

# On Duty

JEFF COOPER'S FAVORITE 9MM ACTION COMES BACK AS A POLYMER CARRY.

By GREG RODRIGUEZ | Photography by SEAN UTLEY





## CZ P-07



I settled on the 1911 platform for carry many years ago. Though I've dabbled with many different pistols over the years, the 1911 just seems to fit my hands better than almost anything else. The most notable exception has been the classic CZ 75 and its perfectly shaped ergonomic grip. Unfortunately, even though the grip felt like it was made for my little hands, its long trigger reach made the sexy import a poor fit for me.

The latest pistol to be imported by CZ-USA, the P-07 Duty, shares that same fantastic feel. Though its grip angle is not exactly the same as the CZ 75, it is damn close. And since its polymer frame doesn't require stocks, it's also a bit thinner than the CZ 75. That great grip angle and thinner butt combine to make the P-07 Duty one nice-handling carry gun.

The P-07 is a double-action, polymer-frame pistol. The sides of its polymer grip have molded-in textured patches that are approximately the same consistency as skateboard tape. The front- and backstraps have molded-in, horizontal grooves. Eight textured, frame-mounted strips just ahead and above the trigger serve as a perfect register for your trigger finger on one side and your support-hand thumb on the other.

The triggerguard is oversize, with ample room for a gloved trigger finger. Its flat face is grooved for those who like to place their support-hand index finger there. Cut-ins above the textured grip

panels serves as sort of minimalist, ambidextrous thumbrests and reduce the grip frame to allow those with smaller hands a little shorter reach to the trigger.

Other frame features include a 1911-esque, beavertail-style tang and an integral, frame-mounted accessory rail. Lights from Surefire and Insight Technologies fit perfectly and stayed mounted through several rapid fire strings.

The P-07's frame-mounted controls are all low-profile designs that include an oversize angled magazine release, an oversize slide release/disassembly lever and an ambidextrous, spring-loaded decocking lever that safely drops the DA/SA pistol's hammer.

Unlike the CZ 75, though, the decocker doesn't do double duty as a safety for cocked-and-locked carry. Instead, the P-07 comes with a user-installable safety that replaces the decocker and allows the pistol to be carried cocked-and-locked for old school shooters like me who prefer that short, light single-action trigger pulls every time.

Disassembly of the P-07 is fairly straightforward. It begins, of course, with an unloaded pistol and no

**The P-07 offers a dramatic polymer-frame redux on the proven CZ 75 action.**

THOUGH THE P-07 SHOT A BIT LOW FOR ME, THE MAJORITY OF MY SHOTS FELL INTO A NICELY CENTERED, FIST-SIZE CLUSTER.

A polymer frame and integral light/laser rail are cues that the P-07 has gone beyond the traditional CZ 75 template in terms of style.



magazine. Place the hammer at half-cock, then put your left thumb in the triggerguard and reach over the top of the slide with your left hand and move the slide rearward until it stops against the hammer. Then push the slide-release pin with the corner of the magazine base pad, remove it and take the slide off the frame.

As I noted, the P-07 is a traditional DA/SA pistol, where the first shot is fired with a longer, heavier, trigger-cocking pull, while subsequent shots have a lighter, single-action pull. But unlike most striker-fired pistols, the P-07 has repeat-strike capability, which I really like. Though faulty or stubborn primers aren't very

common with quality factory ammunition, it's nice to know I can simply hit the trigger again to try and make the gun go bang rather than immediately going into a tap-rack-bang, as a second strike is often all it takes to ignite a fickle primer.

Magazine capacity is 16 rounds of 9mm. The magazines are sturdy and well made. They disassemble easily for cleaning and were easier to stuff that 16th round into than I expected.

The P-07's slide is CNC-machined from bar stock. It sits low atop the frame and houses the compact pistol's 3.7-inch barrel. The slide's angled top looks quite racy. Eight grasping grooves at the rear of the slide provide ample purchase for slide manipulation. The slide is relieved at the back of the oversize

#### ACCURACY RESULTS

9mm Luger	Muzzle Weight (gr.)	Standard Velocity (fps)	Avg. Deviation	Group (in.)
Black Hills JHP +P	115	1,133	17.6	2.94
Federal Hydra Shok	147	973	12.1	2.76
Fiocchi XTP	115	1,248	19.0	3.27
Hornady FTX	115	1,111	14.8	2.12
Winchester SXT +P+	127	1,188	13.6	2.61

Notes: Accuracy is the average of five five-shot groups fired at 25 yards from a sandbag rest. Velocity is the average of 20 rounds measured 10 feet from the muzzle.

ejection port. That relief houses the P-07's robust external extractor.

The P-07's drift-adjustable rear sight is an angled, low-profile unit that is low and slick enough to resist snagging. It is made of polymer and has a wide rear notch with a white outline. The front sight is a polymer blade with a white, rectangular insert. It is mounted in a unique, forward-facing dovetail, creating a clean, rugged front sight setup.

Fit and finish of the test pistol was superb. The slide reciprocated smoothly, and the trigger pull was slick and crisp. Its 12-pound, five-ounce double-action pull was a bit heavier than I would like to see, but it was smooth enough to make up for it. Its single-action trigger broke at a crisp four pounds, 13 ounces. The controls engaged smoothly and positively, and the sights were bright and easy to acquire.

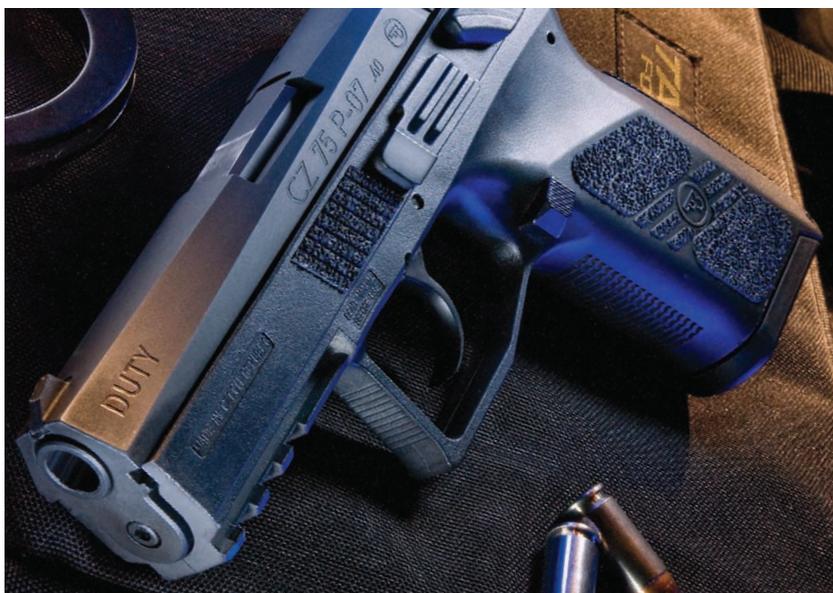
Since ammunition was tough to come by during testing, I could fire only 350 rounds through the P-07. I was very low on ball ammo, so I stuck with hollowpoint loads in the 115- to 147-grain range from Black Hills, Federal, Fiocchi, Hornady and Winchester.

I began my testing by firing two magazines of Hornady's Critical Defense load from seven yards to get a feel for the pistol's sights and trigger. The double-action trigger was a bit problematic for this dyed-in-the-wool 1911 guy, but it was smooth enough that I was able to overcome the weight and make some good hits. Though the P-07 shot a bit low for me, the majority of my shots fell into a nicely centered, fist-size cluster. Feeding, extraction and ejection were flawless, and recoil was negligible.

Once I felt comfortable with the



**While redesigned for carry, the P-07 retains the friendly handling of the original CZ 75.**



**The new pistol's grip angle feels and points great. The molded-in texturing really locks the pistol in place during rapid-fire strings.**

new pistol's trigger, I went to the 25-yard line to do my accuracy and chronograph work. I fired from a sandbag rest at three-inch Shoot-N-C targets. Once again, the gun hit low, but the windage was perfect and the groups were pretty good for a polymer-frame production gun, with all but one load averaging under three inches for five five-shot groups.

I was starting to get a feel for the

new pistol's trigger by the time I finished my accuracy work, so I walked over to the plate rack for some speed work and reliability testing. My shooting partner and I did our best to fill the magazines quickly so we could keep banging away in hopes getting the new blaster hot and dirty enough to fail.

Overall, the new pistol performed very well in our rapid-fire testing.

## THE ALL-BUSINESS P-07 DUTY MAY BE SHORT ON FLASH, BUT THE COMPACT POWERHOUSE IS LONG ON FEATURES AND VALUE.



**Best 25-yard groups with the P-07 were obtained with Hornady 115- and 124-grain XTP loads and Magtech's 124-grain JHPs. Functioning was excellent with everything the author had on hand. Photo: Patrick Sweeney**

If we aimed for the top edge of the plates, we could mow them down about as fast with the CZ as we could with our own carry guns, thanks to its light recoil and stellar ergonomics. Reloads were fast and easy, thanks to the oversize magazine release and the taper of the double-column magazine.

problem to an ammunition compatibility issue, since the pistol was properly lubricated and digested the other four hollowpoint loads without a hiccup.

The only other issue I had was that I could not slingshot the slide closed after a reload. It worked fine if I used the slide release, but I prefer

The pistol ran perfectly with four loads, but we had consistent feeding issues with Fiocchi's 115-grain XTP load. The P-07 fed the Fiocchi load fine when we chambered the first round from the magazine, but subsequent rounds never chambered completely. In every case, the slide would not quite close all the way.

A quick push with the support-hand thumb would get it back into battery, but you should never have to do that with a carry gun. I attributed the

movements that rely on gross motor skills whenever possible, so I always slingshot the round home from slide-lock.

I've seen this same issue with other brands of pistols over the years and have found that the majority eventually break in, so perhaps a few hundred more rounds might loosen up the P-07 enough that I could slingshot it.

After I'd finished testing, I took the gun home to clean it and then installed the supplied safety conversion. Mounting the safety was a breeze. I simply disassembled the gun, then depressed the ejector and rocked the left half of the decocking lever until it slid out.

Then I removed the decocker's spring, depressed the trigger bar and worked out the right-side lever. Finally, I installed the safety, right side first, in the same way, though I left the spring out since it goes only with the decocker. Considering my lack of mechanical aptitude, it was surprisingly simple.

I played with the safety lever-equipped P-07 a bit at the house to get used to it. It engaged positively, but deactivating it was difficult because the lever has such a low profile. That's great for concealment, but it would require some



**The P-07's rear sight is a smooth, low-profile design, while the front is mounted in a unique forward-facing dovetail.**



## SPECIFICATIONS

**MODEL:** CZ P-07 Duty  
**TYPE:** Exposed-hammer, striker-fired centerfire semi-auto  
**CALIBER:** 9mm Luger  
**CAPACITY:** 16+1 rounds  
**BARREL LENGTH:** 3.7 in.  
**OVERALL LENGTH:** 7.3 in.  
**HEIGHT:** 5.1 in.  
**WIDTH:** 1.5 in.  
**CONSTRUCTION:** Polymer frame, matte-black steel slide  
**TRIGGER:** DA/SA with decocker (optional safety conversion supplied). DA pull, 12 lb., 5 oz.; SA, 4 lb., 13 oz.  
**GRIPS:** Textured polymer  
**WEIGHT:** 1.7 lb.  
**SIGHTS:** Drift-adjustable notch rear, dovetailed post front  
**MSRP:** \$579 to \$599

training to overcome. To see just how much, I grabbed another 150 rounds and returned to the range.

I stuck the pistol in a generic nylon holster (CZ and a few custom makers are the only ones I know who offer holsters for the P-07 at this time) and practiced disengaging the safety as I drew the pistol and making a fast, accurate first-round hit. I had a hell of a time hitting that safety lever at first, but I got increasingly better and was hitting it fairly well by my 30th presentation, though I still had to shift the pistol in my hand a bit to ensure I disengaged it.

Next I did some rapid-fire work, beginning with the gun in a Low Ready position with the safety engaged. Accuracy was great, thanks to the P-07's light, smooth single-action trigger and bright sight inserts, and reliability was 100 percent. However, I never did get any better with the safety lever. I had to shift the gun in my hand to disengage it consistently.

Wanting to get an idea of whether this was a personal problem, I asked one of my training partners, a firearms instructor at the local sheriff's department, to try the P-07.

He carries a Glock on duty, but he wears a 1911 on his own time. He

has slightly larger hands than I do, but he had a bit of trouble hitting the P-07 safety, too. However, he didn't have to shift the gun in his hands as much as I had to, and he believed he could hit it reliably with a bit more practice. Someone with average to large hands probably wouldn't have the same difficulty.

This issue aside, I think the P-07 Duty is attractive, compact, accurate and reliable. And its ergonomic design, DA/SA trigger and interchangeable safety/decocking lever make it well suited to shooters of all sizes. A suggested retail of just \$579 (two magazines, single-action safety and hardcase included) makes it pretty tough to beat in the value department, too.

Whether you're looking for a quality compact duty gun or a feature-packed piece for concealed carry, you would do well to take a long, hard look at the latest CZ. The all-business P-07 Duty may be short on flash, but the compact powerhouse is long on features and value. ☺