KAHR TURNS 25

A LOOK BACK AS THE COMPANY CELEBRATES ITS ANNIVERSARY WITH A SPECIAL K9 9MM PISTOL

By Bob Campbell
Photos courtesy of KAHR
H

as it really been 25 years?

Kahr Arms is celebrating its 25th anniversary with a special commemorative K9 pistol. The Limited Edition 25th Anniversary K9 pistol is a tastefully engraved and nicely outfitted handgun. So how did the company reach this milestone?

A LOOK BACK

More than 25 years ago, a young man attending college began to design a concealed carry handgun in his spare time. The young man was Justin Moon, a student with a keen interest in firearms and modern design. He decided his handgun would be well suited to personal defense and concealed carry.

There really wasn’t anything like the K9 at the time. There were full-size service pistols and small caliber handguns suitable for concealed carry, but very few useful concealed carry handguns that were both light and powerful. The Kahr K9 started a move for handguns that were both light and powerful. The Kahr K9 started a move for concealed carry handguns suitable for concealed carry, service pistols and small caliber handguns at the time. There were full-size revolvers and small .380 ACP pistols, both common defensive handguns.

A LOOK BEHIND

The young man was Justin Moon, a student attending college who had a keen interest in firearms and modern design. He decided his handgun would be well suited for personal defense and concealed carry.

There really wasn’t anything like the K9 at the time. There were full-size service pistols and small caliber handguns suitable for concealed carry, but very few useful concealed carry handguns that were both light and powerful. The Kahr K9 started a move for handguns that were both light and powerful. The Kahr K9 started a move for concealed carry handguns suitable for concealed carry, service pistols and small caliber handguns at the time. There were full-size revolvers and small .380 ACP pistols, both common defensive handguns.

The K9 also set a standard for reliability. The main advantage of the pistol compared to other small automatics is the trigger action. It must be felt to be appreciated and the action is the same in the more expensive handgun to the least expensive “CW” polymer frame handguns. The double-action-only pistol features a smooth rolling action that is smooth from the first press to the break. There are no rough spots, creep or backlash. The proper means of managing the Kahr handgun is to press the trigger, control recoil and as the muzzle rises, allow the trigger to reset and fire again. This action is superior to most any DAO self-loader.

As I said at the time, the pistol was pure class and it still is. Despite weighing but 25 ounces, the K9 offered reasonable recoil. The 3.46-inch barrel offers good velocity compared to even the 5-inch-barrel 9mm.

As the K9 and found it a small gun that shot as well as a big gun. I was surprised to find that the early K9, a quality stainless steel compact, was completely reliable with every load I fed it. Sub-sonic 147-grain or 115-grain +P+ were fed with equal reliability. The pebbled rubber grips offered a good balance of adhesion and abrasion.

As for accuracy, combat accuracy is by far the most important criteria. The Kahr pistols are very accurate in the absolute sense as well. I have posted five-shot 25-yard groups of 1.5 to 2.0 inches with the K9, exceptional even for a service pistol. The K9 hit harder and suited my needs at the time, and would exhibit five-shot groups of 2.0 to 2.5 inches with the Federal 165-grain Hydra Shock.

I ordered the excellent Alessi ankle holster and replaced my long serving Smith & Wesson .38 snub as a backup. This gave me a powerful backup that was useful for past conversational distance. This was among the finest setups I have ever used and one that rode with me many miles. No, I no longer have it, and my threat profile is much lower. Kahr Arms followed the K9 with a long list of improved handguns and Kahr in different calibers, including a neat little .380 ACP pistol. All feature Kahr quality and the same super smooth trigger action.

The Limited Edition 25th Anniversary K9 pistol is a tastefully engraved and nicely outfitted handgun. So how did the company reach this milestone?

I HAVE POSTED FIVE-SHOT 25-YARD GROUPS OF 1.5 TO 2.0 INCHES WITH THE K9, EXCEPTIONAL EVEN FOR A SERVICE PISTOL.

The Kahr pistols are very accurate in the absolute sense as well. I have posted five-shot 25-yard groups of 1.5 to 2.0 inches with the K9, exceptional even for a service pistol. The K40 hits harder and suited my needs at the time, and would exhibit five-shot groups of 2.0 to 2.5 inches with the Federal 165-grain Hydra Shock.

I ordered the excellent Alessi ankle holster and replaced my long serving Smith & Wesson .38 snub as a backup. This gave me a powerful backup that was useful for past conversational distance. This was among the finest setups I have ever used and one that rode with me many miles. No, I no longer have it, and my threat profile is much lower. Kahr Arms followed the K9 with a long list of improved handguns and Kahr in different calibers, including a neat little .380 ACP pistol. All feature Kahr quality and the same super smooth trigger action.

The Kahr pistol I have posted five-shot 25-yard groups of 1.5 to 2.0 inches with the K9, exceptional even for a service pistol. The K40 hits harder and suited my needs at the time, and would exhibit five-shot groups of 2.0 to 2.5 inches with the Federal 165-grain Hydra Shock.

I ordered the excellent Alessi ankle holster and replaced my long serving Smith & Wesson .38 snub as a backup. This gave me a powerful backup that was useful for past conversational distance. This was among the finest setups I have ever used and one that rode with me many miles. No, I no longer have it, and my threat profile is much lower. Kahr Arms followed the K9 with a long list of improved handguns and Kahr in different calibers, including a neat little .380 ACP pistol. All feature Kahr quality and the same super smooth trigger action.

The Kahr pistol I have posted five-shot 25-yard groups of 1.5 to 2.0 inches with the K9, exceptional even for a service pistol. The K40 hits harder and suited my needs at the time, and would exhibit five-shot groups of 2.0 to 2.5 inches with the Federal 165-grain Hydra Shock.

I ordered the excellent Alessi ankle holster and replaced my long serving Smith & Wesson .38 snub as a backup. This gave me a powerful backup that was useful for past conversational distance. This was among the finest setups I have ever used and one that rode with me many miles. No, I no longer have it, and my threat profile is much lower. Kahr Arms followed the K9 with a long list of improved handguns and Kahr in different calibers, including a neat little .380 ACP pistol. All feature Kahr quality and the same super smooth trigger action.

I have posted five-shot 25-yard groups of 1.5 to 2.0 inches with the K9, exceptional even for a service pistol. The K40 hits harder and suited my needs at the time, and would exhibit five-shot groups of 2.0 to 2.5 inches with the Federal 165-grain Hydra Shock.

I ordered the excellent Alessi ankle holster and replaced my long serving Smith & Wesson .38 snub as a backup. This gave me a powerful backup that was useful for past conversational distance. This was among the finest setups I have ever used and one that rode with me many miles. No, I no longer have it, and my threat profile is much lower. Kahr Arms followed the K9 with a long list of improved handguns and Kahr in different calibers, including a neat little .380 ACP pistol. All feature Kahr quality and the same super smooth trigger action.

I have posted five-shot 25-yard groups of 1.5 to 2.0 inches with the K9, exceptional even for a service pistol. The K40 hits harder and suited my needs at the time, and would exhibit five-shot groups of 2.0 to 2.5 inches with the Federal 165-grain Hydra Shock.

I ordered the excellent Alessi ankle holster and replaced my long serving Smith & Wesson .38 snub as a backup. This gave me a powerful backup that was useful for past conversational distance. This was among the finest setups I have ever used and one that rode with me many miles. No, I no longer have it, and my threat profile is much lower. Kahr Arms followed the K9 with a long list of improved handguns and Kahr in different calibers, including a neat little .380 ACP pistol. All feature Kahr quality and the same super smooth trigger action.

I have posted five-shot 25-yard groups of 1.5 to 2.0 inches with the K9, exceptional even for a service pistol. The K40 hits harder and suited my needs at the time, and would exhibit five-shot groups of 2.0 to 2.5 inches with the Federal 165-grain Hydra Shock.

I ordered the excellent Alessi ankle holster and replaced my long serving Smith & Wesson .38 snub as a backup. This gave me a powerful backup that was useful for past conversational distance. This was among the finest setups I have ever used and one that rode with me many miles. No, I no longer have it, and my threat profile is much lower. Kahr Arms followed the K9 with a long list of improved handguns and Kahr in different calibers, including a neat little .380 ACP pistol. All feature Kahr quality and the same super smooth trigger action.
Some time ago makers of steel frame and stainless-steel automatic pistols began to realize that the traditional method of manufacture could not compete with the economy of polymer-frame striker-fired handguns such as the Glock. Kahr developed a polymer-frame version of the original K9. The pistol operates in the same manner as any other Kahr and features the same smooth action. The sights are first-class combat sights with a white insert. Other versions, the CW9 and CW40, are about the least expensive handguns you may own and still deploy a high-quality firearm.

The CW series features less machine work on the slide and less advanced sights, but the same super smooth action and compact grip frame. My CW40 is a trusted back-up and occasionally a primary carry handgun. I load it with the modern Federal HST loading. It will group five shots into 3.2 inches at 25 yards. The pistol has never malfunctioned. That isn’t bad for an economy handgun.

The Kahr K9 special edition ships with a 1791 Gunleather holster and a total of three magazines: two seven-rounders and one extended eight-round.

The special 25th Anniversary package is certainly well thought out and complete.

OPPOSITE: The K9 25th Anniversary package is certainly well thought out and complete.

THE MODERN KAHR PISTOLS

The K9 was seen as innovative, even groundbreaking, and it was among a very few new introductions that achieved both critical acclaim and commercial success relatively quickly. This success was well deserved. Kahr succeeded in the original intention of providing savvy shooters with a highly-accurate, reliable and powerful concealed carry handgun. These handguns are used for concealed carry, have been approved for duty and off duty use by major agencies and overall give an excellent accounting of themselves. There are offerings today in .380 ACP, 9mm Luger, .40 S&W and .45 ACP. The 9mm remains by far the most popular.

SUCCESS AND CHANGES

Recently the company has expanded into a larger facility in Pennsylvania. Kahr now owns Magnum Research as well. Some time ago, Kahr purchased Auto Ordnance. It now oversees some of the better examples of the Thompson semi-auto carbine. The original Auto Ordnance 1911 was among the rougher but affordable 1911 handguns. Kahr has upgraded the quality of the Auto Ordnance 1911 and today it is a useful and reliable 1911 handgun at a fair price.

25th ANNIVERSARY K9

The special 25th Anniversary K9’s engraving is well executed and unique to the Kahr pistol. This is a fully stainless-steel handgun made in the U.S. The pistol features custom engraved front and rear cocking serrations. The slide is ported, an interesting feature, and the pistol features a special “25 Years” logo.

The barrel and trigger are brightly polished. While the finish is bright, the pistol is finished in Sniper Grey Cerakote. This finish has proven durable in hard use on tactical rifles and handguns and is a good choice for this handgun. The pistol is fitted with Hogue aluminum grips. The Hogue grips are engraved with aggressive stippling and the sharp new Kahr logo.

The pistol also features Tru-Glo tritium sights. These are first-class personal defense sights with much to recommend and a favorite of many concealed carry handgun devotees. Even though this K9 model is a special edition to commemorate Kahr’s 25th anniversary, the pistol is an excellent
A contrast in price and appearance is the Kahr CW series. Author photo

A contrast in price and appearance is the Kahr CW series. Author photo

“THE KAHR K9 STARTED A MOVE BY MAJOR MAKERS TOWARD COMPACT 9MM HANDGUNS.”

choice for personal defense.

As an example, the rear sight offers an angled surface in order to rack the slide with one hand if need be. The pistol is supplied with a certificate, a locking box and three magazines. According to Kahr, only 500 production models of the 25th Anniversary K9 will be manufactured. As such they will each be engraved with their production number of 1 to 500. The pistol is supplied with a well-designed leather holster from 1791 Gun Leather. Each holster is engraved with the Kahr logo. The MSRP is $1,649 for the package.

SOURCES

KAHR ARMS
WWW.KAHR.COM

1791 GUNLEATHER
WWW.1791GUNLEATHER.COM