



NOTICE: 9MM BARREL ACCURACY

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With the release of our 9mm ultralight barrel, it's important to discuss both applications and expectations for this barrel as compared to the popular 14.5" pin-and-weld. Since the release of our 9mm GMR series of pistol caliber carbines, the 14.5" pin-and-weld has performed beyond expectations for accuracy. Some shooters actually make use of this configuration in 3-Gun competition out to 200 yards.

The shrouded 5.5" ultralight barrel is a very different design with a different focus, and those purchasing it should have realistic accuracy expectations. This barrel is intended primarily for Steel Challenge and similar match formats with rather large targets at relatively close distances. Accuracy is not paramount here compared to the ability to index the weapon and stop precisely on the next target. An ultralight configuration is ideal for these applications as it retains very little kinetic energy at the muzzle and feels almost as if there is no barrel at all.

Also note that accuracy with a PCC is very ammunition- and technique-dependent. With the ultralight barrel, we have observed anywhere from roughly 2" to 6" at fifty yards. Best accuracy is delivered by jacket hollow point (JHP) defense loads with poorer results from generic full metal jacket (FMJ). If you require accuracy exceeding these results, opt for the 14.5" configuration.

For another perspective, 2" at fifty yards was considered the Holy Grail of pistol accuracy for many years. Only the most precision, custom 1911 pistols could deliver this level of performance in .45 ACP loaded to "match" recipes. The 9x19 was never even considered an accurate round.

If you hand-load, we recommend bullets in the 115-124gr. range in a JHP construction. It's well established that JHP bullets are far more accurate than FMJ bullets, and true jacketed bullets are usually much more accurate than plated bullets. The cheapest FMJ ammo is usually loaded with plated bullets as they are much cheaper to manufacture than actual jacketed bullets. In the end, only you can decide what your personal accuracy requirements are and to what expense or effort those requirements are worth. It usually doesn't happen by accident.

For some more perspective, it is interesting to note that Bianchi Cup competitors often choose the Hornady 124gr. XTP bullet. That's because it's a known fact that sub X-ring accuracy can be achieved with this bullet in custom 9mm/.38 super pistols at fifty yards. The X-ring on the NRA D-1 target used in the Bianchi Cup is 4". The scores of the top five or so shooters at the Bianchi are usually separated by X count only as they all shoot perfect scores. Obviously, their guns have to be real tack drivers, and they are obsessed with this.

Finally, technique is also critical if you intend to accuracy-test your carbine. Blowback PCC weapons are particularly sensitive to technique and more difficult to test for accuracy than either a manually operated rifle or gas-operated rifle like an MSR. You must use a proper optic that's parallax-free at the distance you intend to shoot and not just a dot sight. You also have to use a rear bag in addition to frontal support and not just shoulder the rifle in midair.

If you really want to know how well a particular ammo will perform in a particular carbine, then you have to eliminate all possible variables such as shooter error and the limitation of a non-magnifying optic. You need to *see* what you're doing. Otherwise the only question you have answered is how well the system of you, this gun, this ammo and this sight perform under compromised conditions. This is also a valid question, but it is not what is asked when we actually test the accuracy of a particular round in a particular rifle. Defining the actual goal is often the most misunderstood aspect of performance testing, and life in general.



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