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Firearms ■

BRÜGGER & THOMET

SWISS 9MM SUB-MACHINEGUNS

By Greg Roberts

Today's law enforcement organisations require a tactical support weapon to fulfil several different missions at the same time while delivering optimal performance for all operators. This can include vehicle patrol, dismounted patrol, special team, surveillance or VIP protection and is where the B&T APC comes into its own. This compact 9mm SMG (sub-machinegun) weapon is simple enough that any operator with minimum training will be able to use the weapon easily, safely and effectively.

The B&T APC9 (Advanced Police Carbine 9) is the result of a blend of existing, proven components and design, with the addition of some unique engineering. The result of a combination of Swiss engineering and innovation, it is a well thought out balance between time-proven features,

Main Image: B&T 9mm recoil is very mild in both semi-automatic and full automatic firing

1: The compact MP9 version of the ACP also easily strips down into its major component parts for cleaning and maintenance



modern production materials and manufacturing procedures.

The APC9 possesses enough features that any operator will appreciate and be able to rely upon. The flexibility built into the carbine from the beginning enables the product to be sold to law enforcement, military and even to civilian customers where local legislation allows for the possession of such carbines.

The entire reason for the existence of the APC is that both law enforcement and military organisations still have the need for a 9mm policing sub-machinegun. The APC9 is larger than a PDW (personal defence weapon) yet smaller than a 5.56mm calibre rifle. B&T has been producing a PDW called the MP9 for some years now and has gained great experience on and had much customer feedback about this subject.





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Firearms



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Contrary to modern thought, the 9mm calibre cartridge is far from obsolete either in a handgun or sub-machinegun.

Other competitive products in this category are mostly of older existing designs, which results in a heavier and / or more expensive weapon. These are designed around an envelope that is the same size as a 5.56mm assault rifle. The APC9 fits into a special niche that other manufacturers have not filled. B&T has not forgotten the art of the sub-machinegun.

B&T set out from the beginning to create a high quality, modern, price-competitive sub-machinegun in 9mm calibre with the potential for expansion to other calibres. It needed to have full modularity and flexibility to accept all types of 9mm ammunition, from full metal jacket to

hollow points to frangible to subsonic and very lightweight bullets that are in common use. The police agencies in those countries that still wish to use 9mm SMGs are the target markets.

As Karl Brügger, both the owner and innovator of B&T products, admits it was always his desire to produce a police carbine using his own design ideas. So together with his design team they drew up specifications for the new carbine. They had to set high standards as there are already several well-designed carbines in existence. As Karl Brügger is left-handed the new carbine was to be capable of ambidextrous operation, so that it is also suitable for shooters who are also left-handed.

A big point during the design and development phase was that the



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2: The B&T weapon mounted light, which produces more than 125 lumens of output is lightweight and the 100% solid state design is impervious to recoil, impacts and shocks

3: For cleaning and maintenance purposes the APC easily strips down into its component parts

4: For an optical primary sighting system the APC comes equipped with an Aimpoint® Micro TL red dot sight

5: Withdrawing the two disassembly pins allows the lower receiver to be withdrawn from the action of the APC

6: With the butt stock folded the APC has a compact overall length of just 385mm

carbine would have to be cheaper than existing carbines of this type. The innovative Swiss company undertook all of these issue hurdles and presented the Advanced Police Carbine (APC), which has turned out to be an excellent weapon.

The APC9 design and concept was so good that the entire first production run of 100 units was sold before B&T began series production. This was due to the fact that B&T have been known in this business for many years and there was significant faith in the design concept.

The weapon is currently available in two calibres, 9×19 mm (9 mm Parabellum) and .45 ACP. The 9mm version is the most popular and the .45 ACP version differs only in certain dimensions, though magazine dimensions are also different.

The APC has a 100% Swiss design and represents one of the lightest and most compact SMGs of its type in production today. The fully ambidextrous operating controls will ensure an easy transition for any police agency in training its personnel with the weapon. The carbine is loaded with many features that law enforcement agencies have long demanded from a modern police carbine: these include an Aimpoint Micro TL red dot sight as standard, so as the weapon is passed from shift to shift the current user will be safe and accurate. Also included are flip-up emergency sights if the optic should ever fail.

The folding stock allows for quick exit from vehicles and can be carried folded and quickly locked out to the open locked position so that it can be speedily deployed in one swift motion. The NATO Accessory rails on the three, six, nine and twelve o'clock positions allow





The M1913 NATO Picatinny rail allows many types of optical sight to be attached to the ACP - note 30-round magazine in this photo

for the mounting of a variety modern aiming and illumination accessories. The magazines are the same reliable and translucent 15, 20, 25, and 30-round items used with the MP9 PDW produced by B&T. The translucent magazines available are produced from a modern polymer and are impervious to all types of cleaning chemicals in common use.

Brügger & Thomet AG was established in May 1991 by Messrs Karl Brügger and Heinrich Thomet to produce suppressors for the domestic Swiss market. After a period of time Mr. Thomet sold his share in the company to Karl Brügger, who remains the sole owner of B&T. Karl also has an interest in everything technical that B&T does and has his input in every design the company produces.

The company, which is located in Thun just twenty minutes from the capital of Bern, is fully licensed by the Swiss Government to import, export, trade and manufacture all categories of small arms, ammunition, and related accessories. B&T consists of two separate divisions; a trading division and a manufacturing division. The former works mainly on the domestic Swiss law enforcement and military market, representing global companies in the industry such as Heckler and Koch GmbH, Aimpoint AB, Arc'teryx, 5.11 Tactical and Simunition Inc.

The manufacturing division is the designer, and producer of choice of many leading manufacturers in the European arms industry, of suppressors and accessory mounts. Suppressors supplied by H&K are also manufactured by B&T. The company is working hard to promote its brand as one that is known for quality. It is a registered NATO supplier (NCAGE SV178) with many NATO Stock Number components on the company's product list.

B&T is small company with less than 50 employees of which 20 fill technical positions such as production operators, designers and engineers.

The others are specialists in international trading, freight and



7: The ACP functioned with total reliability with the several different types of 9mm ammunition that we used



8: The compact MP9 and full sized ACP functioned reliably with the different capacity magazines



9: The folding butts on the full size ACP and compact MP9 versions make them both easy to carry concealed

10: The brass catcher accessory is an absolute must when working in and around vehicles, water borne craft and aircraft and helicopters

office management. The production facility consists of 14 CNC workstations. For prototyping purposes there are nine conventional workstations and for development and quality control B&T has its own test engineering facility. The company with all its management processes has been ISO 9001:2008 certified since 2005.





Firearms

AMBIDEXTROUS MANUAL SAFETY / FIRE SELECTOR

Grasping the pistol grip allows the user to access the APCs three position ambidextrous fire mode selector. The rotating lever provides the user with the selection of safe, semi automatic fire and burst fire modes. The pistol grip has an integrated storage compartment. The magazine release button is ambidextrous in operation, which enables the operator to use the same muscle memory as with types of handgun. The bolt release is also ambidextrous which enables the operator to perform a reload both safely and rapidly. The reversible charging or cocking handle is fully ambidextrous to accommodate all operators.

The Integrated NATO Picatinny M1913 accessory rail is machined as part of the upper receiver and the emergency front sight is integrated into the Picatinny rail for a low surface profile. The quick-detachable vertical foregrip provides the operator with a stable shooting grip and keeps the support hand well away from the muzzle during rapid firing.

ATTACHED SIGHT

The ACP comes equipped with an Aimpoint Micro TL red dot sight as optical primary sighting system sight and the secondary sighting system is flip-up emergency sights, with the rear sight being adjustable for both windage and elevation. This ultra compact red dot sight, will provide fast and accurate target acquisition for all levels of user ability regardless of expertise and experience.

TRAINING VERSION

B&T also produce a red manipulation

Main Image: During recoil the compact MP9 remains level with minimal muzzle climb

11: The different capacity magazines all easily insert into place in the receiver

12: As the MP9 compact version of the ACP can be easily concealed by clothing it is a suitable choice for VIP protection

13: The vertical fore grip on the MP9 compact version of the ACP greatly assists keeping the muzzle in control when rapid firing

version of the APC9. This version is not designed to be a real firearm. For example the barrel has no bore. The bolt has no hole where the firing pin goes. These parts are machined so as not to be interchangeable with actual firing weapons so there is no chance that someone can switch parts to make a live firing firearm weapon. The company also produces a training model for training ammunition as Simunition or UTM. These interactive marking ammunition products are an absolute must for modern professional training.

ALLOY UPPER RECEIVER

Produced from a block of special aerospace alloy that will provide a user with years of reliable service, the lateral NATO accessory rails are mounted onto the 3, 6 and 9 o'clock position for use with lights, sights and other accessories. The rails are mounted onto both the three and six o'clock positions for use with lights lasers and additional aiming devices.

HEAD AND FACE PROTECTION

The operator also has the ability to use the APC while properly wearing a ballistic face visor. This important safety feature is becoming more and more standard among many Special Operations teams worldwide; there have been several tragic instances in the past where a fully body armoured team member has been shot in the face when the visor was in the raised position to enable them to properly sight a firearm. When conducting Close Quarter Battle (CQB) with a number of individuals moving at speed in close proximity to each other, engaging multiple targets at close ranges with full automatic fire, the potential for accidents is always present, so at the request of European



SWAT agencies the ACP Assault Model was developed to allow the ACP to be fired while wearing a closed ballistic face visor. The folding stock works equally well with a protective mask or while wearing SCUBA gear and accessories.

BT WEAPON MOUNTED LIGHT

This tactical illuminator was designed from the very beginning for B&T by the Inforce Company specifically as weapon-mounted light, not as a handheld flashlight modified for weapon use. It is lightweight and the 100% solid state design is impervious to recoil, impacts and shocks as well as being powerful enough to produce more than 125 lumens of output.

The small size envelope (10 cm overall length) does not require cables, which can easily become entangled or damaged during operational use, and it is activated with a simple pressure switch which is also easy to operate while wearing gloves.

EMPTY BRASS CATCHER

This accessory is an absolute must when working in and around vehicles, waterborne craft and aircraft and helicopters. This is because containment of hot expended brass is an important part of safety for everyone in the vicinity of the operator. The B&T designed brass catcher mounts directly onto the right side NATO Accessory Rail (NAR). It pivots easily to quickly clear any stoppages or malfunctions that may occur. Using a





brass catcher on the range also makes cleaning up after training quick and easy.

MAGAZINE CLAMP

B&T also produces a magazine clamp for the APC. This will permit the user to mount two magazines together in parallel when loaded in the weapon; allowing the operator to make swift and efficient magazine changes in both training and during tactical situation. The clamp functions with the 9mm calibre 30, 25 and 20 round magazine for the APC9 and the 25 and 17 round magazine for the .45 ACP calibre APC45. B&T also produces a magazine pouch that will fit both magazines when they are clamped together.

SOUND SUPPRESSION

Since the company was founded in 1991 B&T has also been considered a leading manufacturer of silencers. Suppressors are becoming more and more popular and see normal use with many tactical teams in both law enforcement and military Special Operations units. Sound Suppressors have finally come of age and are now widely accepted as normal items of equipment in many NATO countries, being a truly important and practical tool for both training and operational use.

Many NATO partners who have had units operating in Afghanistan and Iraq have also learnt firsthand of the many benefits a good suppressor will bring to the safety and security of their operators. Some of the more noticeable direct

benefits are for both sound and muzzle flash reduction, command and control, friend and foe identification and of course hearing protection.

The B&T suppressor is a widely used 9mm carbine/SMG suppressor and carries a NATO stock number. It requires no permanent modification to the ACP and simply rotates into a locked and attached position, supplying a 33 dB A reduction using subsonic ammunition and it does not degrade accuracy when compared to a non-suppressed weapon. Sound Suppressors will also work with the normal types of 9mm factory ammunition. The standard 3-lug suppressor barrel will allow the attachment of many standard 9mm suppressors, or other accessories.

Taking a closer look at the silencer mounting point, this is identical to the silencer mounting points that are used on the barrel of the 9mm calibre H&K MP5. Thus, all MP5 silencers that utilise the Tri-Lock system can also be used on the B&T APC. Police forces and military users of the B&T APC can therefore obtain a significant financial advantage, simply because all existing MP5 silencers in their inventories can be used.

DISCREET CARRY BAG

B&T also offers a discreet carry bag, enabling the operator to transport the APC and compact MP9 in a manner that will not draw attention to the fact a firearm is in transit. There is a spare pocket with MOLLE/PALS webbing integrated to place spare magazines, ammunition and additional



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Main Image: Grasping the forward pistol grip on the full sized version of the ACP allows you to keep the muzzle level even during full automatic firing



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The moulded stock of the ACP and MP9 can be ordered in different colours



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A range of sound suppressors and different sighting systems can be attached to the ACP

gear. The bag is produced of 1000 Denier nylon and closed cell foam padding that protects the weapon and does not absorb water or moisture. This bag will be very useful for VIP protection, moving in and out of stakeout positions and setting up secure areas.

The APC's barrel is available in lengths of 175 mm, 240 mm and the longer

■ Firearms



The ACP comes equipped with back-up iron sights to allow this SMG to be used without the attachment of an optical sight

406 mm carbine version so that the end users can choose the best length to suit their needs. The rifling twist is one revolution in seven inches, or 175 mm, to suits the commonly used types of 9mm ammunition. The unloaded weight is 2.4 kg with the optical sight and empty 30-round magazine attached. The open length is 600mm and the length with the butt in the closed or folded position is 385mm

SHOOTING TEST

For the 9mm calibre version of the ACP the cyclic rate of fire with full metal jacket (FMJ) ammunition is in the region of 900rpm (rounds per minute). As well as FMJ ammunition the ACP can also be used with Simunition and UTM training ammunition. The cyclic operation is a normal sub-machinegun operating system, which uses a closed bolt low recoil blowback system, typical for both semi-automatic and full automatic carbines.

During the **C&S** shooting test we used both a standard sized ACP and a compact sized MP9 version of the ACP. We found the ergonomics and handling characteristics of both versions to be very good, so that even when quickly mounting the ACP it came into the aiming position instinctively and quickly. We found it easy to engage multiple targets in both semi- and full automatic fire, keeping our shots on the targets Thanks to the ergonomic

17: The MP9 can be carried in a tactical thigh rig making it easy to conceal beneath a long coat

18: The ability to attach the MP9 to a holster increases the range of carry options that are available to the user

19: Different types of optical sights can be attached to the ACP and it will function with the different types of 9mm ammunition in normal use

20: The compact MP9 can be carried in a discreet carry bag enabling the operator to transport the weapon in a concealed manner

Images © **Greg Roberts** unless noted



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and the excellent Aimpoint optical red dot sight extremely fast and precision target engagements were possible.

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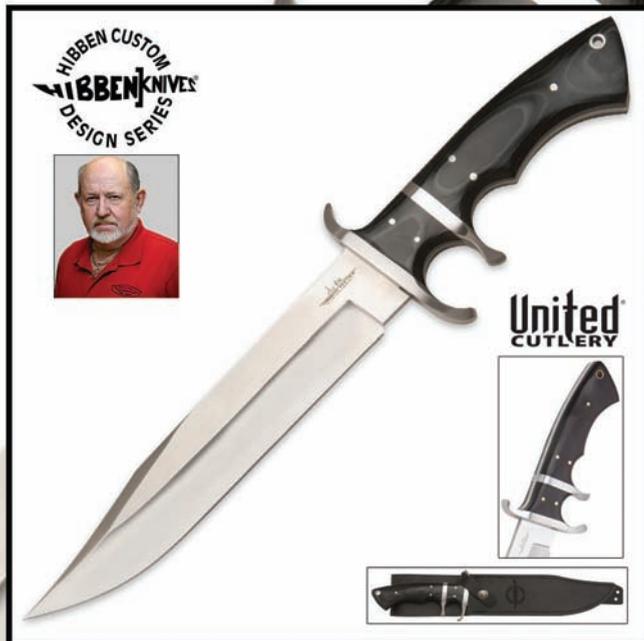
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