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HK P30 reaches 91,622 Rounds - The Ultimate Pistol Endurance Test

In the spring of 2009, independent firearms instructor and founder of pistol-training.com, Todd Louis Green contacted HK with an unusual proposition...to see just how many rounds an HK pistol could shoot. Green chose a Heckler & Koch P30 equipped with an HK LEM* trigger for his test. Using a random P30 9 mm pistol (Serial Number 129-012246) pulled from HK's Columbus, Georgia warehouse shelves, Green only asked that HK provide for the ammunition that would be used for the endurance test.

Green and a group of volunteer shooters would conduct the test and control all aspects of the endurance firing at ranges under their control. The only condition from Heckler & Koch was for Green and his team to report into HK staff at regular intervals.

"Initially, I envisioned this as a 50,000 round test. I was familiar with HK and had conducted similar endurance tests with handguns from other companies. I figured there was a good chance an HK pistol could shoot a lot of rounds, maybe even make it to 50,000," said Green.

The test started in May 2009, and along with the endurance testing, the Pistol-Training.Com team periodically evaluated accuracy and performance. During the early stages of the test, the average of five 5-shot groups at 25 yards was 1.92 inches using Speer 124gr +P Gold Dot ammunition, with group size ranging from 1.70 to 2.09 inches. More than 15 types of ammunition were used for the test.

In just the first week, 3,148 rounds were fired. The special ergonomic features of the P30, changeable backstrap inserts and grip panels, made it easy to modify the pistol to the most comfortable configuration for endurance shooting. The same feature, plus the ambidextrous slide and magazine release have proven popular with several European law enforcement agencies and security users that have adopted the P30 as their official duty sidearm.

But even a pistol with a well-earned reputation of reliability has some parts that wear out or need routine replacement. During the endurance test, the following parts wore out or were replaced: Trigger Return Spring (at 19,445 rounds), Sear Spring (at 37,660 rounds), and Firing Pin Spring (at 50,002 rounds).

Bob Schultz, HK-USA's Director of Training and Technical Services and a 18-year HK employee, compares these parts to the brake shoes and spark plugs in the automotive world. "Even a high performance luxury car or the toughest 4X4 is going to need fluids changed and tires, brakes, and other high wear components replaced while it runs to 200,000 or 300,000 miles. Think of an HK pistol in that league. You might pay more initially, but when you factor in total life cycle cost—and the lifetime warranty for civilian shooters, you can't beat that value."

On October 29, 2009, noted firearms instructor and innovator Ken Hackathorn fired the 50,000th round through the P30 test pistol and less than two months later, on December 21, 2009, HK-USA President Wayne Weber fired the 75,000th round through the pistol.

The torture test continued through the winter and in February 2010, the P30 fired more than 2,000 rounds in one day. By March 11th, the round count stood at 89,136 with the P30 going more than nine thousand rounds without cleaning. But sometime prior to this, around the 86,000 round mark, Todd Green discovered a small piece of polymer covered metal had separated from the frame.



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The test continued without major interruption or change in the function or reliability of the pistol. According to Green, "At 91,300 rounds, the P30 was running strong. Even after a chunk went missing from the frame, the gun had turned in well over five thousand rounds of accurate and reliable service."

Still it was time to call it a day. While the test was halted before the P30 reached the 100,000 round mark, Green and HK technical staff all agreed it could probably reach that target. "We might revive the test at some point and get to 100K," said HK's Wayne Weber, "but for now we are satisfied that we proved that the HK P30 is a top performer in endurance, reliability, and consistent, long-term accuracy."

For complete results of the P30 Endurance Test, visit pistol-training.com on the web.
<http://pistol-training.com/archives/category/range-reports/p30-thursday>

The Final Numbers

- 91,622 rounds
- 13 total stoppages
- 322 days
- 110 range trips (average 682 rounds per trip)
- 512 total hours on the range (the P30 was regularly fired 350-550 rounds per hour)
- 15 different types of ammunition from 8 different manufacturers
- Gun cleaned a total of 13 times between the first shot and the last (average 5,769 rounds between cleanings)

* Law Enforcement Modification, a proprietary HK enhanced double-action only trigger system.

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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