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GUNS MAGAZINE

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HO! HO! HO!
SHOOTER'S
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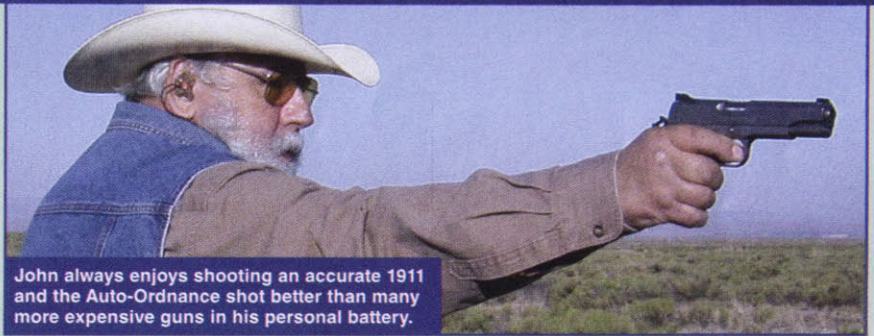
TRUE



The Auto-Ordnance 1911TC is a budget-priced pistol with many upgrades sought by today's shooters including front and rear slide serrations and a lowered and flared ejection port among others.

VALUE

THE AUTO-ORDNANCE 1911TC STAINLESS STEEL .45 ACP IS RELIABLE AND ACCURATE.



John always enjoys shooting an accurate 1911 and the Auto-Ordnance shot better than many more expensive guns in his personal battery.

JOHN TAFFIN PHOTOS: ROBBIE BARRKMAN



The latest 1911 .45 Automatic Colt Pistol from Auto-Ordnance is the Model 1911TC Custom Model.

Whereas my original Auto-Ordnance is a basic no-frills, military finished Government-style .45, this latest iteration of the 1911 from Auto-Ordnance definitely rates the title of Custom Model. The frame and slide are satin stainless steel instead of matte finish blue and virtually everything else on this exceptionally good-looking pistol is a departure from the original.

The stainless steel slide has cocking serrations both front and rear and the ejection port is relieved for positive removal of fired cartridges. The slide is marked "THOMPSON CUSTOM 1911" on the right side with the Thompson logo consisting of a bullet with "Thompson" in script inscribed inside the bullet. Both markings are nicely carried out and do not have the cheap look found on too many pistols.

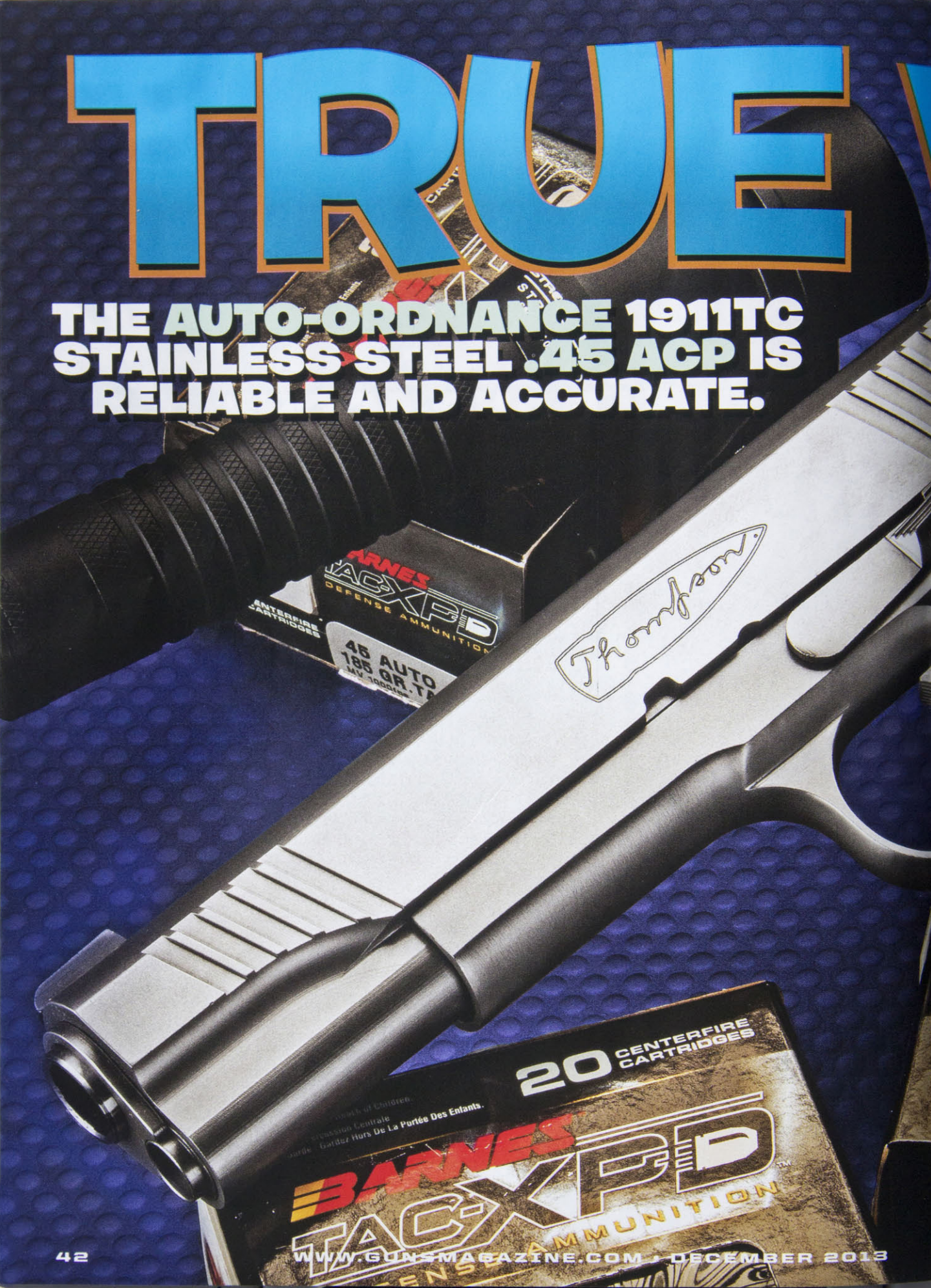
The low-profile sights, both front and rear, are set in dovetails with the rear sight adjustable for windage by loosening a set screw, tapping the sight in either direction, and then

re-locking this screw. Both sights are black with the front sight being a post tapered to the front while the back sight is tapered to the rear and serrated to minimize glare. Both sights are square and the front sight has just the right amount of daylight showing on each side when viewed in the square notch of the rear sight.

The stainless steel frame is marked on the right side above the trigger very inconspicuously with "AUTO-ORDNANCE CORP." above "WORCHESTER, MA." and a third line with the serial number. That's it as far as markings go making this 1911 unique as far as advertising and it is especially heartening not to see a warning label. On the right side of

TRUE

**THE AUTO-ORDNANCE 1911TC
STAINLESS STEEL .45 ACP IS
RELIABLE AND ACCURATE.**



VALUE



Keep Out of Reach of Children.
À Percussion Centrale
Garde - Gardez Hors De La Portée Des Enfants.

20 CENTERFIRE CARTRIDGES

GUNS

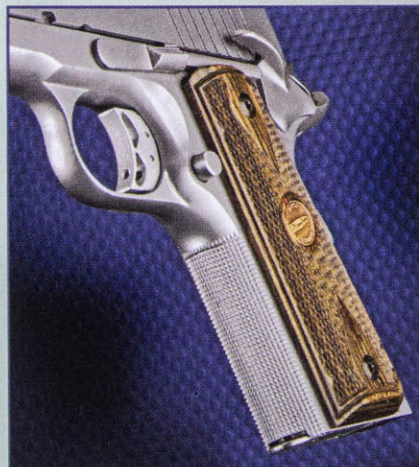
MAGAZINE

sights and the satin stainless steel finish this is the pistol made for hard used in rough situations without the user being concerned about hurting it. There is always a place for a high polished blue 1911 with ivory stocks, something we often referred to as a Bar-B-Q gun, and there is a very practical place for a 1911 setup and finished the way this Auto-Ordinance Thompson Custom 1911 is. Whether carried in a proper holster, or stuffed into my waist belt it is ready for any kind of duty. Enough talk, let's shoot it.

For testing the Auto-Ordinance .45 1911, I used a varied assortment of 24 different loads, both factory and handloads, as well as jacketed hollowpoints, full metal jackets, and hardcast semi-wadcutter and roundnosed versions. It fed and extracted everything perfectly except two other handloads both using semi-wadcutter bullets and the fault was totally with the ammunition and not the Auto-Ordinance 1911. When



Another of the upgraded features is the beaver-tail grip safety (above) with a memory pad to aid positive depression of the safety. The main-spring housing is flat and checkered. The grips are checkered wood. The frontstrap (below) features checkering for a firm grip and the safety is longer than standard and easy to use.



The Auto-Ordinance 1911 fieldstrips easily. Note a 1-piece guide rod is included.

testing any sixgun or semi-automatic I normally use a large sheet of manila paper with either nine or 12 targets made by using 1-1/2-inch by 3-inch stick on pasters of red, black or orange. I use a template to lay out my pattern and once those little rectangles are stuck on they will not come off and they make excellent aiming points.

I made it through the first nine targets with everything going well and then my groups started to shift and I discovered the Allen screw holding the rear sight in place had loosened allowing the rear sight windage to change. That was taken care of, I shot a few more targets, and then my point-of-impact shifted quite dramatically and I found the front sight had moved quite a bit to the left and was simply too loose in the dovetail. With my friend Denis helping me we managed to make a shim using three layers of notebook paper cut to size. This was an in-the-field emergency repair and it worked, however groups shots slightly to the right and rather than try to adjust the point-of-impact I was simply happy to have the front sight stay in place. The simple solution will be for my gunsmith Tom at Buckhorn to make

THOMPSON CUSTOM 1911

MAKER: AUTO-ORDNANCE
130 GODDARD MEMORIAL DR.
WORCHESTER, MA 01603
(508) 795-3919

WWW.GUNSMAGAZINE.COM/AUTO-ORDNANCE

Action: Single, semi-automatic, **Caliber:** .45 ACP, **Capacity:** 7+1, **Barrel Length:** 5", **Overall Length:** 8.5", **Weight:** 39 ounces, **Finish:** Stainless steel, **Sights:** Low-profile combat-style, **Grips:** Laminated checkered Double-Diamond-style, **Price:** \$815

AUTO-ORDNANCE

The original Auto-Ordinance Corporation goes back nearly 100 years. It was founded in 1916 by Col. John Thompson to produce his .45 Thompson Submachine Gun, the famous "Tommy Gun." In 1949 the assets were purchased by the Kilgore Company known mostly for producing kid's cast-iron cap guns. The assets then passed to George Numrich and consisted mainly of a truckload of crates. These crates contained tools and parts as well as completed Thompson Submachine Guns. In 1974 Numrich Arms Corporation officially reregistered the original Auto-Ordinance name. Today Auto-Ordinance is part of the Kahr family and still produces many variations of the original Thompson Submachine Guns with one major change: they are all semi-automatics. In addition to the .45 Thompsons, Auto-Ordinance also offers several versions of the 1911 .45 ACP Government Model.

a proper metal shim and adjust the front sight for proper windage.

Several loads performed exceptionally well with the best factory load being Buffalo Bore's 200-grain +P JHP clocking out at 1,175 feet

.45 ACP HANDLOADED AMMO PERFORMANCE

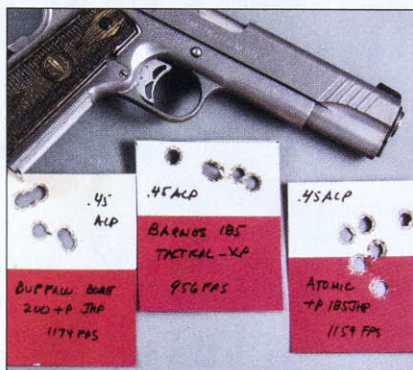
BULLET (BRAND, BULLET WEIGHT, TYPE)	POWDER (BRAND)	CHARGE (GRAINS WEIGHT)	VELOCITY (FPS)	GROUP SIZE (INCHES)
H&G 68 200 SWC	WW231	5.0	831	1-3/4
RCBS 45-210 200 SWC	WW231	5.0	828	1
Lyman 4542460 200 SWC	WW231	5.0	849	1-1/4
Lyman 452374RN 200	WW231	5.0	791	1-3/4
Oregon Trail 200 LSWC	WW231	5.0	838	3/4
H&G 68 200 SWC	Bullseye	3.5	734	1-3/8
RCBS 45-201 200 SWC	Bullseye	3.5	720	1-3/8
Lyman 4542460 200 SWC	Bullseye	3.5	742	1-1/2
Lyman 452374RN 200	Bullseye	3.5	703	1-1/2
Lyman 452460 200 SWC	Unique	7.0	945	1

Notes: Groups are the product of five shots at 20 yards. Chronograph screens set at 10 feet from the muzzle. Winchester Large Pistol Primers used in Starline brass.

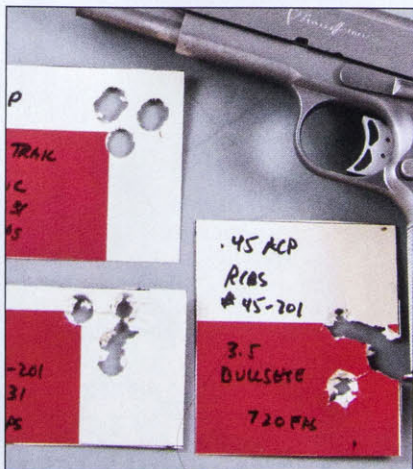
.45 ACP FACTORY AMMO PERFORMANCE

LOAD (BRAND, BULLET WEIGHT, TYPE)	VELOCITY (FPS)	GROUP SIZE (INCHES)
Atomic +P 185 JHP	1,159	1-1/4
Barnes 185 TAC-XP JHP	956	1-5/8
Black Hills 185 JHP	994	2-3/8
Black Hills 185 Barnes TAC-XP JHP	970	1-1/2
Black Hills 230 JHP	842	1-3/8
Black Hills 230 JHP +P	948	1-1/2
Buffalo Bore Low Recoil 185 FMJ	866	1-3/8
Buffalo Bore Low Recoil 160 Barnes Tactical JHP	1,009	2-3/8
Buffalo Bore 185 +P JHP	1,182	2
Buffalo Bore 200 +P JHP	1,174	1
Buffalo Bore 230 +P JHP	1,020	2
Hornady 185 Critical Defense FTX	1,056	2
Remington 200 MC	886	1-3/4
1965 Match	849	2

Notes: Groups are the product of five shots at 20 yards. Chronograph set at 10 feet from the muzzle.



John shot some pretty decent groups (above) with Buffalo Bore, Barnes Tac-XP and Atomic .45 ACP loadings at 20 yards. John's handloads shot exceptionally well in the Auto-Ordinance 1911 (below) using home-cast bullets from RCBS mold 45-201 and store bought Oregon Trail 200-grain semi-wadcutter .45 ACP bullets.



per second and placing five shots in 1 inch. The Auto-Ordinance 1911 .45 ACP turned out to be an exceptional shooter with my cast bullet handloads using both the RCBS mold 45-201 at 830 fps over 5.0 grains of WW231 and Lyman's mold 452460 over 7.0 grains of Unique and 950 fps, both also shooting into 1 inch. The greatest surprise was that afforded by using not factory ammo, not my handloads with my carefully cast, sized, and lubed bullets, but rather my handloads using the Oregon Trail 200-grain hardcast semi-wadcutter. Over 5.0 grains of WW231 this bullet placed all five shots into 3/4 inch at 20 yards. I certainly can't ask for any more than that. Complete results for all 24 loads are in the accompanying chart.

Except for the minor and easily solved problem of the front sight dovetail being slightly too large for the front sight itself, this Auto-Ordinance has proven itself to me to be an exceptionally high-quality 1911 at a most reasonable price. GUNS

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