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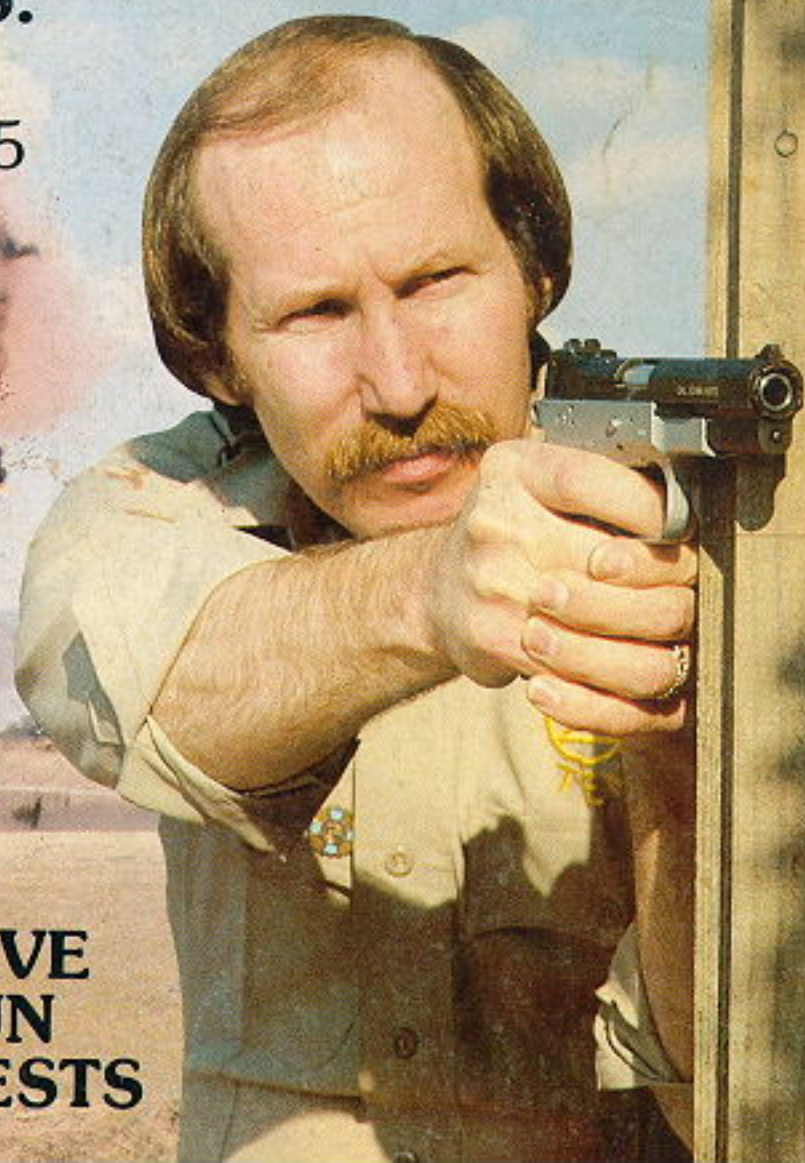
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**DEFENSIVE
HANDGUN
AMMO TESTS**



On several occasions, Jeff Cooper has remarked that the Czech Model 75 pistol is one of the best handguns developed in recent years. He always tempers this observation with a lament that it is made only in 9mm Parabellum chambering, a round which he considers to be marginally effective. Enter, at this point, two gentlemen from California—Tom Dornaus and Mike Dixon. Delving back into the research of Whit Collins and others into the possibility of a .40 caliber auto pistol round, they mated this idea with the general outline of the fabled Czech 75, and developed a new pistol, in 10mm chambering. With a nod toward the Czech idea which fostered it, Dornaus, Dixon and Cooper named it the "Bren Ten."

If you're thinking that this is just an odd-caliber reproduction of the Cz 75, though, you're entirely mistaken. While the external appearance is quite similar, there are a number of differences in both operational features and internal mechanisms, several of which are actually better than those of the Czech pistol.

The manual safety lever, for example, is fully reversible. It can be switched to the other side of the frame without adjustment or the use of tools. The rear sight is fully adjustable, and also fully protected—it is enclosed by a raised platform at the rear of the slide, giving this section the look of the Swiss SIG P-210. The front sight is removable, without tools, during field stripping, and blades of differing heights or with different inserts can easily be interchanged. The rear sight notch is flanked by two white dots, to be aligned with a single dot on the back of the front blade. The muzzle end of the barrel is concentrically supported by a spring-locked screw-in bushing, an obvious accuracy advantage.

PHOTOGRAPHY: DORNAUS & DIXON



Is this the ultimate combat auto pistol?

By J. B. Wood

THE

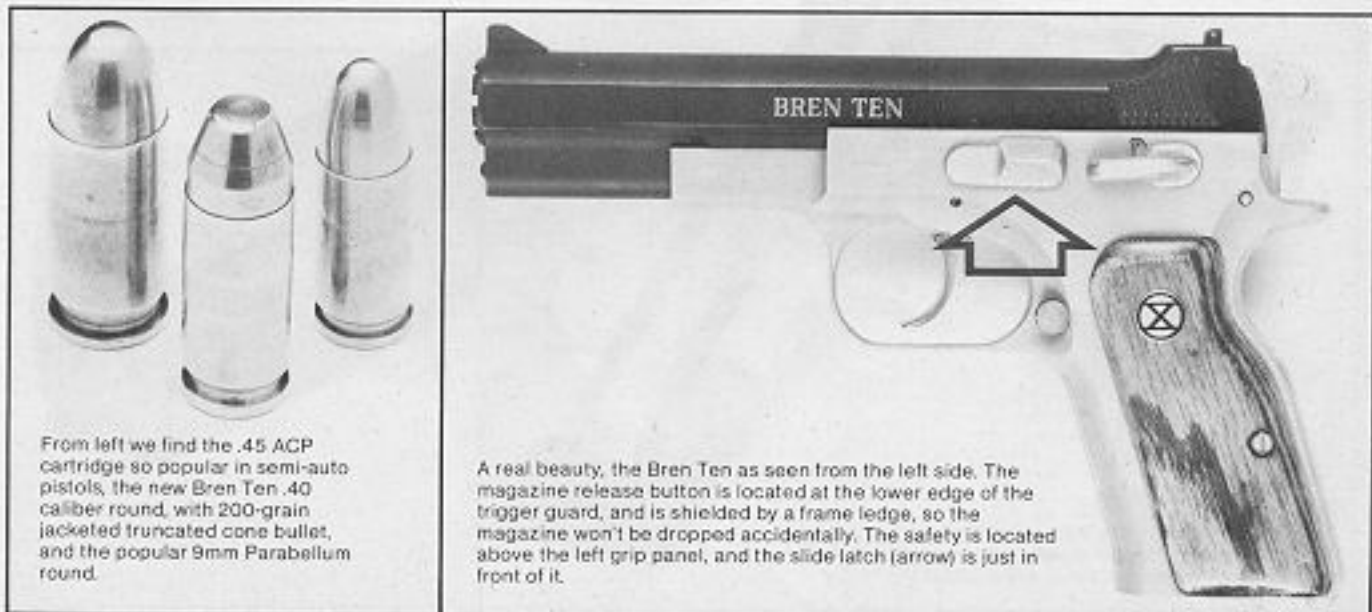
BREN TEN

Looking at some of the internal features, there are several unique touches. A recoil buffer is standard equipment, and the recoil spring guide is also a dual screwdriver which fits the grip screws and the rear sight adjustment screw. The magazine catch is selective, and this will take a little explaining. There is a screw located under the right grip panel which, by a quarter-turn either way, will allow the magazine to drop free or be stopped about one inch out when the release button is pushed, for manual withdrawal. The button itself is shielded on the left side by a frame ledge, to prevent accidental release by holster pressure. While competition users will want the magazine system set for drop-free operation, the other mode will have obvious advantages for users who will operate the gun over water, sand, or tall grass.

The safety is a sear-block type, and applying it with the hammer cocked does not drop the hammer, a point important to those who prefer the "Cocked & Locked" mode of carrying. Personally, I'd prefer to utilize the excellent double action of the

Bren Ten, carrying in "Condition two," with the hammer fully down. The gun has an inertia firing pin. There is no annoying magazine safety to remove, and no grip safety to detract from the handling qualities. The gun weighs 38 ounces, just two less than the U.S. Service pistol. With its forward-stepped slide and 12-round magazine, the pistol should have excellent balance when loaded. The front and backstrap of the grip frame and the front of the trigger guard have deep vertical grooves for control. The grip panels on the prototype gun are of smooth-finished Ash, and these will be available as an optional extra. Production guns will have black plastic panels.

The frame is matte-finish stainless steel, and the slide is blued. The hammer is a ring type, as on the Colt Commander and the original Browning HP, and the rear of the frame has enough overhang to prevent bite. The trigger is wide and smooth, as it should be on a combat-style handgun. The double action trigger pull is very much like that of the Czech Model 75, and the single



From left we find the .45 ACP cartridge so popular in semi-auto pistols, the new Bren Ten .40 caliber round, with 200-grain jacketed truncated cone bullet, and the popular 9mm Parabellum round.

A real beauty, the Bren Ten as seen from the left side. The magazine release button is located at the lower edge of the trigger guard, and is shielded by a frame ledge, so the magazine won't be dropped accidentally. The safety is located above the left grip panel, and the slide latch (arrow) is just in front of it.

action pull has an engineered let-off in the 3½-pound area, very crisp. I handled and examined the prototype extensively at the SHOT Show in New Orleans, and the gun has a marvelous "feel" in hand. I wish there had been an opportunity to fire it, but actually I'd rather wait for a production sample. There are often small changes between prototype and final design.

The barrel locking system is the classic Browning-tilt pattern, but the mechanical accomplishment was styled after the Swiss SIG P-210. Instead of a link or an inclined camming surface there is an enclosed track in the underlug of the barrel which entirely surrounds the cross-shaft of the slide latch. Speaking of the slide latch, it is somewhat larger than the one on the Cz 75, and has been extended a little further toward the rear. This will be a help, as the one on the Czech pistol is entirely unreachable with the thumb of the shooting hand. For me, a perfect addition to the latch on the Bren Ten would be an extension downward at the rear, making it as easily accessible as the well-positioned safety lever.

And now, let's look at the 10mm auto pistol cartridge. In Whit Collin's original experiments, a cut-off .30 Remington rifle case was loaded with the .40 caliber bullet of the .38-40 Winchester, weighing 180 grains. The powder charge was 6½ grains of Unique, and in an extensively-modified Browning HP this load achieved 1165 fps. When you consider the weight of the bullet, the increased frontal area, and the respectable velocity with a relatively light powder charge, it's easy to see that its advantage over the standard 9mm round is more than just a few figures on paper.

The new 10mm cartridge will be loaded with a slightly heavier 200-grain jacketed bullet of truncated-cone configuration, and its velocity will be in the 1100 fps range. For those who like to play with mathematics and the Hatcher Scale, it will be quickly obvious that this round will have more impact energy at any realistic distance than the standard .45 auto has at point-blank range. At the present time, the cartridge is being made only in small test quantities, but more than one of the major producers



Here's the Bren Ten field stripped, with screw-in muzzle bushing and front sight removed. Note the enclosed locking track in the barrel underlug.



Once the Bren Ten gets into production, the manufacturers plan to offer a .45 ACP conversion unit, with 10-round magazine.



This view (right side) illustrates the vertical grooves cut into the frame strap and trigger guard, safety mounted on right side (for south paws), and the screw-in barrel bushing.



Fully adjustable rear sight features twin white dots, to go along with single dot on front sight. This style is found on the Heckler & Koch P7, too, and is much easier to align than most other systems.

have expressed interest in producing it in quantity. I talked to one of them, and was told, "If they make the gun, we'll make the cartridge."

Initial production of the Bren Ten is to be in 10mm only, but other options are to be available later. A conversion unit for regular .45 auto is planned, and a .22 LR version is also likely. In the .45 conversion, magazine capacity is reduced to 10 rounds. For those who don't want to switch the safety from side to side, a true ambidextrous version will be offered. A long slide/long barrel unit will be available. A "pocket" model is also in the works, in 10mm only.

All of this brings us to two important questions: How much will the standard Bren Ten cost, and how long will we have to wait? According to Dornaus and Dixon, the use of modern manufacturing methods should keep the price in the \$450 range. In regard to the time element, Mike Dixon told me in November of 1980 that actual production would be "in approximately one year." Allowing for the inevitable delays that

always occur in any project of this type, I would imagine that we shouldn't expect to see finished guns before early 1982. That may seem to be a long time, but starting from zero, it will be quite a feat.

Looking at the pistol, it's easy to pick out points of resemblance to the SIG P-210, the Czech 75, and the Browning HP, but it's not really like any of these. The combination of features has created a unique piece, a concept that goes well with the new cartridge. Introducing a totally new gun in these times is a financially risky endeavor, no matter how fine the piece. When the cartridge is also new, the risk is increased. This gun, though, fills a particular gap in the market, and I believe there will be a long line of waiting buyers. Can Dornaus & Dixon get the Bren Ten into production by the end of this year? Can the price be held close to the \$450 estimate? Only time will tell. Personally, I think it's a marvelous concept. I hope they make it, because I want one. They are accepting no orders at the present time, but they will reserve serial numbers on request. They have mine.



SPECIFICATIONS

Cartridge: 10mm Auto Pistol
Weight: 38 ounces
Length: 8.38 inches
Height: 5.50 inches
Width: 1.48 inches
Barrel length: 5 inches
Sight radius: 6.88 inches
Magazine capacity: 12 rounds
Manufacturer:
Dornaus & Dixon Enterprises
16718 Judy Way, Cerritos, CA 90701

LEFT— Hammer is of the Colt Commander type. Note clean styling which is evident throughout on this gun.

BELOW LEFT— Here's a look at the Czech Model 75 semiauto pistol from which many design features of the Bren Ten were acquired.

BELOW RIGHT— The Swiss-made SIG P-210 also had a bearing on the final outcome of this all-new combat gun.

