

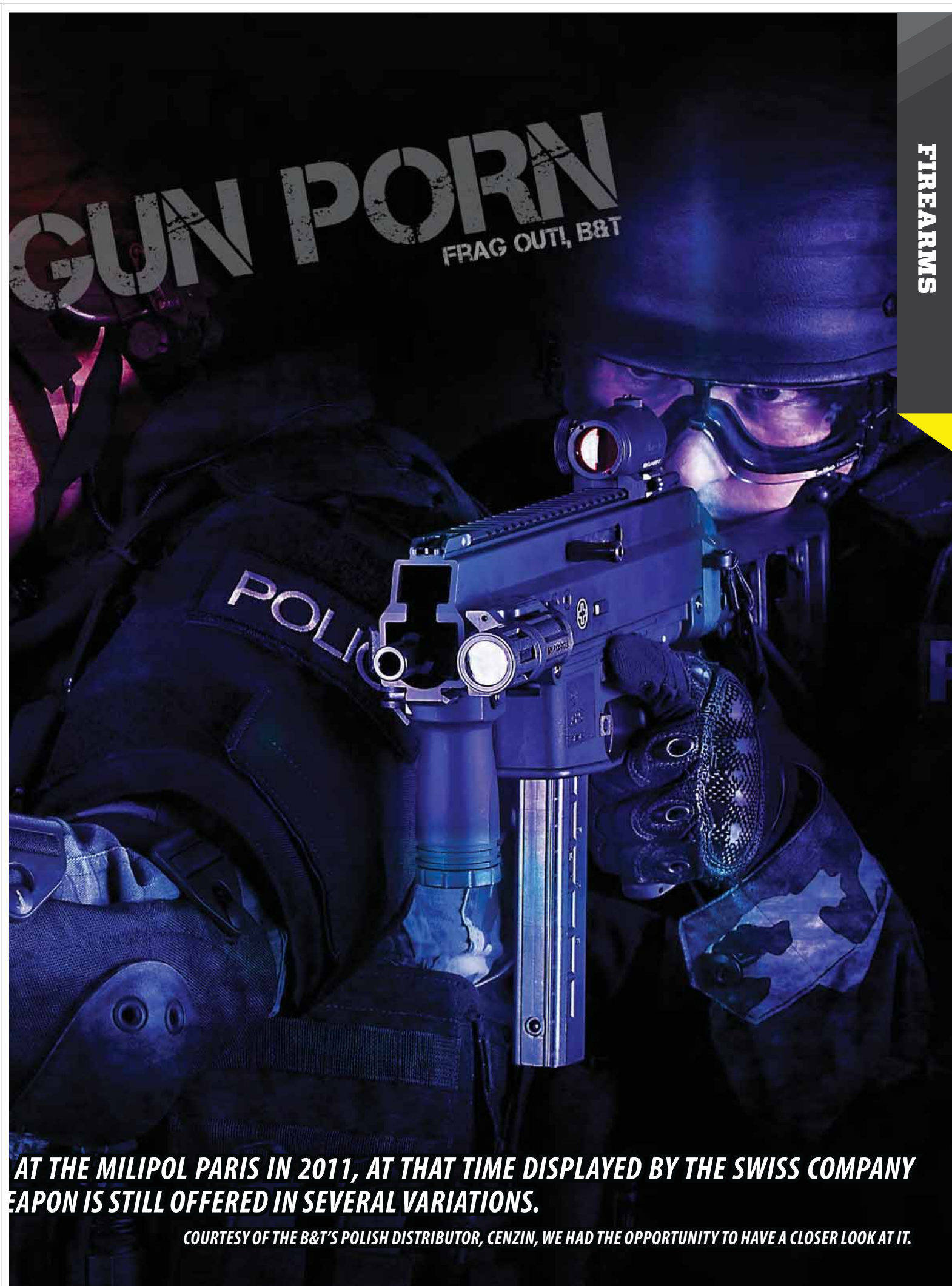
B&T APC9

APC9

OR THE ADVANCED POLICE CARBINE 9 MM, PREMIERED AT THE MILIPOL PARIS IN 2011, AT THAT TIME DISPLAYED BY THE SWISS COMPANY BRÜGGER & THOMET AG. BY NOW THE COMPANY IS SIMPLY CALLED B&T, BUT THE WEAPON IS STILL OFFERED IN SEVERAL VARIATIONS.

COURTESY OF THE B&T'S POLISH DISTRIBUTOR, CENZIN, WE HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO HAVE A CLOSER LOOK AT IT.

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FIREARMS





Even though the producer christened it a carbine, the APC9 is more of a submachine gun converted to semiautomatic firing only for police work. It is a true blowback weapon, hammer-fired from closed bolt, and chambered in the ubiquitous 9 mm x 19 Luger. There are several variants of this handy weapon offered:

APC9 SMG (BT-36000), or fully-blown submachine gun with a 175 mm barrel, weighting 2.5 kg, selective fire with three-position safety-fire selector (SAFE, SEMI, FULL), with a somewhat elevated rate of fire of 1080 rpm;

APC9 Carbine (BT-36001) – or the same, but tamed to semiautomatic fire only;

APC9 Sporting (BT-36004) – the APC9 Carbine, but weighing 3 kg, and with 420 mm barrel (US civilian-legal variant);

APC9-P Carbine (BT-36005) – is a European variant of the above, with 240 mm long barrel and weighing 2.8 kg.



The Swiss manufacturer also has a similar gun chambered in **.45 ACP**, and accordingly called the **APC45**, as well as the **APC223** semiautomatic carbine – and its selective-fire counterpart, the **APC556**, both chambered for .223 Rem / 5.56 mm x 45.

As B&T road to fame started with the silencers, the LEO/Mil variants of course enable the quick-detachable suppressor to be mounted with the company's 3-Lug QD interface. The LEO models can be requested with a special B&T Foldable Visor Helmet Stock, offered also for the MP5. The APC9 with this specific accessory (a shallow U-shaped tube stock carefully bent out of the way of the helmet ballistic visor), is called the APC9 Assaulter.

All APC variations are similar in design, with polymer lower receiver and aluminum upper receiver. The general controls layout is similar to that of the M4/M16, which is hardly amazing, taking into consideration that the FCG was patterned after the AR-15. That was meant to enable the user an almost limitless ability to reconfigure his lower, using the COTS parts.

Contrary to the current M4/M16s, all control are fully ambidextrous. Their layout is correct – if not ideal – so any shooter with ingrained AR manual of arms would not have any problems converting to APC9. The police carbine was additionally fitted with a bolt hold-open button (for inspection) fitted in the bottom, between the trigger guard and magazine well.

The rigid pistol grip is fitted with a trap-door closed inner compartment, where small spares or perhaps spare batteries can be held. The cocking handle is easily replaceable to either side, with no tools. All one has to do, is to retract the bolt all the way back and pull the cocking handle out.

The ejection opening is fixed, there's no possibility to change the ejection direction. The south-paws should not worry though, as the brass is ejected sideways, almost perpendicularly to the gun axis.

The standard sights are folding and incorporated into the top 1913 rail, running the whole length of the upper receiver. When folded (and kept that way by a spring latch) they do not extend beyond the rail outline. Deployed, they enable sighting of the weapon and the rear sight is adjustable for zeroing.

Besides the fixed upper rail, the APC9 has got two short accessory detachable side rails of 8 gates each (about the third of the length of the top rail) mounted on the bore axis, plus one ventral of the same length, but fixed.

The APC9 can be shot with the folding polymer skeleton butt folded to the right, even though the controls are then hard to be actuated with right hand fingers. To fold the butt one has to depress the butt latch on the left side, but to unfold one only has to overcome the slight resistance of the butt hinge.

Rounds are fed into the APC9 from straight box magazines, with polymer opaque casings, interchangeable with the B&T MP9. 15, 20, 25 and 30 round magazines are offered.





The Police carbine can black, green or tan, with additional colors available for training versions: red (non-firing replica) and blue (chambered for Simunition).

Field stripping is very easy. After checking (and re-checking) if the weapon is clear, simply push out the two pins connecting lower and upper receivers, detach stock, separate receivers, remove the return spring with guide rod, remove cocking handle and slide out the bolt. Re-assemble in reverse order.

APC9 is supplied with an awe-inspiring array of accessories: besides the weapon itself, we get the front grip with 1913 interface, one 15-round magazine, two 30-round magazines, an (ORIGINAL!) Aimpoint Micro T1 red dot sight, single-point strap, cleaning kit and plastic hard case – all as standard equipment. The optional extras include suppressor, tactical light (e.g. Inforce), the aforementioned visor stock, brass catcher, magazine coupler and soft transport bag.

