



COLT NEW AGENT .45 ACP PISTOL

The concealed carry handgun market continues to grow. Some of these guns are completely new, but others rely on established design principles and styles. Nobody ever found a better platform to imitate or modify than the sound, sturdy—and very popular—Government Model 1911. Nobody has done this less than the original maker of the gun, Colt Firearms. With the introduction of the subject pistol, Colt offers shooters of the 21st century a modern adaptation of the 20th century classic.

The Colt New Agent is a short, light .45 ACP semi-automatic intended for concealed carry and police backup roles. It is short in the sense that the upper uses a barrel only 3" in length, and it is light because the abbreviated receiver is aluminum alloy. This pistol weighs only 24½ ozs., unloaded. In the handling sense, the New Agent is pure M1911, complete with single-action trigger and a short single-column magazine of seven rounds. As much as the gun possesses traditional

features and contours, it does have a couple of new features in cosmetics and sights.

The New Agent is relatively small, measuring 4¾" by 6¾" by 1⅜" (height, length, thickness), with that thickness figure measured across the grip panels. Contrasted with a typical M1911A1 pistol, the New Agent is more than 2" shorter in length, about ¾" shorter in height and just about a pound lighter. It is a typical recoil-operated pistol of the basic John Browning design. For self-defense, it would presumably be carried cocked-and-locked (hammer back, safety on and a round in the chamber). On the sample gun, the trigger broke cleanly at just over 4 lbs. The trigger is of the long style, which is the preference of the majority of handgunners.

A short, vertically grooved mainspring housing can be found just below an abbreviated grip safety. The tang of the grip safety has a pronounced concave curve to its top surface, designed to clear the rounded spur of the

pistol's hammer. The hardwood stocks have been slimmed down and are checkered in a bordered double diamond pattern. The thumb safety is of the original M1911 style, complete with the trim paddle. Vertical serrations on the frontstrap and a nicely executed relief groove for the middle finger, located at the junction of the trigger guard and the butt, enhance shootability.

The New Agent slide is basically the same as the Defender. It differs in the cosmetic treatment of the slide flats at the front. The New Agent slide has an angled step that slims the front end. The angle matches that of the cocking serrations at the rear of the slide. Inside, you will find a bull barrel with no barrel bushing. Two nested recoil springs are wrapped around a telescoping full-length recoil spring guide. Colt has used the same system on the Defender and the Officer's ACP pistols.

The New Agent has no sights in the conventional sense of rear notch and front post. Instead, a narrow

SHOOTING RESULTS (25 YDS.)

.45 ACP CARTRIDGE	VEL. @ 12' (F.P.S.)	ENERGY (FT.-LBS.)	GROUP SIZE IN INCHES		
			SMALLEST	LARGEST	AVERAGE
HORNADY No. 9112 200-GR. XTP/HP	804 Avg. 12 SD	287	2.14	3.78	2.82
FEDERAL No. GM45A 230-GR. GM FMJ	779 Avg. 10 SD	309	2.22	3.20	2.98
BLACK HILLS 230-GR. JHP	763 Avg. 19 SD	289	2.10	3.11	2.50
AVERAGE EXTREME SPREAD					2.77

NOTES: ACCURACY RESULTS BASED OF FIVE CONSECUTIVE, FIVE-SHOT GROUPS AT 25 YDS. FIRED FROM A RANSOM REST. VELOCITIES MEASURED WITH AN OEHLER MODEL 35P CHRONOGRAPH WITH SCREENS PLACED 12 FT. FROM THE MUZZLE. TEMPERATURE: 72° F. ABBREVIATIONS: GM FMJ, (GOLD MEDAL FULL-METAL JACKET); JHP, (JACKETED HOLLOW POINT); XTP/HP, (XTREME TERMINAL PERFORMANCE/HOLLOW POINT).

COLT NEW AGENT .45 ACP


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CALIBER: .45 ACP
ACTION TYPE: RECOIL-OPERATED
SEMI-AUTOMATIC
FRAME: ALUMINUM ALLOY
BARREL: 3"
RIFLING: RH 1:16"
MAGAZINE: DETACHABLE BOX, SEVEN-
ROUND CAPACITY
SIGHTS: SIGHTING TROUGH ON TOP OF SLIDE
TRIGGER PULL: SINGLE-ACTION, 4 LBS., 8 OZS.
OVERALL LENGTH: 6¾"
WIDTH: 1¼"
HEIGHT: 5"
WEIGHT: 24 OZS.
ACCESSORIES: SPARE MAGAZINE, LOCK-
ABLE HARD CASE, CABLE LOCK, MANUAL
SUGGESTED RETAIL PRICE: \$885



The New Agent has an Officer's-size frame mated to a 3" barrel. Its safety lever is of the original M1911 style, and its grip safety is scalloped to accommodate the Commander-style hammer (upper l.). Internally, (top) it follows the Series 80 pattern, incorporating a firing pin block safety (arrow). The bushingless bull barrel locks directly into the slide (above).

full-length groove has been milled into the top of the slide. The shooter uses this trough to roughly align the pistol with the intended target. This system is very different from most conventional M1911s, and most shooters found several magazines of practice shots necessary to get used to it. While it is certainly not suited for long-range shooting, the trough system is adequate for close-range defensive work. Understand that the system was not conceived to improve aiming, but rather to speed gun deployment. There are no sights to snag when the pistol comes out of pockets, purses or from under clothing, so the system has a considerable appeal.

At the range, several shooters noted that the New Agent was an effective pistol with some difficulty associated with managing the sharp recoil. In about 200 rounds of shooting, there were no malfunctions. Ransom Rest testing showed surprisingly good accuracy. At 25 yds., a five-shot groups averaged

less than 3". Several groups were just over the 2" mark (2.10", 2.14", 2.22"), which is better than many current full-sized pistols of the M1911 type. Colt's New Agent is a respectably accurate and generally reliable pistol of the concealed carry genre, a viable option for the new concealed carry licensee. 

The *American Rifleman* has used the phrase "Dope Bag" since at least 1921, when Col. Townsend Whelen first titled his column with it. Even then, it had been in use for years, referring to a sack used by target shooters to hold ammunition and accessories on the firing line. "Sight dope" also was a traditional marksman's term for sight-adjustment information, while judging wind speed and direction was called "doping the wind."

WARNING: Technical data and information contained herein are intended to provide information based on the limited experience of individuals under specific conditions and circumstances. They do not detail the comprehensive training procedures, techniques and safety precautions absolutely necessary to properly carry on similar activity. Read the notice and disclaimer on the contents page. Always consult comprehensive reference manuals and bulletins for details of proper training requirements, procedures, techniques and safety precautions before attempting any similar activity.