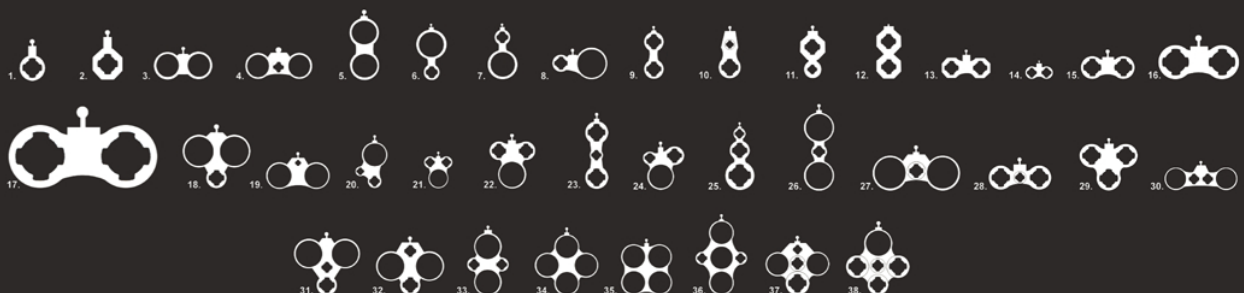
small rifle barrel in caliber .17 Hornady hidden under the rib between the two shotgun barrels, allowing the hunter to shoot for example a fox at 100 meters during a driven hunt.

At around the same time as building the above mentioned shotgun, Peter also developed a special double barrel drilling in caliber 8x75RS, 6.5x57R, .410Mag with sidelocks and with a special four-position selecting system integrated in the sliding safety. It shows how much of an all-round talent Peter is, that he took a part of a bicycle gearshift made by Shimano (one of the best makers of bicycle gearshifts in the world) and modified their technique and adapted it to be used for the safety and selection system of his double barrel drilling.

Hofer developed the lightest over & under shotgun rifle, only slightly wider than half of a pack of cigarettes and weighing only 1.9 kg.

- PETER HOFER JAGDWAFFEN, BARREL COMBINATIONS

1.	Bolt action rifle, High power rifle	11.	O&U double barrel rifle in different calibres, octagonal barrel	21.	SxS drilling with double rifled barrel	31.	Special vierling (four barrels)
2.	High power rifle with octagonal barrel, all calibres	12.	O&U double barrel rifle in different calibres, with octagonal barrel all calibres	22.	SxS drilling with double rifled barrel	32.	Special vierling (four barrels)
3.	Side by side shotgun	13.	Double barrel rifle, octagonal barrel, all calibres	23.	Special O&U rifle drilling with small rifle barrel	33.	Special vierling (four barrels)
4.	Special shotgun drilling with third rifle barrel hidden under the rib	14.	SxS smallest double barrel rifle	24.	Special drilling with different rifle calibres	34.	Special shotgun- vierling (four barrels)
5.	O&U shotgun	15.	SxS double barrel rifle	25.	Universal special drilling, all calibres	35.	Special shotgun- vierling (four barrels)
6.	O&U shotgun with lower rifled barrel combination	16.	SxS middle double barrel rifle	26.	Special O&U shotgun with small rifle barrel	36.	Special- funfling combination (five barrels) all calibres
7.	O&U shotgun with upper rifled barrel combination	17.	SxS biggest double barrel rifle	27.	Special shotgun drilling with third rifle barrel hidden under the rib	37.	Special- funfling combination (five barrels)
8.	SxS shotgun with one rifled barrel	18.	Drilling	28.	Special rifle drilling with third barrel hidden under the rib	38.	Special- funfling combination (five barrels)
9.	O&U double barrel rifle	19.	Drilling with upper rifled barrel	29.	Special rifle drilling		
10.	O&U double barrel rifle in different calibres	20.	O&U drilling with double rifled barrel	30.	Special small vierling (four barrels)		



Wherever in the world Peter Hofer exhibited his collection in the last year, his “Hummingbird rifle” the world’s smallest double barrel rifle in caliber .17 Hornady was the center of attention. It weighs only 0,9 kg, it is a miniaturized construction but technically identical to a conventional big game double barrel rifle, it sports a regular stock length, but otherwise is sensationally small.

In recent years, Peter Hofer has concentrated on building miniaturized weapons like the “Hummingbird rifle” on special order from his customers in the USA, the United Emirates of Arabia and Russia.

Even though there is nothing that Peter Hofer wouldn’t build – triple barrels, repeating rifles, break-down rifles, double barrels, including the world’s biggest double barrel caliber 4 bore, a gun with a weight of 12 kg and a barrel with an inner diameter of 25.4 mm and able to shoot 130 gram projectiles, where the whole bundle of barrels, of the world’s smallest double barrel would fit inside the 4 bore single barrel and beside all other Peter Hofer special triples, special quads and special

quintuples the real challenge for Peter Hofer does not lie in ‘big and bigger’, because only ‘small and smaller’ has a limit. Peter Hofer himself says “The more I work with the smallest dimensions, the less significant normal and bigger dimensions become and so the ‘small’ shows its true size.”

That such a weapon, like all of the others that Peter makes, shoots precisely and that it functions perfectly under any conditions is a matter of course.

Obviously, the engraving has no influence on the shooting precision. However, rounding off such a technically perfect concept with an

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*Peter Hofer  
Single shot rifle  
Calibre 300 WIN Mag. with  
exchangeable barrel in calibre  
243 WIN Mag.*

**WORLD RECORD!**

*Double barrel rifle “Butterfly”*

**WORLDWIDE SMALLEST AND LIGHTEST DOUBLE BARREL RIFLE (2.8LBS)**

The absolute miniaturization while upholding full functionality has been achieved. The double barrel rifle presented here, with all the mechanics contained within it, represents the maximum of minimalism.

Every single part was crafted from the full material especially for this round body double barrel rifle. Every part in this double barrel rifle is newly developed and cannot be compared to the parts in a traditionally built model.

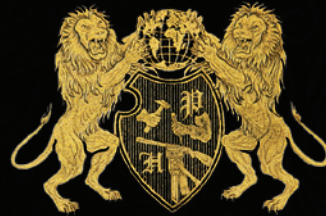




*Double barrel rifle "Butterfly"*

WORLDWIDE SMALLEST AND LIGHTEST  
DOUBLE BARREL RIFLE (2.8LBS)

Peter Hofer



Gun and Riflemaker  
Austria

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artistic engraving is simply a must.

And so Peter Hofer designed a very special potpourri of fantastic butterfly portraits for his 'Butterfly'. Multi-colored precious metals were used for seven layers of butterflies, which were put on top of each other and next to each other and then laid into steel and finest Bouttini engravings were worked into the inlays.

A new enameling technique was developed especially for the unique Butterfly double-barrel. This new technique gave the artistic engraving concept blazing colors which had never existed before on a hunting rifle.

As far as prices of a "Peter Hofer" are concerned, we were always requested not to mention the price of a Peter Hofer

handcrafted hunting weapon. But one thing can be taken for granted, you would have to invest a tidy sum to get the best – but compared with the quality and value appreciation you receive in turn the sum becomes paltry. With a Peter Hofer weapon you will show that it is part of your life philosophy that only the best is good enough for you.

Of course, those who belong to the elite group who can afford such a weapon are also usually very knowledgeable in the laws of economics and realize that you can't get great value for little money. Wherever you 'turn up' with a Peter Hofer Jagdwaffen, everyone will recognize that you have also recognized this principle.