

BOBERG BACKUPS

The lightweight, reliable XR Series redefines the standard for 9mm and .45 pocket protection!

BY DENNIS ADLER

The Boberg begins with a simple premise: Change the way you load the gun.

Armsmaker and inventor Arne Boberg's semi-autos use a reverse-feeding magazine that loads rounds from the back—nose first and nose down. The slide extracts a fresh round from the back of the magazine, moving the cartridge to a lifter that positions it to be gripped by the slide's dual extractors. The round is then pushed directly into the rotating barrel breech as the slide closes. This design eliminates the need for a feed ramp, thus the Boberg's 3.75-inch barrel is as flush at the breech as it is at the muzzle, and up to 1 inch longer than normal for the relative size of the slide and frame.

The Boberg operates on an entirely different principle than most semi-autos. When it is fired, the barrel moves back in unison with the slide about 0.125 inches and then begins to rotate counter-clockwise 23 degrees before unlocking from the slide, which then continues its rearwards travel. The barrel remains parallel to the slide rather than tilting down as in traditional short-recoil designs, and thus the Boberg barrel never leaves horizontal alignment.

When inserted into the grip, the magazine in a Boberg sits under the barrel breech rather than behind it like

other semi-autos. By placing the rounds beneath the barrel breech, the frame and slide can be shortened proportionately. A rear-feeding magazine is the only way to do this in a semi-auto pistol.

In weight and balance, the .45 ACP model feels like a smaller-caliber handgun, with a center of balance that falls perfectly into the hand with the little finger tucked under the magazine. Internally, this is very different gun and it has specific maintenance requirements, including 22

lubrication points during cleaning and a special (supplied and available) moly-based anti-seize lubricant that needs to be applied to the gun's removable locking block during routine cleaning.

On The Range

The XR45-S is comparatively narrow for a .45 ACP, and your hand really wraps around the grips. The very deep arch of the backstrap allows 1.25 inches of the frame and slide to rest over the web of your hand, so it really does allow a solid grasp. Average trigger pull on my test gun was 6.25 pounds as measured on a Lyman trigger-pull gauge.

Test ammunition consisted of Federal Premium 230-grain Hydra-Shok JHP, Sig Sauer 200-grain Elite Performance JHP and Barnes TAC-XPD 185-grain +P. Since the XR45-S is designed for +P ammo (and can also fire .45 Super), personal defense ammo was the choice all around. The Barnes 185-grain load is specifically designed for higher velocity and reduced recoil, and clocked 845 feet per second (fps). Sig Sauer cleared the traps at 858 fps, which was the fastest, and the heavy 230-grain Federal Premium flew at 800 fps. Law Enforcement Targets' IPSC competition silhouettes were set up at a measured distance of 15 yards and all tests were conducted using a Weaver stance and a two-handed hold.

The XR45-S has dovetailed, interchangeable front and rear white-dot

SPECIFICATIONS

BOBERG XR45-S

Caliber:	.45 ACP +P
Barrel:	3.75 inches
OA Length:	5.77 inches
Weight:	22 ounces
Grips:	Polymer
Sights:	Three-dot
Action:	DAO
Finish:	Matte black frame, stainless slide
Capacity:	6+1
MSRP:	\$1,199

PERFORMANCE

Load	Velocity	Accuracy
Barnes TAC-XPD 185 +P	845	1.75
Federal Premium 230 Hydra-Shok JHP	800	3.25
Sig Sauer Elite Performance 200 JHP	858	1.75

Bullet weight measured in grains, velocity in fps by chronograph and accuracy in inches for best five-shot groups at 15 yards.



(Above) Unconventional features, such as a rotating barrel, a flat hammer and magazines that feed from the rear, contribute to the unique design of the new Boberg XR45-S.

(Left) Rounds are extracted from the back of the magazine and positioned for direct feeding into the breech as the slide closes.

sights that were easy to acquire. With the pistol's comparatively reduced recoil, they were also very easy to reacquire for follow-up shots. Trigger pull felt very smooth with no stacking and a quick reset, making the XR45-S easy to shoot consistently. If a handgun can show a decided preference

for one brand of ammunition over another, the Boberg has a taste for Sig Sauer's 200-grain JHP, which consistently printed five-round groups averaging 1.75 inches. Barnes 185-grain +P came next with one failure to feed out of 50 rounds and an impressive 1.75-inch best group, with three overlapping. Also with one failure to feed,

Federal Premium had the widest spread with a best five-round group of 3.25 inches.

Ultra-Compact .45

From a design perspective, the Boberg has a lot more going on inside than most semi-autos. The XR45-S has definite pluses such as its light trigger pull,



EXTREME XR COMPACTS

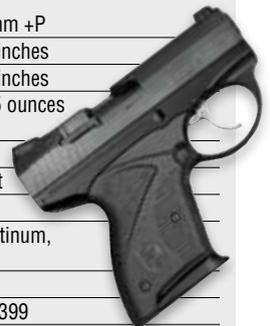
The original XR9-S pocket and subcompact XR9-L 9mm models put down a smaller footprint than semi-autos with comparable barrel lengths, yet they do not compromise power, accuracy or create a firearm that has harsh recoil.

The XR9-S has an overall length of 5.1 inches, a height of 4.2 inches, a 0.95-inch width and a carry weight of just 17.4 ounces unloaded. The XR9-L adds 0.85 inches of barrel and another 1.1 ounces. With more than three-quarters of an inch of barrel and frame ahead of the triggerguard, compared to the XR9-S which has the triggerguard coming up right under the muzzle, the added length leaves ample room to mount a small laser sight on the XR9-L's integral Picatinny rail. Standard features include dovetailed, interchangeable front and rear three-dot sights, an extended frontstrap and magazine tang for a firm grip and a smooth DAO trigger averaging 7.5 pounds. Optional triggers are available in 6 and 9 pounds.

Compared to traditional semi-auto designs, a Boberg is larger on the inside than it is on the outside! There's no sleight of hand here, just innovative engineering.

SPECIFICATIONS BOBERG XR9-S/XR9-L

Caliber:	9mm, 9mm +P
Barrel:	3.35/4.2 inches
OA Length:	5.1/5.95 inches
Weight:	17.4/18.5 ounces (empty)
Grips:	Polymer
Sights:	Three-dot
Action:	DAO
Finish:	Onyx, platinum, two-tone
Capacity:	7+1
MSRP:	\$995-\$1,399



noticeably reduced recoil with .45 ACP defensive ammunition (even +P rounds), ease of disassembly for cleaning, fast handling and accuracy.

Overall, the Boberg is a very impressive handgun in its design and operation. It is smaller than any other semi-auto .45 ACP on the market, lightweight, accurate and a worthy contender in today's subcompact .45 ACP marketplace. For more information visit bobergarms.com or call 651-287-0617. **PP**