

Colt M1911 (& close derivatives)

■ TYPE: PISTOL ■ OFTEN REFERRED TO AS: M1911, COLT 0.45, 0.45



Model illustrated:
Thompson Auto-Ordnance 0.45

Technical Information

Calibre
0.45 ACP

Length
219 mm

Weight (unloaded)
1.13 kg

Barrel length
127 mm

Feed device
Seven-round detachable box magazine

Sighting systems
Fore: blade
Rear: U notch

Operating system
Short recoil, self-loading

Muzzle velocity
253 m/s

The Colt 0.45 Model 1911 first entered service in 1911 and has been widely copied, with extensive production of a range of variants for military, law enforcement, and civilian markets. The weapon's most distinguishing feature is the pronounced spur extending rearward above the hand-grip. Below the spur the weapon features a grip safety device that depresses when grasped firmly with the palm of the hand. Given the number of variants in circulation, manufacturer and model markings on the slide of the weapon offer the best means of identification.

PROBABLE GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION

Region	State forces	Non-state/illegal
Western Europe	●	●
Eastern Europe	◓	◓
Middle East & North Africa	●	●
Sub-Saharan Africa	●	●
Central Asia	◓	◓
South Asia	◓	◓
East Asia	◓	◓
Pacific	●	●
North America	●	●
Central America	●	●
South America	●	●

● Expect regular use ◓ Expect occasional use ○ Do not expect use

Variants and their distinguishing features

VARIANTS

(Model/manufacturer)

- M1911-A1, United States
 - Colt Manufacturing
 - CZ-USA (Dan Wesson)
 - Kimber Manufacturing
 - Springfield Armories
 - Various smaller entities
- M1911-A1, Argentina
- Taurus PT 1911, Brazil
- Imbel GC 0.45, Brazil
- Para Ordnance, Canada
- Norinco M1911-A1, China
- Armscor M1911-A1, Philippines
- IDS Ranger, United Kingdom

SPUR/GRIP SAFETY

Downward slope



- ▶ Thompson (shown)
- ▶ Most early models

Upward slope



- ▶ Springfield (shown)
- ▶ Taurus PT series

For reasons of stamping space, manufacturers tend to apply identifying markings to the flat areas either side of the slide. In some cases the maker's mark may appear on one side of the slide, while model, calibre, and serial number may be stamped on the opposite side. Some models feature a Picatinny rail, which is used to mount accessories, such as tactical lights and aiming devices, below the barrel.

FRONT END

Smooth below barrel



- ▶ Springfield XD basic (shown)
- ▶ Most basic models

Picatinny rail



- ▶ Taurus PT 1911 (shown)

Points to include when recording information about the weapon:

1. Serial number, including all prefix and suffix characters
2. Characters adjacent to fire selector
3. Any other engraved/stamped information on weapon

SLIDE MARKINGS

Left side (model & calibre)



- ▶ Springfield UC9 (shown)

Left side (manufacturer, model, & calibre)



- ▶ Thompson 0.45 (shown)

Compiled by the Small Arms Survey with the technical assistance of the National Firearms Centre, Royal Armouries, United Kingdom. For further information or if you have identification queries, contact weaponsID@smallarmssurvey.org or call: +41 22 908 5777. This identification sheet may be downloaded in printable PDF format at www.smallarmssurvey.org/weaponsID

WARNING:

Make a full and informed appraisal of the local security situation before conducting any research related to small arms and light weapons.