

Taurus PT1911 Review, part 1

NCS ShootingSports.com

By Kenneth Kiesler

Ken@NCS ShootingSports.com

6/3/2011

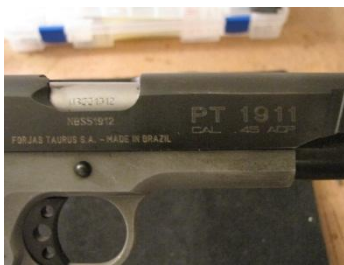
With all the firearms available out there, there are only a few that hold that distinctive look, that nostalgia, and the Model 1911 is all that and more. I say Model 1911 since there are many companies out there reproducing one of the most famous semi auto pistols in history. The pistol was designed by John M. Browning and was the standard-issue sidearm for the military from 1911 to 1985, and there are still forces out there that still carry this weapon to this day.



For the 1911 it has its own look and feel like no other. They are very accurate and very well managed and today you can get them any configuration you want, from 38 super, to 9mm and 40 S&W and of course 45 ACP, you can get a compact, long slide, and full dust covers, to even accessories rails to mount lights and lasers and there are many more accessories, and upgrades available.

Well today we are going to talk about one 1911 in particular, the Taurus PT1911.

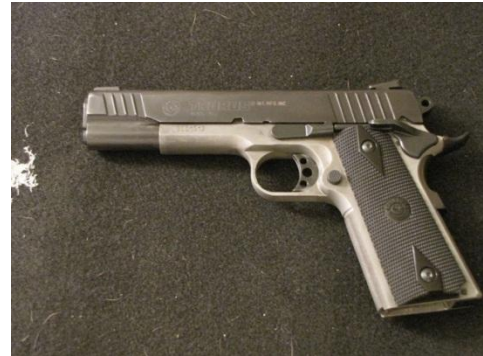
The Taurus is an affordable option for the person who wants to get in to shooting 1911's. The one I have here for review I picked up as a backup to my main gun when I attended a major USPSA match earlier this year and I have been using this gun in IDPA competitions with great success. The model I have here is a blue/grey alloy frame and steel slide. It has the series 80 trigger group installed, for those of you who may not be familiar with the different types of triggers for the 1911's, there are 2 different types, the series 70 and series 80. The series 80 trigger group has a firing pin stop whereas the series 70 does not, it relies only on the thumb and grip safeties and of course the best safety of all, the one between our ears. For this reason I like it for a carry gun, it gives you a little more security that is anything happened weather it was dropped or the hammer got snagged on something and fell on the firing pin for some reason there was an extra safety feature. Now since this is a good feature for carry and defensive purposes it may not be the most desired configuration for competition since the series 80 trigger adds a few more moving pieces. In some types of competition speed and how fast you can manipulate the firearm is important, since the only time it is ever loaded is when you are on the line and the possibilities of an accidental drop is very unlikely, that is why most competitors will opt for the series 70 trigger group.



Please note---It is very important that you never disable any safeties that come on any of your firearms, the manufacture has designed them that way for a reason, and if your firearm needs any kind of work or

exhibits any problems that may cause an unsafe condition, have a qualified gunsmith look at it right away.

OK, now that we got that out of the way let's talk 1911's. When you first pick up the Taurus PT1911 you notice right away that it is not very heavy, for a full size 1911 with a 5" barrel length it is very light feeling compared to other 1911's on the market, Taurus says that the weight is 33oz. The Taurus is pretty feature rich with an extended ambidextrous thumb safety, wide cocking serrations on both the front and back of the slide. The grip safety is an extended beaver tail with a memory or "speed" bump to assist in releasing the grip safety. The slide is cut for Heinie sites front and rear, and comes with a 3 dot site system. Oh yeah and it is chambered in 45 ACP. The break down for cleaning is pretty straight forward for a 1911, you use the supplied barrel bushing wrench and the slide comes off and disassembles easily. It does have a full length guide rod, that is a two piece setup, but since there is no hex socket in the front of the guide rod so it can be tightened, I used a little thread lock and locked it in place. I did this cause after about every 100 or so rounds the guide rod would loosen up. For a detail cleaning disassembly is also the same as all other 1911's except for the firing pin block release mechanism, there are 2 pivots that are actuated by the trigger that push up on the block and allow the gun to fire, these must be put back in the correct way or the firearm will not function correctly.



Now we get to the fun stuff, actually firing the weapon, at the range the PT1911 feels good in the hands, maybe a little wide for some people, but with some different grips you can tailor your 1911 to fit your hands. I used some federal 230 grain FMJ ammo for my first test firings and after 100 rounds it was still running without issue. It would feed each time and eject without any issues, and would still be putting a 2 inch group at 15 yards. Well anyone who knows me knows I cannot sit still for long, so I took the Taurus out to my local IDPA match and wanted to see how it would handle under the stress of continuous fire. Well just like at the range the PT1911 ran without issues, this time I have some hand loads that a good friend loaded for me, they are 230 grain, lead 45 ACP rounds that he casts himself, and the Taurus would eat up every round and spit the casing out each time and I swear I heard it ask for more. I compete pretty much every weekend in either IDPA or USPSA and now in ZSA (Zombie Shooters Association) matches and after the last 3000 rounds I have yet to have a failure in feeding or ejecting, which are the 2 most troublesome issues people have with 1911's.

Stay tuned part 2 will be some modifications to the Taurus PT1911, I will be changing out the trigger for a STI short curved trigger, do a basic trigger job and a few other goodies that will enhance the already great performance out of this very affordable 1911.

Until next time stay safe, shoot your guns and I will see you down range.