GUN TESTS REPORT CARD

Volkmann Custom, Inc., Combat Custom 45 ACP, $2895
GUN TESTS GRADE: B-

We liked the Volkmann gun a lot, but today's shooter who has had professional instruction will surely want forward cocking serrations, like on the others. We loved the NP3 finish, and know it'll be on there forever. We would not pay for the fancy $100 logo on the front of the gun, but tritium sights for $50 are a bargain, as is NP3 for $250. You don't need to spend $100 for adjustable sights on a combat handgun. Leaving off the unnecessary stuff gets the price down to $2700, still not a give-away. The gun was well presented, with decent workmanship, clean logos, and clean address and number stampings. But the price was on the high side, we thought, for what you get, and though it is a well-done presentation, Les Baer offers essentially the same stuff for $400 less, and Wilson for $150 less.

Wilson Combat CQB 45 ACP, $2550
GUN TESTS GRADE: A

On the range, the CQB handled everything we threw at it without any complaints. Accuracy was way more than acceptable. The handling was fast and sure. We all thought this was the best balanced and most user-friendly of the three full-size pistols. There were no problems nor any complaints, and in fact we all thought the CQB would be our first choice of these full-size 1911s.

Les Baer Premier II Super-Tac 45 ACP, $2280
GUN TESTS GRADE: B

For nearly $500 over the cost of his standard Premier II, Les Baer adds night sights, deburrs the gun, and coats it with a dull black finish called Bear Coat. We believe any and all 1911s need deburring or smoothing to ease wear and tear on the hands and to avoid holster wear. Baer gets $310 for Bear Coat finish and $180 more for tritium and dehorning. Are those extras worth $490? Your call, but we don't think so. The standard Premier II sells for $1790, and we'd buy it over this one, dehorn it as necessary, do without night sights, put up with the bare steel caused by our file, and use the extra $490 for groceries.

Written and photographed by Ray Ordorica, using evaluations from GUN TESTS *team testers.* **GT**