

As a followup to our April 2008 test of full-time double-action 9mms and to offer more evaluations of the popular high-cap 9mms, we recently tested an FNH P9 9mm double-action handgun.

Like the \$879 Heckler & Koch P2000 LEM V2 and the Sig Sauer \$749 P250 Two-Tone, the \$720 FNP-9 DAO from FNH USA utilizes a hammer and firing pin for ignition.

We shot the FN at 25 yards for accuracy and at 5 yards firing double taps on a 8.5-by-16-inch target. Our shooter began each string of fire standing unsupported with a two-handed grip and sights on target, but with finger off the trigger. We pasted a black 1-inch-wide dot in the center to provide a point of aim.

Upon audible start signal from a Ced electronic timer, we engaged the target as quickly as possible. We fired two strings of ten pairs, looking for a total of 20 hits on target in each string. We shot the rapid-fire test with Black Hills' 115-grain FMJ ammunition sold in blue 50-round boxes. From the bench we tried Winchester's new 105-grain jacketed soft point Super Clean NT (nontoxic) ammunition; 124-grain full-metal-jacket rounds by Winchester USA, and 147-grain Subsonic Match jacketed hollowpoint rounds by Atlanta Arms and Ammo. Here is what we learned about the FN 9mm:

**FNH USA FNP-9 DAO
9mm, \$720**

The FNP-9 pistol featured a straightforward design. Its left-side takedown lever borrows from the Sig Sauer design, but FNH USA found other ways to distinguish the P-9 from other polymer pistols.

The sweeping arc on the sides of the grip was carried over from the most famous of FN Herstal designs, the

FNH USA FNP-9 DAO 9MM, \$720

Gun Tests grade: C-

We liked some aspects of the gun, but the FNP-9's feeding problems and heavy trigger really hurt it in comparison to the other guns tested in the April 2008 issue. In that test, we gave the Sig Sauer P250 9mm, \$749, an A- for its versatile modular design and precision DAO trigger. Likewise, a Glock G17, \$599, got an A- as an accurate, simple, economically priced defense gun. The Heckler & Koch P2000 LEM V2, \$879, was just a step behind with a B+, mainly because it took us more time to adjust to the controls. And when we add the CZ 75 B and its single-action 9mm operation in this test, it's hard for us to find a reason to buy FNP-9.



SPECIFICATIONS

OVERALL LENGTH	7.4 IN.	GRIP THICKNESS (MAX)	1.2 IN.
BARREL LENGTH.....	4.0 IN.	GRIP CIRCUMFERENCE (MAX).....	5.5/5.7 IN.
SIGHT RADIUS.....	5.9 IN.	FRAME.....	TEXTURED POLYMER
OVERALL HEIGHT.....	5.1 IN.	BARREL.....	STAINLESS STEEL
FRONT STRAP HEIGHT.....	2.3 IN.	SLIDE.....	STEEL
BACK STRAP HEIGHT.....	3.3 IN.	GRIP.....	BLACK POLYMER
WEIGHT UNLOADED.....	21 OZ.	TRIGGER PULL WEIGHT DOUBLE ACTION.....	12 LBS.
CAPACITY.....	16+1	TRIGGER SPAN DOUBLE ACTION.....	2.5 IN.
MAXIMUM WIDTH	1.4 IN.	WARRANTY	IMPLIED LIFETIME
		TELEPHONE	(800) 537-3006
		WEBSITE OR EMAIL.....	WWW.FNHUSA.COM

Browning Hi-Power pistol. The back strap was replaceable. The shooter had the option of a flat or an arched rear panel. It was held in place by a slotted screw with its head blackened to blend in with the grip. A slotted screw may not sound as good as a Torx or Allen head,



The FN magazine well resembled the speed chutes found on custom race guns—a feature we applaud.

but a flat screwdriver is the more commonly found tool. With the arched rear grip panel in place, we thought the ergonomics of this pistol was outstanding.

The inside of the magazine well was contoured to resemble the “speed chutes” that we find on IPSC race guns. We wish all polymer pistols had this feature. The magazine release button was located in just the right place for rapid deployment. Capacity was 16+1. A single-slot accessory rail appeared on the dustcover. The sights were a familiar three-white-dot design with both the front and rear units dovetailed into place. For a change in elevation, different-height front sight blades (not supplied) could be substituted. For windage adjustment, the rear unit could be drifted left or right. The only remaining external control was the slide release on the left side.

When the gun was empty and the action at rest, the hammer sat flush with the rear of the slide. If the action was prepared to fire, the hammer sat slightly ajar. When the chamber was loaded, the extractor protruded from the right side enough to confirm visually or by touch.

At the range we learned that the trigger pull was heavier than on our other pistols. Trigger-pull weight is primarily the product of the amount of resistance presented by the mainspring, which provides power to the hammer. We are not sure how much it could be reduced, but from the bench we found compressing the 12 pounds of trigger resistance to be tiring.

Accuracy from the 124-grain and 147-grain test loads produced groups averaging about 2.5 inches across at 25 yards. The P-9 outdueled the Sig Sauer P250 by landing groups of the Winchester 105-grain Super Clean NT rounds that varied from only 1.5 inches to 2.3 inches across.

But we did have difficulty feeding the first rounds we



The sweeping contour on the grip, though shallower than the original, was an FNH trademark characteristic. Note how with the action cocked the hammer is ajar. With the arched grip panel in place, ergonomics were topnotch.

put through the FNP-9. The first test rounds that we fed into the P9 were the 147-grain subsonic rounds. The gun would not completely cycle them. Making sure the gun was properly lubricated, we then fired about 200 rounds of 115-grain and 124-grain ammunition to serve as a break-in regimen. This improved the gun’s ability to cycle. We did find, however, that once the gun

sat, it had to be loosened up again. We checked the extractor, cleaned the feed ramp, changed magazines, and chambered our test ammunition before firing. One characteristic was that the slide would sometimes hesitate before it completed a cycle.

A call to FN’s service department said that the gun shouldn’t show the hesitation we experienced, and that if the problem continued after more break in, to return it for warranty work. In our view, however, we’ve tested several other guns that worked right from the start, so we’re inclined to buy them instead.



The FNP-9 shared the same breakdown latch as the Sig Sauer pistols. Dovetailed sights and an accessory rail are nice touches.