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# The STI GP6

## Review & Photos by Duane Thomas

The STI GP6 9mm is a version of the K-100, produced by Grand Power of the Slovak Republic, with changes specified by STI for the North American market – most notably a hammer reshaped to resemble STI’s “Square” model 1911 hammer and a slide reshaped to resemble their “tri-topped” 1911s. The latter change gives the gun an overall profile not unlike the IMI Baby Eagle. Also, STI mandated internal changes to the trigger system, reconfiguring the gun for a lighter DA pull and shorter trigger reset.

The GP6 incorporates design influences from many other auto pistols, including the Austrian Steyr-Hahn, German Walther PP-series, and particularly the Czechoslovakian CZ-75. The control layout and manual of arms for the GP6 will be familiar to anyone who knows the CZ-75. The GP6 uses the “selective double action” system giving the user a choice of a hammer down, double-action first shot or the gun may be carried cocked and locked for a single-action first shot.

The GP6 uses a rotating barrel system to effect barrel locking and unlocking during cycling. Barrel length is 4.25 inches. Slide-cocking grooves are present both front and rear. The front sight is a slightly undercut, smooth post held in place with a horizontal roll pin through the slide and sight base. Replacement front sights are available should a different sight height be necessary to zero the gun. The rear sight blade is protected inside a cradle of metal consisting of semi-circular “wings” to each side, and adjustable for windage by virtue of loosening a hex-head set screw, tapping the rear sight body over with a brass hammer and punch, then retightening the set screw. Though the rear

sight may appear at first glance to be a separate blade affixed into its protective cradle, this is actually one piece of metal machined into the blade and cradle shapes.

The frame is of polymer with a molded-in 4140 steel superstructure. The grip is very nicely shaped and quite hand pleasing. Texturing consists of a series of horizontal, rectangular blocks on the frontstrap, and a crackle finish within lozenges on the backstrap and side “panels.” Serious shooters will be applying skateboard or ladder tape to the GP6’s grip since, at least for me, the crackle finish does very little to stop the gun from squirming in your hand under recoil.

The GP6 is an ambidextrous gun, featuring a full complement of controls – slide stop, thumb safety, and magazine release button – on either side of the gun. I could stand to see the thumb safety levers be a bit wider and more squared-off. While I never missed the levers during a fast draw from the holster, I’ve been spoiled by the wider levers found on most current-production 1911s.

What really sells people on this gun is its trigger pulls. The DA trigger stroke is a thing of wonder, exceptionally light and smooth. There’s absolutely no hitching or stacking in this gun’s DA trigger stroke, just a buttery soft pull-through requiring but nine pounds of pressure according to my NRA weight set. Reset is extremely short, and once you hit “the link” reset point, there is no reuptake travel. You’re instantly ready to go again. The SA trigger pull breaks at four and three-quarter pounds with very minimal over-travel. Both DA and SA are so smooth that they feel lighter than their actual poundage – which is not exactly horrendously heavy to start with.