

# Stainless Limited

CZ'S HI-CAP TRUE DOUBLE ACTION  
GETS A LITTLE BRIGHTER.

By ROBERT KOLESAR | Photography by SEAN UTLEY





## CZ 75 B



I've always been interested in the Czech CZ 75. Cloaked in mystery during the first decade of its existence, it was rarely seen in the West. Developed in Czechoslovakia (now the Czech Republic) in 1975, it combined several of the best features of other service pistols with some of its own.



**Back in the 1970s, Jeff Cooper lauded the CZ 75's handling but lamented how hard it was to get. Not anymore.**

It became a favorite of spies, soldiers of fortune and collectors with deep pockets. With the fall of the Iron Curtain, 75s became widely available in the U.S., but I never got around to buying one.

I later saw several tucked into holsters of CIA and Blackwater types when I visited the Green Zone (the secure area in Baghdad). I decided that I needed a CZ 75 as soon as I got back stateside.

Procrastination can be a good thing, and I'm glad I delayed getting

one immediately after returning. A couple of years ago the CZ 75 B (the B model has a firing pin-block safety) became available in stainless steel. It's exactly like the standard 75 B except for the addition of an ambidextrous safety. It also has rubber stocks instead of the standard plastic. Being left-handed, I like the idea of an ambi safety because one of the really neat features of the CZ 75 is selective double action. The option of carrying cocked-and-locked or hammer down like a regular DA pistol is the best of both worlds. Like most 1911 fans, I like cocked-and-locked. But there are times I like

**One of the most distinctive details is that the frame is outside the slide.**

## THE CZ 75 HAS RIGHTFULLY TAKEN ITS PLACE AMONG THE GREAT PISTOLS OF THE 20TH CENTURY.

### SPECIFICATIONS

#### **CZ 75 B STAINLESS**

**ACTION:** Double-action semiauto

**CALIBER:** 9mm

**CAPACITY:** 16+1

**BARREL LENGTH:** 4.7 in.

**OVERALL LENGTH:** 8.1 in.

**WEIGHT:** 2.2 lb.

**SIGHTS:** Fixed three-dot (tritium Mepro available at extra cost)

**GRIPS:** Rubber

**MSRP:** \$806



In addition to excellent ergonomics, the 75 B is just plain elegant.

the option of a hammer-down carry. The downside is that there is no de-cocker, so care must be exercised when lowering the hammer. With the ambi safety of the new stainless, we left-handers can now carry the CZ in Condition One also.

There's a lot to like about this pistol. It's matte stainless, which is visually appealing. The issue rubber stocks, with very slight swells on

both sides, are comfortable and rugged, perfect for a service pistol. Sights are fixed, blocky and easily acquired. Tritium night sights are available from CZ-USA as an extra-cost option. The usual three dots are painted on the issue sights. The pistol strips easily for cleaning and maintenance. And while this is not a huge pistol, it holds 16+1 rounds of 9mm ammo.

### CZ 75

Even that staunchest of single-action semiauto proponents, Col. Jeff Cooper, praised the CZ 75 as a worthy pistol. Developed by Ceska Zbrojovka in 1975, the gun is considered one of the original "wonderines"—the high-capacity double-action 9mm pistols that changed pistolcraft.

The all-steel gun is of locked-breech, tilt-barrel design with radial locking lugs and is short-recoil operated. It employs a staggered column magazine and features a hammer-forged barrel. The slide rides inside the frame rails rather than outside, allowing a tighter slide-to-frame fit and increasing accuracy potential.

What set it apart, at least initially, was its double-action trigger pull—

which was smooth like a revolver's—and the fact that it could be carried in Condition One (hammer back, safety on) or with hammer down and then fired double action. The second generation of the gun included an internal firing-pin safety, and the spur hammer was changed to a ring design, becoming the CZ 75 B.

Until the collapse of the Soviet Union, few CZ 75s found their way into this country, but in the early 1990s they began to be imported here in significant numbers. Today the gun is imported by CZ-USA.

There is a wide variety of versions on the market, including decockers, single actions, .40 calibers, compacts and more. In October 2007, CZ celebrated the production of the 1 millionth CZ 75.



Ergonomics of the CZ is first-rate. It is one of those rare pistols (like the Browning Hi-Power) that seem to fit everyone's hand. The safety is easily manipulated, and the trigger in DA mode can be reached by most fingers. The DA pull is long and somewhat heavy, but very smooth. CZ has a custom shop here in the USA, and that would be the place to send this pistol for some trigger work if you can't live with the standard trigger. Mine will stay stock. It's not bad; it is a service pistol.

I put several hundred rounds of GI ball through both my pistol and another stainless 75 that I borrowed for comparison. There were no issues with either pistol. Both guns shot to point of aim at 20 yards and chewed up the center of a standard PPC target at that distance. I also put a box of some of my old LAPD 147-grain JHP duty ammo through one gun to check for reliability and accuracy. Again, no surprises, with no malfunctions and good



**The author puts the CZ 75 B Stainless through various DA/SA drills. Notice that the grooved triggerguard is not utilized in a proper two-handed hold. The stainless CZ is a great pistol for left-handers due to the ambidextrous safety, which the standard 75 B doesn't have.**

accuracy—the best group was just under two inches at 20 yards.

Most guns aren't perfect out of the box; the CZ isn't either. I don't like three-dot sights and will blacken mine out with modeling paint before the next range session. I also don't care for the Phillips-head grip screws. I replaced mine with Hogue slotted screws. The triggerguard is

squared and grooved; a rounded one (like on the original CZ 75) would be easier on holsters.

The CZ 75 has rightfully taken its place among the great pistols of the 20th century. It is a popular, widely issued sidearm in both Western and former Eastern-block countries. The newer 75B continues that legacy with this practical upgrade. 🗨️

