

New Para-Ordnance

PXT LTC .45ACP

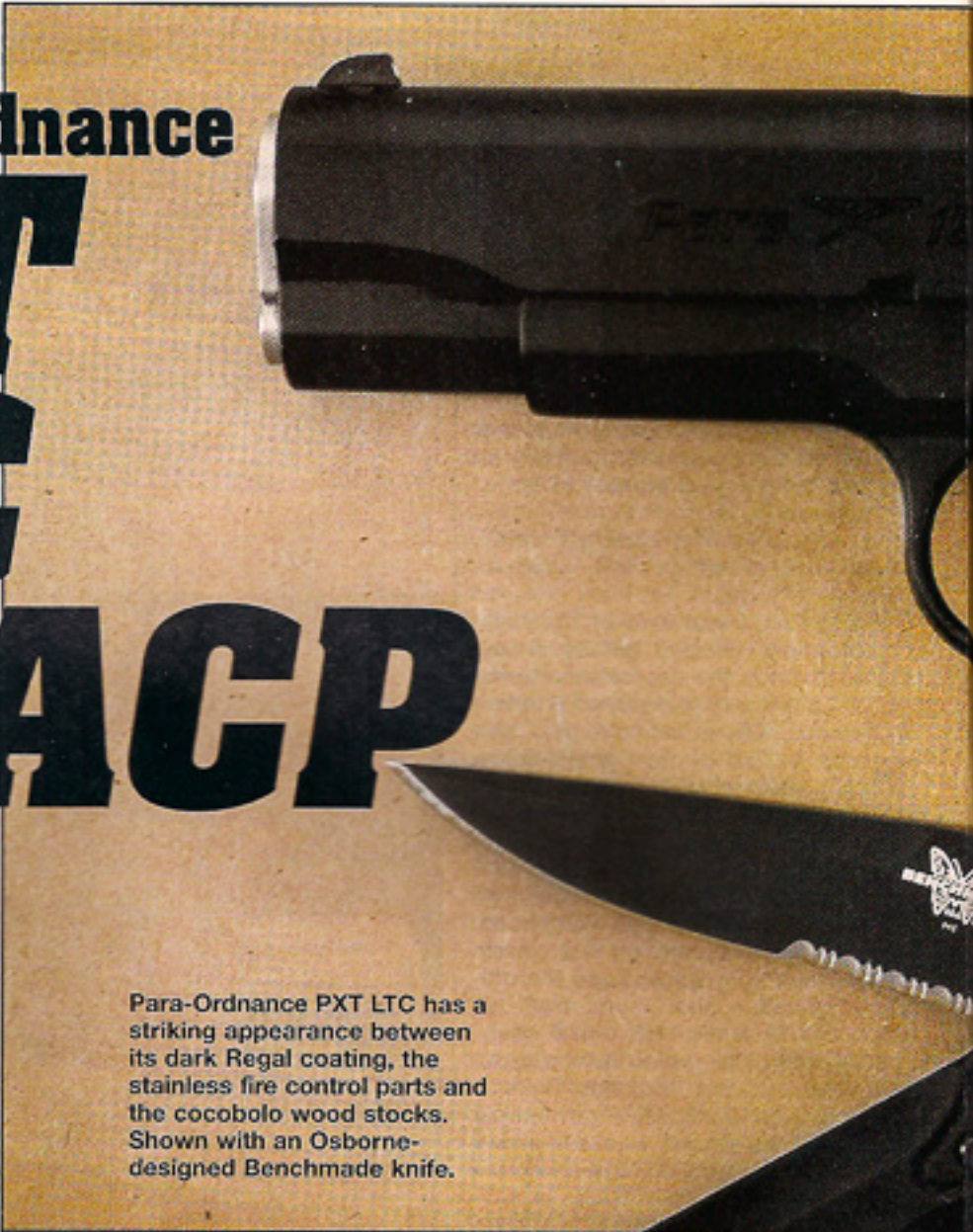
Reliability and accuracy are ensured by all-new super-tough extractor!

By Rich Grassi

Some argue, successfully, that the really weak link of the M1911 system is the extractor. It has to have the right tension to reliably grab the case head and rip it from the chamber. A friend got a 1911 clone from me, shot it quite a bit and decided to detail strip it for cleaning. He was surprised to find that the extractor had no perceptible tension. It worked just fine anyway, though it shouldn't have.

The extractor is curved within its channel in the slide, which provides pressure on a cartridge case's rim through the hook on the end of the spring steel extractor. The degree of the curve in the part is what provides the pressure.

You can make the case that this is an outdated system. Too much curve provides too much pressure, preventing a round from carrying up. The round fails to feed. If there is too little curve, then there's not enough tension to ensure extraction. Failures to extract and eject can occur.



Para-Ordnance PXT LTC has a striking appearance between its dark Regal coating, the stainless fire control parts and the cocobolo wood stocks. Shown with an Osborne-designed Benchmade knife.



Para-Ordnance PXT LTC, right side.



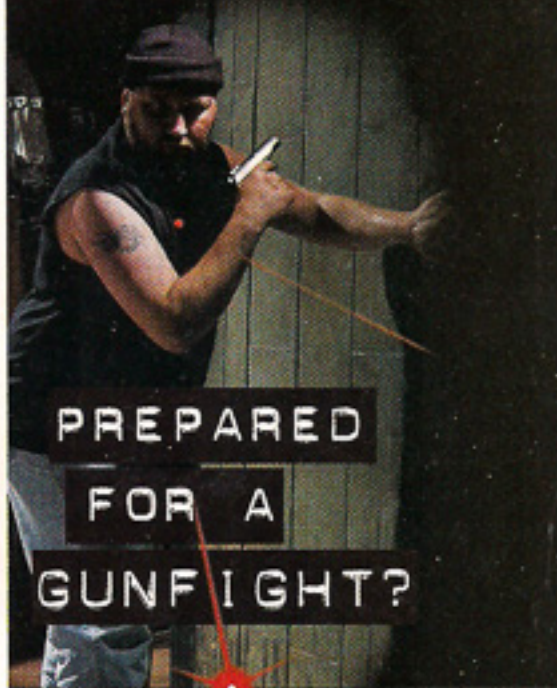
Note the ejected case is barely in the air while the next round is feeding up.

Extractor tension can weaken over time through use. The best way to wreck an extractor, with the 1911 or other autopistols, is to drop a round in the chamber then drop the slide closed on it. It is hard on the extractor and there's no need for it. You can chip or break extractors that way.



Myron Stucky wanted to take the Para-Ordnance PXT LTC home.

Para-Ordnance's new Para Power Extractor is massive compared to the original extractor claw. The new unit increases contact with the rim by 50 percent. This makes for positive feeding of the round from the magazine into the chamber and positive extraction of the empty.



PREPARED
FOR A
GUNFIGHT?



LASERGRIPS®

When faced with a deadly threat, our natural reaction is to LOOK at the threat... EXACTLY where you'll find the bright red dot of your Crimson Trace Lasergrips.

Find out why major police agencies like: Los Angeles Sheriffs Department, Las Vegas Metro PD, Orlando PD and hundreds more authorize Crimson Trace Lasergrips.

Get our FREE REPORT "Five Things Every Handgun Owner Should Know" and a product catalog.

Call
800-442-2406
or visit
crimsontrace.com/ch2



Crimson
Trace
Corporation®

PXT LTC .45ACP

The pivoting claw of the Power Extractor is always under just the right tension. The PXT is not an external extractor design. The new extractor keeps the "matchless esthetics of this classic design."

The first two Para pistols with the new Power Extractor were the full-size pistols. The five-inch gun is named the Para PXT 1911. A "Commander" length 4.25-inch model is called the Para PXT LTC.

Due to my affinity for the shorter 1911, I asked Para for the LTC. It was a very good decision on my part.

PXT LTC Details

The LTC, presumably short for Lieutenant Colonel (Army pay grade O-5), is an analog to the Colt Combat Commander. Interestingly, the commander in the US Navy is also pay grade O-5!

This 35-ounce black pistol has stainless steel fire controls. The black finish is the new Regal Para Kote finish. I'd seen Internet chatter about the Regal finish not holding up. I had this gun for over 60 days and it went through several hands and lots of draws. The Para Kote didn't chip or fade the whole time.

The combination of black with stainless stock screws, magazine release button, slide stop, grip safety and thumb safety is striking. Add to this the Para cocobolo stocks with gold medallions, and the overall effect is one of subdued elegance. It's like this: There are guns with beauty borne of utility. They aren't "pretty" by any standard except by their usefulness. There are others that are works of the gun makers' art. There are the great "in-betweens," guns that look quietly competent.



The LTC ships with two magazines.



Like other Para 1911s, the LTC has a barrel with an integral feed ramp.



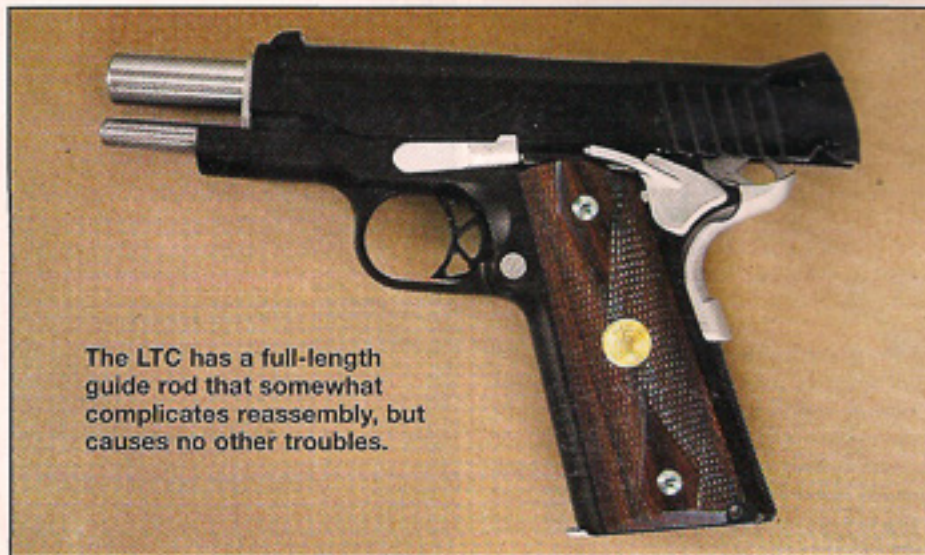
The hood of the barrel has the Para marking and caliber designation. A notch is cut in the hood to allow a peek to check chamber loaded status.



The PXT "Power Extractor" has a comparatively huge claw with which to feed/extract a cartridge case.



The PXT gun has stainless magazine catch, slide stop, thumb- and grip safeties and stock screws.



The LTC has a full-length guide rod that somewhat complicates reassembly, but causes no other troubles.

What Para-Ordnance did was combine the top-of-the-line style with a utility finish. The gun is appropriately tight and loose enough for stoppage-free function while being fitted enough for accuracy.

The top of the gun is crowned with Para's snag-free, low profile, high visibility sights. I'm not hugely impressed with the 3-dot system, but Para's is as good as they get. In fact, they were helpful in quick drills. They came to the eye positively. The short slide holds the 4.25-inch ramped barrel. Unlike the original, Para 1911s have ramped barrels to enhance feeding and to ensure

PXT LTC .45ACP

apart and somewhat more complicated to get together until you get the knack of it. I like the arrangement better than a "bushingless" barrel system, though I've had some success with them over the years. I'm just old-fashioned.

I ordered a holster from Josh Bulman. I'd read about his work but had no first-hand experience with it. I thought that this was a good time to try it out.

His "Quick Forward Drop Scabbard" (QFDS) pulls the gun butt in close to the body. The back loop, which is fastened with a snap, is somewhat behind the holster body. A tunnel behind the pouch takes the belt, but the rear loop is what pulls the rig in tight. It has a slight muzzle rear rake, necessary for my use due to limited shoulder mobility. There is a sewn-in sight channel. The mouth of the holster is circled with a reinforcing band. The rear part of the reinforcing band rises up to form a "sweat shield." This tab prevents clothing from going into the holster with the gun and keeps the safety in the "on" position while the gun is holstered.

I had some concern that the extended safety of the LTC would not fit in with the QFDS. However, those fears proved groundless. It fit perfectly. If this example is a true representation of Bulman's usual work, and my sources say it is, then you really can't go wrong with Bulman Gunleather.

Shots Fired

To get the feel of the pistol, I did an accuracy test, some combat work and let other people try it out.

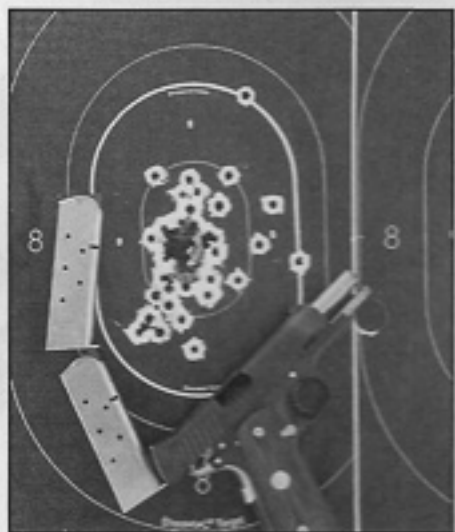
On the first outing, I just put a few rounds out of it. The LTC is striking in appearance and I couldn't keep my hands off it, though other projects intruded. The first six rounds out of the new gun put a (called) flyer low and the other five square into the center at 25 yards. I went to the 50-yard steel "gong" targets and printed four of six on steel. I used the upright support post for a supporting "barricade."

My impression was that the gun was slick, except for one magazine that didn't fall free from the gun. I'd work on that later.

The second trip included my usual 25-yard accuracy test. Using the Steady Point Handgun Rest from Shooters Ridge, I put five rounds of Black Hills 230-grain JHP into 3.5 inches. The best three went into 1.94 inches. Winchester "Personal Protection" 230-grain SXT put five into only 2.5 inches at 25 yards, with the best three



Four different loads were stuffed into mags in random order for a short qual course. There was a shooter induced stoppage, but no accuracy problems.



The LTC put four different loads into a tight group at ranges from 7 to 25 yards.



The Josh Bulman Quick Forward Drop Scabbard (QFDS) was well fitted to the LTC—it was comfortable and quick, with wonderful workmanship.

into 1.5 inches.

Trying a featherweight bullet in a stout load, the Cor-Bon Pow'R Ball 165-grain +P went into 5.5 inches. The best three went into a group of 1.13 inches. This led me to believe that the five-shot group was more a function of a feeble shooter than the gun and/or load.



The LTC shot a tight cluster with Speer Lawman range ammo.



Winchester "Personal Protection" 230gr. SXT went into a tight group.



The powerful Cor-Bon Pow'R Ball put four in a tight cluster with one flyer.

The excellent Speer Lawman 200-grain TMJ range ammo put five into 3.81 inches and three of those clustered into 1.5 inches. I have to conclude that the Para-Ordinance PXT LTC is quite accurate right out of the box.

I did a short combat course using a B27 center from Birchwood Casey in their "splash of green" Shoot-N-C format. I mixed loads putting Cor-Bon 165-grain JHP +P and 165-grain Pow'R Ball, Black Hills 230-grain JHP and Winchester 230-grain SXT into magazines in varying order. I ended up with a single stoppage and one fail to lock open on an empty magazine. I believe they were shooter induced. All the hits went into the 9 and 10 ring of the target center.

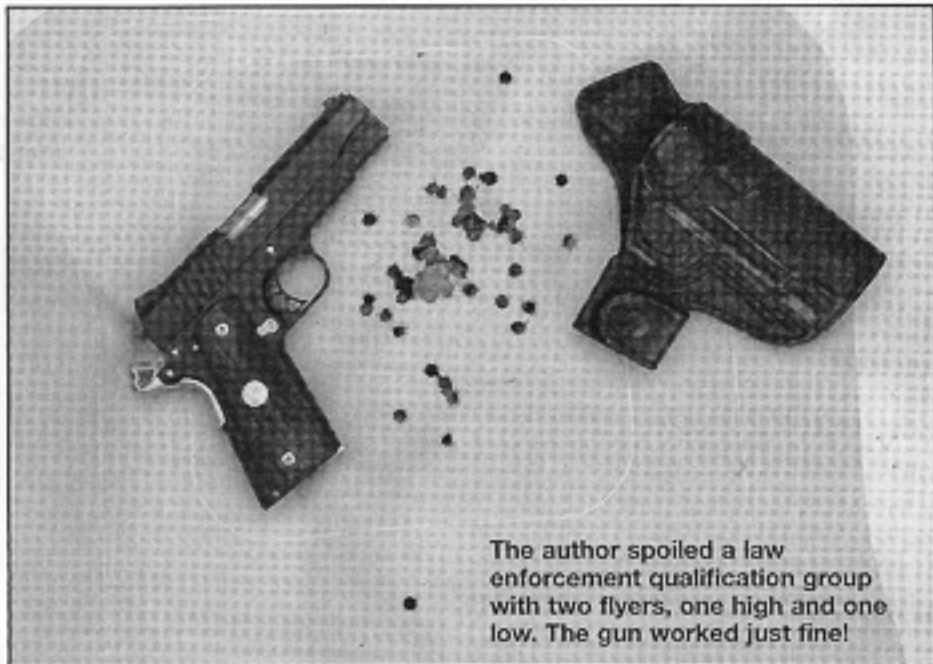
I took the Para-Ordinance LTC to an



The excellent Black Hills 230gr. JHP put all rounds into a 3.5" group with the best three going into less than two inches.

agency open range. When Det. Jack Morgan first saw it, he said that the LTC was too pretty to shoot. Sacrilege! The practical appearance of the gun when taken along with the classy wood stocks cry out for use.

The range guys tried the LTC out. Myron Stucky, Jack Morgan and I tried the LTC on the steel combat silhouette from 25 to 50 yards. It was no feat to keep all the hits on steel. I'd cleaned the tubes of both magazines and they both dropped free at the range. I also tried the LTC with Metalform magazines. The advantage, as well as disadvantage, of 1911 format pistols is the availability of magazines. Some, like Metalform, are quite good. Others, from parts bins at gun shows, are



The author spoiled a law enforcement qualification group with two flyers, one high and one low. The gun worked just fine!

nothing to depend on. The LTC was slick with the Metalforms I had on hand and never failed with the two magazines supplied.

Both of the instructors, as well as deputies there to train with duty and backup guns, put rounds downrange. They were effusive in their praise of the new gun. Stucky wanted to get it away from me. I told him it belonged to Para-

Ordnance and he'd have to chat with them.

I took the opportunity to show Morgan Josh Bulman's Quick Forward Drop Scabbard. After noting that the rig was "beautiful," he said that he at first thought it came from the shop of Lou Alessi. That's considerable praise indeed.

I shot the open range combat

GET A GRIP ON IT!



Glock 26/27
Fits 19/23 mag



Colt Officer's
Fits 1911 mag



Para-Ordnance P10
Fits P13/P14 mag



Glock 29/30
Fits 20/21 mag

The A&G Grip Extender for the Mini-guns (Glock 26/27 & 29/30, Colt Officer's Model and Para-Ordnance P-10) are collars that slip over your full-size magazines, changing the grip and feel to match their full size counterparts, giving you a better and more comfortable grip, thereby reducing flinching and increasing accuracy.

See a Dealer Near You

A&G Supply Co., Inc. P.O. Box 254, Alstead, NH 03602
FAX (603) 835-7819 www.gripextender.com

SHOOTING CHRONY

The Greatest BANG for Your Buck!

If it doesn't unfold... it's not a Chrony!

- For precise ammo velocity measurement
- For Rifles, Handguns, Archery, Shotguns, Airguns & Paintballs
- Choose from 10 Models
- MSRP: \$87.95 to \$199.95
- We accept Trade-ins

Have a look at our **Shooting Chrony Ballistics Program**

SHOOTING CHRONY INC.
1-800-385-3161

on our Web Pages:
www.chrony.ca
www.shootingchrony.com

3840 E. Robinson Rd. PMB#298
Amherst, NY 14228
email: chrony@shootingchrony.com

PXT LTC .45ACP

PERFECT IMPACT
Finally, a PRECISION sight,
MADE IN THE USA

GLOCK
Target...Fiber Optic...Tritium

GLOCK ADJUSTABLE SIGHT SET

Low Profile
Made in USA
Fully Adjustable
Easy to Install
All Tools Included

www.dawsonprecision.com
toll free 866-300-1911

Target Fiber Optic Tritium

GREAT GUN GIVEAWAY
Register FREE online
Dawson Precision
all rules online at
www.dawsonprecision.com

dealer inquiries welcome

Specifications: Para-Ordnance PXT LTC

Caliber: .45ACP
Barrel: 4.25 inches
OA Length: 7.75 inches
Weight: 35 ounces
Grips: Cocobolo
Sights: Snag-free low profile 3-dot
Action: Single-Action
Features: Para Power Extractor, steel frame
Finish: Regal Para Kote
Capacity: Two 7-shot mags

course of fire involving lots of draws from the holster and shooting from 3 yards to 25 yards. It should suffice to say that I've never fired as tight a qualification group with a moderately priced 1911 format pistol since I've been doing this. It's that good. I had one called flyer, but the rest of the mixed rounds (Cor-Bon and Remington) went into a small central cluster with a few "outriders." It was good enough for a 249/250. At my age, with my infirmities, I'll take that score.

After the first trip to the range, there were no stoppages. This confirms my belief that it was me instead of the gun.

Final Notes

There is a creep-free, crisp trigger; decent sights, a durable finish and a sharp appearance. Together with a slide/barrel length to my preference, I couldn't find anything to dislike about the LTC. I wish I'd gotten the knack of reassembly a little quicker, but I'm not the most mechanically inclined gun crank around.

The accuracy is terrific without any after-market tinkering. The reliability is all there. Para-Ordnance has a real winner here!

For more information contact:

Para-Ordnance, 980 Tapscott Rd.,
Dept CH, Scarborough, ON,
Canada, M1X 1C3; 416-297-7855;
www.paraord.com

Bulman Gunleather, P.O. Box 361,
Dept CH, Newry, PA 16665; 814-696-8615;
www.bulmangunleather.com

Metalform, 555 John Downey Dr.,
Dept CH, New Britain, CT 06051;
800-618-3318;
www.metalformmagazines.com

GET LOADED WITH THE "NEW" CAMBI™ LOADER

The Preferred Choice of the Military and Law Enforcement Agencies

- Durable and Reliable
- Backed by an Iron-Clad Guarantee
- Call your Local Dealer or toll-free (888) 488-9793
- www.worldwideordnance.com

Model #101
AR15/M16
.223cal. Magazine Loader

Model #102
UZI-AR15/M16
.9mm Magazine Loader

Model #103
MP5 .9mm Magazine Loader

Model #104 (shown)
Universal Pistol
Magazine Loader
(Loads All .9mm, .40cal,
.45acp magazines!!!)

\$29⁹⁵

plus shipping
and handling
Model #104



World Wide Patents Pending © 2004 World Wide Ordnance



JOHN BENNER
PRESIDENT
CHIEF INSTRUCTOR
29 years experience
law enforcement &
training



- Civilian
- Law Enforcement
- Swat Teams
- Drug Task Forces
- Military
- Federal Agencies

www.tdiohio.com

TACTICAL DEFENSE INSTITUTE

Train with TDI's professional staff in a friendly, fun environment. Our total system of personal defense will exceed your expectations.

HANDGUN/TACTICAL RIFLE/PRECISION RIFLE/SHOTGUN/PHYSICAL & KNIFE DEFENSE

Located in South Central Ohio. For information & brochure:

2174 Bethany Ridge Road

West Union, Ohio 45693

937-544-7228