

## Taurus PT-709 Slim (Two-Tone)

Hey Folks, if you read our reviews, you know that we have nothing against Taurus. They fill a solid niche in the market – and there are some outstanding models from Taurus. We’ve reviewed the PT-1911 and it is one rock solid 1911 for the price! When you look at value for the money and choices, Taurus is right there with some of the best of them.

We’ve all heard “Taurus Sucks” somewhere – and as with all products, there are those that are bad. Personally I’ve owned four Taurus Products, and I’ve returned one for an issue that occurred (the weapon became inoperable because of it). I’ve also returned a Ruger LC9 (sights came off), and a Springfield EMP (sights came off). I’m not aggressive with my sights ☺, I’m just saying that things happen.

Speaking of returns, I just returned two magazines from the PT-709 – the factory magazines that came with the pistol. Admittedly, I picked this weapon up used, so no telling what might’ve happened to the magazines before I got them. The magazines that came with the PT709 would come out when I fired the weapon, leading to a failure to chamber the next round, or worse, a double feed (after the tap/rack). With one magazine, the magazine could come out on every round fired, the other came out once or twice per magazine load. This happened every time I visited the range, so I purchased two additional Taurus PT-709 factory magazines from MidwayUSA and took those to the range. When I fired Speer 124 grain or Federal 115 grain from those magazines, they remained in the pistol, and operation was flawless. When I tried the same loads in the magazines that came with the PT709, one ejected the magazine on every shot, the other twice during the magazine load.



This picture shows the big differences between the magazines. The magazine on the LEFT is the newer MidwayUSA Taurus Factory Magazine, and the one on the RIGHT is one of the magazines that came with the pistol. The magazines from MidwayUSA came with a deeper groove on the side – you can really see it in this picture compared to the magazine that came with the pistol. In addition, the magazines that came with the PT-709 do not drop free easily, but the two MidwayUSA purchased magazines fly out when I press the magazine release button. The magazines appear to have slight design differences to me. The groove channel (as you can see in the picture) is different. In addition, the place where the magazine release engages is smaller on the MidwayUSA magazine vs. the one that came with the pistol

(on RIGHT). I'm not a gunsmith, but it would appear that the groove change results in a faster mag release and the smaller mag release area results in a magazine that remains engaged while firing.

So, I called Taurus and was promptly told to return the two magazines for replacement. I'm not sure many other firearms companies would do such a thing! I've shipped those magazines off to Taurus for replacement and I am hopeful that this resolves the issue.



The Taurus PT-709 has one of the best overall triggers I've seen to date in a slim form factor single stack 9mm handgun. Superior to the Kel-Tec PF9 and the Ruger LC9 (though both are great guns!) in both trigger pull and reset, and better than the Kahr CM9 in reset (the Kahr has an outstanding pull). For the money, the PT-709 Slim trigger is simply outstanding.

Manual Safety – some folks hate them, others have to have them. Personally, I don't care for manual safeties, but if the weapon has one that is usable, I use it. NOTE: You do have to TRAIN to use the safety! The Taurus PT-709 manual safety is big, clicks on and off very well, and is in a great location. If you have to have one, this is a great one to have – it is probably the best manual safety on a single stack pocket 9mm handgun in the

market today.

Capacity is only seven rounds (plus one). Of course, if you are carrying a Taurus PT-709, you are doing so because it is small and light. Carry at least two spare magazines!

The sights are pretty nice for this price range. Not target grade (but then, you are not paying much), but adjustable, and they work. Having an adjustable rear sight in this price range is unheard of – another plus for Taurus in my book.

How does it shoot? Well, aside from the magazine issues noted above, exceptional! The trigger pull really helped me put rounds on target. Recoil is great – far better than the Ruger LC9 and the Kel-Tec PF9. The Kahr CM9 has better recoil and accuracy, but costs a bit more too. In this class of firearm (Ruger LC9/Kel-Tec PF9/Kahr CM9), the Taurus PT-709 is really good.

However, for the price, I'd had to say it is great. If you read our reviews, you know I'm not a world-class target shooter. Despite that, the Taurus PT-709 makes me look good.



What are my thoughts? If you are looking for a small 9mm subcompact slim form factor conceal carry weapon, take a good, hard look at the Taurus PT-709 Slim. This weapon feels good, shoots good, and is priced very well. They say you get what you pay for – in the case of the Taurus PT-709, you actually get just a bit more 😊.

Happy Shooting! AGWD