



STI TROJAN 5.0 9mm

Traditional 1911 model boasting modern high-end quality for 100% reliability!

By Mike Boyle

Photos by Steve Woods

In production for almost 100 years, John Browning's Model 1911 is the most successful autoloading pistol of all time. Over time, the 1911 has morphed and evolved into some more sophisticated variants, but the basic design remains just as it was a century ago. It would be difficult to come up with any other mechanical innovation from that era that has not been eclipsed by more modern technology.

The 1911 is often associated with the .45 ACP cartridge and this combo goes together like ham and eggs. Other chamberings have been introduced; some meeting with success while others fell to the wayside. Perhaps the most successful has been the .38 Super. Introduced in 1929, the Super quickly developed a following with lawmen who favored its superior penetrating ability. Fifty years later, it won over the practical shooting crowd

where the 1911 .38 Super dominated the game circuit for several years. Unlike other cartridges, the .38 Super tends to work very well in a properly set-up 1911.

The 9mm is the most popular pistol cartridge in the world and it was inevitable that it found its way into the 1911. Many different variations of the 1911 have been chambered for the 9mm over the last 50 years, but I wouldn't necessarily categorize them as an overwhelming success. Full size, properly maintained 1911s in .45 ACP are pretty reliable machines. On the other hand, many 9mm copies tend to be as finicky, as the shorter case plays havoc with system reliability. If your game gun



Trojan



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The grip panels of the Trojan 5.0 are STI logoed, checkered, thin cocobolo.

chokes, you will lose. The stakes are so much higher if you are using a less than reliable gun to protect your hide.

Up until fairly recently, a 9mm 1911 hasn't generated a great deal of interest. But if we could get this old classic to get up and run, we might be on to something. Recoil is much lighter than a .45 ACP and we could boost total capacity by a round or two. The short, light trigger of the 1911 also helps many shooters perform to the highest possible standard. Did I mention that 9mm ammunition is also considerably less expensive than .45 ACP?

Since the 1980s, STI has been turning out high-quality 1911 pistols for competition, self-defense and law enforcement applications. Based on my positive experience with the firm's .45 ACP pistols, STI was my first choice for building my 9mm. From their extensive line, I selected the Trojan, a mid-priced single-stack with features normally found on premium-class pistols.

About The Trojan

To create the Trojan, STI combined both classic 1911 elements and modern technology to come up with a superbly designed working pistol. My 9mm Trojan is the 5.0 variant built on an all-steel Government frame. Weighing in at 36 ounces, the Trojan is still within my limits for all-day carry, but

SPECIFICATIONS:

STI TROJAN 5.0

CALIBER:	.38 Super, 9mm, .40, .45 ACP
BARREL:	5 inches
OA LENGTH:	8.5 inches
WEIGHT:	36 ounces (empty)
GRIPS:	Cocobolo
SIGHTS:	Bomar-style adjustable
ACTION:	SA
FINISH:	Flat blued
CAPACITY:	9 + 1
PRICE:	Starts at \$1110



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TACTICAL 5.0

Calibers: 9x19, .40S&W, .45 ACP

O.A. Length: 8.5"

O.A. Height: 5.6"

Weight: 35.1 oz

Capacity (9x19): 17+1

Capacity (.45): 11+1

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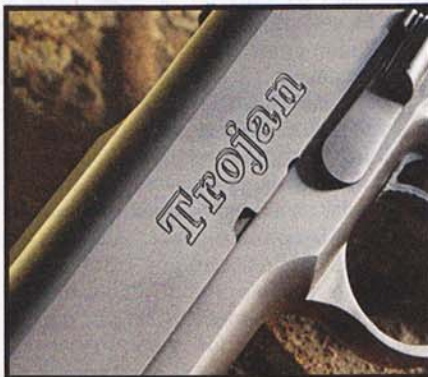
STIpling on front strap provides a non-slip grip.



The Trojan features Bomar style adjustable sights.



Note single-side frame mounted thumb safety and the STI Commander-style hammer.



STI's Trojan is available in several calibers including: 9mm, .38 Super, .40 S&W and .45 ACP.

diminishes both muzzle flip and felt recoil of the 9mm to just about zero.

For ease of manipulation, fore and aft diagonal serrations have been cut into the slide. The front strap features STI's proprietary tire-tread STIpling for a positive grip. The triggerguard of the Trojan is undercut so the user can take the highest possible hold. Other qualities include checkered mainspring housing and an oversized ejection port to enhance reliability.

Vital controls are just where you expect to find them on a 1911. The knuckle relief high-rise beavertail grip safety features a palm swell for positive deactivation. The stock Trojan is equipped with a single-side thumb safety although this southpaw opted to go with an ambidextrous version.

As the name implies, the Trojan 5.0 features a full-length 5-inch barrel that brings the 9mm cartridge up to its full potential. The barrel is ramped and supported with a match grade bushing. A one-piece steel guide rod is also used in the Trojan package.

What really sets the Trojan apart from many other pistols in its class are the high-quality working parts used to achieve outstanding shooting qualities right from the box. STI's trigger features a stainless steel wire EDM cut with a trigger take-up adjustment. The shoe of the long,

STI TROJAN 5.0 9mm

curved trigger is made of glass-filled nylon polymer with a setscrew for over-travel adjustment. An STI commander hammer, along with an S-7 sear and titanium strut, contributes to the pistol's reliable function and superb trigger pull.

The rear sight of the Trojan is fully adjustable for windage and elevation. One of the available factory options offered by STI is a fiber optic front sight, a real bonus for getting on target quickly. The red fiber optic sight by Dawson does indeed deliver the goods and comes highly recommended.

Metal surfaces are finished in a low luster matte blue. This provides a striking contrast to the thin cocobolo grip panels. Held in place by a pair of hex head screws, the panels are nicely checkered and sport the STI logo.

The pistol is shipped in a black plastic case with a single 9-shot magazine. My only disappointment with the package is that I wish it had come with at least one spare magazine.

Shots Fired

I've been shooting the Trojan for several months now and I'd have to rate performance and reliability as top shelf. It has been my experience that many 1911s require a break-in period before becoming entirely reliable. The Trojan ran like a pro right from the box. To date, function has been picture-perfect and the Trojan has digested ball, hollow-point, and frangible ammunition without missing a beat.

A representative sample of 9mm ammunition was fired through the STI Trojan to assess its performance. The requisite 5-shot groups were fired from 25 yards and extreme spread measured to nearest 1/8 of an inch. Ammunition was also chronographed to see if the 5-inch barrel did



Mike Boyle photos



Trojan cycled frangible 9mm ammo without a problem. (Above) Cold winter weather did not deter this shooter from checking out the Trojan.

increase muzzle velocity and enhance terminal performance.

Accuracy potential was very impressive. Using a Hornady Delta Rest as an aid, I was able to shoot several "bragging size" groups. Five shot clusters were tighter than I can usually achieve with a 1911 pistol, illustrating that the Trojan is indeed of match-grade quality. Top dog was CorBon's 147-grain FMJ match load, which averaged 1.5 inches. Throughout my testing, I was able to print several other groups that were well under 2 inches. Considering that testing was conducted during a cold January day, I'm pretty confident group spreads could be reduced even further.

As expected, the 5-inch tube of the Trojan yields higher muzzle velocities than other autopistols. CorBon's all-copper DPX hollow-point screamed through the chronograph screens at 1330 feet per second (fps). Winchester's highly rated 127-grain Ranger SXT +P+ load, averaged 1251 fps. Terminal performance of both these loads is excellent and favorably compares with the .357 Mag using like-weight bullets.

On my Lyman Trigger Pull Gauge, the hammer falls when just a hair over 4 pounds of pressure is applied to the Trojan's gas pedal. As indicated earlier, felt recoil is very mild in this all-steel pistol and the Trojan is

easily managed by shooters of every skill level. Mild recoil, minimum muzzle flip and a good trigger allowed me to perform at my best. Firing at a cardboard IPSC target from a distance of 7 yards, I was able to place hammers (2 quick shots, 1 sight picture) in the A-zone with splits in the 0.16 to 0.18 of second range. With my .45 ACP 1911s, this is outside my ability.

PERFORMANCE:

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Load	Velocity	Accuracy
CorBon DPX 115 +P HP	1330	3.00
CorBon Match 147 FMJ	894	1.50
Federal HST 124 JHP	1188	2.13
Federal HST 147 +P JHP	1025	2.13
Speer Gold Dot 124 +P JPH	1227	2.63
Winchester Ranger SXT 127 +P JHP	1251	2.50

Bullet weight measured in grains, velocity in feet per second (fps) by Oehler 35P chronograph, and accuracy in inches for an average five 5-shot groups from Hornady Delta Rest at 25 yards.

To get right to the point, the Trojan 5.0 9mm allows me to shoot faster, more accurately, and with a greater margin of comfort than a .45 ACP. What's not to like?

Some months ago, I was at the local gun emporium returning another 1911 that I had for testing and evaluation. One of the hired hands looked over the pistol and remarked "nice gun, too bad it's only a 9mm." In his mind, the 9mm chambering somehow diminished the appeal of an otherwise fine pistol.

It is not the intent of this writer to descend into the quagmire and enter into the endless debate of 9mm versus .45 ACP. I find it amusing, however, that some folks still can't see the forest for the trees. While I don't consider myself an advocate of either the 9mm or .45 ACP, I do try to make an informed decision based on reality.

With ball ammo, the .45 ACP clearly has the edge. A miss or peripheral hit with either a 9mm or .45 ACP will prove equally ineffective. On the other hand, I doubt if the terminal effects of a proven high-quality expanding 9mm such as the CorBon DPX, Federal HST, Remington Golden Saber, Speer Gold Dot, or Winchester Ranger SXT, into the heart/lung area would be any less decisive than a .45 ACP. If the more manageable 9mm helped one to perform at a higher level, I wouldn't consider it a poor choice.

A little over a year ago, I was trying to work my way back to form while recovering from an extended illness. Both my grip and upper body strength had been severely depleted and I had difficulty shooting my .45 ACP at any kind of speed. A 9mm pistol, on the other hand, allowed me to climb out of the hole and regain my skills. It was a lesson I won't forget.

The Trojan 5.0 9mm proved to be a very user-friendly, accurate and reliable pistol of the highest quality. It stands as a viable alternative to the .45 ACP, and with the right ammunition, is entirely suitable for self-defense. Shooters with smaller hands who have difficulty managing a double stack, hi-cap pistol would benefit by going to the single-stack Trojan.

Final Notes

There are a number of glitzy 1911 pistols out there, but very few perform as well as the Trojan. Potential users who rate performance as their number-one criteria would do well to check it out. In addition to the 9mm reviewed herein, the Trojan is also available in .45 ACP, .38 Super, and .40 S&W. I don't feel the least bit short-changed by going with the 9mm copy. It might just work for you as well. ●

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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