

GUNS & AMMO

AUGUST 1984

\$1.75

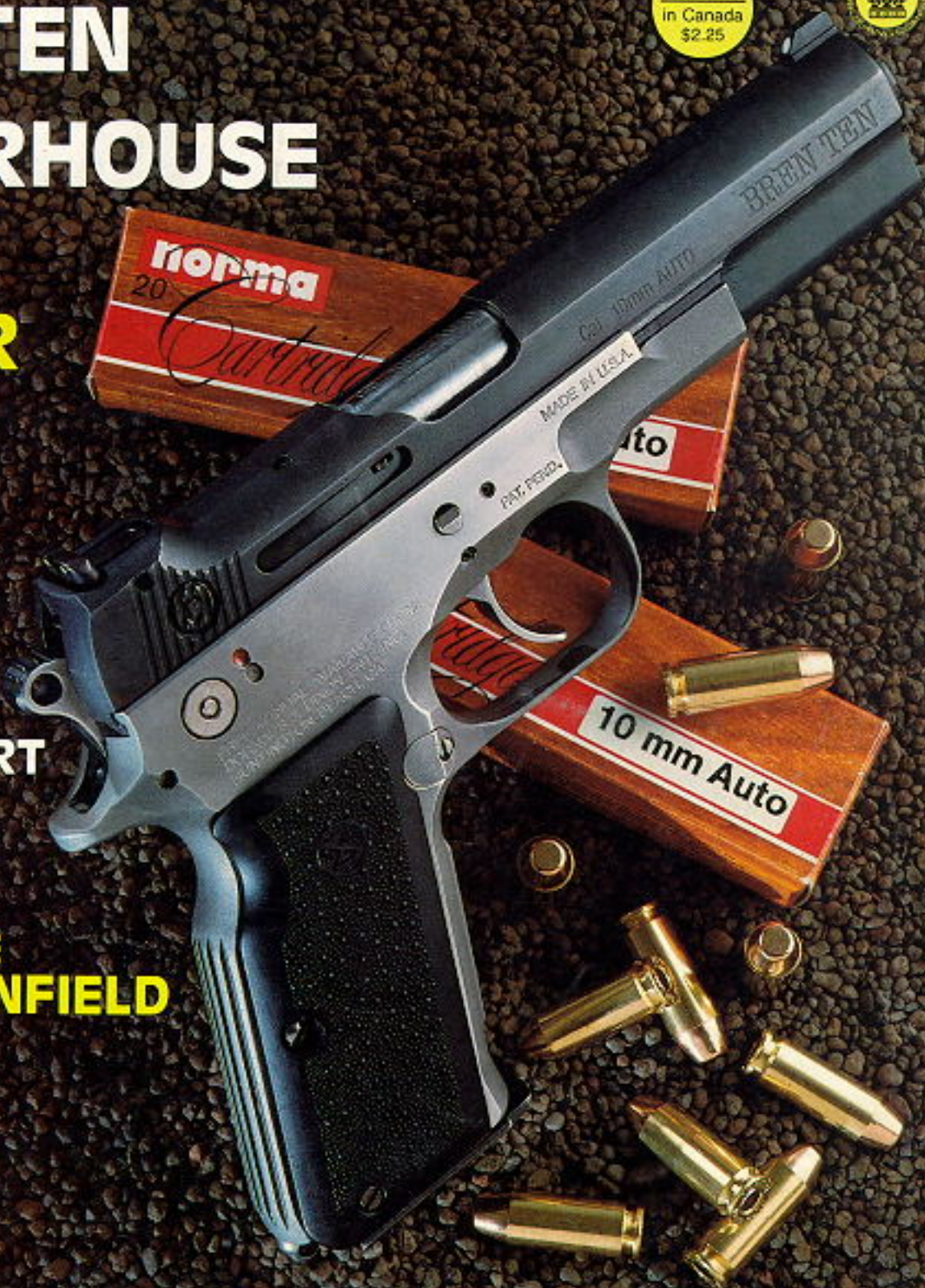
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EXCLUSIVE:
BREN TEN
THE 10mm
POWERHOUSE

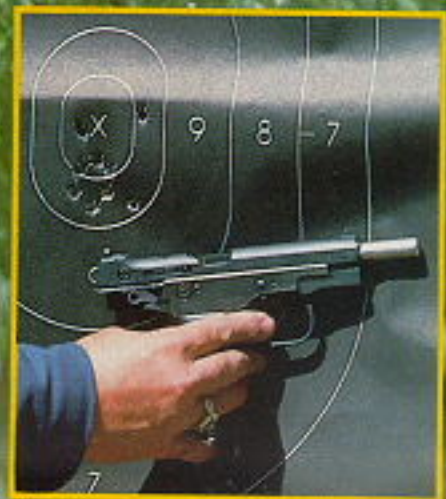
**8mm
MAUSER**
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BREN TEN THE 10 mm POWERHOUSE



The guru of the Colt .45 ACP, Jeff Cooper, has finally found a pistol that tops the old warhorse.

By Howard E. French

■ It is an exciting event when not only a new firearm, but also a new cartridge, arrives on the shooting scene. It is doubly so when it is a new pistol that is both double action as well as sub-.45 caliber, yet bears the enthusiastic seal of approval of Col. Jeff Cooper. This new pistol is, of course, the Bren Ten chambered for a brand new cartridge, the 10mm Auto. The pistol itself is manufactured in the United States by Dornaus & Dixon, while the ammunition is from the respected Swedish firm of Norma.

In fact, Jeff Cooper is so impressed with this auto/cartridge combo that he has hung up his Colt 1911 and uses the Bren Ten as his personal sidearm. He also uses the Bren in his official duties

as head of the Gunsite Raven Corporation. The logo of Gunsite, a stylized Raven, appears on each Bren Ten.

It is not easy to get a revolutionary new pistol and cartridge in production and the Bren Ten is no exception. Prototypes were shown at least 4 years ago, however, it is just now, May of 1984, that *Guns & Ammo* received a pair of guns off the regular production run for testing.

For those who are interested, the name "Bren" is tied in with the famous British light machine gun of WWII fame. This gun was developed from a Czech design built at the Brno factory and finalized at the British Enfield arsenal. The two names, Brno and



In the Standard Model Bren Ten, top, the stainless steel frame is left bright while the Military/Police Model features an attractive black oxide coating.



Col. Jeff Cooper, the acknowledged father of modern combat shooting, has put his stamp of approval on the Bren Ten 10mm Auto, marking the first time that he has approved of an arm other than the Colt Model 1911.

BREN TEN

Enfield, were combined to form the acronym Bren.

Brno is still a world leader in firearms design and, in postwar years, produced an advanced double/single-actioned autoloading pistol, the CZ 75 in 9mm Parabellum. Jeff Cooper was impressed with the design of this arm, although the minor 9mm caliber is obviously not his cup of tea. Dornaus & Dixon improved the basic Czech design and beefed it up to handle the hot new 10mm Auto round, as well as the optional .45 ACP cartridge. Col. Cooper suggested that the famous "Bren" accolade be applied to this new pistol with the additional "Ten" to indicate the new caliber.

Although not financially involved with Dornaus & Dixon, Jeff did agree to act as a consultant as far as design features were

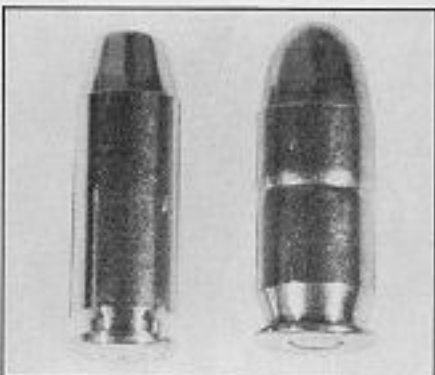
concerned. His suggestion that the safety be moved lower and to the rear was faithfully carried out even though it meant that major revisions would have to be made to the lockwork. And so it went, until Jeff Cooper was satisfied that the gun was ready to go into production.

Our two pistols consisted of a Standard Model, which features a blued 4140 chrome-moly steel slide mated to a stainless steel satin-finished frame, and a Military/Police Model of the same configuration except that the stainless frame is finished with a black oxide. All other specifications are identical. Incidentally, this

combination of conventional steel and stainless steel was a carefully thought out design objective. It is well known that stainless steel rubbing on stainless steel can cause galling.

It is also well known that the American shooting public likes stainless for its corrosion-resistant features. The Bren Ten combines these two metals where it is felt it will do the most good. The corrosion resistant stainless is used on the frame, where it contacts sweaty hands, and the carbon steel slide rides effortlessly and without galling on this frame. This was not an arbitrary decision. The first prototype had both a stainless slide and frame, however, galling developed after about 1,000 to 1,500 rounds when the potent 10mm ammo was fired in this combination. Dornaus & Dixon then tried to use dissimilar stainless steels in the frame and slide and have them heat treated to different hardnesses. Again, all was well until about 1,000 rounds churned up the barrel and galling again reared its ugly head. For these reasons the Bren Ten now boasts the combination carbon steel slide and stainless frame.

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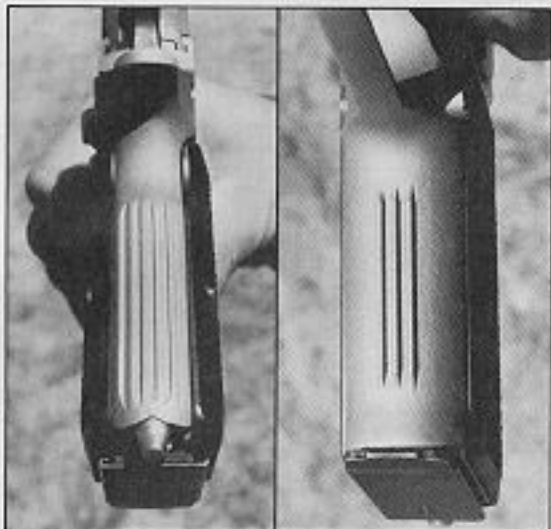


The 10mm, left, hits harder and shoots flatter than the venerable .45 ACP that has ruled the combat roosts for so many years.

The Bren Ten comes stock with many features that are custom with many combat arms including grooved surfaces on both the fore and aft portions of the pistol grip. These provide a firm grip even with sweaty hands.



This screw controls the release of the magazine so that it will either fall free or must be pulled loose.



The magazine well of the Bren Ten is beveled for fast magazine insertion during combat courses.

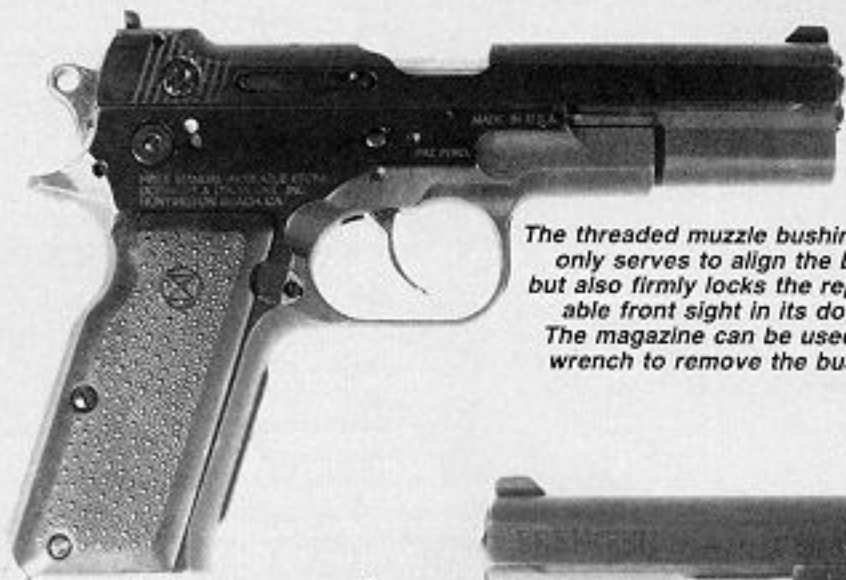
BREN TEN 10MM AUTO PISTOL BALLISTICS

RANGE (YARDS)	REMAINING VELOCITY (FPS)	REMAINING ENERGY (FT. LBS.)	DROP (INCHES)	DEFLECTION IN 10 MPH X-WIND (INCHES)
0	1,200	639	0	0
25	1,146	582	.8	.3
50	1,099	535	3.2	1
75	1,059	498	11.1	2.3
100	1,025	466	13.6	3.9
125	995	439	21.8	6
150	969	416	32.2	8.4
175	944	396	44.9	11.3
200	922	377	60	14.4

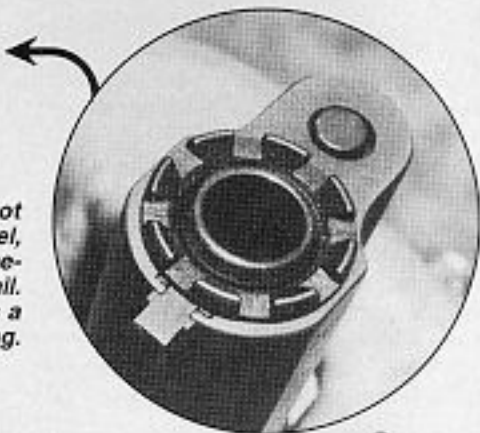
SPECIFICATIONS

BREN TEN

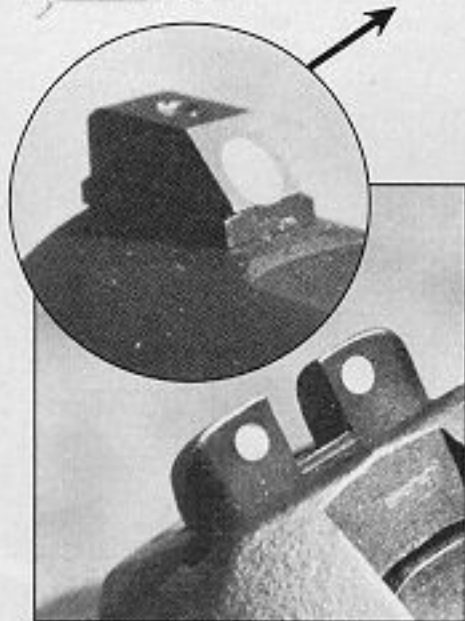
Manufacturer:	Dornaus & Dixon
Model:	Bren Ten
Operation:	Double/single action
Function:	Browning short recoil
Barrel length:	5 inches
Overall length:	8.37 inches
Height:	5.50 inches
Width:	1.25 inches
Weight (empty):	40 ounces
Safeties:	Thumb reversible, and firing pin block
Sight radius:	7 inches
Sights:	3 dot combat
Rifling:	RH twist, 1 in 15
Capacity:	11 rounds
Finish:	Blued slide/stainless frame
Price:	\$500, Military/Police with black oxide frame \$550



The threaded muzzle bushing not only serves to align the barrel, but also firmly locks the replaceable front sight in its dovetail. The magazine can be used as a wrench to remove the bushing.



The Bren Ten features a unique firing pin lock which, when pushed in from left to right, makes it impossible to inadvertently fire this pistol.



The Bren Ten features the proven three-dot combat sight combination so popular with today's shooters.

BREN TEN

The pistols come with fully adjustable rear sights and with a front sight that is relatively easy to replace should it be damaged, or should you wish to replace it with a sight of a different height. Originally the bushing alone retained the sight in its slot, however, exhaustive tests revealed that the bushing could loosen under sustained recoil leaving the front sight somewhat loose... hardly conducive to pin-point accuracy! The sight barrel bushing was modified to include a roll pin which locked both the front sight and the barrel bushing into place so that they could not possibly jar loose, no matter how many rounds were fired. To remove the bushing and replace the front sight it is necessary to use a 1/8-inch drift punch to drive out the roll pin once the slide is field stripped. The base of the magazine can then be used as a wrench.

The rear sight requires an Allen wrench, which is furnished, to make windage or elevation adjustments. The rear sight had two white dots that line up with the single white dot on the front sight for a rapid, eye-catching sight alignment.

The pistol, unlike most double-action autos, can be carried "cocked and locked" à la the Colt 1911. Thus your first shot from the leather will have the same pull and finger position as do all subsequent shots. With the conventional DA pistol, your first shot, unless you take the time to manually pull the hammer to full cock, invariably has a long, heavy trigger pull that is totally different from the single-action trigger release. In addition, your finger must be repositioned for a proper single-action release. This has always been the bug-aboo with double-action autos. For many

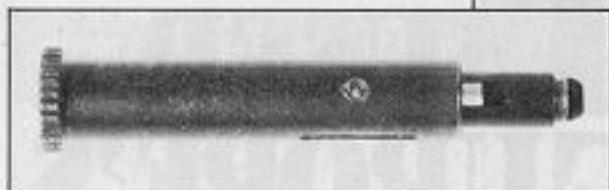
years Jeff Cooper has said that: "A double-action auto is a solution for a problem that does not exist."

The Bren Ten solves Jeff's objections to a DA auto—since it can be carried cocked and locked—while at the same time it does cater to those less professionally trained than Jeff who like the double-action first-shot capability. There are also police departments who are vitally concerned with the image projected by an officer carrying a loaded, cocked autoloading pistol. The general public, more in tune with revolvers than autos, get downright nervous when they see an officer carrying a pistol in a condition that they, out of lack of knowledge, deem dangerous.

So, without question, the double-action capability of the Bren Ten is a definite plus factor. It obviously also cut into the argu-



The Jeff Cooper "Gunsight" Raven logo appears on each Bren Ten, visual proof of Cooper's approval.



The recoil spring guide not only aligns the spring but also serves as a recoil buffer and has a slotted screwdriver head for stripping.

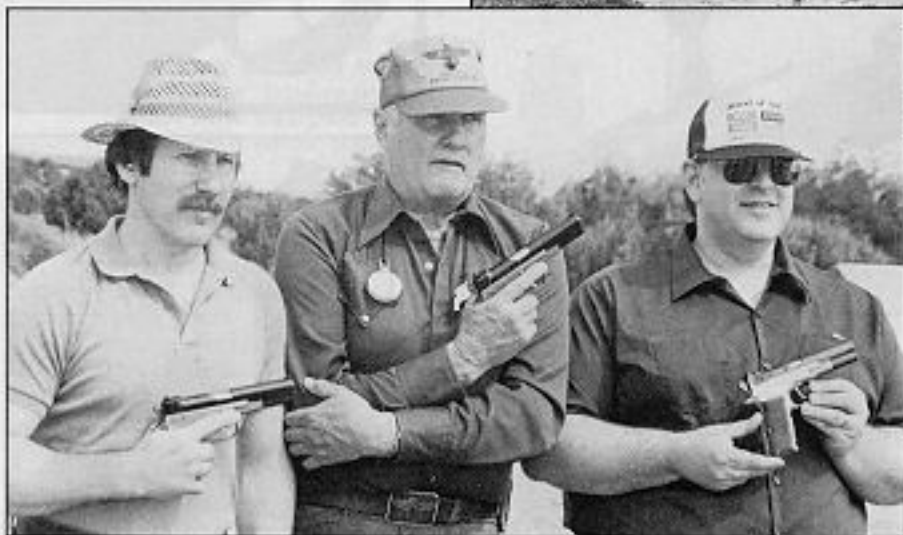
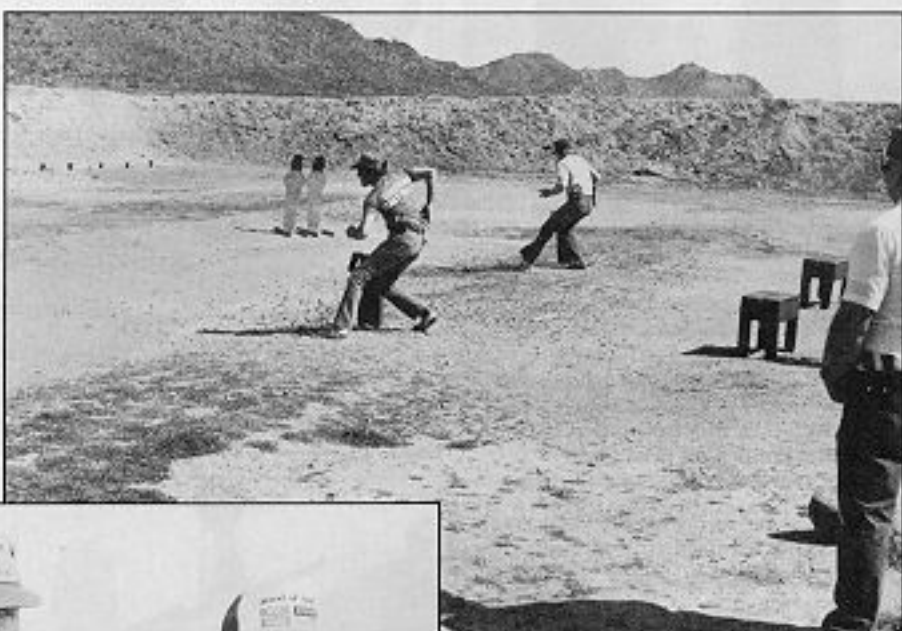
The Bren Ten uses the time-proven Browning short recoil system and is easily broken down for routine cleaning, maintenance, or repairs.



ment that a revolver is more reliable than the auto pistol. If you have a misfire with the Bren Ten another tug on the DA trigger will strike the primer an additional blow and, unless you have dud ammo, this is usually enough to fire the round.

The Bren Ten is loaded with safeties although, thankfully (and no doubt due to Jeff Cooper's urgings), it does not have a magazine disconnect. It can be carried loaded with the hammer down ready for a quick DA shot, loaded with hammer down and thumb safety engaged for a reasonably quick DA shot, cocked and locked for single-action firing of the first shot, or a combination of all of the above in conjunction with a firing pin lock.

The firing pin lock is located just below,



Dixon, left, Cooper, and Dornaus are betting that the Bren Ten will be the first sub-.45 caliber to seriously challenge the Colt 1911.

and forward of, the rear sight. It is a circular insert in the serrations that help you get a firm grip to pull back the slide. When pushed in, left to right, it positively locks the firing pin so that the hammer blow cannot be transmitted to the primer. It is released, naturally, by pushing the now protruding boss back to the left. The release requires either changing the grip of the

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