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- AUTO-ORDNANCE 1911 PKZ .45ACP ■ CZ97B .45 ACP



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## COMBAT TEST

# NEW HIGH STANDARD G-MAN .45ACP

Cloning the FBI's M1911, and adding the SFS trigger!

The High Standard G-Man 1911 with Safariland concealment holster.



By Walt Rauch

**T**he name "High Standard" has long represented the manufacturer of fine .22 caliber target pistols as well as durable .22 revolvers, a double-action derringer and shotguns, including an unusual one—ahead of its time—the Model 10B, a bull-pup design with a flashlight mounted to it, and it's surprising to see "High Standard" with a Model 1911 pistol. And what's this Safety Fast-Shooting (SFS) Kit?

Well, to bring you up to date, it was in 1993 that the assets and trademarks, including the .22 target pistols of the High Standard Company, were acquired by High Standard Manufacturing



John Lysak did the accuracy work and got excellent groups with the G-Man.



The G-Man 1911 uses a National Match barrel and bushing.



The G-Man 1911 has a nice combat sight with tritium inserts.



A long, solid trigger with overtravel screw allows a clean trigger break.

Company Inc. of Houston, Texas. This new firm then resumed the production of High Standard .22 target pistols and recently has expanded the High Standard line, by also manufacturing 1911 pistols, to include full size and compact models dubbed the Crusader (5-inch barrel) and Crusader Combat (4.25-inch barrel), respectively, as well as the Camp Perry National Match and the G-Man models. Finishes available include blued, parkerized, TDC (Thin, Dense Chrome) and Teflon.

Since my days of standing at the shooting bench and doggedly working one-handed with iron sights attempting to put little .22 bullets into the center of an X-ring at 25 and 50 yards are long gone, I elected to test the High Standard G-Man 1911 as a self-defense arm.

#### Gun Details

The G-Man is a full-sized 1911 built to emulate the specifications and features

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## HIGH STANDARD G-MAN .45ACP

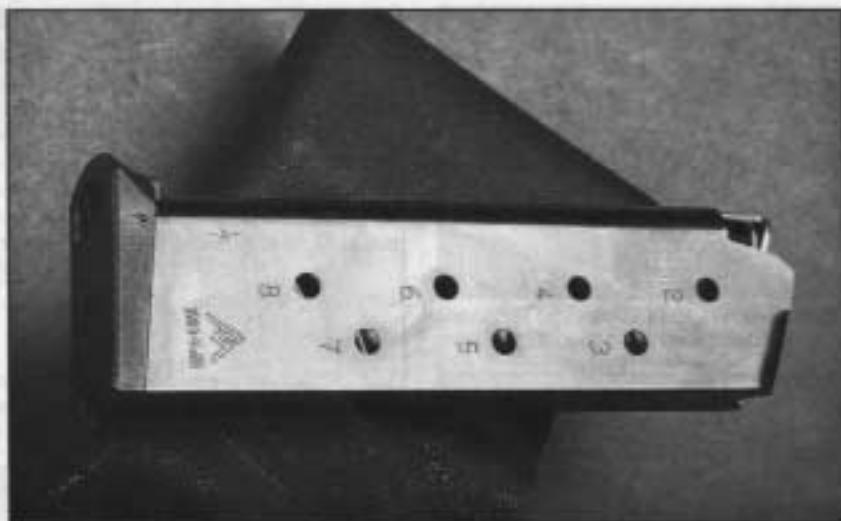
(Continued from page 29)

found on the 1911 used by the Federal Bureau of Investigation, hence the name, G-Man. The G-Man has a National Match slide and a stainless steel barrel and bushing. High fixed, tritium night sights are included, as are ambidextrous thumb safeties. Operating the slide, the recoil spring feels as if it's weighted to the Colt factory standard of 16 pounds. This light spring ensures that even weak or unevenly loaded ammunition will function in the gun. (My personal choice is to replace the light springs with either a Wolff variable coil 17-pound or a standard 18.5-pound Wolff recoil spring, since I shoot full-power ammo.)

The now-usual custom work has also been done. The feed ramp is polished, the barrel throated; a flat, grooved main-spring housing is used; and a long, solid-body trigger is fitted. This trigger, with the addition of an overtravel screw, is similar to those found in the early 1911. The trigger pull weight breaks at 4.5 pounds and the magazine well is beveled. The MEG-GAR made magazine appears to be an upgrade of the usual 1911 mag, for the follower is solid and the plastic base plate, which affords a place for a finger rest, is removable so the mag can be easily cleaned. Nice, checkered-wood stocks and a durable Teflon finish complete the package. My test sample gun, serial number HS 00019, didn't have the wide beavertail grip safety listed as a standard item in the accompanying specification sheet, but rather the "A1"-style grip safety that's more user-friendly when the speed-firing—safety kit is added, for the beavertail design does block complete access to the hammer.

To sort things out, let's look at the SFS kit first. It operates simply. After chambering a round, you push forward on the slim, skeletonized hammer. It moves forward easily but is under spring tension. As the hammer moves fully forward, the "thumb safety" automatically moves up into the "on" position. To fire the gun, you simply push down on the "thumb safety" as you would if the gun were carried cocked and locked. When you push on the safety, the hammer springs back to full cock. The gun is now ready to fire. If you elect not to shoot, simply push forward on the hammer and the cycle repeats itself. Although the hammer is forward, it's blocked by a metal bar that's between it and the rear of the slide to provide a barrier to prevent the gun from firing if struck violently on its muzzle. The thumb safety locks the slide but cannot be activated when the hammer is back and does not serve as a decocking lever.

The SFS was developed by Leon



This G-Man 1911 magazine has a removable floorplate, which also serves as a finger rest. (Mag is lying on a Safariland double mag pouch.)



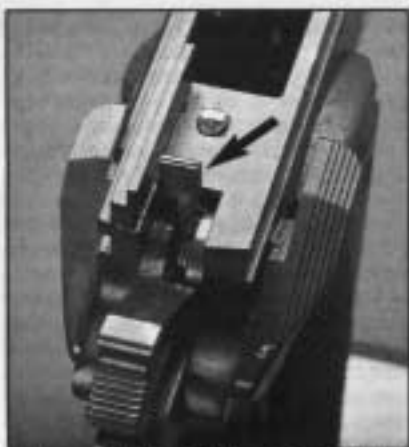
When ready to fire, the G-Man 1911 with the Safety Fast-Shooting kit installed has the hammer forward and the safety on.



Pressing on the thumb safety releases the hammer to full cock.

Hubert, a retired engineer of Fabrique Nationale (FN), Belgium. According to Bill Laughridge of Cylinder & Slide, importer of the kit, during Hubert's 35 years of service he worked with FN on a Fast-Action cocking mechanism that was never put into production, although I did handle this Fast-Action a few years ago

when it was displayed at the SHOT Show mounted on a Browning FN High-Power. The hammer was cocked by pressing on the trigger, causing the hammer to spring to the fully cocked mode. The obvious downside is that your finger is already on the trigger and you could inadvertently fire the gun.



A hammer block is incorporated into the SFS design.

**Performance: G-Man .45ACP**

LOAD	VELOCITY
Black Hills 230 FMJ	853
CCI Blazer 200 JHP	961
Cor-Bon 165 JHP +P	1259
Cor-Bon 200 JHP +P	1101
Cor-Bon 185 JHP +P	1130
Federal Personal Defense 165 JHP	1007
Homady 200 JHP SXT +P	979
Homady 230 JHP SXT +P	925
Remington 185 +P	1138
Remington Golden Saber 230 JHP	821
Reloads 230 LRN	794
Speer Gold Dot 230 JHP	822
Speer Gold Dot 200 JHP	959
Winchester SXT 230 JHP	861
Winchester 230 FMJ	802

Bullet weight measured in grains, velocity in feet per second (fps) with Pro-Chrono chronograph for 5-shot averages. Elevation: 300 feet. Temperature: 45 degrees.

According to Bill, the patents expired on the first design and it was redesigned, and repatented by Mr. Hubert, so that the hammer is now activated by the thumb safety, or as it is now termed, the "cocking lever." The new system was first applied to the P-35, then the High-Power and finally the 1911.

Cylinder & Slide or High Standard can install or sell the SFS kits for the Browning Hi-Power and 1911, which is an option on all High Standard's 1911. As a point of interest, in the 1970s I recall handling a device that also allowed a hammer-down carry. Designed by two brothers operating as Allen Associates in Philadelphia, PA and now long out of business (the location

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## HIGH STANDARD G-MAN .45ACP

(Continued from page 31)

was a beer distributorship as well as the sales location for the device), the modified 1911 thumb safety was called a "speed-cock lever." It worked by firmly pushing down on the modified thumb safety, which raised the fully forward hammer to full cock.

Using the SFS was a little disconcerting at first. When I started working with the gun I allowed myself to be distracted by the SFS, for my subconscious mind kept telling me the gun wasn't ready to fire because the hammer wasn't cocked. I found I was hesitating as I came on target with my thumb on the safety, stopping the stroke as it were, for I subconsciously just "knew" the gun wasn't ready to fire because the hammer was down. After a few tries, I got on to the system and when I wanted to make the shot, I simply pressed down on the safety and fired. I recalled that I could fire a standard 1911 by first pressing on and holding the trigger while disengaging the thumb safety, so I tried this with the SFS kit. However, the gun will not fire should the firing sequence be reversed. I would think the SFS system would be of significant benefit where a cocked and locked carry is prohibited, such as in law enforcement. With the SFS kit, you can abide by the rules yet still have a cocked,



Note that the right ambidextrous safety is pinned to the shaft of the left safety—a good method to secure it.

### Specifications: G-Man 1911

**CALIBER:** .45ACP  
**BARREL:** 5 inches  
**OA LENGTH:** 8.75 inches  
**OA HEIGHT:** 5.5 inches  
**WEIGHT:** 39 ounces  
**SIGHTS:** High fixed three-dot; optional tritium night sights  
**TRIGGER PULL:** 4.5 pounds  
**FINISH:** Teflon-coated carbon steel  
**CAPACITY:** 8+1

clean, single-action first shot. The SFS also is a "feel good" device for those who just are put off by cocked and locked guns.

Something I'd recommend would be to strengthen the thumb-safety detent to

make moving it to the "fire" position more difficult. I suggest this because the SFS-converted gun might be a good way to go if it were to be left in a glove box, drawer or carried in a fanny pack. Right now, the thumb safety moves fairly easily and can be brushed off, with the gun then becoming cocked and unlocked. One question I had is, how do you know if the SFS system is activated without having to press down on the thumb safety? Actually, this can be done without even looking at the gun. Simply press forward on the lowered hammer. If the hammer moves slightly, the system is in use as opposed to the hammer being down on an empty chamber. In that case, there is no "give" to the hammer.

### How It Shoots

I shot the gun over my usual gun bag rest, seated, at 25 yards and I got excellent five-shot groups with a variety of ammunition. I didn't find any particular brand, bullet weight, shape or velocity superior to the others for all the five-shot groups regularly went into three inches or less. I shot factory-standard and +P ammunition, as well as home-brewed reloads using 230-grain hard-cast lead bullets from Rogers Better Bullets. I had zero malfunctions and the brass ejected up and to my right rear in a nice neat pile.

I did my draw work from a Safariland Model 5183, an open-top concealment rig. The G-Man 1911 works in any regu-



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lar open-top 1911-pattern holster although there might be a problem with a rig that runs a thumb-break strap over the back of the slide and under the normally cocked hammer. The Para-Ordnance LDA pistol also has a hammer-forward feature, so perhaps there will soon be some manual-retention holsters that accept a hammer-down carry without the need for reforming or refitting.

Earlier, I mentioned that this test gun had the old 1911A1 grip safety, which quickly reminded me when I was shooting it why almost all my guns have either beavertail grip safeties or are severely rounded, as I quickly developed a blood blister in the web of my shooting hand! Apparently when the SFS kit is used, the larger beavertail safety restricts complete access to the hammer, so the decision was made to use the more conventional style safety. The grip safety and the hammer needed to be rounded to avoid "hammer bite" when shooting with a high grip on the gun, as I do.

One last item regarding the High Standard Manufacturing Company. In the last few years there have been three companies all claiming to be making the "genuine" High Standard Pistol. They are all out of business. This High Standard Manufacturing Company is the genuine article and is not responsible for the quality of the other guns that were marketed for a brief period of time. If you have a question as to the authenticity of your High Standard .22, a nice note to these folks would be in order, although they do not do warranty or repair work on any other than their own guns. (In fact, they've been making repairs on some models dating back to 1932.)

For more information or a brochure, contact the **F.I. Inc.—High Standard Manufacturing Company**, 10606 Hempstead Highway, #116, Dept CH, Houston, TX 77092; 800-272-7816 or 713-462-4200 or contact the web site: [www.highstandard.com](http://www.highstandard.com)

#### For more information contact:

**Cylinder & Slide**, 245 East 4 St., Dept CH, Fremont, NE 68025; 800-448-1713; [www.cylinder-slide.com](http://www.cylinder-slide.com)

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