

Heckler & Koch's P30 9mm



says you have to run the same size grip panel on each side of the gun. For instance, if you should find that what makes the gun point perfectly for you is a Small panel on the left side and a Medium panel on the right, have at it.

The HK P30 was accuracy and reliability tested with seven different 9mm loads. From Black Hills in their "red box" line (Black Hills ammo with new shell casings is sold in red boxes, the reloads are in blue) I had the 115-grain JHP +P and 124-grain JHP. From Hornady came three loads, the 115-grain XTP and Hornady's TAP FPD (stands for Tactical Applications for Police and For Police Duty) in 124- and 147-grain weights. Finally, I had hardball from Winchester in their USA "white box" 115-grain generic, and Wolf's 115-grain FMJ.

Accuracy was tested from the bench with the traditional five-shot groups, at 50 feet, the longest distance possible at the indoor range on which I do most of my shooting. Surprisingly (if you're not

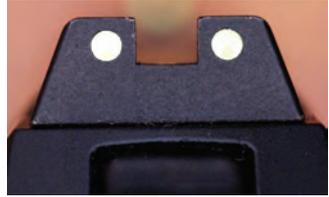
familiar with the performance level of this excellent load), best accuracy came from the steel-cased Wolf at 1.2 inch. It may seem morally suspect to put Russian ammo into a German gun, but there it is. Both the Black Hills 124-grain JHP and Hornady 147-grain TAP FPD posted groups of 1.5 inch.



The HK P30's best accuracy at 50 feet from the bench was 1.2" with Wolf 115-grain FMJ.

Other ammo shot into the 1.8 to 2.5 inch range. Every load fired impacted approximately three inches high and one inch left. If this was my gun, I'd be talking to HK about getting a higher front sight to deal with the elevation discrepancy. As for windage, the application of the time honored brass hammer and punch could deal with that. Reliability-wise, the gun worked perfectly. No great surprise there. HK auto pistols are noted for functional reliability.

The Heckler & Koch P30 is a VERY interesting auto pistol with, as this is written, the most advanced modular grip system on the planet. Hopefully more companies will follow its lead in years to come.



4. The P30's sights are highlighted with yellow glow-in-the-dark paint. Sadly this paint has little light holding qualities and its illumination fades in just a few minutes.



5. The P30 features the molded-in equipment rail that has become commonplace on current production polymer-framed autos.



6. The white plastic buffer surrounding the recoil spring and guide rod is a classic USP-pattern auto pistol feature.



10. ...begin by installing the side panels of choice and push them into place,



11. ...then the backstrap comes up and in from behind, holding the side panels in place. The backstrap is then retained with a crosspin.



12. The P30 magazine holds 15 rounds of 9mm ammo.