

DIY DEFENSE: CUSTOMIZED GLOCK 43



WORLD OF
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CONCEALED CARRY HANDGUNS

**EDC-READY
1911**

RUGER OFFICER-STYLE
9MM FIGHT-STOPPER



CONCEALED CARRY HANDGUNS

CZ P-10C 9MM MAYBE THE BEST EVER | **TOP 10 REASONS** TO BRING A BACKUP | **SKILL BUILDER** 50-ROUND WORKOUT

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SOURCES

Sturm, Ruger & Co., Inc.
www.Ruger.com

Galco Gun Leather
www.GalcoGunLeather.com

Sticky Holsters
www.StickyHolsters.com

Gun Pro Sure Fire Magazines
www.GunPro.us

LIGHTWEIGHT FRAME

The slide-to-frame fit was very good. The frame is made of lightweight aluminum, allowing the entire pistol to tip the scales at 27.2 ounces, not a featherweight, but much lighter than a full-size, steel-frame 1911 at 39 ounces. The frame appears dark gray, but with a bluish tint in brighter light. In any light it contrasts nicely with the stainless slide.

The controls are finished black. The slide release, manual thumb safety and magazine release are all on

the left side only and are extended slightly for easy reach, but not enough to get in the way while firing. The plunger tube for the slide release and thumb safety is integral with the frame. It's not staked on as with some other pistols and won't work loose over time.

The beavertail grip safety cups the skeletonized "Commander-style" rowel hammer. The grip safety has raised surfaces at the bottom for positive activation when you take a grip on the pistol. The flat mainspring housing is

Above: The Ruger Lightweight Officer-Style SR1911 pistol is easy to disassemble as there is no barrel bushing.

Sidebar: A closeup of the Gun Pro Sure Fire magazine shows the small spring that's intended to prevent bullets from nose-diving and causing a malfunction.

GUN PRO OFFERS NO-JAM MAGAZINES FOR FINICKY 1911S

I experienced no malfunctions whatsoever while testing this Ruger SR1911 pistol. But some 1911's can be finicky with certain types of ammo. For those pistols, Gun Pro offers its Sure Fire magazines. They feature a small spring on the body of the magazine that prevents the top cartridge in the magazine from nose diving. I tried a seven-round model specifically for compact 9mm 1911s. A longer, 10-round 9mm magazine is also available. They are available in .45 ACP too: six- and seven-round mags for compact guns as well as longer eight- and 10-rounders.



finely checkered for a secure hold, but it's rounded at the edges so the pistol won't cut into you when carried.

The single-action trigger of the 1911 is one of the main reasons it stays so popular. On the Ruger, it is unfinished aluminum. It's skeletonized and is serrated on the face. It's fitted with an over-travel screw. The trigger is excellent. It has a slight bit of take-up and then breaks cleanly at about 4 pounds even according to my scale.

The grips are gray G10. They're very

The slide doesn't have forward cocking serrations, but it's scalloped at the front in a way that it can still be manipulated easily from the front if desired.

The pistol has a single manual thumb safety on the left side of the frame as well as a beavertail grip safety. Note the skeletonized rowel hammer.

"ITS ATTRACTIVE TWO-TONE FINISH AND ENGRAVED G10 GRIPS COMBINE FOR A PISTOL THAT'S SURE TO INSTILL PRIDE OF OWNERSHIP."

slim and feature a stylized wing on each panel from the Phoenix bird of the Ruger logo. Those wings are textured for a good grip without being too abrasive. The Ruger logo is also present on each panel.

THE INSIDE SCOOP

There are good features on the inside, too. The pistol features a bull barrel, putting a little more weight up front to help control recoil. It's 3.6 inches long and made of stainless steel with a black nitride finish. A small port at the top serves as a visual loaded chamber indicator. No barrel bushing is needed.

The recoil spring surrounds a full-length guide rod. They're held in the slide by the recoil spring plug. This pistol has no firing pin block. It does have a titanium firing pin to lessen the chances of an accidental discharge if dropped. That lightweight firing pin also helps to improve lock time—the time between when a pull of the trigger releases the hammer and when the gun goes boom.

EASY TAKEDOWN

This is probably the easiest 1911 to disassemble that I've ever encountered. There's no barrel bushing, no capturing of the spring required and no tools involved. Move the slide rearward until the takedown notch aligns with the slide stop lever. Push out the slide stop lever from right to left. The slide can then be removed from the frame. You can then lift out the recoil spring, guide rod and recoil spring plug. The barrel slides out the front of the slide.

AT HOME ON THE RANGE

Down-sized 1911 pistols are notorious for reliability issues. Many are reliable only after a substantial break-in period. This Ruger had no reliability issues whatsoever and needed no break-in period. Through several hundred rounds of ammo of all types, it was flawless.

Of course, I was using quality ammo throughout. I tested the gun with two