

HK COMPACT



Larry Vickers



The HK45C incorporates the P2000's streamlined slide profile, recontoured grip frame and interchangeable backstrap system.

Behind the trigger, in the center/rear/interior of the trigger guard, is found a small protrusion that looks for all the world like it should be an overtravel stop. Originally it actually was intended to be. Hackathorn describes that as an idea that "fell through the cracks." That "bump" is purely vestigial and serves no purpose; the trigger when fully pulled to the rear comes nowhere near the "stop."

HK45C grip shape/angle is very HK P2000-ish, and also incorporates the P2000's interchangeable backstrap feature. A "Small" and "Medium" backstrap (marked S and M, respectively) are included. There is no "Large" backstrap for this gun. To remove the backstrap, tap out a crosspin, pull the backstrap module down off the frame; reassemble with the new backstrap in the reverse order.

I was very impressed by the HK45C's overall grip size. Most .45 auto pistols built around a non-single-stack magazine go for a true double stack. This means you have a very thick magazine, then they build the grip around that. Bottom line, you wind up with an ungodly big grip. The emphasis on the HK45C was different: start out with a decently sized grip, and then see how many .45 ACP cartridges can be stuffed into that.

The stack on the HK45C magazine I can only describe as semi-staggered, neither single nor double stack but somewhere in-between, and holds

eight rounds of .45 ACP in a magazine no thicker than the typical 9mm/.40 S&W tube.

Magazines are nicely marked with witness holes numbered 2 through 8. All eight rounds loaded easily even in brand-new mags, with sufficient spring compression left over, i.e. you could still compress the top cartridge in a fully loaded magazine enough that it was easy to snap the mag into the gun with the slide forward.

The HK45C was accuracy and reliability tested with a reasonably diverse assortment of seven .45 ACP loads, hollowpoints all. It worked flaw-

lessly, and was consistently accurate, though every ammo tested printed consistently 3" high and 1-1/2" right at 50 feet.

Replacement front sights are available from HK to

zero the gun for elevation. I am not aware – nor is HK – of any company making a rear sight pusher for this gun, so for windage adjustment the application of the time-honored brass hammer and punch may have to suffice.

The HK45C, with suppressor, was recently adopted by SEAL Team 6. For the civilian shooter, the HK45C gives us a gun the overall size of a USP .45 Compact but with a P2000 grip frame and interchangeable backstrap system, the P2000's streamlined slide profile, and, in addition, front slide cocking grooves. This all adds up to a very nice, reasonably sized, extremely functional .45 ACP autoloader.

B

...introducing one more high-priced 1911 pistol was a bad idea.



The HK45C's Variant 1 frame-mounted lever may be flipped up to serve as a manual safety with the hammer either cocked or uncocked. When pushed all the way down it acts as a decocker.



The HK45C proved a consistently accurate handgun, with several different loads printing groups of 1.2".



In this photo, note the HK45C's trigger guard "hump" intended as a visual aid to verify whether the gun is DA or SA mode, vestigial overtravel stop at the rear of the trigger guard, and serrated magazine-release levers.