



STI GP6



With new polymer-frame pistols seemingly introduced on the hour every hour, it takes something extra to stand out from the crowd. STI's latest pistol, the GP6, accomplishes that goal and more through its exceptional combination of traditional and unorthodox characteristics.

Based on a pistol produced by Grand Power in the Slovak Republic and dubbed the K100, the 9 mm Luger GP6 is imported into the United States by STI Int'l, Inc., a name renowned in competitive shooting circles. In fact, for many the STI name is inextricably linked to its highly successful line of competition-ready M1911 pistols, making the company's introduction of a polymer-frame Eastern European pistol all the more surprising.

"Why did we look at the K100? Because of the sheer number of people winning European matches with it," says STI's Michael Boyett. Although STI had a full line of competitive pistols for almost every discipline imaginable, prior to the GP6 it had nothing appropriate for the "Production" division. As a result, the company worked out a deal with Grand Power to import the pistol.

The GP6, whose moniker signifies that the currently offered variant is the sixth version of the Grand Power pistol design, locks into battery by way of a rotating barrel rather than a Browning-style tilting barrel system.

The 4¼" carbon-nitrided steel barrel features a helical groove cut below the square block area of its hood section. This helical recess interfaces with a steel crosspin mounted inside the frame of the pistol. As the pistol is fired, the barrel and slide remain locked for a short distance until the crosspin rotates the barrel and brings the square block portion out of engagement with the slide.

As a counterpoint to the radical nature of the GP6's locking system, however, the pistol's system of trigger operation is downright traditional when compared to many of its contemporaries. Rather than a more commonly seen striker-fired design, the GP6 instead employs a traditional double-action trigger with an external hammer. A long, relatively heavy trigger pull on the first shot both raises and releases the hammer, with subsequent shots being single-action.

The safety system of the GP6 is a combination of an external

manual safety and an internal passive firing pin block. The latter is a spring-loaded, plunger-type block that is disengaged when the trigger is pulled to the rear. Working against the sear, full rearward trigger movement pushes this plunger up to clear the firing pin's forward movement.

Reminiscent of the M1911, the GP6's manual safety is located at the rear of the frame and requires a downward sweep to disengage. It does not have a decocking function. Also like the M1911, the GP6's safety can be engaged when the hammer is cocked, providing users the option of carrying the pistol cocked-and-locked. The safety can also be engaged when the hammer is at rest.

Every control of the GP6 is ambidextrous, from the plastic safety lever to the steel magazine release button to the steel slide release lever.

The black polymer frame of the GP6 is manufactured from Polamide GF 20 and houses a substantial, 4½"-long steel chassis that contains the slide rails, crosspin, trigger group and a feed ramp for the barrel. The frame has a generally smooth surface, with raised panels on the sides and rear of the grip area

STI GP6

MANUFACTURER: GRAND POWER, S.R.O.,
POL'OVNICKÁ 29 974 06,
BANSKÁ BYSTRICA, SLOVAKIA;
WWW.GRANDPOWER.EU

IMPORTER: STI INT'L (DEPT. AR),
114 HALMAR COVE, GEORGETOWN,
TX 78628; (512) 819-0656;
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CALIBER: 9 MM LUGER

ACTION TYPE: ROTARY-LOCKED,
SEMI-AUTOMATIC, CENTER-FIRE PISTOL

FRAME: POLAMIDE GF 20 POLYMER

BARREL: 4¼"

RIFLING: SIX-GROOVE, 1:10" RH TWIST

MAGAZINE: 17-ROUND, DETACHABLE BOX

SIGHTS: FIXED THREE-DOT; REAR SIGHT
WINDAGE ADJUSTABLE

TRIGGER PULL: DOUBLE-ACTION, 9 LBS.,
4 OZS.; SINGLE-ACTION, 5 LBS., 8 OZS.

OVERALL LENGTH: 8"

WIDTH: 1⅞"

HEIGHT: 5½"

WEIGHT: 26 OZS.

ACCESSORIES: PLASTIC CASE, TWO
MAGAZINES, CLEANING ROD AND BRUSH,
SIGHT ADJUSTMENT TOOL, MANUAL

SUGGESTED RETAIL PRICE: \$656

SHOOTING RESULTS (25 YDS.)

9 MM LUGER CARTRIDGE	VEL. @ 15' (F.P.S.)	ENERGY (FT.-LBS.)	GROUP SIZE IN INCHES		
			SMALLEST	LARGEST	AVERAGE
BLACK HILLS 124-GR. JHP	1133 AVG. 19 SD	356	1.83	2.97	2.41
REMINGTON 147-GR. JHP No. GS9MM C	969 AVG. 22 SD	307	2.02	3.47	3.09
SPEER 124-GR. +P GDHP No. 23617	1198 AVG. 27 SD	395	2.16	3.01	2.79
AVERAGE EXTREME SPREAD					2.76
MEASURED AVERAGE VELOCITY FOR 10 ROUNDS FROM A 4¼" BARREL. RANGE TEMPERATURE: 79° F. HUMIDITY: 16%. ACCURACY FOR FIVE CONSECUTIVE, FIVE-SHOT GROUPS AT 25 YDS. FROM A SANDBAG. ABBREVIATIONS: GDHP (GOLD DOT HOLLOW POINT), JHP (JACKETED HOL- LOW POINT), SD (STANDARD DEVIATION).					



The polymer frame houses the steel chassis containing slide rails, crosspin and trigger group (l.). The crosspin engages the helical groove on the carbon-nitrided steel barrel (r.) during rotary-locked, short-recoil operation. Optimal ergonomics provide a comfortable, low-profile grip (above, r.).

that sport textures reminiscent of stippling. Horizontal grooves adorn both the frontstrap and the forward face of the squared-off trigger guard.

To help ensure the pistol sits as low in the hand as possible, the rear portion of the trigger guard at the top of the frontstrap is generously relieved. The frame also features an extended beavertail to help prevent hammer bite. Located on the dustcover area is a Picatinny accessory rail.

The steel magazine of the GP6 holds 17 rounds of 9 mm Luger. To work with the ambidextrous magazine release button on the GP6, the magazine has an interface notch cut on its forward face.

Our reviewers noted it also had a superfluous magazine button notch cut on its right side that would seem to indicate the magazine is not a proprietary design.

The slide of the GP6 is made from chrome-molybdenum steel and features a Tenifer finish. As is to be expected with a rotary barrel locking system, it is somewhat thick, although not egregiously so. The slide features both rear and forward cocking serrations and is topped off with a three-dot sighting system. The rear unit is secured by an Allen screw and is windage-adjustable.

For testing, we took the pistol out with a selection of three types of ammunition. During the course of

testing there were no malfunctions, and accuracy was quite good. Apart from a slight bit of torque in the wrist, perceived recoil of the pistol was mild. We did note that the trigger length of the double-action pull was quite long.

Handling characteristics of the pistol were good, although the controls were a bit too flat and unobtrusive to engage easily. We noted that the GP6's trigger system did provide second-strike capability and that the pistol did not have a magazine safety.

For those looking for a high-quality pistol for either competitive shooting or self-defense, the STI GP6 provides users with a reasonably priced and uniquely designed handgun that should easily fit the bill. 