

CALL OF DUTY

Tim Finley tries the fast fire blow-back CO2 powered ASG STI Duty One pistol

The ASG STI Duty One blowback is a CO2 replica pistol based upon one of the famous STI competition pistols (themselves centred on the ergonomic dimensions of the iconic Colt 1911) made by Virgil Tripp.

This pistol uses the ubiquitous 12 gram Co2 bulb which is loaded into the gun's grip via the back strap. The synthetic grip scales have deep angled ridges cut into their surface along with an STI logo on each side.

The top slide and hammer are made of metal and it has a slide release catch on the left hand side of the action. To the rear of this is a manually operated safety catch, again this operates just as a 1911, push up for safe, it shows a small S and a white dot on the frame. Push down for fire, where a small F and red dot can be seen. The beaver tail safety grip work - as on the real 1911- does not work, possibly due to the CO2 bulb location.

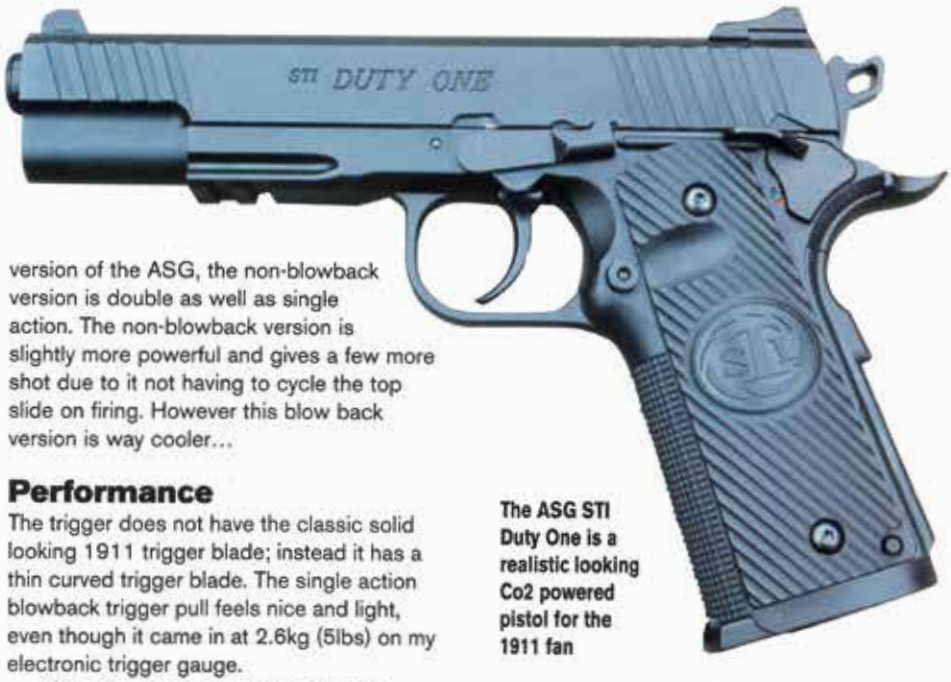
The gun can be de-cocked by holding the hammer and pressing the trigger, slowly allowing the hammer back into its un-cocked position.

Sights and magazine

The Duty One has open post and notch combat sights. The rear unit can be adjusted for windage.

The magazine is also housed in the grip, and release catch operates from the left side; press in and the mag drops by force of gravity. It will take 20 X 4.5mm (.177) steel BBs. There is a spring loaded catch to pull down, then BBs can be dropped into the magazine from the top. Gently release the spring loaded catch from the rear notch until the catch engages, holding the BBs in column.

The gun is single action only, meaning you have to cock the hammer or operate the slide in order to fire the first round. You cannot simply pull the trigger for double action, this is due to it being the blowback version of the ASG, the non-blowback version is double as well as single action. The non-blowback version is slightly more powerful and gives a few more shot due to it not having to cycle the top slide on firing. However this blow back version is way cooler...



The ASG STI Duty One is a realistic looking Co2 powered pistol for the 1911 fan

Performance

The trigger does not have the classic solid looking 1911 trigger blade; instead it has a thin curved trigger blade. The single action blowback trigger pull feels nice and light, even though it came in at 2.6kg (5lbs) on my electronic trigger gauge.

Over the chronograph the STI gave figures of around 320 feet per second or just over 1.1 ft/lbs. At six yards range it shot 22mm groups with five shots. They only recommend you shoot steel/copper BB's in the ASG and not lead ones. I shot off a full magazine of twenty shots, which took 21.38 seconds, after a few more attempts I was getting it down to the 18 second mark. As for number of shots per Co2 bulb the blowback gave 80s shot or four magazines out of a 12 gram Co2 bulb which is very good for a blowback action.

Mounts and moddies

The gun has a sight/laser rail molded into the synthetic part of the frame right in front of the trigger guard. Another interesting feature is that you can fit a moderator. The larger opening at the end of the barrel has an Allen key section which can be screwed out to fit ASG's own muzzle brake or steel moderator. With the sight rail and moderator fitted along with a small reflex red dot sight it transforms the gun into a fun plinker.

You can even purchase spare magazines, and the magazine release lends itself to fast mag changes. The heavy metal magazine is long enough and big enough to make for very realistic pistol drills.

ASG have made a quality pistol which for fans of 1911's ticks all the right boxes, especially in this blowback version.

TECHNICAL SPECIFICATION

Model	ASG STI Duty One
Action	CO2 powered blowback action, .177 BB repeater