On the GUN RAC!



Nathan Kingsley enjoys Remington's derivation of a Colt classic – the 1911RAC – and explains how to field-strip and maintain it…

Just as in the world of bullet-shooting firearms, many air pistols share huge similarities among model ranges – and the Remington 1911RAC that I've recently been enjoying is no exception. If you read my report in July 2014's edition, you'll see the Remington shares striking similarities with the Swiss Arms P1911 blowback, itself a derivation of the Tanfoglio Witness.

Just like these, Remington's Taiwanese-made 1911RAC is based on the much copied M1911 classic semi-auto from Colt – and it's very authentic in weight, dimensions and feel. It runs off a standard, 12g CO2 capsule that also powers a blowback action – the slide cycles after each shot like the real McCoy, giving quite a kick in the hand. This is one of the draws of blowback gas guns, and combined with the hefty 1kg weight of the 1911RAC, it makes for quite a realistic shooting experience.


Loading the mag is a bit of a tricky operation

In fact, all it lacks is the 'bang' – the 4.5mm steel BBs spat from its 100mm smoothbore barrel don't leave with much of a muzzle crack. The upside is, with the deployment of safe, anti-rebound backstops, this particular 1911 can be enjoyed in the confines of your back garden. Even out to 10 yards, the BBs travel through the air at a fair rate – around 325fps – and are accurate enough on your typical plinker's target, even though the combat sights are fixed.

As with many blowbacks, the CO2 capsule sits in a carrier within the grip-frame, where the gas flows once the neck is pierced by a solid turn of the hex-headed bolt at the base. Released via a push-button behind the trigger on the left side, this carrier also incorporates the spring-loaded, 18-shot magazine.

There's a 'knack' to loading the mag: you have to pull down on the sprung plunger with your thumbnail to expose the port midway down. Then, with the carrier held under tension and with the top of the carrier pointing slightly down, you can drop in your 18 rounds one by one. A speedloader helps if you have one – but it's still a tricky operation.

There are two safety mechanisms on the 1911RAC – a manual (and well-marked) lock catch at the left rear of the frame, and a grip safety incorporated into the backstrap. The latter is automatically disengaged once you hold the gun on aim in your palm.

To fire the first shot, the top slide needs to be manually drawn back, after which trigger-pulls automatically re-cycle the slide until, after you've let rip with the 18th shot, the slide locks in the open (back) position to signify the Remington's emptied its payload.

As blowbacks go, the 1911RAC certainly ranks up there with the best of them. The authentic resin grips are very tactile and the slide-back trigger falls to the pad of your index finger very nicely through the pull sequence; you won't get tired on even the longest sessions.

Whether shooting fast or slowly, the Remington's got a very satisfying recoil and I confess that the all-metal action kicking away, even with a two-handed grip, is quite a turn-on! I also rather like the fact that, with so many metal parts, the gun looks even better the more you fire it as its grey finish gives way to more of a rubbed, silvered look on the componentry that moves.

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Left: The 1911RAC is field-strippable, which makes for easy maintenance

Which brings me nicely onto the topic of maintenance. Just like their firearm counterparts, all CO2 guns – and especially blowback pistols – need to be well looked after to continue functioning correctly, without jamming or their seals failing. In the case of the 1911RAC, Remington includes a very comprehensive owner's manual that goes through everything from loading to unjamming – but seeing as this pistol is field-strippable, I thought I'd show you the step-by-step procedure on how to undertake routine maintenance.

With the magazine removed and the pistol empty of BBs, the top slide should be moved back so that its disassembly notch – the smaller one, behind the slide stop notch – on the left-hand side of the top slide is positioned above the slide's stop bar **[1]**.

Then, pushing the stop bar's pivot with your finger from the right-hand side of the frame **[2]**, extract the slide stop from the left **[3]** while slowly releasing the tension on the top slide. Don't let go, else the top slide will shoot off in true Johnny English style! You can then pull the top slide forward until it slides right off the grip-frame **[4]**.

Although the top slide can be further dismantled, it's not really necessary – and it's a job best left for a competent gunsmith, in my opinion. However, it is advisable to drop some light oil – I use Rem Oil – into the pistol's action **[5]** to keep things working smoothly.

However, don't lubricate the rectangular gas seal on top of the magazine/capsule carrier **[6]**. The silicone lubricant additives that are in the CO2 capsules themselves will ensure they don't dry out. Properly looked after, the Remington 1911RAC semi-auto blowback will give you years of trouble-free use, not to mention hours of fantastic fast-fire fun. ●

FIELD STRIPPING THE REMINGTON











