

The CZ 75 is unusual among Warsaw service automatics because it fires the 9 mm Luger/Parabellum round used by NATO.

While it represents a quantum leap over the pistol it replaced, the CZ Model 75 is likely to remain...

# A STRANGER TO AMERICAN SHORES

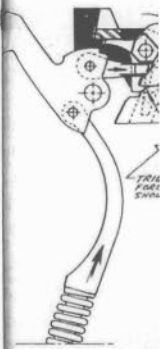
BY J. V. KRCMA

**T**HE current Czech Army pistol, the rarely encountered CZ Model 75, represents a militarily significant improvement over the CZ Model 52 that it replaced. Not only is the Model 75's 9 mm Parabellum cartridge more powerful than the 7.62 mm (M-48) round fired in the Model 52, the new gun also boasts a larger magazine capacity and double-action capability.

Adopted on May 17, 1952, the Model 52 used a short recoil system in which the barrel did not deviate from its original axis and locking was accomplished by two rollers located at three and nine o'clock. The Model 52 was rather sensitive to dust and mud — hardly an advantage under severe combat conditions. It was a complicated single-action design with only an eight-round magazine capacity. These points led to its replacement by the Czech Model 75.

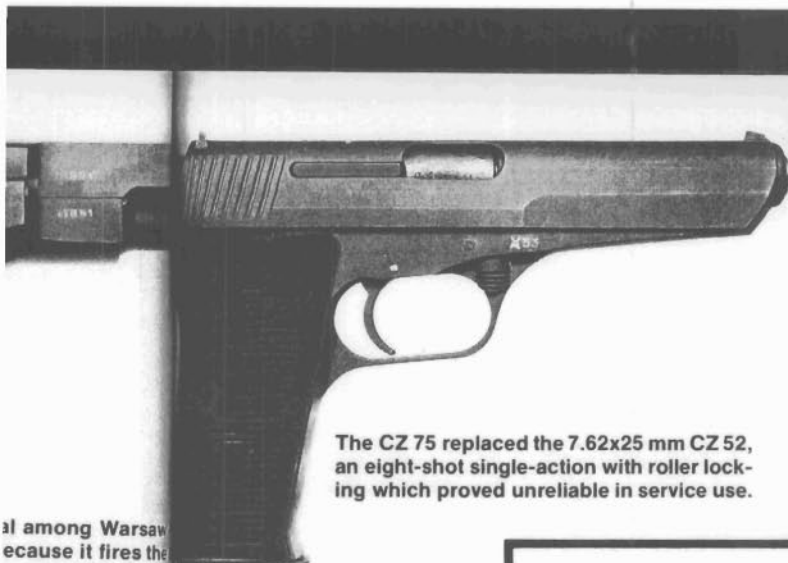
The relatively new 9 mm CZ Model is short recoil operated, but the roller system has been replaced with a dropping barrel with top lugs. In addition, it is of the double-action type with a 15-round magazine. The slide rides on rails within the receiver as on the SIG SP 47/8 military pistol.

In its first version (1975-1976), the Model 75's hammer had no half cock. This meant that with the hammer down on a loaded chamber, there was a danger of discharge should the hammer

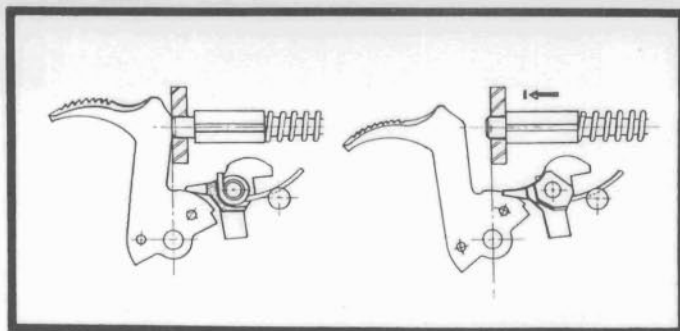


Mechanism of a CZ Model 75, showing the automatic's double-action trigger system.





The CZ 75 replaced the 7.62x25 mm CZ 52, an eight-shot single-action with roller locking which proved unreliable in service use.

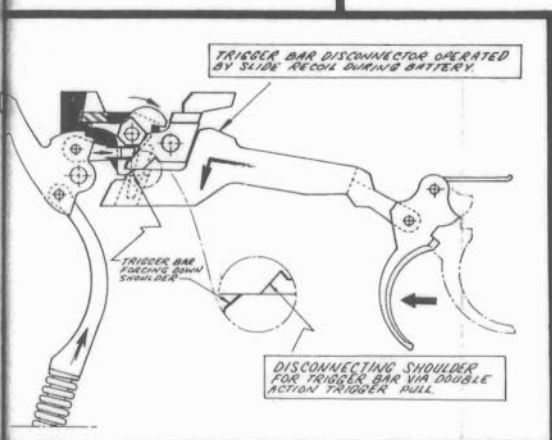


In the early model CZ 75 pistols, there was no half-cock notch to hold the hammer away from the firing pin (I), thus making an accidental discharge possible when the hammer was struck.

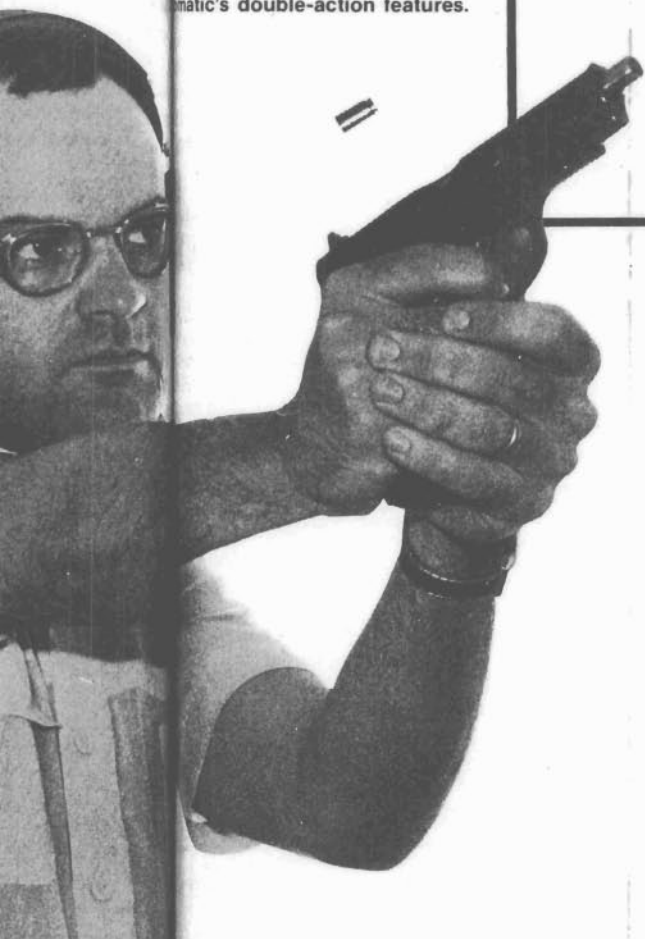
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mechanism of a first version CZ  
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receive a sharp blow. The takedown lever is located on the left-hand side of the frame just above the trigger, and the thumb safety, located above the right grip, can only be engaged after the weapon has been cocked. There is no magazine disconnecter.

The double-column magazine is released only part way by a push button and is retained by a friction spring. It is necessary to fully withdraw the magazine by hand, but the friction spring may be removed to allow the magazine to fall free if desired.

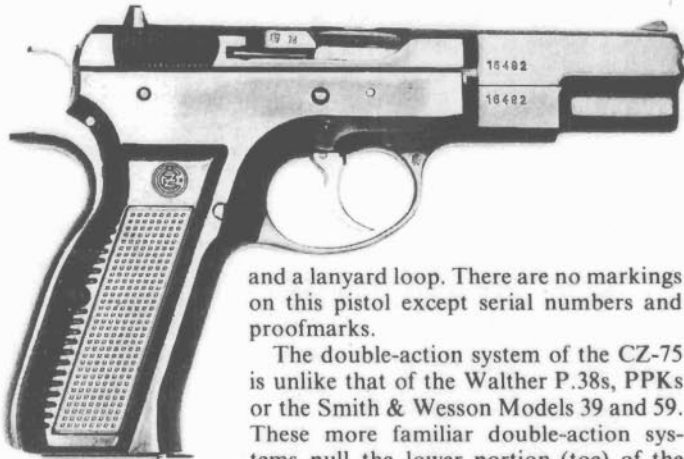
The slide remains open after the last round has been fired, with its hold-open device operated by the magazine follower. The grips are of durable black plastic bearing the CZ monogram with a circle trademark and are secured by a single screw on each side. Just above the rugged bar extractor is a Czech "N"-and-rampantion proofmark and the last two digits of the year of manufacture. The serial numbers are located on the right forward portion of the receiver and just above it on the slide. A third serial number is located on the barrel and is visible through the ejection port along with another proofmark.

Takedown of the 55-part pistol is fairly simple and is accomplished as follows:

1. Remove the magazine and make sure the pistol is empty.



The slide rails of the current CZ 75 are about an inch longer, at approximately 5½", than the rails of the original model manufactured before early 1980.



and a lanyard loop. There are no markings on this pistol except serial numbers and proofmarks.

The double-action system of the CZ-75 is unlike that of the Walther P.38s, PPKs or the Smith & Wesson Models 39 and 59. These more familiar double-action systems pull the lower portion (toe) of the hammer to retract the hammer through an approximate 60° arc to release its connec-

2. Cock the hammer.
3. Pull the slide rearwards approximately ¼", aligning two marks on the left side of the frame and slide.
4. Depress the slide stop projecting pin on the right-hand side, then withdraw it completely from the left.
5. Pull the slide forward from the frame and remove the recoil spring, guide and barrel.

At the beginning of 1980, the improved Model 75 pistol was introduced. The slide rail length was increased about an inch from that of the earlier guns to about 5½", and the hammer gained a half-cock notch which holds the hammer face away from the firing pin.

The military version has a rough finish, wooden grips, a modified rowel hammer



Czech military version of the CZ 75 features rougher exterior finish than commercial one. Stock is plain checkered wood. Note hammer.

## Test Firing The CZ Model 75

The CZ 75 pistol is uncommon in the U.S., as the Department of State includes rifles and pistols on its U.S. Munitions List and, with few exceptions, prohibits importation of listed items from various Iron Curtain countries, including Czechoslovakia. The few CZ 75 pistols which have been legally imported into the U.S. were brought in by individuals for personal use and not for commercial purposes. This is accomplished by getting a BATF Form 6 approved for a CZ 75, bringing the pistol in through a licensed dealer/importer and paying the \$3.50 plus 55% ad valorem customs duty.

James P. Cowgill, an international technical consultant on law enforcement and military arms and avid collector of 9 mm pistols, recently offered to make his CZ 75 available to the Technical Staff for a brief firing test and photo session. NRA Life Member Cowgill has traveled widely abroad and has conferred on the CZ 75 with several noted European experts. He obtained his CZ 75 from Waffen-Franconia in Wurzburg, W. Germany.

The CZ 75 gives a distinctly favorable first impression, since it is one of the most "manageable" large-capacity 9 mm pistols. Despite the 15-shot double-column magazine, the grip is comfortably proportioned for persons with average-sized hands. The exterior finish on Cowgill's pistol is rougher than commercial models sold in Canada. Points of metal-to-metal contact which affect functioning are well polished, but non-critical surfaces are rougher with some tool marks. The pistol is not blued but is lacquered black.

Cowgill found his pistol shot about 4"-6"

tion with the trigger bar hook, causing the hammer then to be driven forward by the spring to hit the firing pin.

In the CZ 75, however, the double-action system follows a different roller trigger arrangement uses a wrap-around trigger bar that instead of pulling the hammer toe engages an "L"-shaped interrupter pinned to the hammer. The interrupter serves as a connection between the hammer and trigger bar. Pulling the trigger in double-action pushes the trigger bar which in turn pushes the interrupter and hammer to release it at the end of the arc when the upper rear inclined surface of the trigger bar is forced downwards by the shoulder of the sear housing.

After the first shot, the slide recoils to compress the recoil spring, extract and eject the empty and feed a fresh round into the chamber. During recoil, the slide recocks the hammer and forces the trigger bar disconnector (a protuberance on the upper part of the trigger bar) downward to release its connection with the shoulder of the sear. This allows the trigger bar to pivot rearwards to re-engage the hammer notch when the hammer is being recocked. The hammer remains in a cocked position after the slide has returned to battery.

high at 25 yds. with most ammunition. In conferring with Seigfried Hubner, a noted West German firearms expert and author, he found this wasn't at all unusual. It is a characteristic of the CZ 75 in general. It is because these pistols are zeroed in on Czech 9 mm ammunition which fires a 1263 gr. bullet at a nominal velocity of 1263 ft./sec. U.S. ammunition with lower velocity and heavier bullets can be expected to shoot higher, due to changes in barrel time of flight. Although Cowgill's pistol functioned well with most U.S. ammunition, including jacketed hollow-point rounds, accuracy shooting with U.S. ammo would require a higher front sight.

Grouping of his CZ 75 was excellent compared to other 9 mm service pistols. With military ammunition, hand targets were shot at 25 yds. from sandbags and were around 2½". A series of five, five-man groups with Federal 123-gr. FMJ ammunition averaged 1.58".

The double-action trigger pull of the CZ 75 is very good, that of Cowgill's being 10½ lbs. The single-action pull is somewhat creepy at 5 lbs. The CZ 75 should not be carried with the hammer down when the chamber is loaded. The safety of the CZ 75 may not be engaged except when the hammer is at full cock. The thumb safety blocks the sear and locks the slide. If carried with the hammer down the firing pin is blocked.

In summary, the CZ 75 is indeed an interesting pistol. It is reliable, accurate and manageable, despite its large magazine capacity.—C. E. H.

PH

the most popular among American hunters has been the .30-06. Adding for support is probably the most popular, Remington-Union Classic for the American. Winchester's weight, likewise, is only Ruger's No. 1 single-shot cartridge for the .277 bolt-action rifle the old 7x55 are numerous. It is not to say that staying powers by Mauser in the Spanish army through the Teddy Roosevelt time of it when in a sort of immobility. Just said about Sa...

day there are edges. Of this, only eight are. But the caliber is different, and over time. Interestingly, acceptance. Ackley, in his *Stoppers and Reloads*. E range pistol. They have a brass chambered. One of the winners on the sub. men, the 7 m. mayne Leek, one



weights in 70-gr. spitzer, 162-gr. boattail