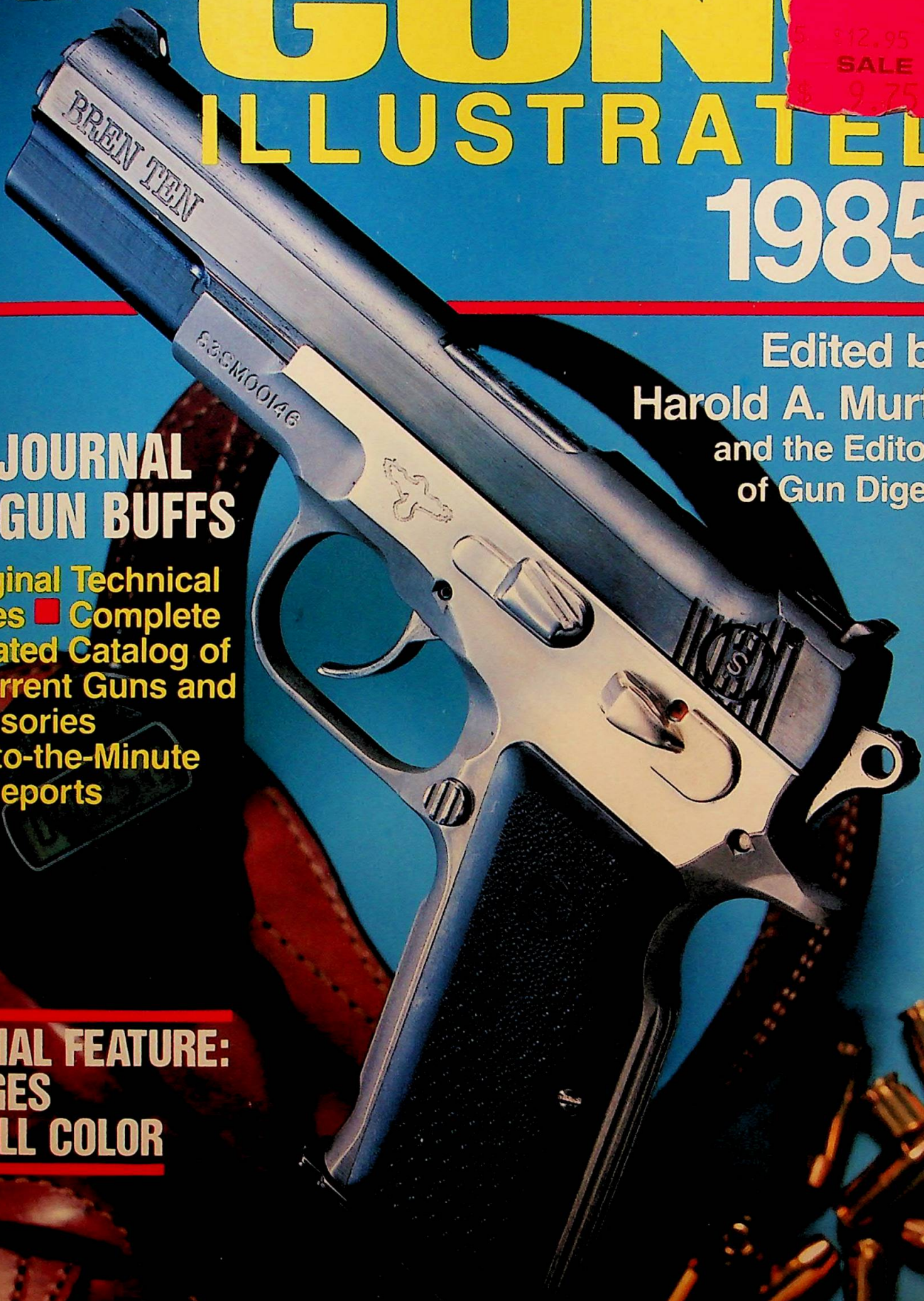


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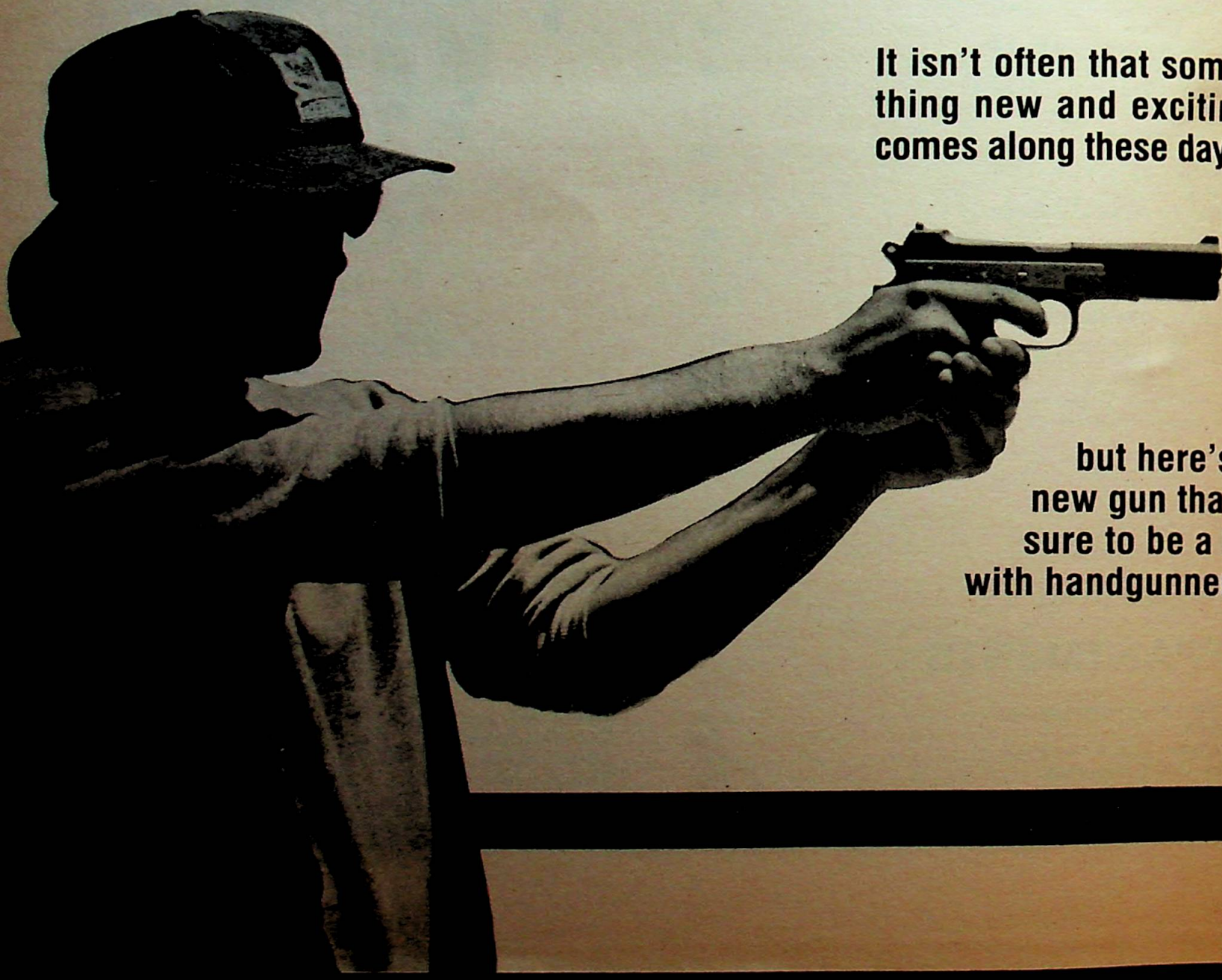
**T**HE BREN TEN semi-automatic pistol is based on concepts derived from years of extensive experimentation and research. Unlike most of today's other combat handguns, it is not merely a modification of an existing design. The Bren Ten is a unique production gun with many standard features that normally are available only as optional after-purchase additions. Dornaus and Dixon Enterprises, Inc., makers of the Bren Ten, have done just about everything possible to produce what they consider to be the ultimate combat pistol, ready for the most rugged action *when it leaves the factory*. The Bren Ten has been thoroughly tested for reliability, accuracy and handling ease.

Jeff Cooper, arguably the world's foremost combat handgunner, is responsible for most of the design concepts incorporated into the Bren Ten. Cooper also supervised many of the tests contrived to prove the merits of the new pistol. Thomas F. Dornaus and Michael W. Dixon have taken Jeff Cooper's ideas and transformed them into a finely engineered and well finished product. Although Cooper was the guiding force behind the development of the Bren Ten, he has no vested interest in its manufacture, and acts solely as an independent consultant. A Gunsite raven, Cooper's trademark, engraved on the left side of each pistol's frame, is indicative of his approval of the design.

The Bren Ten name was suggested by Jeff Cooper, since the double/single action of the gun is patterned after the CZ75 pistol made by the same organization in Brno, Czechoslovakia. That factory spawned the Bren light machine gun of World War II fame. Ten, of course, refers to the new pistol's 10mm caliber.

In the beginning, as design parameters of the Bren Ten began to take shape, it became increasingly apparent that currently available cartridges and calibers could not deliver the sort of maximum performance desired. To realize the full potential of the Bren Ten, it was necessary to create an entirely new high-intensity cartridge.

# BREN TEN 10mm



**It isn't often that something new and exciting comes along these days,**

**but here's a new gun that's sure to be a hit with handgunners.**



# COMBAT PISTOL

by **RALPH C. GLAZE**

Developed solely for the Bren Ten, the 10mm Auto cartridge is the result of exhaustive practical and theoretical analysis of bullet performance. Experience has shown that 40 caliber (10mm) bullets offer the best combination of high velocity, flat trajectory and stopping power for general-purpose handgun applications. With a diameter lying midway between 38 (9mm) and 45 calibers, the 10mm shoots flatter than a 45 and has sufficient cross-section area to impart its energy to a target with almost as much efficiency. Though the 10mm's line of flight is a bit more accurate than a 9mm Parabellum, its stopping power is far superior.

The 10mm Automatic cartridge is by no means the first attempt to adapt this caliber to semi-automatic pistols, but it is the first 40-caliber handgun round to achieve production status. Because of various manufacturing tolerances, a cartridge may be called a 10mm if its actual bullet diameter falls between 9.6 and 10.4mm. Similarly, a bullet may be classified as a

40 caliber if its diameter measures from .378" to .410". The terms 10mm and 40 caliber are used interchangeably for practical purposes.

Since the 10mm Auto cartridge is new and therefore unfamiliar, perhaps it would be pertinent to look briefly into the background of this caliber. Revolvers chambered for 40 caliber date back to percussion days, but the first known application in autoloaders was by Hugh W. Gabbett-Fairfax who experimented with 10mm cartridges back in 1900. Although never a commercial success, his Mars pistol was considered the world's most powerful semi-automatic for over half a century—until the introduction of the Auto-Mag. Shortly after the turn of the century, Bergmann, Hirst and Roth also worked with cartridges of about 10mm caliber. John M. Browning chambered a military auto pistol for a 9.8mm cartridge in 1910, but it was not accepted by the U. S. Army because of their dedication to the 45.

In the early 1920s, BSA of England

developed a 39 caliber round that used a belted case. BSA picked the wrong time to introduce a new military pistol, however, since the market was flooded with Colt 45s and several varieties of 9mm guns left over from World War I. So much for the BSA belted 39.

The author, enamored of the 40-caliber concept, was instrumental in the development of the 40 G & A Magnum in 1972. Using altered and shortened 224 Weatherby belted brass and 180-grain bullets intended for the 38-40 Winchester rifle cartridge, the 40 G & A performed quite well in a modified Browning P-35 High-Power pistol. No further work was done at that time, however, and the 40 G & A languished into relative obscurity as have so many other wildcat rounds. Some time after its introduction, it was discovered that the 40 G & A bore a striking resemblance to the long-defunct BSA belted 39 round. With no prior knowledge of the 50-year-old BSA cartridge, the author had virtually recreated it. This only goes to



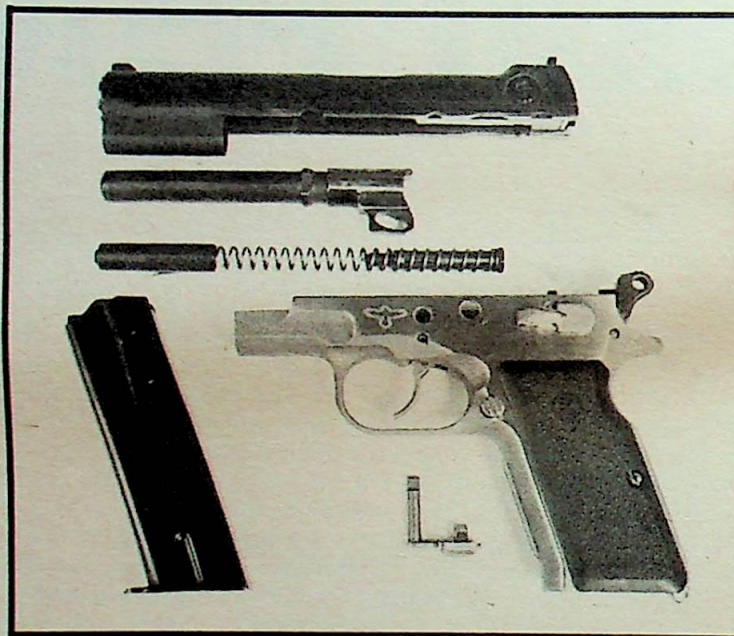
Over-all appearance of the Bren Ten is similar to a Model 1911 Colt, but closer examination shows many subtle differences and improvements. The Raven, engraved above the trigger guard, is Jeff Cooper's trademark.

prove that stuff we think is new, usually isn't.

Frequently, the 41 Magnum Smith & Wesson, which is a bit larger than 10mm, is included in the 10mm/40 caliber family, so it seems only fair to mention the 41 Avenger as well. J. D. Jones created the 41 Avenger by necking down 45 ACP or 451 Detonics brass to use 41 Magnum bullets. Pistols chambered for 45 ACP can be altered quite easily to fire the powerful 41 Avenger round.

Prior to standardization of the 10mm Auto cartridge, Jeff Cooper and others conducted experiments with a 45 ACP necked down to 40 caliber. Though bottle-necked cases are largely satisfactory, they are not in keeping with the current practice of using straight-walled cases for semi-automatic pistols.

The 10mm Auto cartridge, as made by Norma, is 1.25 inches long over-all, with a straight-walled case measuring a nominal .990-inch in length and .422-inch in diameter. The 200-grain bullet has a diameter of .40-inch (10.16mm) and is a Full Jacketed Truncated Cone (JTC) in shape. Muzzle velocity from a 5-inch test barrel is 1200 feet per second. Muzzle energy is 640 foot pounds. In spite of its very impressive performance, chamber pressures for the 10mm Auto are in the rather moderate neighborhood of 37,000 c.u.p (copper units of pressure). Velocity, bullet weight and shape combine to give the 10mm Auto more stopping power than any conventional handgun caliber except for the 41 and 44 Magnums.

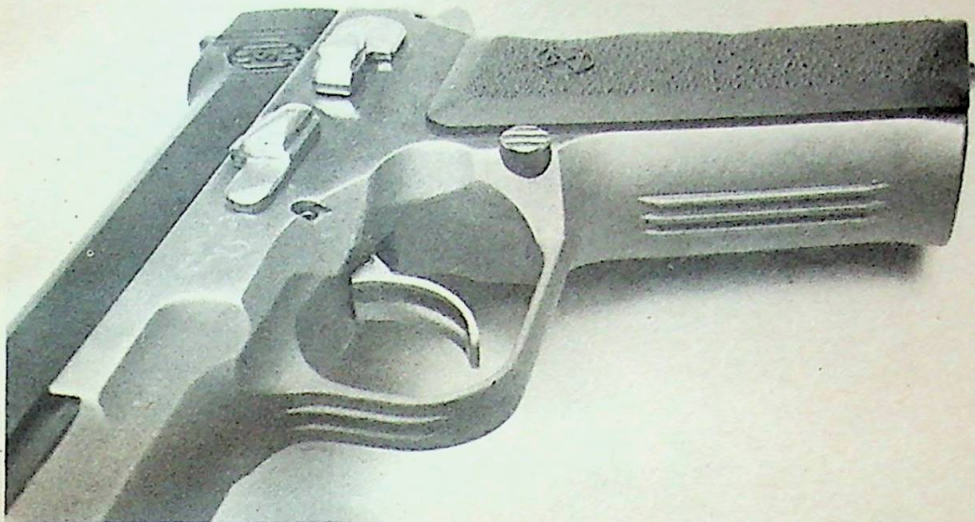


Field stripping the Bren Ten is easily accomplished without the use of tools. This is as far as disassembly should go for routine maintenance.

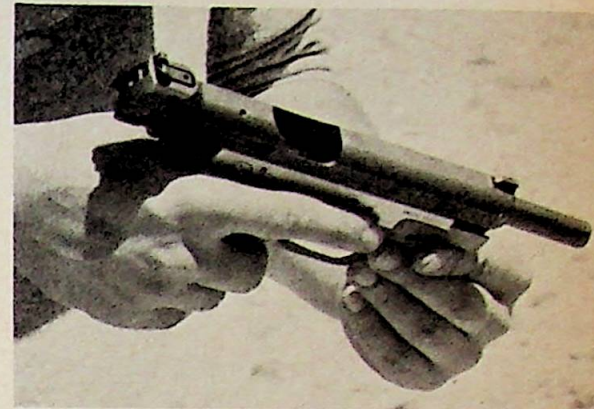
Stopping power is generally expressed in terms of the Hatcher Scale, even though there are other ways of defining this rather elusive performance factor. No matter what method is used, the 10mm Auto has a high ranking on the list. On Hatcher's scale, the 357 Magnum is rated at 55.5, the 10mm Auto at 72.2, the 41 Magnum rates 96.9 and the 44 Magnum tops them all at 125.0. For comparison, the 45 ACP has an R.S.P. of 62.1, and the standard police 38 Special rates only a 32.2, although +P loadings bring this figure up to 44.4—still considerably below the 10mm Auto. The ubiquitous 9mm Parabel-

lum scores an R.S.P. value of 28.3, only a little over one third as efficient as the 10mm Auto. All figures given are for standard loads. Different bullet styles may affect R.S.P. values, but if comparable bullets are used, relative positions on the R.S.P. scale will remain practically unchanged for all calibers.

Several design factors combine to give the Bren Ten its high velocity and low operating pressure. The barrel is freebored for a short distance ahead of the chamber, so that a bullet travels virtually unimpeded during its initial brief period of acceleration prior to engaging the rifling. Bren



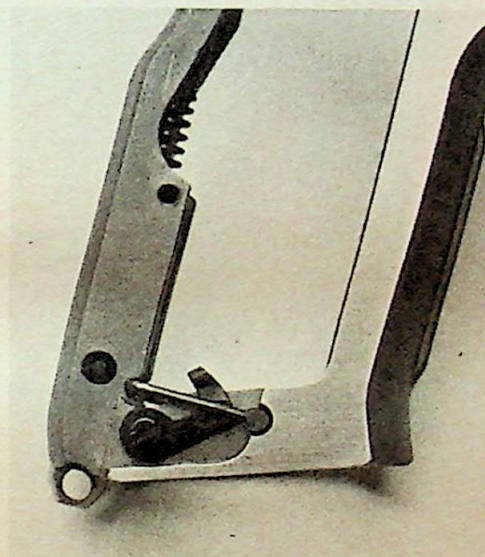
Ridges are cast into the trigger guard and front strap to improve grip. A slight swelling, or flare, of the lower front strap gives support to the little finger.



The over-size ejection port gives ready access to the action and practically eliminates possibility of "stovepiping."



The small screw head at the bottom of the grip is a selective magazine catch. It may be set to eject the magazine fully, or hold it partially ejected for manual extraction. Extension of the mainspring retainer serves as a lanyard ring.



system, the Bren Ten is locked and unlocked by a cam similar to a Browning High-Power rather than a swinging link like the Model 1911. Two locking lugs keep barrel and slide together during the initial phase of recoil. A single recoil spring lies below the barrel in typical Browning fashion. A buffer is built into the recoil spring guide that cushions the slide at the end of its rearward travel. For emergency use, a small screwdriver is fitted to the front of the buffer.

A sturdy extractor is retained by a roll-pin in a recess in the right side of the slide. A loaded chamber indicator protrudes from the extractor recess when a round is in the barrel. A red spot may be seen on the upper surface of the indicator when the pistol is loaded. A loaded condition may also be detected by touch.

The barrel bushing is screwed into the front of the slide (with a left-hand thread!) where it also acts to retain the replaceable front sight. A small roll-pin passes through the front sight, slide and barrel bushing to prevent the bushing from working loose. It is not necessary to remove the barrel bushing to field strip the pistol. The edge of the magazine floor plate may be used as a wrench to unscrew the bushing when replacing the front sight.

The slide rides inside the frame rails, rather than outside as in the Model 1911. This gives a longer bearing surface between frame and slide and allows for slightly reduced slide dimensions.

Sights are excellent for a combat

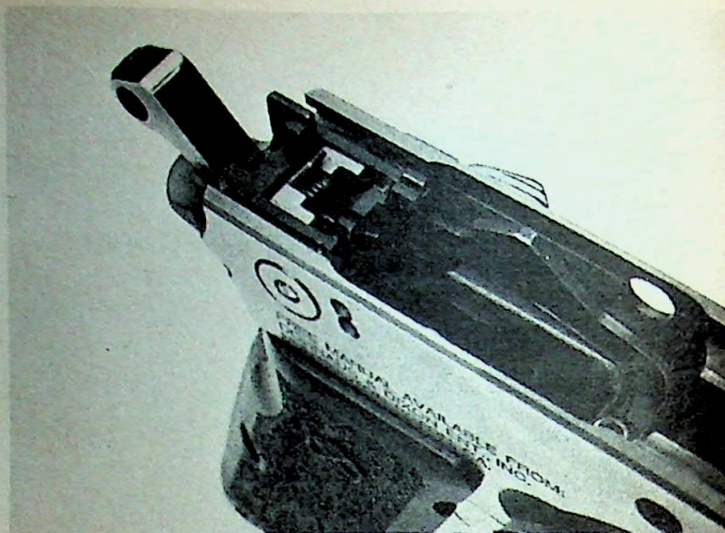
Ten rifling, called the Power-Seal system, differs from usual practice. Instead of having a sharp shoulder, Power-Seal lands slope more gradually toward the grooves. This system of rifling not only provides a better gas seal, but also reduces the force required to engrave the rifling pattern into the bullet. Power-Seal rifling uses an odd number of lands and grooves (five) which places a groove opposite each land, facilitating centering of a bullet within the bore. This not only lowers engraving force needed, but also improves accuracy through better bullet stabilization. Leading is also minimized and barrel

life is prolonged. Norma's experience in cartridge design contributes greatly to lowered chamber pressures of the 10mm Auto round. Use of a special large-grained, slow-burning, highly compressed powder charge delays ignition just enough to prevent rapid pressure build-up associated with faster powders normally used in pistol cartridges.

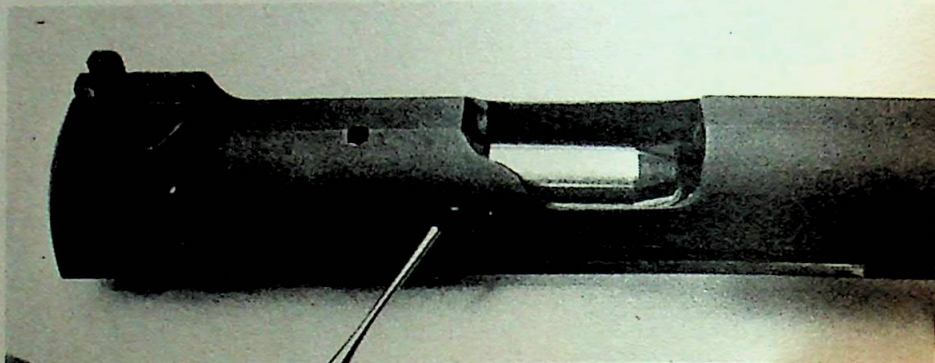
The Bren Ten pistol has so many desirable features, it is difficult to know where to begin describing them. So, let's start with an over-all view of the gun and then cover various details one by one.

Based on the Browning short recoil

Bren Ten's sear mechanism is contained in the upper rear of the frame. A sturdy trigger bar encircles the magazine well.



A loaded chamber indicator extends from the slide and shows a red dot when the Bren Ten is ready to fire. Cross-bolt safety, large ejection port and protected rear sight are also apparent in this view.



pistol. The front sight is broad and squat, with a white dot inset into its rear face. The rear sight is partially enclosed in a "hump" on the slide for protection against damage. Protruding sight ears are extremely heavy and are rounded to prevent snagging. A white dot is located on each side of the sight notch, making it simple to line up with the front sight dot for quick shots under less than ideal conditions. The rear sight is fully adjustable for windage and elevation, but

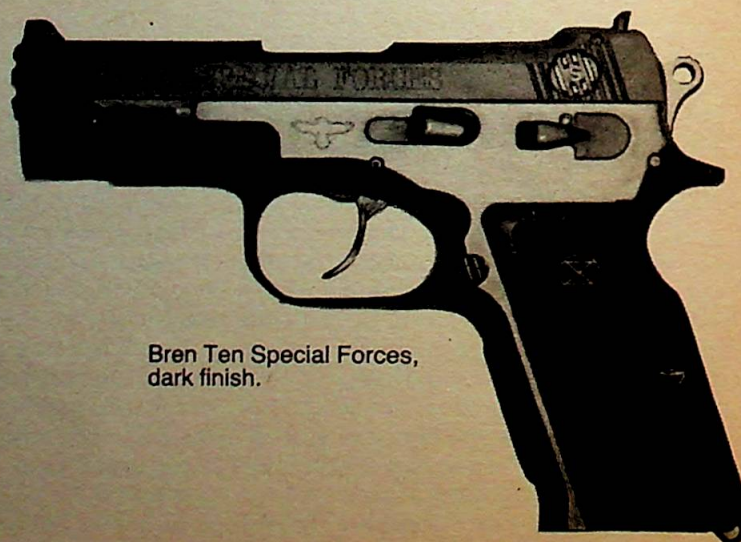
not easily. There are no "clicks" as in target sights. The sight must be moved by backing off one small Allen screw and then tightening its opposite number. Awkward as this method is, it makes for a sight that is strong and unlikely to change adjustment with hard use and abuse. However, once it is set, forget about making small corrections in the field.

Bren Ten frames are stainless steel, although they may be given a black finish if desired. The trigger guard is

large enough to accommodate a gloved finger. The front of the trigger guard and the front strap have raised ribs, while the rear strap has five deep grooves to provide a firm grip. Front and rear straps are parallel, with a generous curved inset for the web of the thumb. Grip angle is 17 degrees from vertical, and the tang is 12 degrees from horizontal. Stocks, of stippled, reinforced black nylon, are supplied by master stockmaker Guy Hogue. A slight forward curve at the



Bren Ten Pocket model.



Bren Ten Special Forces, dark finish.

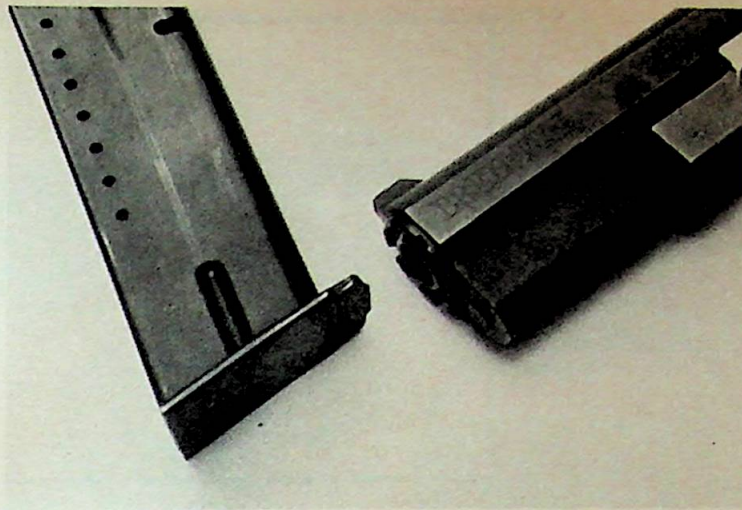
bottom of the front strap gives just the right amount of support to the little finger. In the author's opinion, the Bren Ten is the most naturally pointable production service pistol ever made.

Trigger action is smooth and positive, with minimum takeup and virtually no creep. Double action pull is 10 pounds, which drops to a crisp and clean 4 pounds in single action mode. The trigger face is polished smooth, and no trigger stop is provided. The Bren Ten is meant to be fired with a "pull-through" trigger technique, rather than halting immediately after let-off as is common practice in most target pistols. A pull-through trigger speeds up the rate of fire. All the best Olympic-type Rapid-fire pistols are equipped with triggers of this type.

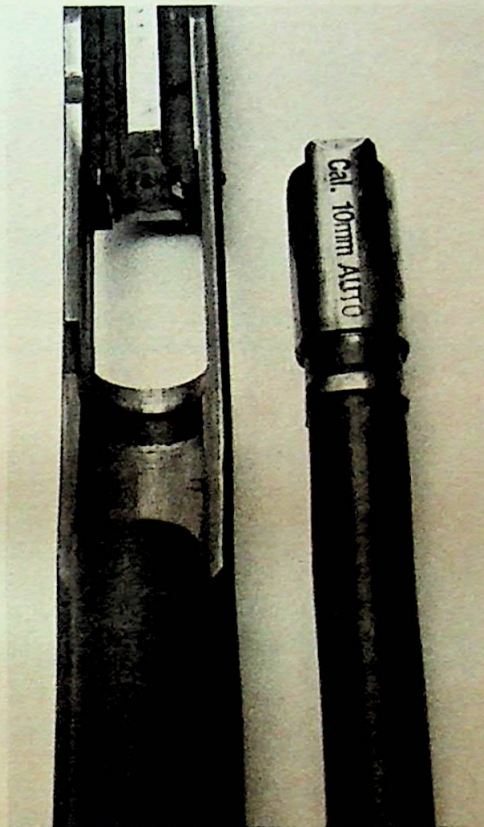
Trigger pull is transferred to the sear by a rugged one-piece yoke that surrounds the magazine well. The sear mechanism is a remarkably compact assembly located just ahead of the hammer in the upper rear portion of the frame. Removal of the thumb safety frees the sear housing from the frame, and allows it to be lifted out as a unit. The ejector is an integral part of the sear housing.

The Bren Ten hammer is of the lightweight "Commander" type that does not bite the hand or snag on clothing or holsters. The mainspring lies within the back strap where it is held in place by a pinned retainer. The retainer extends below the frame where it terminates in a lanyard ring.

The Bren Ten has two separate safeties. One is a cross-bolt type located in the slide, that blocks the firing pin, making it impossible to fire the pistol even if the hammer is accidentally dropped. A thumb safety on the



The edge of the magazine floorplate may be used as a tool for removing the screw-in barrel bushing. It is not necessary to do this to field strip the Bren Ten for cleaning.



Two locking lugs secure the barrel to the slide. Browning design influence is obvious here.

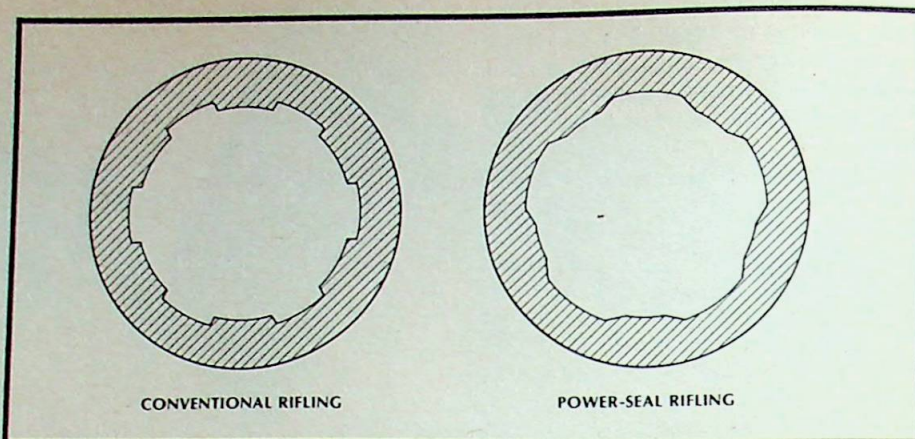


The front sight has a single white dot, while two dots flank the rear sight notch. Aligning the three dots makes rapid-fire shooting easier and faster than with conventional sights.



Bren Ten Military/Police model.

Bren Ten's Power-Seal rifling has wide lands with edges sloping gently downward into the grooves. Less force is needed to push a bullet into the bore, and a better gas seal is effected. The odd number of lands and grooves centers the bullet more accurately and reduces friction.

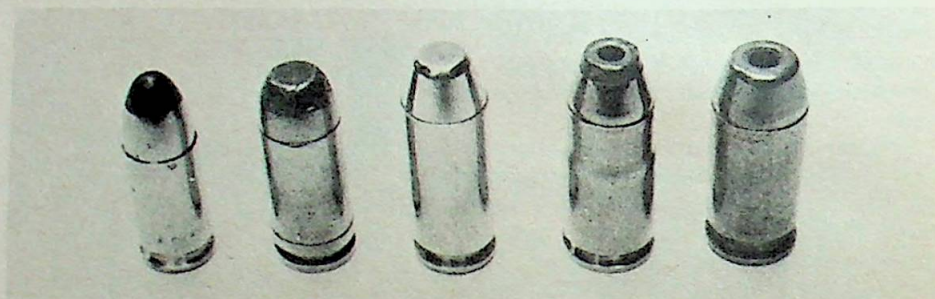


left rear of the frame locks the slide and blocks the hammer. A "half-cock" hammer position should not be relied on as a safety, since a sharp blow conceivably could break the sear and cause the pistol to fire. The thumb safety may be changed over to the right side if desired, or an ambidextrous safety can be installed by the factory on special order. Both the thumb safety lever and the slide stop lever are much larger than those found on most pistols, so there is no fumbling for these critical controls when time is of the essence. We found the cross-bolt safety a bit difficult to press into the safe position, but releasing it is a snap. When on "safe," the safety protrudes from the right side of the slide, where it may be easily found and quickly popped back to "fire."

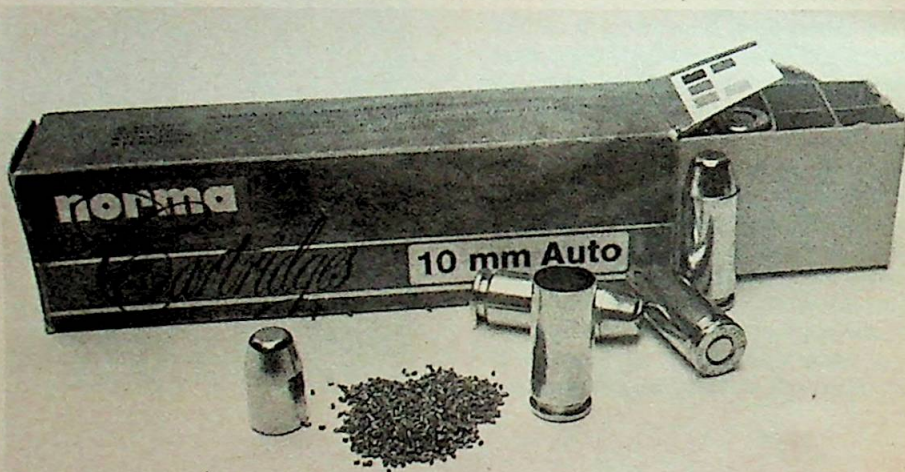
Magazine capacity is ten rounds, plus one in the chamber, for a total of 11 available shots—surely enough for any reasonable purpose. Of special interest to combat shooters is a selective magazine catch located at the lower rear of the right grip plate. Turning a small screw head allows a shooter to choose whether a released magazine will fall free or be caught part way out for manual extraction.

Other features contributing to trouble-free functioning of the Bren Ten include a polished feed ramp, bevelled magazine well, an enlarged ejection port and all corners rounded to prevent snagging. Conversion kits are available to allow the Bren Ten to fire 45 ACP or 22 Long Rifle cartridges.

Functioning of our test Bren Ten was flawless. Felt recoil is similar to a Colt Model 1911 45 ACP, but we found that, because of the grip design, the Bren Ten may be brought back to firing position much more quickly than the venerable Colt. The Bren Ten is superbly accurate as it comes from the factory. Machine rest groups under one inch at 25 yards are routine. Shooting from a sandbag rest, it



The 10mm Auto cartridge fills a gap between the 9mm and 45 ACP. Left to right—9mm Parabellum; experimental 40 G&A Magnum (R. C. Glaze); Norma 10mm Auto; wildcat 41 Avenger (J. D. Jones); 45 ACP.



Norma is currently the only maker of 10mm Auto ammunition. The 200-grain jacketed bullet is driven at 1,200 fps by a compressed charge of large-grained special Norma pistol powder.

was easy to keep group size under two inches. Incidentally, the manufacturer recommends that only Norma factory loads be used in the gun. Hand-loading to factory ballistics can be quite tricky and, if not expertly and correctly done, could be dangerous. The Bren Ten is a strong design, but there are limits in every firearm that should not be exceeded.

The Bren Ten is a carefully conceived design that is manufactured to highest modern production standards. It represents a notable breakthrough in the combat pistol field, where it

should enjoy a well deserved acceptance. An indication of the esteem in which it is held by its creator may be had by noting that Jeff Cooper now uses the Bren Ten exclusively for training at his Gunsite school of combat shooting.

The Bren Ten Standard Model lists for \$500.00, which is a competitively reasonable price in today's market. Literature and further information are available from Dornaus and Dixon Enterprises, Inc., 15896 Manufacture Lane, Huntington Beach, CA 92649.



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