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KIMBER'S ULTRA

*If you like Kimber's Ultra features were a bit more s
the Ultra CDP II 9mm*

By Duane Thomas

When I tested Kimber's Ultra Aegis II last year, I was very impressed with its reliability and accuracy but less enthusiastic about its specifically "Aegis" features. I thought, "If this gun had ambi extended safety levers instead of a little single-sided nub, a "tactical" magazine release button instead of a smooth, beveled jobbie, the hammer had a spur for easy cocking during dry fire, and more hand filling, standard-type grips, now THAT gun would really rock." Then Kimber introduced a model called the Ultra CDP II 9mm that was, well, exactly what I had envisaged. And here we are.

Decoding this gun's model name, "Ultra" in Kimberspeak means a three-inch barrel and short "Officer's ACP" length butt. "CDP" stands for Custom Defense Package. The gun has Kimber's II Series grip safety activated firing pin lock. Finally it's chambered for 9mm Parabellum.

Traditional color scheme for a custom 1911 is black slide/silver frame; the Ultra CDP II 9mm reverses that with a stainless slide over a black

aluminum alloy frame. All external small parts on the gun are silver for an interesting two-tone effect. I'm a sucker for a black slide/silver frame 1911 so at first this gun's "negative image" effect didn't do much for me. But the more I look at it, the more I like it.

The Custom Defense Package is a set of features Kimber intends to add up to a superior carry/self-defense 1911. The fixed Low Profile Combat rear sight has Meprolight three-dot tritium inserts. The bull barrel is bushingless and locks directly into the slide. The feed ramp is one piece. The recoil system has two springs and guide rods reciprocating within and around each other. The magazine release button is of the semi-extended "tactical" variety. Grips are rosewood held in place with stainless hexheads. The hammer is Commander-style mated to a speed bump beavertail grip safety. Safety levers are extended and ambidextrous. The trigger is a "long" aluminum match gun unit. Trigger pulls go five even pounds according to my NRA weight set.



Above: The Ultra CDP II 9mm is very similar in concept to Kimber's Ultra Aegis II, though the CDP does feature a more conventional treatment than the Aegis in the areas of the hammer, thumb safety, magazine release button and grips. Below: The Ultra CDP II 9mm's ejection port has been lowered and faired, and scalloped at front. The latter feature is a bit redundant with short 9mm rounds.

Above: The Ultra CDP II 9mm features a checkered tactical mag release button vs. the Ultra Aegis II's short, smooth, scalloped button. The underside of the CDP's trigger guard is checkered whereas the Aegis' trigger guard is smooth. Below: A system of two springs and guide rods, reciprocating within and around each other, allows fitting a *de facto* longer recoil spring and guide rod inside the CDP's short recoil spring tunnel.

