



NEWS RELEASE

Contact: Angela Harrell
(703) 732-3078
pr@heckler-koch-us.com

HK45 + 50,000 Rounds - Another Heckler & Koch Ultimate Pistol Endurance Test

Following the conclusion of his HK P30 endurance test at 91,322 rounds, Todd Louis Green of pistol-training.com approached HK about testing another HK handgun, this time a .45 caliber model.

The idea was to duplicate the extreme testing regimen that the HK P30 was subjected to during the 2009--2010 test; concentrated range sessions where thousands of rounds would be fired at one time, a wide variety of ammunition types would be used, and minimal cleaning, lubrication, and maintenance would be carried out. In other words, recreating the same torture test that the HK P30 faced but with the added dynamic of big bore abuse that comes when shooting a more powerful cartridge like .45 ACP.

HK staff and management were hesitant at first of supporting another test, as they viewed the wear and tear of constant firing of a .45 ACP too punishing for both the shooter and a .45 ACP handgun, even an HK. Finally, the project received the green light and an HK45 (serial number HKU-003266) was randomly picked from Heckler & Koch's U.S. warehouse in Columbus, Georgia.

The HK45 is one of Heckler & Koch's more recent semi-automatic pistol designs and is available as both a full-size and compact model. The HK45 is essentially a product improvement of the HK USP introduced in the 1990s. The HK45 was originally developed as a possible candidate for the Joint Combat Pistol (JCP) and Combat Pistol (CP) programs administered by the U.S. military in their search for a new service handgun. Those programs were both cancelled before a new pistol was selected.

With that military design pedigree, and with new features including changeable backstraps, a Picatinny MIL-STD-1913 accessory rail, better ergonomics, and more ambidextrous controls, the HK45 was the ideal choice for such an endurance test.

Besides being well-suited for law enforcement, military, and personal defense use, the HK45 can be converted to a wide variety of variants that use different trigger firing modes, including DA/SA (double action/single action) and an enhanced DAO (double action only). The enhanced DAO mode uses the unique Heckler & Koch LEM (Law Enforcement Modification) firing system for improved double action trigger pull. The test gun was configured with an LEM firing mode.

Green and his group of volunteers started shooting in April 2010 and by early June had fired more than 15,000 rounds without a stoppage, malfunction, or parts failure. In a June 2010 posting on his website, Green stated, "The pistol continues to run flawlessly despite the continued abuse of high volume shooting sessions and over 7,000 rounds since the last time it was properly cleaned."

"The first 31,522 rounds of the test had no stoppages or problems of any kind, which is by far the best run ever on a pistol-training.com test," said Green.

"The HK45 really does an incredible job of reducing recoil and muzzle climb. The last time I was shooting a .45 seriously (2004, a SIG P220ST), an average range session would be between 300 and 400 rounds. Now it's closer to twice that. But it's still a .45, and definitely taking more of a toll than the 9mm pistols I'm accustomed to."



Throughout the test, accuracy was recorded and evaluated. Even as the test neared the goal of 50,000 rounds, the HK45 was performing with precision. "At the end of the test, accuracy was still incredible. The gun, without cleaning in more than 7,000 rounds, still averaged 1.85 inch 5-shot groups at 25 yards," stated Green.

On December 15, 2010, the 50,000 round mark was reached. Firearms instructor and former HK staffer Larry Vickers fired the 50,000th round through the HK45. Vickers and Ken Hackathorn were both intimately involved in the design of the HK45 as consultants and much of the improved ergonomics of the pistol is due to their recommendations.

Will the test continue pass the 50,000 mark? No word from Todd Green at this time, but looks like the HK45 definitely would be up to the task.

For complete results of the HK45Endurance Test, visit pistol-training.com on the web.
<http://pistol-training.com/archives/4027>

The Final Numbers

- 50,000 rounds
- 252 total days of testing (just a little over 8 months)
- 96 trips to the range (average rounds per trip: 520.8)
- 392 hours on the range (average rounds per hour: 127.5)
- Gun was fired in nine states and two countries
- Twelve different types of ammunition were fired, from nine different brands
- There were a total of three incidents: * 1 stoppage (a light primer hit) * 1 malfunction (sear spring came loose during firing; gun could still be fired in DAO mode) * 1 breakage (trigger return spring; gun could still be fired by manually pressing the trigger forward each time) HK45 test gun cleaned seven times total, going as far as 10,181 rounds between cleanings.

About Heckler & Koch

Heckler & Koch is the world's premier small arms systems company and a major supplier to global military, law enforcement agencies, and civilian shooters. An innovative leader in design and manufacturing, Heckler & Koch provides technologically advanced firearms, logistical support, training, and specialized services with the highest standards of innovation and reliability to its customer base. Heckler & Koch's well-known range of products include the USP series pistols, MP5 submachine gun, the MP7 Personal Defense Weapon, the G36 weapon system, the HK416 enhanced carbine, and the recently introduced HK45 and P30 series pistols.

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