

.22 TCM AUTO

Armscor's new .22 TCM offers sizzling performance, delivering a 40-grain, .22-caliber bullet at around 2,050 fps!



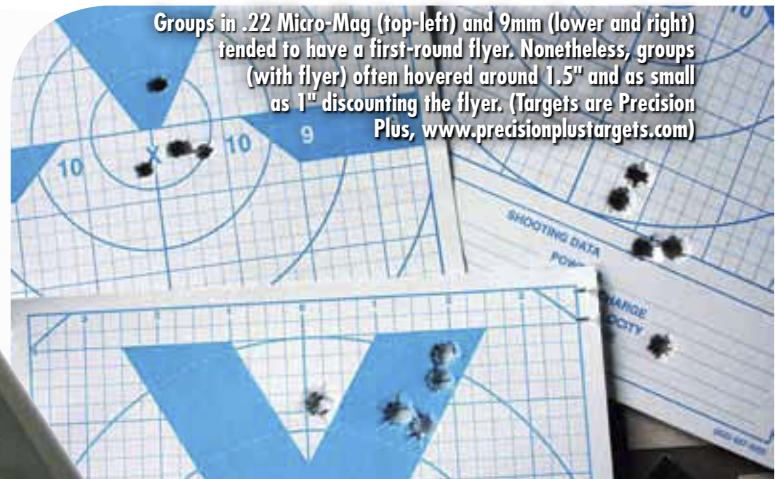
HI-VELOCITY MICRO-MAGNUM!

ROY HUNTINGTON



The .22 TCM has the added advantage of converting to 9mm by simply swapping the barrel and recoil spring.

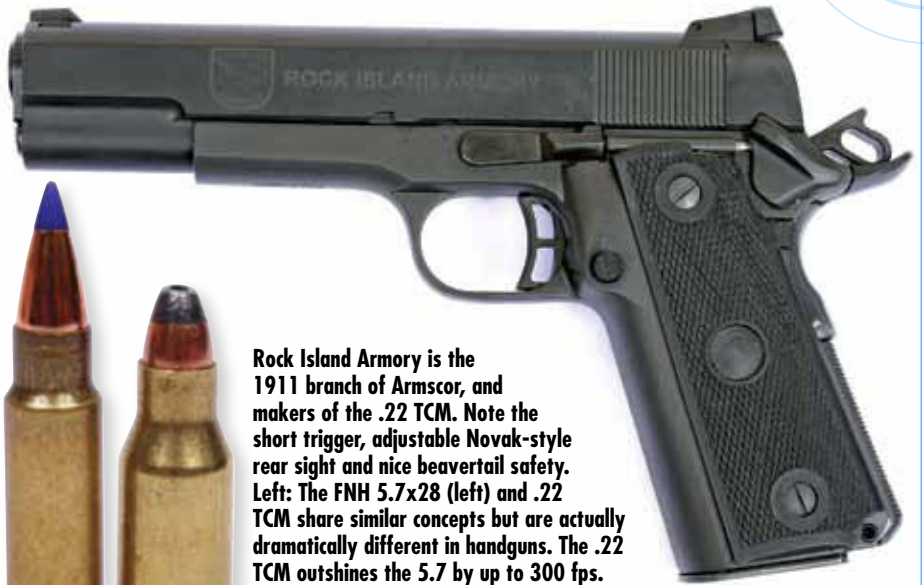
Groups in .22 Micro-Mag (top-left) and 9mm (lower and right) tended to have a first-round flyer. Nonetheless, groups (with flyer) often hovered around 1.5" and as small as 1" discounting the flyer. (Targets are Precision Plus, www.precisionplustargets.com)



Looks can be deceiving, and the .22 TCM from the fertile mind of custom gunsmith Fred Craig and his collaboration with Armscor, is not what it appears — at all. While looking like a hi-cap 1911 (and it is in basic design), it's in actuality a bottle-rocket shooting auto launching 40-grain, .22 bullets



Left: Roy used a Hyskore pistol rest and Caldwell portable shooting bench to target the .22 TCM. Groups hovered around 1.5" at 25 yards.



Rock Island Armory is the 1911 branch of Armscor, and makers of the .22 TCM. Note the short trigger, adjustable Novak-style rear sight and nice beavertail safety. Left: The FNH 5.7x28 (left) and .22 TCM share similar concepts but are actually dramatically different in handguns. The .22 TCM outshines the 5.7 by up to 300 fps.

at upwards of 2,050 fps! Huh? What? No fooling, and perhaps best of all, it's actually accurate, runs like a top, and if you drop in a fitted 9mm barrel and recoil spring, you have a fully functional hi-cap 9mm 1911. Damndest thing I ever saw.

Originally conceived by Fred as something unusual and fun, he initially marketed the design as a full, custom pistol from his shop, developing the cartridge and load data himself as he built market interest. You might have noticed the ads in *Handgunner*. Fred said, "I really sold a lot through those ads, and had been working with Armscor to make a production version for sale here in the states. The President of Armscor, Martin Tuason, was excited about the project, and together we launched the .22 TCM. That TCM stands for Tuason Craig Micromagnum, by the way."

Fred had spent the last several years working with Armscor in the Philippines, honing their production of 1911-based pistols, and designing a few interesting proprietary models of rifles and other handgun designs for Armscor. You'll be seeing some of those in the marketplace a bit later, and trust me when I say you'll like 'em!

The custom version of the TCM, as sold by Fred in his shop, differed a bit from the production gun. It had an external extractor, a different slide cut and a few custom touches. However, the production TCM is exactly the same, mechanically, as the custom version, and even comes with an adjustable Novak style rear sight, and proprietary custom forged slide and barrel. The slide and barrel are hand-fitted at the factory and more than likely accounts for the fact it shoots well. Also, the adjustable sight allows a shooter to adjust the point of impact when changing calibers. The 9mm shoots about 8" higher than the .22 Micro-Mag load at 25 yards.

Familiar Platform

The operation of the .22 TCM is vintage 1911 and anyone who knows 1911s would be right at home. Take down, external safety, grip safety, everything as a matter of fact, is exactly the same.



"THE OPERATION OF THE .22 TCM IS VINTAGE 1911."



The .22 TCM puts 2,050 fps in a 1911-based hi-cap platform!



Interestingly, the .22 TCM (based on the .223 case) and 9mm both use the same magazine (18 rounds for the .22 and 17 for the 9mm).

The frame is reminiscent of an early Para hi-cap, and everything shows solid construction. The finish is a basic Parkerizing but is neatly done. There are a few nice touches, like the bevel on the bottom edge of the slide, and the flat-top treatment on top of the slide, between the front and rear sights, that spiff things up some.

The short trigger is a smart move due to the hi-cap frame size and it fitted

my smallish hands just fine. This did not appear to be a simple conglomeration of parts, but a gun that had been fitted and carefully attended to, making sure all the parts ran correctly. The barrel lock-up was stout, with no movement when pushing down on it in the ejection port. If you move the slide back slowly, you can distinctly feel the barrel come out of a snug lock-up.

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The TCM in 9mm guise was a reliable and accurate performer, digesting anything Roy tossed at it. It was particular fond of 147-grain sub-sonic loads.