I'm not a robot



Double-Stack 1911s and 2011 Pistols Tested for PerformanceThe Atlas Gunworks Athena pistol stands out as a versatile offering with a focus on competitive and action shooting, thanks to its hand-built construction, optimized components, and precision. With a unique approach by offering pre-configured spec guns, customers can get more guns in their hands without sacrificing performance.This 2011 market niche is ideal for USPSA Limited Optics competitors. The Athena features a solid feel with its full metal construction, well-fitted grip, and innovative paneling options for customization. Out of the box, it's configured to excel in competitive shooting, with a wide safety and Sig Romeo3 Max.The pistol's performance on range testing was exceptional, delivering tight groups and making it the most precise among tested pistols. Its aggressive texture on the grip worked well even with wet hands, and the controls had a positive feel. In one test configuration, Federal's 115-grain Syntec ammunition proved capable of making tight shots at speed.Overall, the Atlas Athena is an impressive pistol that doesn't leave anything to be desired in terms of performance and quality.The Nighthawk TRS Commander boasts an ideal grip texture for concealed carry. Controls feel perfect, striking a balance between resistance and smoothness. Out-of-the-box accuracy was impressive at 25 yards, with the included red dot and iron sights impeccably regulated. The pistol excels in shooting performance, delivering groups of 1.81 inches across all ammunition types. Interestingly, lighter ammo produced tighter groups. As both an excellent range pistol and top-tier carry option, the TRS Commander shines. The grip strikes a balance between being grippy and clothing-friendly. With its 4.25-inch barrel, it balanced well in my hands and holster. If budget permits, this fantastic choice is well worth considering.Action: Single-action, semi-autoCaliber: 9mm LugerWeight: 2 pounds 6 ounces (no magazine)Barrel: 5.4 inchesLength: 8.875 inchesFinish: DLCTrigger pull weight: 2.25 poundsSafety: AmbidextrousMagwell: YesAverage of all ammo, 25-yard group sizes (5-shots): 1.74 inchesMost accurate ammunition tested: Hornady 135 grain Critical Duty, 0.89 inchesMagazine Included: Staccato G3Price: $3,599Takeaway: The Staccato XL exemplifies the brand's commitment to reimagining the 2011 platform with its longer barrel, tuned match trigger, and impeccable fit and finish. As a race-ready pistol, it stands out for speed shooters.The Masterpiece Arms DS9 Hybrid is a precision-made pistol designed for speed and control in action pistol games and general range use. With its single-action, semi-auto configuration and 9mm Luger caliber, it offers exceptional performance and reliability. Weighing in at 2 pounds 10 ounces without a magazine, the DS9 Hybrid features a 5-inch barrel and is equipped with an ambidextrous magwell for enhanced accessibility.The pistol's nitride finish provides a durable coating, while its tight trigger pull weight of 2 pounds ensures responsive action. The DS9 Hybrid also boasts an exceptional trigger shoe fit, allowing for precise control over the firearm. In terms of accuracy, the Wilson Ammunition Reman 135gr achieved impressive 1.29-inch group sizes at 25 yards.Compatible with both irons and red dot sights, the Accuracy X Sight Base offers flexibility in configuration to suit individual shooter preferences. The DS9 Hybrid is well-suited for a range of applications, including action pistol games, duty scenarios, and general range use. With its exceptional speed and control capabilities, it's an excellent choice for competitive shooters.Priced at $3,599, the Masterpiece Arms DS9 Hybrid offers top-notch performance and versatility, making it a compelling option in the competitive pistol market.The Vudoo Gunworks Priest, priced at $3,305, is an example of a company pushing boundaries in the market. With its optic-ready design and thoughtful enhancements, this pistol offers a lot of value for its price. The Priest features unique milling inspired by classic Government pattern guns but with modern aesthetics. It has an enlarged magazine release and spacious magazine well, making it ready for competition out of the box. In testing, the Vudoo Priest delivered smooth recoil and was easy to shoot quickly with various ammunition.In contrast, the Wilson Combat SFX9 is a double-stack 1911 variant that blends refinement with a carry-friendly design. It has a crisp trigger, excellent fit and finish, and practical features like a single-side safety. The Wilson SFX9 averaged a 2-inch group at 25 yards and is priced at $3,210. While not a traditional 2011 pattern pistol, the SFX9 balances size and performance well in 9mm.The two pistols showcase different approaches to design, with the Vudoo Priest offering more out-of-the-box features for competitive shooting and range enjoyment. The Wilson SFX9, on the other hand, prioritizes practicality and carry-friendliness while still delivering excellent performance.The Wilson SFX9 is a custom pistol featuring a solid single-piece frame, external extractor, and iron sights. Its fit and finish are excellent, with even metalwork and crisp trigger breaks at 3.5 pounds. While the iron sights take some effort to master, the pistol still achieved accuracy of just under 2 inches at 25 yards. The SFX9 is a great carry gun and has also been used in sniper competitions due to its lightweight and compact design.**Specifications:*** Action: Single-action, semi-auto* Caliber: 9mm Luger* Weight: 2 pounds 3 ounces (with Hex Dragonfly, no magazine)* Barrel: 4.25 inches* Length: 7.75 inches* Finish: Black Cerakote* Trigger pull weight: 4.75 pounds* Safety: Ambidextrous* Magwell: No* Average of all ammo, 25-yard group sizes (5-shots): 2.05 inches* Most accurate ammunition tested: Hornady Custom 124-grain XTP, 1.23 inches* Magazine Included: Duramag* Price: $1,699 (with Hex Dragonfly)**Takeaway:** The Springfield Prodigy is an affordable yet capable 2011 pistol that brings the design to a broader audience with improved reliability and various features.The Springfield Prodigy 1911 offers an impressive performance with consistent two-inch groups at 25 yards across all ammunition tested. Its grip stands out with a slightly wider design compared to other contoured options, providing a comfortable fit in the hand. The slide's serrations are well-executed, avoiding sharp edges while maintaining a smooth finish. The trigger measured 4.75 pounds but was easy to handle, making it a pleasant gun to shoot despite its weight. With its solid construction and pleasant shooting experience, the Prodigy is an excellent option for those seeking a working-class 1911 at an affordable price.any additional costs for accessories or modifications. When choosing a pistol, find a balance between features and cost that meets your requirements. Barrel Length: The barrel length of a pistol is not as important for ballistic purposes as it is with rifles, but it's crucial depending on how you're carrying/using the pistol. Longer barrels offer greater precision with iron-sights, while extended length isn't as important if using red-dot optics. Shorter barrels tend to conceal or carry better and may cycle faster depending on usage and ammunition. Frame Material: Steel frames offer durability and soak up more recoil but come with a weight penalty, while aluminum frames reduce weight but sacrifice some durability. Grip Material: Metal grips provide added weight and unique textures not possible with plastic grips. Polymer grips reduce weight and are generally less expensive, offering easier customization if you're handy with a Dremel or like to stipple grips. Sighting System: Decide between traditional iron sights or optics-ready configurations based on your preference. Some options can be made for optics only, while others offer flexibility to switch between iron sights and red-dots with ease. Customization Level: Do you want the status quo of a production pistol or something specifically tailored to your preferences? With 2011s, there's an entire spectrum of options available. The 1911 pistol has a storied history, adopted by the U.S. Army in 1911 and serving in both World Wars. Over time, the platform evolved with notable designs emerging from Para Ordnance, Caspian, and STI. The 2011 design featured a modular polymer grip system capable of accepting double-stack magazines. Today, the 2011 and its derivatives are popular due to the expiration of the patent in 2016, which opened up the competitive landscape and attracted new manufacturers. This led to a wide range of affordable performance-enhancing pistols, from entry-level choices to hand-built production options.Staccato's Impact on the 2011 GenreThe double-stack 1911 has become more accessible to a wider audience thanks to Staccato's role in popularizing the genre. Despite the expiration of the 2011 patent, Staccato holds a trademark for the name, and it's essential to use the term "double-stack 1911" instead of "2011" to avoid confusion.Reliability is crucial for semi-automatic firearms, particularly handguns, which rely on magazines as the ammunition feed source. The design of the magazine can make or break a pistol's performance. Renowned expert Ken Hackathorn said, "Anyone can design a firearm, great designers can make reliable magazines." Both single-stack and double-stack 9mm 1911s have struggled with magazine issues due to the shorter length of the 9mm cartridge compared to the .45 ACP.The constant size of the 1911/2011 pattern makes it challenging for manufacturers to accommodate the shorter 9mm cartridge. However, improvements in magazine design have enabled the recent surge in popularity. The introduction of second-generation designs by STI and third-generation magazines by Staccato have improved reliability. Other reputable options are available from Atlas Gunworks and MBX magazines.When searching for magazines for 9mm chambered 2011s, you may encounter lengths instead of capacities. Manufacturers like Atlas and MBX offer thin followers to prevent the slide from locking back, while others opt for fewer rounds to allow the slide to lock back with a different follower design. Staccato's magazines come standard with a follower designed to lock the slide to the rear, offering enhanced capacity.The double-stack 1911 community has witnessed an extraordinary resurgence and transformation beyond its competitive pistol roots. This explosive growth in interest is yet another chapter in the storied history of the 1911 family. The evolution began with iconic pistols from Para Ordnance, Caspian, STI 2011, and others, offering a wide range of options for enthusiasts and budgets alike. From competitive shooters to self-defense advocates, there's a double-stack 1911 for everyone.In this category, we've compiled the top new models for outdoor enthusiasts in 2025. This selection boasts innovative designs, impressive features, and exceptional performance. The list includes a rimfire pistol, the lightest 5.7mm pistol ever made, powerful revolvers, and advanced 1911s. These handguns cater to various needs, from hunting and home protection to predator defense.The Finks Custom Guns Hog Hammer is one such standout model, featuring a single-stacked 1911 chambered for the 10mm Auto. This sleek pistol boasts a Cerakote finish, smoothed edges, and an optics cut that accepts the Holosun K/EPS optic footprint.Another exceptional model is the KelTec PR57, which redefines the concept of a lightweight pistol with its unique top-loading design and rotary barrel chambered for the 5.7x28mm cartridge. This ultra-lightweight handgun offers a 20+1 round capacity and weighs only 14 ounces.Whether you're an outdoors enthusiast or simply appreciate exceptional craftsmanship and performance, there's a double-stack 1911 model that suits your needs.handguns. It is the lightest 5.7x28mm pistol currently manufactured, and it goes for just $399. Lipseys Ruger Flattop Bisley John Taffin Perfect Packing Pistol EditionThis new revolver pays tribute to gun writer John Taffin.Created in honor of legendary gun writer John Taffin, this exclusive revolver from Lipseys is available in 45 Colt with a 45 Auto convertible cylinder, in either stainless or blued steel, and with either a 4-5/8- or 5 -inch barrel. Ruger builds these revolvers on the mid-size flattop Bisley frame, and they come with an exquisite set of fancy walnut grips from Tyler Gun Works. In the box with each revolver, theres a card detailing John Taffins writing career, and another card to order a special holster from Barranti Leather, designed to specifically match these guns. Marked with special JT serial numbers, these revolvers have an MSRP of $1,149.Lipseys S&W Model 629 Mountain GunThe special 629 Mountain Gun is chambered in 44 Mag.This is a special version of Smith & Wessons Model 629 Mountain Gun thats chambered for the 44 Magnum, and it is only available through Lipseys. The stainless-steel revolver has a 4-inch tapered barrel and comes with a gold bead front sight, walnut Bear Hug grips crafted by Tyler Gun Works, and it also has a narrow flash-chromed hammer and trigger. This version does not have the irritating S&W key-lock so many despise, and it retails for $1199.Many would consider it ideal for wandering or fishing in locations where big bears live.Retay RXP22The new RXP22 is a feature-rich rimfire for under $300.The RXP 22 from Retay combines the feel of a compact 9mm pistol with the affordability and comfortable shooting experience of the rimfire 22 Long Rifle cartridge. The RXP 22 has an aerospace-grade 7075 aluminum alloy slide and an internal frame thats integrated into a durable polymer lower chassis. It also has a textured grip and a weighted metal magazine to help replicate the feel of a 9mm pistol. The slide accepts RMR and RMSC optics, and a manual safety and accessory rail are standard. The pistol ships with two 13- or 10-round magazines, weighs 24 ounces, and is 7.5 inches long. The 4-inch barrel is also threaded/suppressor ready. The RXP 22 is available with an OD Green, Flat Dark Earth, Sniper Grey, or Matte Black Cerakote finish and would make a great sub-caliber training pistol as well as a perfect companion for trail carry or small-game hunting. It retails for $279.99.Ruger RXMThe RXM is designed to be a better Glock.The Ruger RXM pistol looks like a Glock and feels sort of like a Glock, but it is more than just another Glock-pistol clone. Ruger partnered with Magpul on the RXM to create what is meant to be, in essence, a better Glock. With a unique optics mount system, the cut in the RXMs slide will accept reflex sights with the RMR, DeltaPoint Pro, and RMSc footprint without adapter bases. The RMX is chambered for 9mm Luger, has a 4-inch barrel, and weighs 23.2 ounces. It is available with a 15+1 or 10+1 capacity, is compact enough to pack along when hiking or hunting, and retails for only $499.Sig Sauer P320 XTEN EndureSigs new 10mm AutoThe Tisas USA 45 Raider offers an affordable Turkish-made 1911-style handgun with a hammer-forged full-size frame and a 5-inch barrel. Chambered in .45 Auto, the firearm features an accessory rail, a Novak front sight, and a Glock dovetail rear sight for co-witnessing with reflex sights. The pistol ships with two eight-round magazines and weighs 37.2 ounces. Priced at $749.99, it's suitable for handgun hunters.Springfield-Armory Prodigy Compact pistols are compact versions of their Prodigy model. These high-capacity 1911 handguns have a hardcoat-anodized and black Cerakote finish, a polymer grip frame, and Tritium front sight and serrated rear sight. They're available in 4.25-inch and 3.5-inch barrel lengths. The compact versions retail for $1,549.The new Wilson Combat P1 (Division 77) is an advanced 1911 model with enhanced functionality. It's a high-capacity, ported 9mm pistol that reduces recoils by 40%. The firearm comes with open sights or reflex sight options and features a commemorative metal magnetized box with three 18-round magazines for the first 100 guns. Priced at $3,995, it's ideal for protection, hunting, or recreational shooting.

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