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Announcement.

# COMBAT PISTOLCRAFT

## The New Bren Ten



**Ken Hackathorn**

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**W**HAT will the ultimate combat pistol be like? The Bren Ten answers this question. Its design was conceived by Jeff Cooper, and the pistol was engineered and developed by Tom Dornaus and Mike Dixon, whose final design includes the combat-proven features of the Colt 1911, Browning P-35, Sig 210 and the Czech 75. Not only have they employed the best qualities of an ideal service pistol, but they combined them with a potentially excellent new cartridge.

A 10mm auto-pistol cartridge is planned that will drive a 200-grain, jacketed, truncated-point bullet at a velocity of 1100- to 1200-feet per second. The 10mm should please both big-bore, heavy-bullet and high-velocity fans.

Since the Czech 75 9x19mm pistol is clearly one of the best-designed sidearms produced, it has served as a basis for the new Bren Ten service pistol. Note that the CZ75 has a selective double/single-action system. If double-action autos are your favorites, the CZ75 is one of the smoothest made. However, if you prefer the condition-one carry, the CZ75 can be carried cocked-and-locked with the ease of a Colt 1911. All the CZ controls are ideally located.

The Bren Ten has scaled the CZ75 up to the 10mm cartridge. Taking a Czech-designed weapon and modifying it for another nation's use is not new. The British decided to use the excellent ZB-26 light machine gun for their military before WWII. Taking the first two letters of Brno — the Czechoslovakian plant — and the first two letters of Enfield — England's arms plant — they called the resulting gun BREN.

Because the Czech Brno plant is still a source of fine weapons — such as the CZ75 — Jeff Cooper recommended the name Bren for the hybrid pistol being evolved from the Brno CZ75 and modified for 10mm. Of key importance is the fact that the Bren Ten will be made in the U.S. and offered for sale on the free-world market.

*Continued on page 83*



New 10mm Bren Ten in condition-one cocked-and-locked mode. This double-action auto can also be carried with hammer cocked and manual safety on. Safety can be switched from right to left, depending upon individual needs. Magazine will hold twelve 10mm rounds. Author found prototype one of finest handguns produced.

## COMBAT PISTOLCRAFT

Continued from page 14

People have been interested in a 10mm pistol cartridge for a long time. In fact, Colt first considered a 9.8mm cartridge for the Government Model pistol back in 1910. A prototype was made up in this caliber and tested in the Balkan countries prior to the adoption of the 1911 in .45 ACP. But the 1911's success and the ensuing demand for it left the 9.8 in the shadows. More than a decade ago, some *Guns & Ammo* staff people started playing with the idea of a .40-caliber autopistol cartridge, and the result of their experimentation was the .40 G&A cartridge.

Now, with the coming of the Bren Ten pistol, interest in a modern 10mm cartridge has been revived. The Bren Ten prototype pistol — offered by Dornaus & Dixon Enterprises, Inc., Dept. SOF, 16718 Judy Way, Cerritos, CA 90701 — is well thought out. All its controls are located for easy use, and the standard gun should not require any custom features.

The Bren Ten is a large pistol, but not unhandy. It is designed to hold 12 rounds of 10mm ammo in the magazine. Production Bren Tens will be made of both stainless and regular carbon steel. Standard features include a safety that can be converted to either right- or left-hand use, a selective magazine catch, high visibility and rugged, fully adjustable sights. The front sight is replaceable — and comes in various shapes and colors to suit individual taste.

The Bren Ten's design insures that — like its pattern gun, the CZ75 — it will be inherently accurate. Non-snagging sights have the popular three-dot aiming system. Design features that should make the competition shooter happy include a built-in recoil buffer, screwdriver set and replaceable barrel bushings. Overall length of the pistol is 8.53 inches; height is 5.50 inches, and width is 1.48 inches at the grip. Weight is 38 ounces empty — nearly the same as the Colt 1911.

The prototype pistol had a Barsto barrel of outstanding quality. Fit and finish are far better than most normally seen in the industry. However, as with any prototype product, the finish is expected to be exceptional.

The key to the manufacture of the Bren Ten is the use of tape-controlled machinery that will hold very close tolerances and produce well-finished parts with minimal need for handwork — a decision that is a positive step forward, since the track record of guns with investment-cast parts has not been what many "experts" would lead us to believe.

Tape-control means a high-quality pistol at a reasonable cost (\$450 projected at this time) that will be competitive on the market. Southern California has many high-quality, precision manufacturing plants, as a result of the location of the aerospace industry there. These manufac-

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turers are skilled makers of close-tolerance parts made of quality materials.

Tom Dornaus is the man in charge of the manufacturing end of the Bren Ten project, and his skill in this field is second to none. The work and details of the Bren Ten reflect a professional attitude not often found in U.S. weapon design. American arms producers have been reluctant to become involved in new handgun designs that have merit.

The H&K P-7 (PSP) is a good example of how far ahead of the U.S. other countries are in arms manufacturing. American companies, not part of the New England big four, have had a hard time making it, as the history of the AutoMag and Wildey shows. Smaller corporations have difficulty getting into the business.

The Bren Ten uses an already perfected pistol design and is a weapon for serious application. It need not be marketed as a plaything. For a new pistol design to be successful, it must result in a sidearm with superior function and action. The weapon must be reliable and easy to operate. It must provide enough punch to do the job. The Bren Ten does this job with ease.

I was only able to fire the prototype Bren Ten with a .45 ACP conversion kit attached. Firing it was enjoyable. It is accurate, easy to use and controllable. Although its grip size is large, it is comfortable. Anyone who handles a S&W M-59 or P-35 will find the Bren Ten manageable. The double-action stroke is short and smooth — in fact, one of the nicest I

have ever tried on an auto pistol. But this is expected on a prototype pistol — the final proof will be in a production piece.

As of now, the Bren Ten is still in its infancy. There will most likely be some hard times ahead — but I sure hope that this one makes it. Historically, only a few handgun designs really stand out. John Browning's work still remains on top after all these years and the H&K P-7 is the most recent weapon to gain the respect of the practical pistolero. Now, with the prospect of the Bren Ten, the future looks much brighter.





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