

Century's C93 & Taurus' PT809 ²¹

Weight of the rifle, empty with magazine, isn't much over eight pounds.

In initial shooting tests, at a variety of distances, the C93 proved accurate and comfortably reliable. There's a wonderfully positive feel with this weapon and I really like it.

I'm not normally into "buzz" about a gun, but the "buzz" on this one pretty much echoes my own feelings, that Century International Arms has a truly first class product in the C93. And, if you try the C93, you will almost certainly agree.

The handgun alluded to at the beginning of this installment truly impressed me as well. It is the Taurus (taurususa.com) Model 809. The Taurus PT809 is 7-1/2" from the tip of the muzzle to the rearmost portion of the tang. From the highest point of the Novak rear sight to the lowest point of the finger rest extension on the base of the magazine, the PT 809 runs a hair over 6". The Taurus pistol is an inch at its widest point. Fully loaded, the PT 809 weighs in at 2 pounds, 6 ounces, on our antique postage scale. The gun comes with a spare 17-round magazine, a magazine loading tool, a cleaning brush, and keys for the Taurus lock out device, all packaged in a sturdy, compartmentalized carrying case.

The combination of features found on the Taurus PT 809 is really quite extraordinary. The gun has a polymer frame and a forged steel slide. The capacity in 9mm – the same gun is also available in .40 S&W and .45 ACP – is 17 plus one. The hammer is exposed; so knowing condition of readiness is enhanced. The trigger is DA/SA. If you hit a hard primer, the pistol allows you to try a second strike, which will usually make a gun go bang. Afterward, the action reverts to single action for subsequent shots. There's a three-position ambidextrous safety that when raised, prevents the pistol from being discharged. When lowered, the safety drops the hammer to the rest position, rebounding into the neutral position. The safety can be left in the neutral position or raised when the weapon is being

carried. The weapon can also be carried cocked and locked, with the safety in the raised position.

There are three different grip back strap options, one on the gun and two spares packed with it. There are forward serrations on the slide for those situations when one might wish to do a press check. If you want to mount a light, you're in business because there's a Picatinny rail. The trigger guard is squared. The slide stop is ambidextrous; and, so is the magazine release catch. The pistol sits quite nicely in the hand and affords a sure grip.

In short, it's very hard to think of a desirable feature in a handgun that this pistol fails to incorporate.

But, does it shoot? The answer to that is, "Yes!" Sharon and I took the pistol to The Firing Lane, in Bogart, Georgia, and fired it off hand standing at distances ranging from near point blank to 25 yards. As I freely admit, I'm a mediocre shot. At the more sensible distances, however, it was not at all uncommon for me to get two holes touching or nearly touching. The Taurus PT 809 fed various hollow points and solids with not a single problem.

Neither the Century International Arms C93 nor the Taurus PT 809 could be called cheap – in the literal or figurative sense – but both deliver honest value for hard-earned dollars at price points lower than much of their competition. And, both weapons do this without compromising materials or features. Both firearms shoot extremely well and both are reliable. Really, what's not to like?

Holster availability for the PT 809 is limited at the moment, but I know for fact that Lawman Leather (lawman-leathergoods.com) offers its shoulder rigs for the gun, because I've got one.

If you find yourself in need of a large-capacity magazine .223 sporter or 9mm pistol, you won't go wrong with the Century C93 or the Taurus PT809. Check them out for yourself and I think you'll find yourself agreeing with me.



The thumb safety on the Taurus PT809 is shown raised, the hammer raised as well, for a cocked and locked carry. The magazine release, slide stop and thumb safety are all ambidextrous.



Lowering the thumb safety drops the hammer, and then the safety rebounds into the neutral position.



The safety can be raised with the hammer already down to disallow a double-action first shot.