

Collecting and Shooting the Military Surplus Rifle



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General Description

While I had Cancer I found I was not able to shoot rifles easily because of the long walks back and forth to the targets. I also found it was difficult to lift and carry the weight of most rifles. Since pistols are light in weight and practical shooting distances are shorter than the rifle this is where I focused my Curio & Relic (C&R) collecting efforts for the past year.

One of the little ditties I picked was the Cz Model 82 pistol. Please note that I inserted the word "Model" between "Cz" and "82". The reason for this is the correct name of the pistol is the **9mm pistole vz. 82** (short version - vz.82). The "vz." translates as "Model" and "82" is the year the vz. 82 was introduced into Czech military service.

The Cz 83 pistol is a commercial version of the vz. 82 currently offered in three different calibers (.32 ACP, .380 ACP, and 9x18 Makarov). The vz. 82 was produced only in a single caliber. The Czechs had Sellier and Bellot produce an enhanced version of the **9x18 Makarov** cartridge called the **9mm vzor 1982**. The 9mm vzor 1982 round is interchangeable with the 9x18 Makarov round but has a higher velocity bullet (approximately 20%). Since 9x18 Makarov ammunition is commercially available in the U.S. and 9mm vzor 1982 is not (that I am aware of), American shooters of the vz. 82 pistol will shoot 9x18 Makarov ammo as I do. I have found the pistol will function flawlessly with standard 9x18 Makarov ammo.



9X18 Makarov (Left) and .380 ACP (Right)

The vz. 82 is a little larger than a Walther PPKs pistol. It does have a much higher (almost double) capacity magazine than the PPK series of pistols, which is a great feature. For the U.S. States that are less enlightened than California in gun laws (and yes this is meant as sarcasm) you will receive a pair of 12 round magazines when you purchase your vz. 82 pistol. If you live in the wonderful State of California you will receive a pair of 10 round magazines. To be honest for a pistol of this size even 10 rounds is somewhat astonishing.

vz. 82 Specifications		
	Metric	SAE
Overall Length	172 mm	6.77"
Height	127 mm	4.99"
Width	36	1.42"
Weight W/Empty Mag	800g	1.76 lbs 28.2 oz
Barrel Length	97 mm	3.8"
Trigger Pull (SA)	15 – 24.5 N	5.5 lbs
Trigger Pull (DA)	Max 58.9 N	13.24 lbs
Caliber	9x18 Makarov	
Magazine Capacity	12+1	



Full Size Image of Cz Model (vz.) 82 (Right Side)



Full Size Image of Cz Model (vz.) 82 (Left Side)

Taking a look at the two images above showing the left and right profiles of the vz. 82 you will see that the magazine release is of the American style located at the front side of grip and not the European style located at the bottom rear of grip. The safety on the vz. 82 is ambidextrous as it is found on both sides of the pistol. Also ambidextrous is the frame mounted safety. The vz. 82 safety allows the pistol to be carried in the "cocked and locked" position if you so desire. The carrying of a semi-automatic pistol as "cocked and locked" refers to having the magazine full, a round chambered, the hammer fully cocked,

and the safety engaged safely preventing the hammer from falling.

Note the "she 89" marking on the right side of the frame denoting that my pistol was made at Czech Arms Factory, Uhersky Brod (she) in the year 1989 (89).

The grips are plastic and the pistol's finish is some sort of medium gloss baked lacquer or enamel type finish resembling paint. The fit and finish of the pistol are of commercial grade in my opinion (this is a good thing).

The rear sight is windage adjustable by drifting the sight back and forth. The sight picture is excellent and easily and quickly obtained.

The leather holster is of a unique design (pictured below) in it allows you to carry the pistol in ambidextrous fashion and provides space for a loaded pistol, loaded additional magazine, cleaning rod, and lanyard. One thing the Czech military seemed to be way ahead of everyone else was the attention to ambidextrous design.



Cz Model (vz.) 82 with Holster and California 10 Round Magazine

When you first receive your vz. 82 you may think you have received a pistol with a "shot out" barrel (a barrel that no longer has any rifling left). This is not the case. What you see is actually a barrel with polygonal rifling. This gives the appearance of a smooth bore firearm. I have found that with polygonal rifling and a chrome lined bore clean-up after shooting is a short chore.

Some possible and claimed advantages of polygonal rifling are:

- Higher bullet velocities.
- Less bullet deformation resulting in increased range and accuracy.
- Increased barrel life.
- Reduced buildup of metals (copper and lead) within the barrel.

Polygonal Rifling

Polygonal rifling is a type of rifling wherein the traditional lands and grooves are replaced by "hills and valleys" in a rounded polygonal pattern, usually a hexagon.

Source and additional information: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Polygonal_rifling

Double action/Single action (DA/SA)

A double action/single action firearm combines the features of both mechanisms. Often called traditional double action, these terms apply almost exclusively to semi-automatic handguns. The function of this trigger mechanism is identical to a DA revolver, however the firing mechanism automatically cocks the hammer or striker after the gun is fired. This mechanism will cock and release the hammer when the hammer is in the down position but on each subsequent shot, the trigger will function as a single action.

Source and additional information: <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/DA/SA>

I found (as pictured below) the trigger pull both in double action and single action to be smooth and crisp, weighing in at 13.25 Lbs. on the double action - side and 5.75 Lbs. on the single action side.



Double Action Trigger Pull at 13.25 Lbs.



Single Action Trigger Pull at 5.75 Lbs.

Field Stripping Instructions



Figure 1

Step 1. Depress the magazine release and remove the magazine.



Figure 2

Step 2. With the pistol pointed in a safe direction pull back the slide and inspect the chamber to make certain the pistol is unloaded and safe to handle.



Figure 3

Step 3. Pull down on the front of the trigger guard until it opens with an audible click.



Figure 4

Step 4. Pull the slide all of the way back.



Figure 5

Step 5. Lift the slide up at the rear.



Figure 6
Step 6. Slide the slide forward.



Figure 7

Step 7. Remove the slide from the barrel.



Figure 8

Step 8. Remove the recoil spring. You have completed the field disassembly of the pistol.

Reassembly



Figure 9

Step 9. Replace the recoil spring.



Figure 10

Step 10. Place the end of the slide over the barrel as shown in Figure 10.



Figure 11

Step 11. Pull the slide all of the way back and then set it on the rails. Let the slide move forward.



Figure 12

Step 12. Push up on the front of the trigger guard until it locks in place with an audible click.



Figure 13

Step 13. Insert magazine and lock in place.

Range Report

The wind was low to moderate and for California it was a chilly 40 degrees Fahrenheit. I took with me two different types of commercial 9x18 Makarov ammunition.

Manufacturer	Ammo
Hornady	9x18 Makarov Jacketed Hollow point/XTP Custom 95 grain
Winchester	9x18 Makarov Full Metal Jacket 95 Grain

The Winchester ammo was \$17 per 50 cartridges and the Hornady Custom was \$14 per 25 cartridges. That being said the Hornady is what I would choose for either carry or home defense because of the extra oomph of having a hollow point bullet.



Unloaded pistol on shooting bench

Being a small pistol I did not expect a lot of long range accuracy. I set my targets out at 12.5 yards which is a reasonable distance (37.5 feet) to shoot since I live in a small home of just under 1200 square feet. I loaded up with the Winchester ammo first and shot off my first ten shots. The target below is my target. I found the pistol to shoot consistently with both types of ammo, the grouping was pretty much the same every time. I had no

misfeeds and the recoil was very moderate. Accuracy was excellent! For close distances of less than 25 yards the vz. 82 is a great little service pistol.



10 shot group shot at 12.5 yards

The only thing I would say that could be construed as negative is that I don't understand why the pistol has a double action mode of fire. It does not have a decocker and I would not feel comfortable or safe carrying the pistol with a loaded chamber with the hammer down. As a result I would only carry the pistol cocked with the safety on and would always leave the hammer back while loaded. Eh, just me I guess.

I would recommend the vz. 82 highly. I believe it is **one of** if not **the best** value for a low cost, small frame, semi-automatic pistol available on the C&R market today. I have seen models go for between \$159 to \$300 and all were in very good or better condition.

The vz. 82 pistol is:

- dependable,
- well made,
- feature packed,
- accurate,
- carries a high capacity magazine,
- has a great trigger pull,
- and is still slim and small enough to be carried as a concealed carry defensive pistol.

What more could you ask for? Not much!

Resources
http://www.freeexistence.org/vz82.html
http://www.army.cz/scripts/detail.php?id=5079
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/CZ-82
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/DA/SA
http://www.surplusrifle.com/shooting2006/cz82/index.asp

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