



STI GP6

With new polymer-frame pistols seemingly introduced on the hour every hour, it takes something extra to stand out from the crowd. STI's latest pistol, the GP6, accomplishes that goal and more through its exceptional combination of traditional and unorthodox characteristics.

Based on a pistol produced by Grand Power in the Slovak Republic and dubbed the K100, the 9 mm Luger GP6 is imported into the United States by STI Int'l, Inc., a name renowned in competitive shooting circles. In fact, for many the STI name is inextricably linked to its highly successful line of competition-ready M1911 pistols, making the company's introduction of a polymer-frame Eastern European pistol all the more surprising.

"Why did we look at the K100? Because of the sheer number of people winning European matches with it," says STI's Michael Boyett. Although STI had a full line of competitive pistols for almost every discipline imaginable, prior to the GP6 it had nothing appropriate for the "Production" division. As a result, the company worked out a deal with Grand Power to import the pistol.

The GP6, whose moniker signifies that the currently offered variant is the sixth version of the Grand Power pistol design, locks into battery by way of a rotating barrel rather than a Browning-style tilting barrel system.

The 4¼" carbon-nitrided steel barrel features a helical groove cut below the square block area of its hood section. This helical recess interfaces with a steel crosspin mounted inside the frame of the pistol. As the pistol is fired, the barrel and slide remain locked for a short distance until the crosspin rotates the barrel and brings the square block portion out of engagement with the slide.

As a counterpoint to the radical nature of the GP6's locking system, however, the pistol's system of trigger operation is downright traditional when compared to many of its contemporaries. Rather than a more commonly seen striker-fired design, the GP6 instead employs a traditional double-action trigger with an external hammer. A long, relatively heavy trigger pull on the first shot both raises and releases the hammer, with subsequent shots being single-action.

The safety system of the GP6 is a combination of an external

manual safety and an internal passive firing pin block. The latter is a spring-loaded, plunger-type block that is disengaged when the trigger is pulled to the rear. Working against the sear, full rearward trigger movement pushes this plunger up to clear the firing pin's forward movement.

Reminiscent of the M1911, the GP6's manual safety is located at the rear of the frame and requires a downward sweep to disengage. It does not have a decocking function. Also like the M1911, the GP6's safety can be engaged when the hammer is cocked, providing users the option of carrying the pistol cocked-and-locked. The safety can also be engaged when the hammer is at rest.

Every control of the GP6 is ambidextrous, from the plastic safety lever to the steel magazine release button to the steel slide release lever.

The black polymer frame of the GP6 is manufactured from Polamide GF 20 and houses a substantial, 4½"-long steel chassis that contains the slide rails, crosspin, trigger group and a feed ramp for the barrel. The frame has a generally smooth surface, with raised panels on the sides and rear of the grip area

STI GP6

MANUFACTURER: GRAND POWER, S.R.O.,
POL'OVNICKÁ 29 974 06,
BANSKÁ BYSTRICA, SLOVAKIA;
WWW.GRANDPOWER.EU

IMPORTER: STI INT'L (DEPT. AR),
114 HALMAR COVE, GEORGETOWN,
TX 78628; (512) 819-0656;
WWW.STIGUNS.COM

CALIBER: 9 MM LUGER

ACTION TYPE: ROTARY-LOCKED,
SEMI-AUTOMATIC, CENTER-FIRE PISTOL

FRAME: POLAMIDE GF 20 POLYMER

BARREL: 4¼"

RIFLING: SIX-GROOVE, 1:10" RH TWIST

MAGAZINE: 17-ROUND, DETACHABLE BOX

SIGHTS: FIXED THREE-DOT; REAR SIGHT
WINDAGE ADJUSTABLE

TRIGGER PULL: DOUBLE-ACTION, 9 LBS.,
4 OZS.; SINGLE-ACTION, 5 LBS., 8 OZS.

OVERALL LENGTH: 8"

WIDTH: 1½"

HEIGHT: 5½"

WEIGHT: 26 OZS.

ACCESSORIES: PLASTIC CASE, TWO
MAGAZINES, CLEANING ROD AND BRUSH,
SIGHT ADJUSTMENT TOOL, MANUAL

SUGGESTED RETAIL PRICE: \$656

SHOOTING RESULTS (25 YDS.)

9 MM LUGER CARTRIDGE	VEL. @ 15' (F.P.S.)	ENERGY (FT.-LBS.)	GROUP SIZE IN INCHES		
			SMALLEST	LARGEST	AVERAGE
BLACK HILLS 124-GR. JHP	1133 AVG. 19 SD	356	1.83	2.97	2.41
REMINGTON 147-GR. JHP No. GS9MM C	969 AVG. 22 SD	307	2.02	3.47	3.09
SPEER 124-GR. +P GDHP No. 23617	1198 AVG. 27 SD	395	2.16	3.01	2.79

AVERAGE EXTREME SPREAD

2.76

MEASURED AVERAGE VELOCITY FOR 10 ROUNDS FROM A 4¼" BARREL. RANGE TEMPERATURE: 79° F. HUMIDITY: 16%. ACCURACY FOR FIVE CONSECUTIVE, FIVE-SHOT GROUPS AT 25 YDS. FROM A SANDBAG. ABBREVIATIONS: GDHP (GOLD DOT HOLLOW POINT), JHP (JACKETED HOLLOW POINT), SD (STANDARD DEVIATION).



The polymer frame houses the steel chassis containing slide rails, crosspin and trigger group (l.). The crosspin engages the helical groove on the carbon-nitrided steel barrel (r.) during rotary-locked, short-recoil operation. Optimal ergonomics provide a comfortable, low-profile grip (above, r.).

that sport textures reminiscent of stippling. Horizontal grooves adorn both the frontstrap and the forward face of the squared-off trigger guard.

To help ensure the pistol sits as low in the hand as possible, the rear portion of the trigger guard at the top of the frontstrap is generously relieved. The frame also features an extended beavertail to help prevent hammer bite. Located on the dustcover area is a Picatinny accessory rail.

The steel magazine of the GP6 holds 17 rounds of 9 mm Luger. To work with the ambidextrous magazine release button on the GP6, the magazine has an interface notch cut on its forward face.

Our reviewers noted it also had a superfluous magazine button notch cut on its right side that would seem to indicate the magazine is not a proprietary design.

The slide of the GP6 is made from chrome-molybdenum steel and features a Tenifer finish. As is to be expected with a rotary barrel locking system, it is somewhat thick, although not egregiously so. The slide features both rear and forward cocking serrations and is topped off with a three-dot sighting system. The rear unit is secured by an Allen screw and is windage-adjustable.

For testing, we took the pistol out with a selection of three types of ammunition. During the course of

testing there were no malfunctions, and accuracy was quite good. Apart from a slight bit of torque in the wrist, perceived recoil of the pistol was mild. We did note that the trigger length of the double-action pull was quite long.

Handling characteristics of the pistol were good, although the controls were a bit too flat and unobtrusive to engage easily. We noted that the GP6's trigger system did provide second-strike capability and that the pistol did not have a magazine safety.

For those looking for a high-quality pistol for either competitive shooting or self-defense, the STI GP6 provides users with a reasonably priced and uniquely designed handgun that should easily fit the bill. 



HENRY .30-30

Henry Repeating Arms Company has made a reputation for itself by offering consumers high-quality, reasonably priced sporting rifles made right here in the United States. In fact, the company's motto of "Made in America and Priced Right" sums up its entire philosophy.

Although Henry offers interesting semi-automatic, slide- and bolt-action rifles, the majority of its offerings are lever-actions chambered in rimfire and handgun cartridges ranging from .22 LR to .45 Colt. To complement its line, Henry recently introduced a new lever-action rifle that chambers a full-power rifle cartridge—the .30-30 Win.

The new Henry .30-30 is available in two configurations—a steel-frame model with a round barrel and a brass-frame model with an octagonal barrel. The steel receiver variant, Model H009, was received for testing.

The rifle struck our testers as being a well-made and attractive lever-action rifle that was somewhat hefty and sturdy. The rifle is similar in appearance to Henry's "Big Boy" series of center-fire lever-actions with its stepped receiver and beefy dimensions. The greater overall length of the .30-30 Win. cartridge, however, results in a longer receiver.

The fit and finish of the Henry .30-30 received for testing was

quite good, with the receiver featuring an evenly applied matte-blue finish. Although the flats of the receiver were smoothly finished, there were some faint grind marks along the flats on its top. To ease mounting a scope, the top of the receiver was drilled and tapped. The cylindrical bolt of the test rifle was left in the white, although production model bolts will be blued. The barrel, magazine tube and lever of the Henry .30-30 sported a glossier polished finish than the receiver.

The stock and fore-end of the rifle were of nicely figured American walnut with a satin low-glare finish and no checkering. The metal-to-wood fit of the gun was good, with no noticeable gaps or unduly uneven areas. The rifle features a checkered plastic buttplate.

The round barrel of the steel-frame Henry .30-30 is 20" long (the octagonal barrel of the brass-framed version is the same length) and features what appears to be a near-bull barrel profile, with a diameter of 0.85".

For sighting, the Henry .30-30 features a set of Marble's sights—specifically a fully adjustable semi-buckhorn rear sight and a front sight featuring a brass bead. The rear sight features a white diamond insert that can be flipped to expose either a U-notch on one end or a V-notch on the other. Elevation adjustments are accomplished

by sliding a stepped elevator that is captured under the rear sight assembly forward or back. Windage adjustments are accomplished by drifting the entire sight assembly left or right in its dovetail slot.

Close examination of the muzzle reveals a feature of the Henry .30-30 that is rare on a rifle in this chambering, but appropriate for a Henry. Rather than employing a loading port on the side of the receiver, the Henry .30-30 instead uses a removable brass inner magazine tube.

To load the rifle, one needs to release the under-barrel magazine tube by rotating the knurled knob 1/4" and pull it out of the steel magazine tube. Once done, six .30-30 Win. cartridges can be dropped either through the open top of the outer magazine tube or through a cartridge-shaped slot on the underside. The Henry .30-30 is designed to work with all .30-30 Win. factory ammunition, including the Hornady Lever Evolution load.

Mechanically, the Henry .30-30 is relatively simple and straightforward—a desirable trait in just about any mechanism. The rifle is locked into battery by an extension on the lever that raises a

The dual-option rear sight and the drilled and tapped receiver (r.) with a side-ejection port provide the shooter with a variety of sighting options.



SHOOTING RESULTS (100 YDS.)

.30-30 WIN. CARTRIDGE	VEL. @ 15' (F.P.S.)	ENERGY (FT.-LBS.)	GROUP SIZE IN INCHES		
			SMALLEST	LARGEST	AVERAGE
FEDERAL POWER-SHOK 170-GR. SP RN No. 3030B	2052 AVG. 25 SD	1,590	1.98	2.87	2.63
REMINGTON EXPRESS 150-GR. CORE-LOKT SP No. R30301	2137 AVG. 17 SD	1,521	1.87	2.64	2.34
WINCHESTER 150-GR. SILVER TIP No. X30302	2199 AVG. 31 SD	1,611	2.27	3.03	2.96
AVERAGE EXTREME SPREAD					2.64
MEASURED AVERAGE VELOCITY FOR 10 ROUNDS FROM A 20" BARREL. RANGE TEMPERATURE: 41° F. HUMIDITY: 55%. ACCURACY FOR FIVE CONSECUTIVE, FIVE-SHOT GROUPS AT 100 YDS. FROM A SANDBAG. ABBREVIATIONS: RN (ROUND NOSE), SP (SOFT POINT ROUND NOSE), SD (STANDARD DEVIATION).					



HENRY .30-30

MANUFACTURER: HENRY REPEATING ARMS CO. (DEPT. AR), 59 E. 1ST ST., BAYONNE, NJ 07002; (201) 858-4400; WWW.HENRYREPEATING.COM
CALIBER: .30-30 WIN.
ACTION TYPE: LEVER-ACTION, CENTER-FIRE, REPEATING RIFLE
RECEIVER: MATTE-BLUE STEEL (TESTED), BRASS
BARREL: 20", BLUE
RIFLING: SIX-GROOVE, 1:10" RH TWIST
MAGAZINE: TUBULAR, SIX-ROUND CAPACITY
SIGHTS: SEMI-BUCKHORN REAR, BRASS BEAD FRONT
TRIGGER PULL: SINGLE-STAGE, 3 LBS., 8 OZS.
STOCK: LENGTH OF PULL, 13¾"; DROP AT HEEL, 2¼"; DROP AT COMB, 2"
OVERALL LENGTH: 39"
WEIGHT: 8 LBS., 5 OZS.
ACCESSORIES: OWNER'S MANUAL
SUGGESTED RETAIL PRICE: \$750, STEEL (TESTED); \$970, BRASS



By interlocking with the rear of the bolt, a rising locking block holds the cylindrical bolt (l.) in battery. The loading port for the magazine tube (center) gives access to the six-round magazine, and the dovetailed front sight (r.) features a brass bead.

spring-loaded, vertically-sliding locking block into its locking position at the rear of the bolt.

To ensure the rifle will fire only when the trigger is pulled, Henry incorporated a transfer bar safety. A firing pin extension pivots down and away from contact with the firing pin itself. When the trigger is fully depressed, an L-shaped transfer bar pushes the extension up into proper alignment with the firing pin.

This results in the rifle not having any sort of half-cock position for the hammer. One simply eases the hammer down and leaves it in its fully decocked position. The rifle also features a trigger lock that blocks movement of the trigger until the lever is fully closed and the action locked.

We tested the Henry .30-30 with three types of ammunition. Unfortunately, early on in the testing extraction proved to

be very difficult due to apparent bulges in the fired cases. We returned the rifle to Henry for repair and they installed a new barrel. The returned rifle exhibited no malfunctions, but we did note that with the magazine tube completely filled, the lever had a tendency to resist fully closing. Downloading it by one round mitigated this.

The trigger of the Henry .30-30 was clean and crisp—a trait common to all Henry rifles. The rifle was tested with open sights at 100 yds., and the results were quite good; however, we suspect the results could have been even better with an optic.

For a company so well known for lever-actions, it was probably just about time for Henry to offer one chambered for the .30-30 Win. cartridge. It now has yet another appealing offering to add to its stable of lever-action rifles. 

The *American Rifleman* has used the phrase "Dope Bag" since at least 1921, when Col. Townsend Whelen first titled his column with it. Even then, it had been in use for years, referring to a sack used by target shooters to hold ammunition and accessories on the firing line. "Sight dope" also was a traditional marksman's term for sight-adjustment information, while judging wind speed and direction was called "doping the wind."

WARNING: Technical data and information contained herein are intended to provide information based on the limited experience of individuals under specific conditions and circumstances. They do not detail the comprehensive training procedures, techniques and safety precautions absolutely necessary to properly carry on similar activity. Read the notice and disclaimer on the contents page. Always consult comprehensive reference manuals and bulletins for details of proper training requirements, procedures, techniques and safety precautions before attempting any similar activity.