



PISTOL REVIEW

CZECH MATE!

ASG CZ 75 GAS BLOWBACK!

ČESKÁ ZBROJOVKA A.S. OR SIMPLY CZ ARE A FIREARMS MANUFACTURER BASED IN THE CZECH REPUBLIC AND FOR SOME TIME NOW HAVE BEEN MAKING AFFORDABLE BUT HIGH QUALITY FIREARMS THAT ARE POPULAR NOT ONLY WITHIN THEIR NATION, BUT ALSO AS FAR AFIELD AS THE USA AND BEYOND. MAJOR AIRSOFT INDUSTRY PLAYER ASG HOLD THE LICENSING RIGHTS TO PRODUCE AUTHENTIC CZ REPLICAS FOR THE 6MM BB MARKET AND IN RECENT TIMES HAVE BEEN EXERCISING THAT RIGHT TO THE FULLEST. WITH THE RELEASE OF THE SCORPION EVO 3 AT AEG PROVING TO BE POPULAR, YOU MIGHT BE CONSIDERING A COMPLIMENTARY SIDEARM FOR IT... HERE WE ARE TAKING A CLOSE LOOK AT ONE OF EUROPE'S MOST PREVALENT HANDGUNS, THE CZ 75.

The CZ 75 as its name suggests, was introduced by CZ in 1975 and formed part of the original "wonder 9" family of 9mm handguns. Previous to that time, the handgun market was still dominated largely by bigger calibers and even revolvers so the emergence of 9mm semi-automatics heralded a change in the attitudes. The CZ 75 remains the most popular handgun in the Czech Republic.

ASG's gas-powered 6mm BB replica is based on the original model. An all-steel handgun that is here rendered in a metal alloy. It's characterised by a sleek and simplistic design with a heavily stepped-in muzzle end and also a short frame extension toward the front of the gun. ASG's effort is a sturdy feeling piece of kit with plenty of metal surfaces that contact your hand in use, so it feels cold and hard compared to polymer pistols. The all metal construction means that even with the magazine removed, the

75 is still quite weighty. With the magazine in it feels highly realistic with only compliments it's authentic look.

The plate grips bolted to either side of the frame are textured but really offer little in the way of enhancement to the grip but that's not to say the gun isn't comfortable to hold. The sculpted metal frame is very ergonomic and thanks to the shallow slide the hand actually sits in a naturally high grip, unusual for weapons of this age. The short beavertail extension guards the hand from riding too high and upsetting the operation of the hammer which is critical to the overall operation of the 75. The trigger guard is deep and scooped allowing plenty of space inside to the trigger finger and the trigger itself is a classic crescent shape, the frame of the gun is heavily chamfered in to the trigger area making for a comfortable grip in general.





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In terms of controls, the CZ 75 is laid out in a right-handed only manner which does make it somewhat awkward for lefties. It's tough to manipulate both the slide release and the safety switch whilst gripping with the left hand. Other than those levers, there are relatively few controls adorning the gun aside from the magazine release button and the hammer. The sights are a fixed and basic, non-adjustable notch and post design.

Unusually, and something of a signature trait for CZ pistols, the slide runs inside the frame, inverse to the more common design used. This gives the slide a very shallow profile which does cut down on the weight of the moving parts but does also make it quite difficult to grasp when retracting it, despite the area of serration towards the aft. Fortunately the action of the gun is smooth with plenty of audible feedback furthering the authentic feel.

The outer barrel is a smooth, chromed finish that no doubt adds to the slick feeling during operation.

STRIPPING

The gun is simple to strip down. The slide catch lever is simply pushed through the frame when the slide is fully retracted and the whole assembly moves forward and off of the frame. This is generally only required in the event of maintenance or for adjustment of the hop-unit itself. This is done by adjusting a small flathead screw on the underside of the hop unit. Although a little fiddly to access based on the requirement to use a screwdriver, it's actually a very positive system and brings the hop-up rubber down squarely and precisely into the barrel, even more so than the Tokyo Marui design which can often result in off axis

backspin and curved shots. Needless to say, this system is impressive.

Furthermore, inside the CZ 75 there is a high-tension recoil spring and also a rubber buffered recoil guide rod which soaks up some of the impact of the slide travelling to the rear. This is a neat design detail and should lessen the chance of damage in operation, even under high pressure gas.

MAGAZINE

Although similar in size and shape to a Sig P226 magazine, the CZ 75 mag is proprietary to the



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gun but is a high quality design. The one piece metal reservoir has a pinned it base unit and short, durable feel lips that short help avoid accidental damage. The brass valve is a good quality item and is fitted with an o-ring for a "silent fill" action. The release valve is similarly smooth and confidence inspiring and is well recessed into the back of the magazine to avoid damage or accidental decompression. BBs can be filled by pulling the follower back to make the process far easier even with gloves on, you don't need to jam them through the feed lips.

Finally the gas router is a supple, black rubber design that achieves a good seal against blowback unit when the magazine is inserted into the gun. Here we have tested the gas version of the gun but a CO2 magazine is available for the same weapon and thanks to the internals being robust, can be swapped back and forth with no hassle.

OPERATION

The CZ 75 has a familiar and easy to understand layout but a strange method of operation. The gun is a single action-only weapon despite having a hammer. If the hammer is not retracted, the trigger is locked out and will not pull to the rear. Since there is no de-cocking lever, it's unlikely that the you will find the trigger locked out if the gun is ready to fire and BBs are loaded, but its worth noting since an overzealous tug on a locked-out trigger could spell damage to the gun.

PERFORMANCE

We were confident testing the gun on Nuprol 3.0 gas on which the blowback was strong at the cycle very swift. The first shots coming out at just over 340fps on a .20g BB. After

this cool-down did have an influence on the velocity of the BBs with the gun settling at just over 300fps before emptying the magazine and locking back the slide positively. It's a confidence inspiring performer and we'd probably step down to green gas only on cooler days to avoid the potential of running hot.

CLIMATES

Thanks to the availability of CO2 mags, the CZ 75 makes a solid year-round choice even in cold climates. It's a simple gun but one that's built solidly and feels very authentic. It might not be the most up-to-date "tactical" weapon ever but it is genuinely an exciting gun to shoot and will suit all kinds of load outs, from PMC look to OpFor and thanks to distribution via ASG, it should be easy to pick up magazines and parts for in the future.



VITAL STATS!
ASG CZ 75 GBB

- PRICE: £129
- LENGTH: 203mm
- MAG: 24+1 rnds
- WEIGHT: 0.9g
- HOP: Adjustable
- FPS: 330-340fps

THE GOOD STUFF
 High quality, heavy, fully licensed.

THE NOT-SO-GOOD STUFF
 Basic design and not ambidextrous.