

## Ruger P95 DAO 9mm

those of the Ruger P series of some ten to fifteen years ago. The gun has a bit of sleekness to it.

### How It Shoots

Working with the P95 DAO I chose to feature six different loads, both defensive and practice. Yes, there is a difference. I am dismayed to still encounter handgunners with FMJ loads in the magazines they keep for self-defense. While there may be pistols out there that will only cycle FMJ loads, few if any, of these are from makers of serious handguns.

If I may be allowed a quick aside, I have found the 9mm round to be similar to the 5.56mm (.223Rem) when it comes to bullet choice. Full metal jacketed (cased) ammunition is fine for practice and target shooting. However, when firing at animals, including two-legged predators, modern, controlled expansion rounds are superior to the best FMJ load. When a cracked-out home invader is closing on you with a razor, you want your bullets to do more than punch neat little .355 caliber holes.

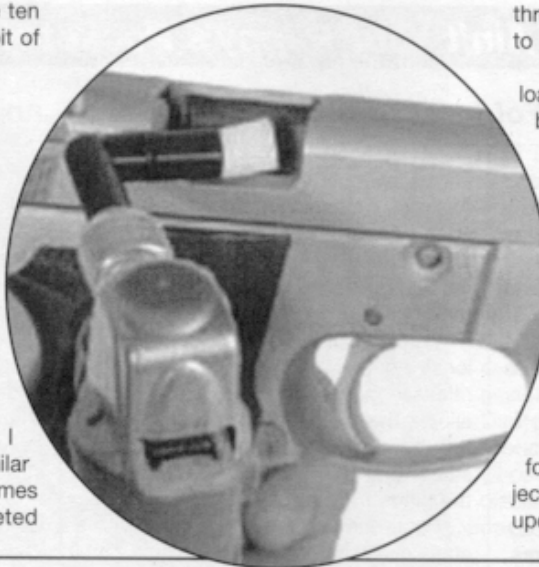
For this review I would use ammunition from Armscor, Cor-Bon, Delta Frangible, Federal, Remington, and Ultramax. The Cor-Bon, Federal, and Remington loads were controlled expansion.

For training, the Armscor load was standard FMJ, while the projectiles from Delta and Ultramax were compressed metal frangible bullets.

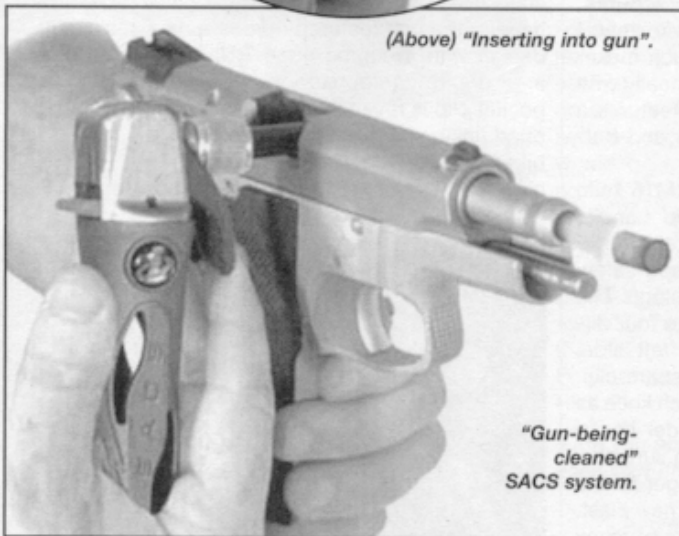
In addition to paper targets, I would also train against a steel Pepper Popper from PortaTarget, Inc. Onto the PortaTarget popper I slipped a Tactical T adapter from Newbold. The T adapter allows the addition of an old T-shirt. The shirt offers an aspect of tactical realism to training while also acting as practical trap for bullet splash.

Beginning with my chronographing chores, I found no real surprises. All loads easily broke the 1000 feet per second (fps) mark from the P95's four-inch barrel. The Cor-Bon 90-grain +P load rocketed over the sky screens at more than 1400 fps.

To get a feel for the gun's inherent accuracy, I benched it at 20 yards and fired two-handed from a rest. Resulting



(Above) "Inserting into gun".



"Gun-being-cleaned" SACS system.

shot groups were measured in a best three out of five to minimize human error. While the findings can be classified as good, the Cor-Bon and Federal loads produced excellent groups at 7/8 and 1/2 of an inch respectively.

For someone who spends the majority of his shooting time with M1911s and GLOCKS in hand, it took a few magazines for me to start feeling confident with the P95 and its long DAO trigger pull. After twenty to thirty rounds of deliberate slow-fire I started to get the rhythm of the pistol. Rapid two- and

three-shot groups were not at all difficult to place on paper.

Using the FMJ and hollow-pointed loads, I fired groups in rapid succession both single and weak handed in an effort to coax a stoppage. None occurred. Every type of ammunition from the super fast Cor-Bon to the heavier 135-grain Federal load cycled without flaw.

Moving to the steel target, I loaded up with the frangible fodder from Delta and Ultramax. I have personally found the combination of the Pepper Popper target with the Tactical T and T-shirt is an excellent way to offer a realistic reactive target for training. The compressed metal projectiles turned to copper colored dust upon impact with the target, yet they struck with sufficient force to knock the popper over.

Using frangible bullets allowed me to safely close on the steel target and engage it at more practical and realistic distances. Jacketed and solid lead bullets will produce serious fragments that are always a safety concern when engaging steel targets at handgun range.

### Extras

While putting this review together I had the opportunity to use the new 5-5-10 waist pack holster from Blackhawk. Why a waist pack holster if we plan to use the gun for home defense? The waist/fanny pack design offers the advantage of not only holstering a firearm but protecting it as well. The design also

### Performance Ruger P95 DAO 9mm

Load	Velocity	Accuracy
Armscor 115 FMJ	1042	2-1/4
Cor-Bon 90 JHP +P	1437	7/8
Delta Frangible 115 Frangible	1137	1-7/8
Federal 135 Hydra-Shok	1032	1/2
Remington 124 BJHP	1119	1-3/8
Ultramax 95 Sinterfire Frangible	1351	2-1/2

Bullet weight measured in grains, velocity in feet per second (fps) by Shooting Chrony F1, accuracy in inches for best 3 of 5 shots from 20 yards.

allows you to keep spare ammunition, compact flashlight, alternate force option (OC/pepper spray), cell phone, etc., all together with your pistol. Should the need arise, you can simply grab the pack and all of your emergency defensive gear is assembled in one package.

The 5-5-10 title of the Blackhawk pack stands for 5 rounds in 5 seconds at 10 yards. With practice this is certainly attainable. The operative phrase being "with practice." If you buy the pistol, stick it in a waist pack and don't touch it

again for a year, do not expect such speed or precision.

Considering the pack—if you are able and desire to obtain a concealed carry permit, the fanny pack option is a good way to tote your gear conveniently and comfortably. Is it as fast as drawing from a Kydex hip holster? No way. Are you likely to have a gun when you need one? Yes, and that of course is the first rule of a gunfight.

This evaluation also gave me the opportunity to try out the new SACS

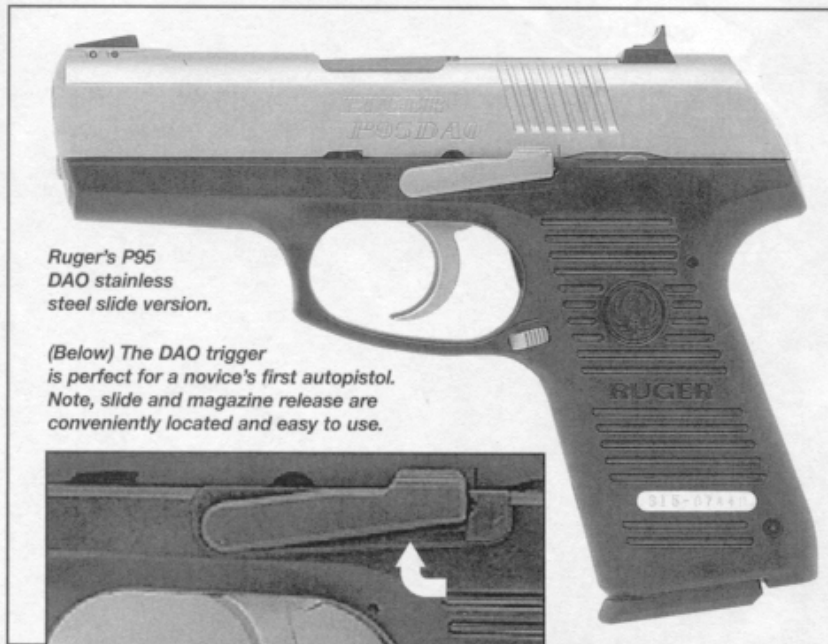
adapters, which covers nearly all pistol and rifle sizes, and 12 gauge shotguns, the SACS package also comes with a probe/wand to blow cartridge residue out of the hard-to-reach places in your guns.

The SACS kit is a neat idea and works as advertised. I see a place for it not only on the bench, but in the range bag as well. If I worked in an armory I would have at least two SACS kits with adapters on hand. Where was this kit when I was spending hours cleaning M-16's and M-60 machine-guns?

### The Wrap

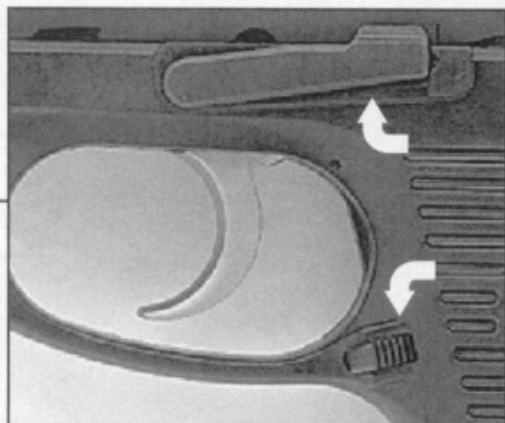
Taking a look back at our parameters for this review, let's see if the P95 DAO fits. The system is simple to learn, safe for a trained person to use, totally reliable during our testing, accurate enough for defensive combat, and finally, is priced so that anyone with a steady income can afford one.

If you are like my friend and desire a semi-automatic pistol for your first home defense gun, keep the following in mind. Buying a gun does not make you safe. Owning and training with a gun, planning ahead and using the gray matter between your ears is what will keep you safe and alive when the unthinkable happens. Train today, survive tomorrow.



Ruger's P95  
DAO stainless  
steel slide version.

(Below) The DAO trigger  
is perfect for a novice's first autopistol.  
Note, slide and magazine release are  
conveniently located and easy to use.



(Small Arms Cleaning System) from Cleenbore. The SACS unit combines a CO<sub>2</sub> power unit, angled adapters, Militec-1 metal conditioner and lubricant, and two types of wads. One wad was for cleaning with a Scotchbrite tip, and one

plain for lubricating the barrel with the Militec. To utilize the system, the user first charges the power unit with a specially designed CO<sub>2</sub> cartridge. Next, the correct sized adapter is attached to the power unit. Finally, a cleaning wad is inserted into the adapter, which is then placed into the breech of your gun barrel. A quick tap of the unit's trigger shoots the cleaning wad through the bore.

Using the SACS, I found the cleaning wads were coming out black for the first shot or two. After cleaning the P95, I changed adapters and cleaned a .223Remington rifle. In addition to the six

### Specifications: Ruger P95 DAO

Caliber: 9mm  
Barrel: 4 inches  
OA Length: 7.25 inches  
Weight: 27 ounces  
Sights: Fixed  
Action: Double-action-only  
Frame: Custom Polymer Composite  
Finish: Blued slide  
Capacity: 10 + 1

### For more information contact

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