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 over-travel 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 flawlessly, 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.