

Adventurers! Join me for Blast-'em-Day-#2 ("the final chapter").

As a bonus, we'll do "antique firearms" at the end.

Let's get going... I wanted to see what all the fuss was about regarding "military/police" 9mm sidearms. These are also known as "combat pistols". The local range...

www.on-targetrange.com

...rents these pistols (\$8 total rent-fee) for range-use. My guns for today (which all look the same) were...

- 1) Glock
- 2) S&W Smith & Wesson
- 3) Ruger (that's it below; slide back/locked)...



The guns shot OK, or not-so-OK, depending on whether you're comparing them to themselves ("shot OK") or to similarly-priced S&W/Ruger revolvers (IMHO they "did not shoot OK").



In the above target, you see two distinct "groupings". None of the 3 test-pistols shot anywhere nearly this well. All significantly underperformed the revolvers tested previously. So what's in the above scene? Ah-ha... The upper "tight" group was shot with the "compact" Kahr pistol shown in the picture, but at 25'. The "linear" group to the right was shot at 50' with a *Browning Hi-Power loaned to me by my next-lane-neighbor!* **Wow!**

The Browning Hi-Power is not considered a "contemporary semiautomatic pistol", rather an "old style, single-action" auto designed originally by John Browning in 1922! In-production during WW-II, it was used by both the axis and the allies.



The manufacturer, *Fabrique Nationale* of Belgium, has kept the gun in-production (and made continuous modifications) until today, where it is used more as a target-shooting pistol than for any sort of police work.

I first learned of the Browning Hi-Power in 1972, when serving during the VietNam conflict. We were issued small 5-shot revolvers, those "in the know" had their privately-procured Browning Hi-Power pistols. The 9mm caliber Browning is significantly more powerful than the .38-Special I used in 1972.

The below target tells the tale... The gun-owner shot this target, off-hand ("unsupported hand") wow...



That's 9-of-10 in the black, 2 bulls-eyes!

This likely finishes any significant efforts at indoor-range shooting. In the future, I'd like to head out for some 100-yard+ shooting with my target-pistols, and am contemplating buying a rifle (Why? Good question...).

***** Bonus; EMF Visit 😊 *****

Yesterday I was invited to EMF (importers) of Anaheim CA to view "replica" firearms. This was a hoot! EMF does this for those

lucky enough to live close enough, because few gun-dealers stock many examples of the EMF line (shown in the below link)...

<http://www.emf-company.com/>

...and of special interest to me was the Springfield "Trapdoor" Carbine (used by Custer at his Last Stand)...



...and shown by EMF rep Becky. Workmanship was superb, huge "bling". For you historians...

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Springfield_Model_1873

...and worth reading as you'll see a major contributor to the defeat of Custer (deficient cartridge, not the rifle itself).

Other EMF products were the (replica) c. 1881 Colt "Pinkerton" revolver in .45 "Long Colt" caliber...

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pinkerton_Agency#Outlaws_and_competition

...and note the unique hand-grip...



This is a quite small pistol (seen in my hand)...



...which must have a very significant recoil (because it shoots conventional "smokeless powder") compared to 1881 (when cartridges contained "black powder")...

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Smokeless#History>

Another terrific discovery (not yet in the EMF catalog) was this cowboy-era lever-action carbine. I loved it for the short 16 $\frac{1}{2}$ ' barrel and light 5 $\frac{3}{4}$ -lb weight. Really neat!



Thank you, EMF!



Thanks for reading along! **Paul P.**
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