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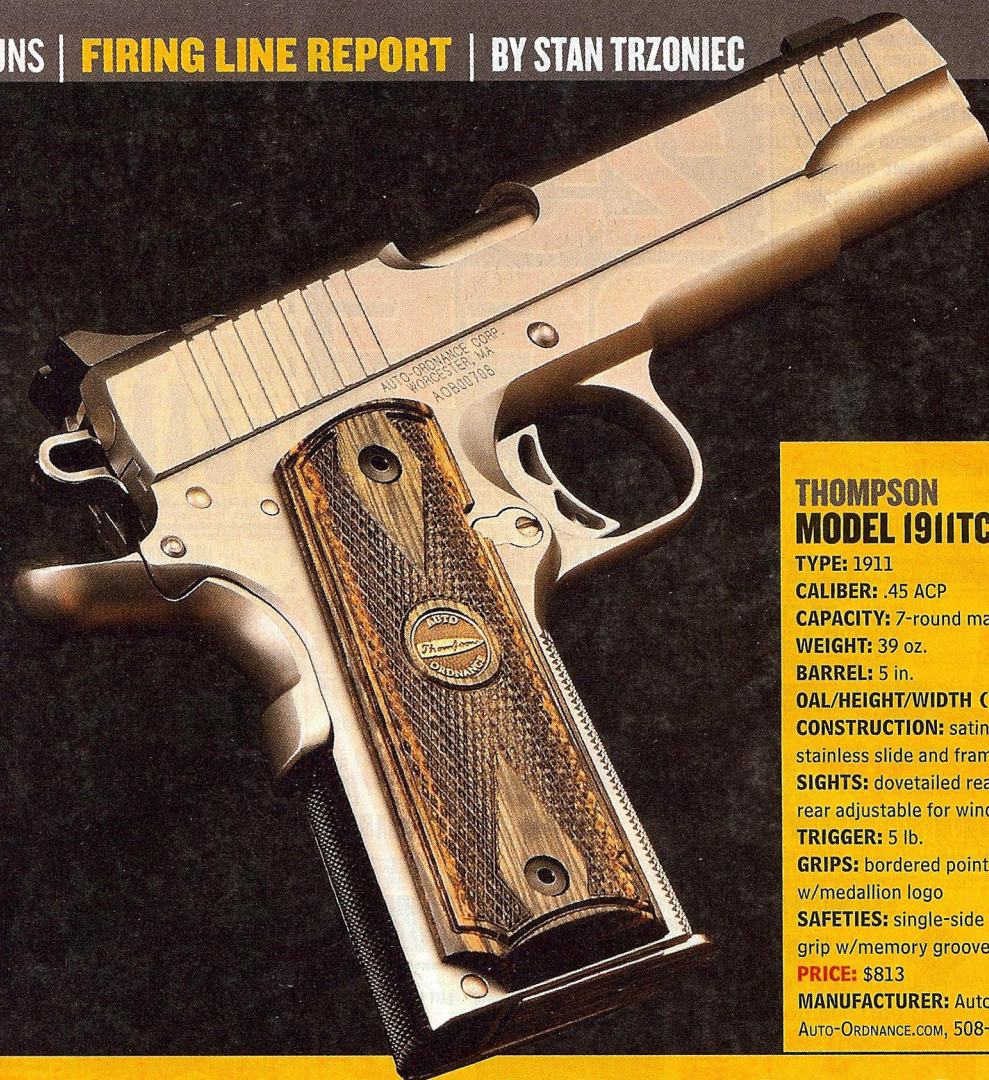
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**FIRING LINE REPORTS**

- THOMPSON 1911TC
- NIGHTHAWK T3 THIN

FEBRUARY/MARCH 2014 ..  
USA/CANADA \$4.99





## THOMPSON MODEL 1911TC

**TYPE:** 1911

**CALIBER:** .45 ACP

**CAPACITY:** 7-round magazine supplied

**WEIGHT:** 39 oz.

**BARREL:** 5 in.

**OAL/HEIGHT/WIDTH (IN.):** 8.75/5.25/1.5 in.

**CONSTRUCTION:** satin matte-finished stainless slide and frame

**SIGHTS:** dovetailed rear and front; rear adjustable for windage

**TRIGGER:** 5 lb.

**GRIPS:** bordered point checkered laminate w/medallion logo

**SAFETIES:** single-side thumb; grip w/memory groove; firing-pin block

**PRICE:** \$813

**MANUFACTURER:** Auto-Ordnance/Thompson, AUTO-ORDNANCE.COM, 508-795-3919

# THOMPSON MODEL 1911TC

**YOU WOULD THINK THAT WITH ALL OF** the new cartridges, defensive handguns and new equipment out there, we wouldn't really need another 1911 in .45 ACP. But with the recent stream of firearms going out to consumers, and the companies working almost 24/7 right now to fulfill the need, there's room for more.

To help in this regard, Kahr Arms—owners of Auto-Ordnance and the Thompson brand name—has just introduced the Thompson Custom Model 1911TC into a steady production status. First introduced to the public in 2008, production was limited to 100

units. Now, with the ever-increasing demand for handguns, Kahr has decided to make this gun a regular part of its lineup.

You probably recognize the Thompson brand thanks to the famous Thompson submachine gun. The "Tommy gun" was made famous in the 1920s by criminals such as Bonnie and Clyde, but it was also a favored weapon of the armed forces in World War II.

On the handgun side of the Thompson ledger, the company has a line of three 1911s: two Parkerized guns and the stainless 1911TC I received for test. In years past, buying a .45 auto was

akin to placing your life on the line. I can remember the custom tuning operations required to get a production gun to shoot better than barndoor accuracy. Now, thanks to CNC machining, guns coming off the line are precision made, shoot like gangbusters and are priced in a range that nearly anyone can afford. Retailing for less than \$900, this new Thompson Model 1911TC is one of the new breed.

As mentioned, this gun is made with a stainless steel slide and frame with a satin matte finish. There are no rounded corners where there should not be, the surface finish is perfect all around, and

there are little enhancements that make this a very desirable gun. It has front cocking serrations for press-checking—a feature some like and some don't. To ensure positive ejection, the ejection port has been enlarged and flared, and the gun's robust extractor is internal, thus protecting it from damage.

The traditional thumb safety is on the left side, although I would've preferred an ambidextrous one. It is sufficiently large for sure operation, and it's rounded off so it clears a holster easily.

Forward of that is the slide stop; below is the skeletonized trigger, which broke at five pounds consistently with just a hint of travel before the sear broke. The trigger is adjustable, but I take this as a defense gun rather than a target pistol, so I left it as is.

The hammer is combat in design and serrated on the top and around the rear for a better purchase even with gloves. Below the hammer you'll find a stylish and extended beavertail grip safety complete with a memory groove. The 1911TC has a flat mainspring housing that's machine checkered at 20 lpi, as is the frontstrap. The magazine release has been checkered as well, and it's extended so you won't have to fumble for it.

The sights are low profile, with a simple blade up front that mates with a robust rear sight which is tapered on the front slope for easy holstering



**A** The extended mag release, along with a beveled mag well, made reloading a snap, and the trigger—which broke at five pounds as it came from the factory—is adjustable.

and serrated on the rear face to defeat glare. Dovetailed into the slide, the rear is adjustable for windage via an Allen screw located in the center of the assembly.

The 1911TC comes with handsome laminated double-diamond grips featuring the Auto Ordnance/Thompson logo. They're checkered in a bordered point pattern. The magazine well is tapered for the easy insertion of the supplied seven-round magazine, which features a rounded follower. The base of the magazine is drilled and tapped to make the installation of a bumper easy and quick.

Out at the range, the gun performed almost perfectly, and I say almost because in the beginning of the session, the follower of the supplied mag got stuck halfway down into the tube, causing erratic feeding. A dash of WD-40 loosened it up, and the gun chugged along without fault after that.

At 25 yards, the gun averaged between two- and three-inch groups, on par with other guns in its peer group. The trigger broke cleanly every time,



**A** The slide features forward cocking serrations, and both the slide and frame are constructed of satin matte-finished stainless steel.

and I was impressed with how easy the sights are to see—even during double-taps. I dug into my shooting bag for spare magazines, and reloads proved easy thanks to the taper on the mag well.

Overall, I'd rate this gun as first class. It is well-finished, shoots great and aside from the stuck follower in the initial session, I really have nothing to complain about. While some shooters are willing to settle for something less than what they want simply because of limited supply, that's not the case with the Thompson Model 1911TC. For just about \$800 you're getting a standard-feature package that's everything you need. **C**



**A** The 1911TC's robust rear sight is adjustable for windage and was easy to acquire, and the grip safety sports a memory groove.

## ACCURACY RESULTS | THOMPSON MODEL 1911TC

.45 ACP	Bullet Weight (gr.)	Muzzle Velocity (fps)	Standard Deviation	Avg. Group (in.)
Hornady TAP FPD	230	920	19	3.0
Remington JHP	185	1,140	26	2.0
Winchester PDX1	230	916	30	2.0

**Notes:** Accuracy results are averages of three five-shot groups at 25 yards from a sandbag rest. Velocity figures are 25-shot averages recorded on an Oehler Model 35P chronograph. Abbreviation: JHP, jacketed hollowpoint