



 **CZ**  
*Yearbook*



**WE DISTRIBUTE OUR  
PRODUCTS TO MORE THAN  
100 COUNTRIES  
ALL OVER THE WORLD**



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## ***We strive to be a strong partner for our customers***

***An interview with the CEO of Česká zbrojovka a.s.,  
Ing. Ladislav Britaňák, MBA***

**Over the last few years, Česká zbrojovka a.s. has continuously shown excellent economic results. Has this trend followed since last year and what are the prospects for the next period?**

You are right, the results of our company are excellent and the word continuous is certainly fitting. The last period that began in 2007 can truly be regarded as a period of constant growth, unhindered even by the global financial crisis, an extreme phenomenon such as it is.

Looking back to 2018, we continued the existing trend and showed record results with another year-on-year improvement. To be specific: we sold 380,000 guns, with about 90 percent of that accounting for export. Our company trades with around 100 countries, the largest export regions are Europe, Thailand, Canada and above all, the USA.

**The US market has been of pivotal importance for CZ for a long time. In 2018, there were some changes concerning this region. Can you give us more details?**

The US market became familiar with our company and products thanks to our subsidiary, CZ-USA, which was established there in 1997. Eight years later we bought Dan Wesson Firearms, the manufacturer of revolvers

and the legendary Dan Wesson 1911 pistols. However, we knew that if we wanted to expand further on this market, we would have to look for new directions. We have therefore made the decision to manufacture our guns directly in the USA.



Last year our company made the first CZ gun at our Kansas City facility. Besides other things, this means that this gun may be offered and supplied to the US federal armed forces. It probably comes as no surprise that the model in question is our popular pistol, the P-10.

It is well-known that the Americans protect their market much more rigorously than other countries. Consequently, we had to meet the requirements of the

Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives that awards points to guns for key properties and parameters. If the given product doesn't satisfy the requirements, it has no chance of being imported. One other important reason to transfer the production is also the Buy American Act. This Act stipulates the terms and conditions for supplying federal institutions. If we wish to supply our guns, more than half of the value of the gun must be manufactured in USA. For us, being on the US market is not just a prestigious matter, it also holds a great potential, hence, it makes sense to build a production capacity here too.

**Traditionally, CZ has always been a significant exporter. However, experience has shown that selling is not enough anymore. How has this fact changed your company's attitude towards the customer?**

The superior quality of the latest CZ weapons is reflected in the expansion of the sales network to more than 100 countries worldwide, as well as the ever-growing list of references from our happy customers. Many of them opt to purchase from a comprehensive product portfolio because from the economical and logistic point of view, it makes more sense, as in addition to guns, such a portfolio will also include a range of accessories, all-inclusive services or targeted training.



I believe that we have put more emphasis on our customers being our partners and that we have also begun listening to them a lot more. Moreover, we strive to improve in the area of after-sales service and provide the utmost support for our customers. We want to hear about the problems they might be experiencing and discuss them clearly and openly.

We also seek further opportunities to conquer the foreign markets. One of the ways is co-operation with forces and services governmental departments that deal with defence industries. For example, in the second half of 2016 we opened a centre for the assembly and repairs of our pistols in the Peruvian firearms factory FAME in Lima.

In March 2018, we entered into a contract with a Hungarian state enterprise for the licenced production of the CZ P-07/09 pistols, CZ SCORPION submachine guns and CZ BREN 2 assault rifles.

**Firearms for the Armed Forces constitute a significant portion of CZ's production. What was the situation in this sector last year and what is expected in 2019?**

In general, we can say that thanks to intensive modernization of the production and development facilities, CZ offers cutting-edge models in all sectors of its portfolio. In recent years there was a major breakthrough for our company in the fact that it has once again become the supplier for official armed forces for whom we currently produce firearms that

have already become globally renowned: the CZ SCORPION EVO 3 A1, CZ BREN 2 assault rifles or CZ P-07/09 and CZ P-10 pistols. And our latest product, the CZ TSR sniper rifle seems to be heading the same way too.

Regarding other new products, I would like to especially mention the new CZ BREN 2 BR rifle. It is a cutting-edge individual automatic firearm combining the strong points of the successful CZ BREN 2 model series with the powerful 7.62×51 NATO cartridge. The result is a new generation light battle rifle, characterized by exceptional reliability, high accuracy, smooth ergonomics and easy control. In comparison with assault rifles in 5.56×45 NATO or 7.62×39 cal., the CZ BREN 2 BR boasts a considerably higher effective range and stronger effect at the target. And all this comes without any significant weight increase.

In 2018 we also introduced our new sniper rifle, the CZ TSR.

It is a brand new, highly accurate rifle in 308 Win. calibre (7.62×51 NATO) for the Armed Forces and long-distance shooting. In the development of this model, we worked closely with elite police and military professionals. A completely new feature for

the market is an original folding stock system that provides superb rigidity and strength when shooting as well as secure position

during transport. In addition, this system also allows for an easy change of the folding direction.

**Česká zbrojovka is inherently connected with the legendary CZ 75 pistols, produced in many variants. Are you bringing in another innovation for 2019? And what other new products in the pistol sector can your fans look forward to?**

The famous name of the CZ 75 binds us to continue in this tradition by coming up with new models. The CZ 75 model series graded using the up-OMEGA trigger

mechanism constitutes a stable element in our portfolio. At present, innovations in this series concern sport pistols, particularly the ORANGE models.

Our latest pistols – the CZ P-10 C OR and the CZ SHADOW 2 OR were introduced at the beginning of 2018. These models have been modified so as to enable the easy and at the same time sturdy attachment of small modern collimator sights. In addition, we have brought out three more versions of the third generation KADET

rimfire adapters for CZ pistols.

Also, in 2019 we will introduce three more versions of the popular CZ P-10 models: full, semi-compact and subcompact. Another new model will be the CZ SHADOW 2 ORANGE. This model has been based on the CZ SHADOW 2, primarily a sport pistol, which currently occupies the podium in the Production Division at the most prestigious international IPSC events. The ORANGE version has been brought to perfection thanks to careful and well-proven gunsmithing adjustments and other improvements.

**Firearms for sport shooting and hunting also continue to be a traditional and integral part of CZ's portfolio. What new products did you introduce in 2018 and what are you**

**planning for 2019?**

In 2018, we brought out several new models: two new models inspired by the versatile CZ 557 VARMINT rifle for sport shooting and hunting, and the CZ 557 LUX II. model. Naturally, 2019 won't miss out. In the first place, I would like to mention the CZ 457 family which constitutes the new ideal of a modern rimfire rifle in its price range. I am sure there is no need to remind our customers that regarding long firearms for rimfire cartridges, CZ tradition-

ally belongs amongst the most significant manufacturers in the world. We belong to those who actually set new trends. Following in the footsteps of the famous CZ 452 and its successor, the CZ 455, we are launching a new generation of CZ rimfire rifles. The CZ 457 model series has once again elevated us to the absolute top. We firmly believe that at present, these rifles have no equal rival on the market!

**The sport shooting sector does not just include pistols. What CZ guns can hobby shooters in particular look forward to?**

I would like to point out especially two semi-automatic firearms for hobby shooting and sport: the CZ SCORPION EVO 3 S1 CARBINE and the CZ SCORPION EVO 3 S2 MICRO.

The first model is a highly accurate strictly semi-automatic carbine in 9×19 calibre, based on the proven design of the CZ SCORPION EVO 3 A1 submachine gun. Thanks to its properties, it is an ideal choice for modern shooting disciplines and hobby shooting.

The MICRO is a miniature version of the CZ SCORPION EVO 3 S1 semi-automatic model. This is a side result of our ef-

fort to create a small gun with a silencer for plain clothes security services, however, we believe that the semi-automatic Scorpion will also appeal to civilian shooters.

**Lastly, please allow me one personal question. You have worked in Česká zbrojovka since July 2004. How has the company changed over that time in your opinion? Which models from the company's vast range do you like the most and why?**

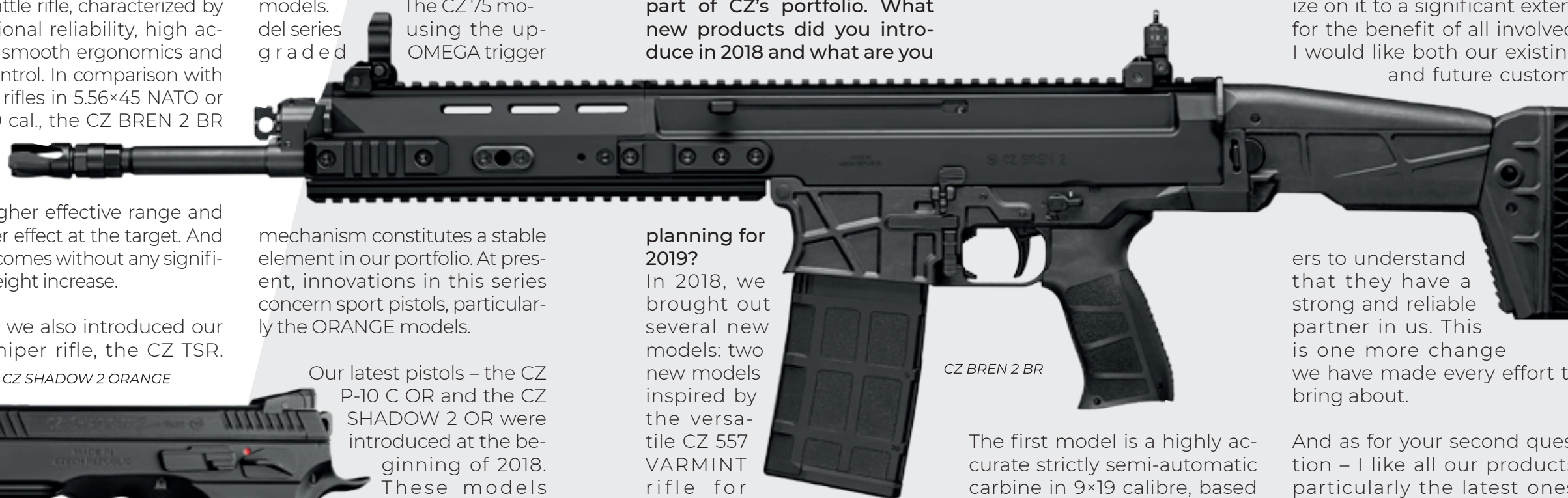
I think that when I started, the company really was completely different. The only thing that has not changed is the potential of the superb products and the know-how. In those days, the potential was largely left unexploited, while since then we have managed to capitalize on it to a significant extent for the benefit of all involved. I would like both our existing and future custom-

ers to understand that they have a strong and reliable partner in us. This is one more change we have made every effort to bring about.

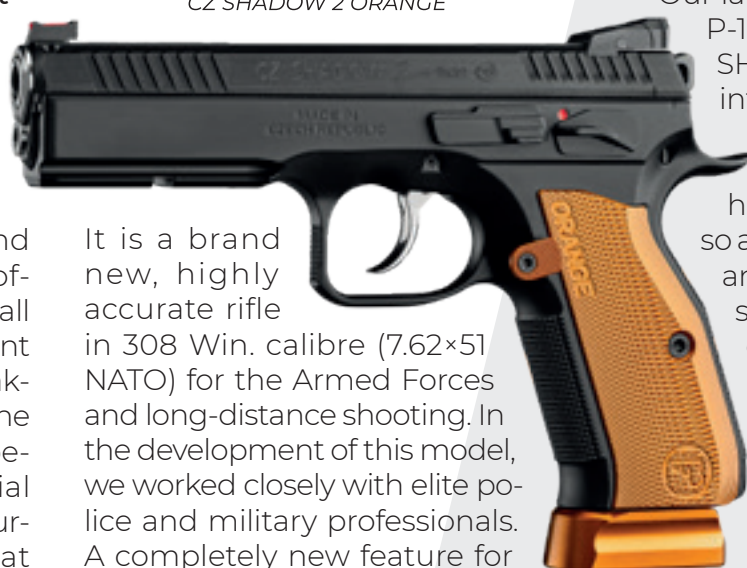
And as for your second question – I like all our products, particularly the latest ones. Nevertheless, there is one model that is especially important to me. It is a pistol that has been created by people working from both sides of the Atlantic and has already become truly legendary – the CZ 75 SP-01 SHADOW which started a new successful period of growth in our company.



CZ 457  
PREMIUM



CZ BREN 2 BR



CZ SHADOW 2 ORANGE





*From the left: Quality Director, Ing. Tomáš Hauerland, MBA; Technical Director, Ing. Pavel Majzlík; CZ-AUTO Director, Jaroslav Hruška, MBA, MSc.; Personnel and Administrative Director, Ing. Ladislav Koníček; Finance Director, Ing. Věslava Piegzová, MBA; Production Director, Ing. Jiří Kunderata; President and Chairman of the Board of the CZ Group holding, Ing. Lubomír Kovařík, MBA; CEO and Chairman of the Board of Directors of Česká zbrojovka a.s., Ing. Ladislav Britaňák, MBA; Commercial Director, Radomír Jarko, MBA*

## ***The management of Česká zbrojovka a.s.***

In 2018, Česká zbrojovka a.s. became a member of the international Česká zbrojovka Group holding. In addition to the mother company in Uherský Brod, the holding will gradually incorporate other companies that engage in manufacturing and developmental programs of a similar nature.

The Česká zbrojovka Group

thus offers customers not only guns but also ammunition, optical sights, ballistic vests, helmets, uniforms etc. The holding also offers its research and development facilities that specialize in new advanced technology solutions and products using metal additive manufacturing.

This Group is headed by the

President and Chairman of the Board, Ing. Lubomír Kovařík, MBA, who was the CEO and Chairman of the Board of Česká zbrojovka a.s. for 12 years.

The current CEO of Česká zbrojovka a.s. is Ing. Ladislav Britaňák, MBA, who has gained extensive managerial experience over many years as the Commercial Director.

Members of the senior management are the Finance Director, Ing. Věslava Piegzová, MBA; the Commercial Director, Radomír Jarko, MBA; the Technical Director, Ing. Pavel Majzlík; the Production Director, Ing. Jiří Kunderata; the Personnel and Administrative Director, Ing. Ladislav Koníček and the Quality Director, Ing. Tomáš Hauerland, MBA. The Director of the strate-

gic business unit Auto & Aero is Jaroslav Hruška, MBA, MSc.

The Board of Directors of Česká zbrojovka a.s. is almost identical to the senior management. The Chairman of the Board is the CEO, Ing. Ladislav Britaňák, and the Vice Chairmen are Ing. Věslava Piegzová and Ing. Ladislav Koníček, the Members of the Board are Radomír Jarko, Ing.

Pavel Majzlík, Ing. Jiří Kunderata and Ing. Tomáš Hauerland, MBA.

The Chairman of the Supervisory Board which represents the interests of the owner is Ing. Lubomír Kovařík, MBA, with members Mgr. Petr Holeček and Ing. Jana Růžicková.



CZ **P-10 F**  
CZ **P-10 SC**  
CZ **P-10 S**



## WHEN SIZE MATTERS

David Pazdera

In 2019, three new striker-fired models from the very popular CZ P-10 series are coming on the market. With these models and the OPTICS READY version introduced last year, Česká zbrojovka a.s. has appealed to all fans of modern handguns. It doesn't matter what pistol you are looking for, whether a model for personal defence, official purposes, dynamic shooting disciplines or hobby shooting, you will be spoilt for choice in the P-10 line. All you need to do is pick the features that are right just for you.

It is common knowledge that Česká zbrojovka a.s. set out to develop the CZ P-10 pistol as a comprehensive platform. The reason for the Compact model being introduced first resulted from the demand. Let us forget for a moment that it is basically a new standard of a defence and service pistol. The fact is that the so-called compacts have been selling like hot cakes for quite a few years. Thanks to their dimensions and weight,

these guns are suitable for easy open as well as concealed carry while also providing large magazine capacity. One might even take the C as short for Compromise – an ideal model for both official and civilian use.

**When a compact is not enough**  
However, there are areas and situations when such a compromise might not be the best solution. For example, the armed forces still tend to

go for handguns in the style of classic army pistols. Then there are the modern sport disciplines with the IPSC in the lead, where a few extra mm or grams not only pose no problem but may even positively influence the results. On the other side of the spectrum there is the need to carry a gun as covertly as possible.

For these specific purposes, further variants of the CZ P-10

pistol have been created. They thoughtfully combine the dimensions with the key advantages of the system – above all the excellent ergonomics and an exceptionally smooth trigger pull. Achieving such a feat is not easy, particularly if the manufacturer wants to retain the homogeneity of the component base and ensure the gun is absolutely reliable and user-friendly. If one looks at similar attempts of rival companies,

not many of them can be considered truly remarkable.

Where the CZ P-10 is concerned, the great advantage was the perfect base pistol which enabled the designers carry out fairly straightforward changes for subsequent variants. Thanks to that, both the larger and smaller versions were being developed at the same time as the first C model. The “in-between” SC, or Sub-

compact, was created by simply putting the slide from the full-size model to a compact frame, achieving completely flawless functionality in the process. This is certainly not common at all.

### Fullsize

So far, we have been able to test the CZ P-10 F the most, with the F standing for Fullsize. This model comes the closest to the traditional style of service







CZ P-10 S

CZ P-10 C

CZ P-10 F

pistols though it departs from them in a notable way. Unlike those pistols of old and thanks to the use of advanced materials, this pistol weighs only 0.8 kg when empty and the large-capacity magazine holds an incredible 19 rounds in 9×19 calibre. These are specifications the older all-steel or partly “aluminium” army pistols could only dream of. The same goes for the model’s lifespan and durability of surface finish.

The CZ P-10 F is a pistol for shooters who for various reasons need an extremely reliable grip. Here, the hand grip has been engineered to fit hands from small to shovel-sized. What is more, the user has an option to adjust the ergonomics with three easy to use interchangeable backstraps.

The barrel is 114 mm long, allowing the shooter to fully exploit the ballistic potential of the somewhat underrated but in fact still fantastic 9×19 cartridge. A longer barrel means a longer slide which in turn means a longer sight radius, making the gun easier to be accurate with.

In short, the CZ P-10 F has been optimized for situations where the user needs to fire a lot of rounds as accurately as possible, and the F absolutely excels in this task. We were able to confirm this claim many times, most recently in the very challenging conditions of a “sandy” shooting range in Bzenec, in south-eastern Moravia. Magazine after magazine, no problems whatsoever. At 15 m, in the hands of experienced shooters, each model plinked with every single round, even the very small poppers. In a nutshell, it is an ideal choice for fans of dynamic shooting disciplines as well as mem-

bers of armed forces who wish to have a backup gun in which they could place their faith no matter the conditions.

#### Something in between

A Semicompact was originally a designation for pistols whose standard-size frame was combined with a slide (and barrel) of a compact version. However, this category of pistols didn’t really catch on. Today, the matter is approached differently, due to the fact that the development of new guns now largely includes people with extensive experience from the ranks of armed and security forces.

The same is true for CZ. They came to the conclusion that a far more meaningful and useful solution might be doing the opposite – combining a compact frame with a fullsize slide (and barrel). The reason is simple: where concealed carry is concerned, the length of the hand grip is a much more important than the length of the slide.

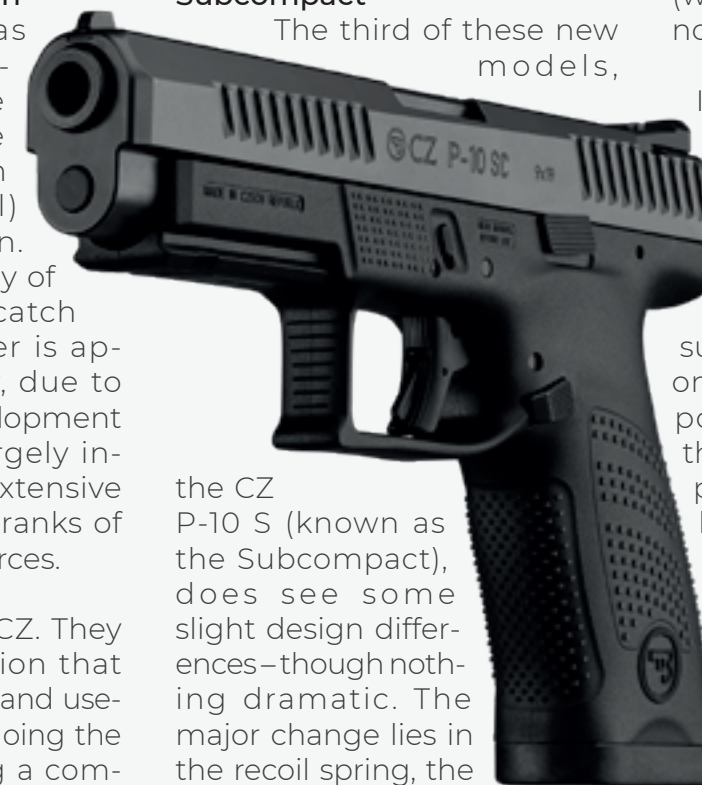
Hence the CZ P-10 SC variant was born. It is really quite remarkable due to the fact that essentially, owners of the C and F models could build it themselves. That’s how clever the system is. The Semicompact is intended primarily for users who carry their gun covertly but want it to guarantee high accuracy and deliver the full potential of the 9×19 cartridge.

We have only been able to use this variant a few times. With respect to accuracy and reliability, the bar is still set exceptionally high. The decisive factor for a purchase will be the personal feel of the grip. The previously mentioned shooters with hands like shovels probably won’t favour the

Semicompact, but then again, how many of these are there? The ergonomics won’t be a problem for anyone else.

#### Subcompact

The third of these new models,



the CZ P-10 S (known as the Subcompact), does see some slight design differences—though nothing dramatic. The major change lies in the recoil spring, the rest was mostly about careful size reduction.

The result is a very pleasant “darling,” ideal for highly concealed carry and smooth drawing, whereby the aggressor can expect the arrival of an incredible 12 9×19 bullets (or 13 if you like to carry with one in the chamber).

In guns of this size, it is always about finding the right balance between the dimensions and the grip that will ensure no negative effect on accuracy or functionality (a risk in guns with a polymer frame). As with other subcompacts, the CZ P-10 S will not allow most shooters to get all of their fingers on the grip. Saying that, the controls on this model are still reliable and user-friendly, shooting is accurate and surprisingly fast. This is mainly credited to the excellent ergonomics of this series, enhanced by the

distinctive checkering. What is more, various tests have confirmed the absolute reliability of the model, despite the reduced gripping surface (which in such a small gun is not expected anyway).

In conclusion, the CZ P-10 S is a gun designed above all for defence at very short distances, which can often mean point-blank range. This model will provide users with a tool that in such cases they can fully rely on. And that is the most important thing. The fact that this model allows you to shoot pretty accurately even at longer distances is an added bonus – albeit one that will certainly be welcome.

#### Made in Kansas City

And last but not least some special news – the CZ P-10 pistols are no longer made exclusively in Česká zbrojovka’s mother factory in Uherský Brod but also in Kansas City, the base of CZ-USA. This project is in a way a major turning point that both companies have been involved in for quite a while, and it will undoubtedly strengthen the position of CZ guns on the prestigious North American market.

The P-10 models made in the States are easily recognizable by the inscription CZ-USA KANSAS CITY KS on the left side of the polymer frame, which replaced the words MADE IN THE CZECH REPUBLIC. At the moment, the Kansas-based company produces the C, F and S models, all of them in the OPTICS READY version, that is with the slide allowing for an easy and strong attachment of a compact collimator sight.





CZ **P-10 C**

## **A SUPERB COMPACT WITH A SUPREME TRIGGER**

Martin Helebrant

For many decades, the CZ brand has been synonymous with high quality affordable semi-automatic pistols with an external hammer. The CZ 75 family is a living legend, while the CZ P-07 and CZ P-09 models are a great choice for fans of polymer frames. So, in 2017, when Česká zbrojovka announced the launch of a completely new series of polymer frame pistols with a linear, partially pre-cocked striker, their supporters and rivals alike eagerly awaited to see whether this renowned manufacturer would once again live up to its reputation. To their great delight, the very first model, the CZ P-10 C, not only fulfilled the expectations but exceeded them in many aspects.

The CZ P-10 C is available in the powerful 9×19 calibre, it has a shortened Browning-style slide, locked into the ejection port by a four-sided protrusion. The slide is unlocked by lowering the rear of the barrel with the help of an angled flat on the bottom of the four-sided protrusion. The

striker is linear and partially pre-cocked.

The letter C stands for Compact. Although the traditional division of pistols into standard size and compact size is not so clear-cut anymore, it tells the customer that the gun is fairly powerful and suitable for concealed carry.

It didn't come as a surprise that CZ decided to manufacture and sell a compact model first, since this category of defensive handgun has been a long-time bestseller.

### **Original trigger mechanism**

At first glance, the CZ P-10 C does not seem different from



the traditional concept of modern pistols with polymer frames and linear, partially pre-cocked strikers (sometimes simply called striker-fired). In recent years, these guns have become more and more popular, above all due to the fact that they put minimal demand on the shooter being trained. Basically, all one has to do after pulling the slide is

tomatic striker safety: while traditionally, the body of the safety moves downwards, in the CZ P-10 C, it pivots.

A big advantage of this model is the fact all the major forces in its trigger mechanism are transmitted in the longitudinal vertical plane of symmetry, therefore minimizing friction and jamming caused by misaligned forces.



CZ P-10 C FDE

The originality of this solution is well evidenced in the fact that at least three elements of the CZ P-10 C design are patent protected.

#### Ambidextrous and interchangeable controls

The CZ P-10 C has a double-stack magazine with a single-stack mouth. The magazine case is made of steel with an anti-friction coating, the follower and baseplate are plastic. The basic capacity is 15 9×19 cartridges, however, as it is more and more common nowadays, the user may easily increase it by two more rounds, thanks to an insert that is supplied as a standard accessory.

The CZ P-10 C magazine has been designed so as to be unified for all modern CZ pistols with polymer frames, its key dimensions are there-

fore the same as magazines for the CZ P-07 and CZ P-09 hammer models. A new feature is an opening in the front wall of the case for the magazine catch which has controls on both sides. It was typical for the first version of the CZ P-10 C and will continue to be available on request, for example when supplying the armed forces. As standard, this pistol is currently available with the magazine catch control on one side only, in line with the CZ P-07 and CZ P-09 models. It may of course be easily switched to either side according to user preferences.

Another new feature is the red colour of the follower. It makes the visual check of the gun easier and also makes the magazine easier to find when the shooter lets it fall on the ground. The magazine mouth is slightly slanted into a funnel-like shape, which allows for faster reloading.

After the last cartridge has been fired, the slide stays in its rear position. When a new magazine is inserted, to release the slide, the shooter can either push one of the symmetrically-placed slide stops or slightly pull the slide back and release it.

#### External slide rails

The steel slide has borrowed design aspects from the CZ P-07 and CZ P-09. At the back and at the front there are right angle serrations for better grip. The upper surface of the slide is straight and is fitted with a right-angle front sight and an extended windage-adjustable rear sight with a right-angle aperture. The sight picture is accentuated

with three white dots. The front of the slide has partially smoothed edges to allow easier holstering.

The polymer frame has a standardized accessory rail at the front with one transversal groove. The vertical front of the trigger guard is roughened, ending in a small protrusion on the bottom edge. The bottom part of the trigger guard lies horizontally, with a slight undercut just before it joins the pistol grip. In the centre, it is slightly narrowed for easier reach of the trigger. The trigger itself is fairly wide and has vertical grooves on the front.

On the sides of the frame, slightly in front of the trigger, there are buttons on both

sides for field stripping. Behind them, roughly where the front of the grip starts, protected by a rounded flat oblong protrusion, there are the serrated areas of the slide stop controls. Between the slide stop and the magazine catch controls, or rather control, there is a shallow depression on the sides of the pistol grip, which helps the pistol to be gripped correctly every time.

The grip itself is covered with distinctive textured squares on the front, on the sides and on the back. The same style of checkering can be seen on the frame where the shooter's index finger rests. The bottom of the grip bears the logo of the manufacturer. The backstrap is interchangeable and comes in three sizes.

It is attached to the frame by a dovetail groove and at the bottom it is secured by a pin. The face of the pistol grip is slightly convex.

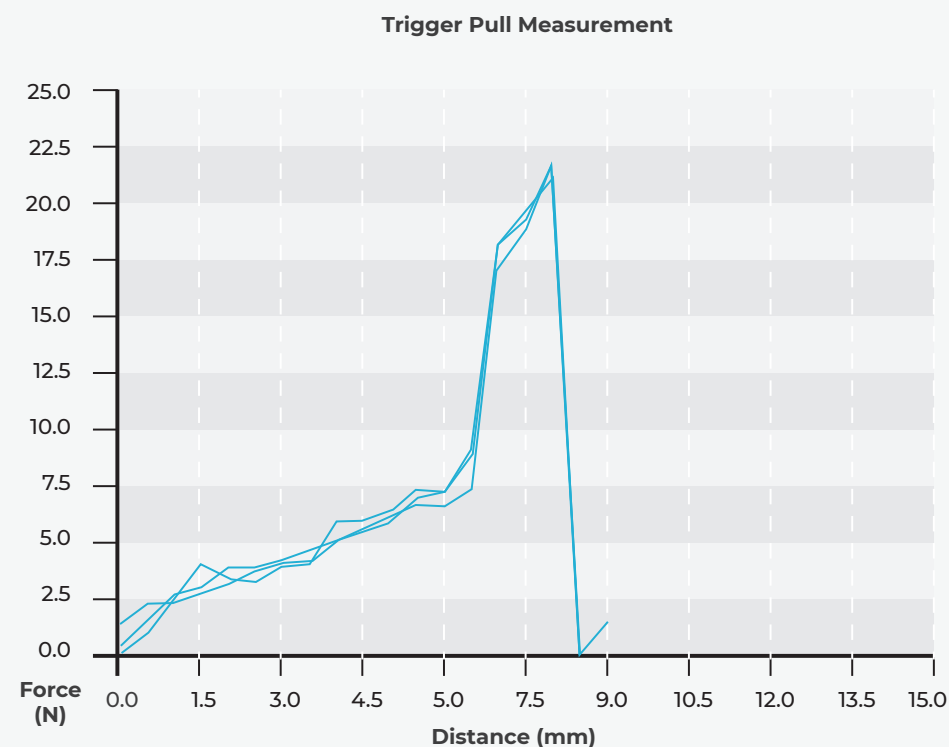
Inserted in the polymer frame, there are two metal blocks with slide guiding rails that carry parts of the mechanism. The slide rails are external, a new feature on modern CZ pistols – from the times of the CZ 75, the company used internal slide rails. The change to external ones has made the gun narrower and lower compared to the hammer CZ P-07 compact, while making the area of the serrated gripping surfaces larger.



#### Easy stripping

The basic field stripping of the CZ P-10 C for cleaning is simple and straightforward. Remove the magazine and check the chamber. Release the slide forward, point the gun in a safe direction and release the striker by pulling the trigger. Slightly retract the slide, push the buttons for stripping down and push the slide together with the barrel off the front of the pistol frame. Remove the flat wire recoil spring from the slide (it forms a unit with a guide usually not stripped by the user) as well as the barrel. The pistol has now been stripped. Assembly is identical, in reverse order.





### SA style trigger

My model was the first version of the CZ P-10 C with an ambidextrous magazine catch. First, I stripped it for cleaning and inspected it for the quality of manufacture. In this respect, there is nothing to criticize. I realized what a huge change the advancement of powder metallurgy and sintering (MIM or MIME) has brought and the endless possibilities it has opened for designers, especially where small parts of complex design for the trigger and striking mechanisms are concerned.

The pistol I analysed was moderately run in, it had lost the stiffness of a brand-new model. First, I measured the trigger mechanism parameters with a Lyman digital gauge.

CZ P-10 C	
trigger pull weight	N
average	21.2
standard deviation	0.3
maximum	21.7
minimum	20.6

The symmetrical design of the trigger mechanism has once again achieved what has made pistols from Uherský Brod famous since the CZ 75 made

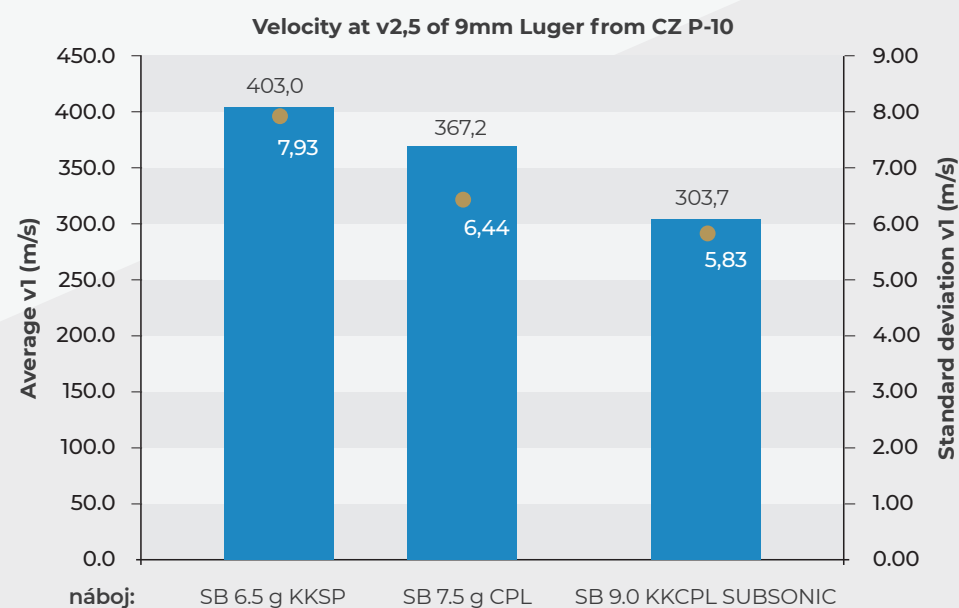
its debut – an excellent trigger pull. If you do not score with the new CZ P-10 C, it is not the trigger's fault.

### At the shooting range

For practical testing we opted for three types of Sellier & Bellot ammunition: a 6.5 g semi jacketed truncated cone bullet; a 7.5 g full metal jacket ogival bullet, possibly the most common service calibre; and a 9.0 g full metal jacket truncated cone subsonic bullet. We used 15 rounds of each type.

Testing began by shooting with both hands at a simple paper target, the aim was to check the sighting. We shot at a distance of 10 metres. From the very first round, the pistol excelled. We had no problems getting 5-round groups within 4 cm. The top result was a 5-round sighting through

9 mm Luger caliber	S&B 6.5 g KKSP	S&B 7.5 g CPL	S&B 9.0 KK CPL SUBSONIC
bullet weight (g)	6.5	7.5	9.0
v1 average (ms <sup>-1</sup> )	403.0	367.2	303.7
v1 standard deviation (ms <sup>-1</sup> )	7.93	6.44	5.83
v1 maximum (ms <sup>-1</sup> )	415.4	375.0	311.4
v1 minimum (ms <sup>-1</sup> )	387.5	356.3	291.7
E1 (J)	528	506	415



a single hole. There was no difference regarding the type of ammunition, the pistol tested was unfailingly reliable – anything we put in the magazine was positioned correctly, inserted in the chamber, fired and ejected.

The next stage was shooting at 15 cm gongs at a distance of just under 20 metres. Moving the firing line from target to target was easy and during rapid double shots,

I started to fully appreciate the high-quality ergonomics of the pistol. The curve between the backstrap and the rear part of the body is fairly sharp and deep, making the user feel as if the pistol literally “sucks” itself into the correct deep grip. The convex part of the hand grip filled up the palm nicely, the grip was strong but not forced, the position of my fingers felt completely natural. Another nice element are the small

rounded projections behind the magazine catches. The small textured squares on the gripping surfaces feel just right and there is no slipping even when wearing gloves, the same goes for the serrations on the slide.







**In the spirit of František Koucký**  
The CZ P-10 C is a pistol that does not require much from the user. Its handling is simple and intuitive, accommodating the current needs and requirements of the armed forces, whose ideal is a gun that is as easy as possible to use and at the same time as safe as possible.

You begin to fully understand the appeal of the new CZ pistol once you take it in your hands and fire for the first time. It fits your hand like a glove and the trigger is simply outstanding.

When I think about the design of the CZ P-10 C, I find similarities with the legendary CZ 75. The concept of the trigger mechanism in both models is “everything one way”: the trigger is a single lever; the trigger bar is placed below the axis of the trigger and moves backwards when

CZ P-10 C	
calibre	9×19
overall length	187 mm
height	132 mm
width	32 mm
barrel length	102 mm
sight line	163 mm
magazine capacity	15, 17 (9×19) with an insert
weight unloaded	0.735 kg

the trigger is pulled. The key elements of the recoil and the trigger mechanism in both pistols are symmetrical and try to eliminate the passive resistance created by misaligned forces as much as possible. Furthermore, both have many innovative features (although it must be noted that at the time of its launch, the CZ 75 was a truly ground-breaking model, while the CZ P-10 C, as it were, follows modern trends) and both offer excellent ergonomics.

If there is such a thing as a gunsmithing heaven, then Mr Koucký, the father of the CZ 75, must be there. And if he is looking down and seeing today's CZ P-10 C, he must be very happy. Despite the different concept, I see this pistol as the continuation of the very best that has made CZ so famous. It is great to know that even after forty years, the spirit of Mr Koucký lives on...







## The journey to the CZ P-10

**When it comes to linear striker-fired polymer pistols, one might get the impression that Česká zbrojovka has long stayed on the sidelines. To the contrary!**

One cannot overlook that pistols of this concept have been in demand for a while. At times, they are for the sake of simplicity (and not quite exactly), called striker fired pistols. Every company dealing with the manufacture of handguns has reacted to this demand in some way. Unfortunately, it is often forgotten that in the arms industry, great and promising ideas are not thought up on the spot. The more so when the aim is not just to come up with another Glock-type variation, as seems to have become the norm over the past two decades in this field of business.

### The very beginnings

In Uherský Brod, the concept of a modern polymer pistol with a linear striker first came up on the agenda as early as the mid-1990s, when first work on the future CZ 100 model began. But it was not the only direction that was considered. At that time, CZ

took serious interest in, for example, an idea by the Austrian shooter and occasional designer, Wilhelm Bubits. In the mid-90s, he offered European firearm manufacturers his series of service and defence pistols, the Dragon, which had polymer frames and original grips,

in 9 mm Luger, .40 S&W and .45 Auto calibres. In Moravia, Bubits' model made it to the functional sample phase, however, it did not function well. So, CZ withdrew from the contract and the opportunity then went to Steyr Mannlicher.

During this time, serial production of the already mentioned CZ 100 was launched and the company expectations were high. This model used the DAO trigger mechanism which was the preferred choice of many experts who were ready to overlook its negative effect on accuracy in favour of simplicity, safety, constant trigger travel and readiness to fire.

But customers thought differently. Česká zbrojovka first responded to their feedback by improving the trigger and in 2000, the company launched the CZ 110 SA/DA version, originally started in 1997 as a possible candidate for the Czech Police tender.

Nevertheless, another idea was in the picture. It was a design by Jiří Indruch from Valašské Meziříčí, a keen shooter, who got a licence for the development of arms as early as January 1993. CZ first began cooperating with him in 1992, on the design of barrel adapters for an over and under 12-gauge shotgun, which eventually entered small-scale production. Another quite intensive collaboration took place between 1998-1999 when the company and Jiří Indruch worked on a modification of the CZ 100 pistol.

Although in the end, Indruch's solution wasn't used due to fundamental changes in the design which would have needed further considerable investments in serial production, another project followed in the spring of 1998. It was called A pistol concept according to Mr Indruch, but two years later, that too was stopped due to unsatisfactory test results. Still, it was obvious that there was a designer who definitely had something going in the field of modern handguns.

### The Indruch concept on the scene again

With the coming of the new millennium, in the pistol sector, Česká zbrojovka focused on the expansion and upgrading of its flagship CZ 75 model series. Yes, we are talking about the groundbreaking police compact whose success propelled the company to a considerably higher level despite some growing pains. A bit later, there

*For the CZ 100, a laser sight in the same design was made, only a few were produced.*



followed the phenomenal CZ 75 SP-01 family, the CZ 2075 RAMI subcompact and the new generation of the CZ 75 Tactical Sports specials.

The CZ 100/110 pistols were on offer until 2007. In the end, more than 35 000 of them were made. They gradually found their loyal fans who swear by them, especially in the USA. In the meantime, specifically in 2004, work started on a new striker fired pistol, once again based on Jiří Indruch's design. Originally, the project was called the Indruch pistol but in 2005, it was changed to the new series of pistols, the CZ 010, 020, 030. The calibres considered were the 9 mm Luger, .40 S&W and .357 SIG, whose brief popularity was fading, the 45 Auto was also possibly on the cards.

Going by information at the time, there were several interesting features of the design that had not been used anywhere before, which really stood out. The crucial innovation came in the three-part polymer frame that allowed the customer to

configure parameters according to their own requirements. To the basic frame for the trigger and striking mechanism, they could attach pistol grips in various lengths and several variants of the front part (with accessory rails, opt for no rail, etc.). Apart from other things, this solution was meant to create significant savings on injection

tion moulds. The bore axis in Indruch's pistol was very low, which was achieved by using a new trigger and striker mechanism with a linear striker.

In the company's production programme, this series of pistols was to replace the CZ 100/110 models. At the time when these models disappeared from the scene, the new project wasn't ready to be put into serial production yet and the company suddenly offered only hammer models.

### Omega first

After the new general director Lubomír Kovařík took office in summer 2006, CZ considered its priorities and where pistols were concerned, it first put its full focus on the design of a "tender" hammer model with a polymer frame. The design was based around the significantly modernized Omega trigger mechanism which still rested on the principles of the timeless CZ 75 but employed in



a way technologically worthy of the 21st century.

The first result was the CZ 75 P-07 Duty pistol in 2008, five years later succeeded by the improved CZ P-07 model and its larger sister, the CZ P-09. With these last two models, Česká zbrojovka at long last managed to break free out of the long shadow of the CZ 100, for which the chief designer at the time had made the decision to use polymer not reinforced with glass fibre. What is more, the CZ P-07 and CZ P-09 also constituted a turning point in the surface treatment durability of metal parts.

If we also take into account the fact that at the same time, the company was developing a new assault rifle, submachine gun, repeating rifle and rimfire rifle, modernizing its machinery and implementing completely new technologies, it was clear that it had been working at full capacity, if not over it. Other projects were contemplated for research and development, in 2009 it was a service and defence pistol

with a linear striker, but there was neither enough energy nor finances to make it to the se-



A working design of an unrealized concept of the CZ P-10.

rial production phase. Things changed when the manufacture of the CZ P-07 and CZ P-09 was fully under way.

#### Two ways

In January 2014, work started on a project whose aim was to expand the CZ pistol portfolio by a model with a linear, partially pre-cocked striker with a constant trigger pull weight and trigger travel. When searching for a fitting solution, CZ took an unusual route – it approached several outside experts and from the submitted concepts chose two of the most promising ones.

The winner was chosen after functional samples were made and tested in the second half of 2014. The development workshop in Uherský Brod made two samples of each concept, in 9×19 and .40 S&W calibres. The models by Jiří Indruch fared better, they were worked on by Ivan Filko, an experienced co-designer of many CZ polymer pistols from previous years.

Before prototypes were made, CZ tried out another new approach – a collaboration with a renowned Czech university to optimize the ergonomics of the grip and the position of the controls. Thus, the Digital Firearm Ergonomic Design (DiF-END) methodology was born. This concept allows for designing the best ergonomics with

respect to the expected target market by using a biomechanically identical human model.

#### WHEN SEARCHING FOR A FITTING SOLUTION, CZ APPROACHED SEVERAL OUTSIDE EXPERTS AND FROM THE SUBMITTED CONCEPTS CHOSE TWO OF THE MOST PROMISING ONES.

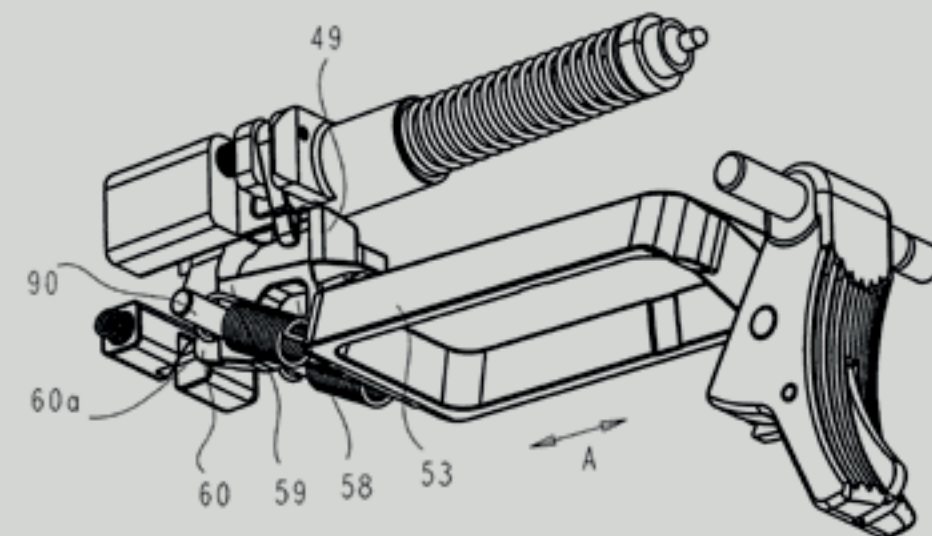
Another interesting step was extensive cooperation with computing and material engineering specialists. They are becoming more and more important in development teams, as their involvement leads to savings and eliminating potential problems during serial production as well as during actual use of the weapons. For the CZ P-10, which was given this designation under the company's new system of terminology (CZ also registered it as an international trademark), the involvement of specialists meant optimizing the frame (made of glass fibre reinforced polymer), as well as its injection mould.

Then, there followed the creation of two prototypes in 9×19 cal. and another two in the more powerful 40 calibre, built with frames made by 3D printing technology. After successful functional testing, a rather more important moment arrived: to undergo exhaustive testing by independent end users, carried out by members of the armed forces as well as more experienced civilian users. Yes, there are some lucky ones even amongst us. The response to the new pistol was favourable, there were recommendations for only minor details, especially with regard to the beavertail.

Next, the first extensive check tests followed, they were successful and it was recommended for production to be launched.

#### A comprehensive offer

As the production was getting under way, alterations were being made to remedy all the shortcomings revealed during testing. The pistol creators paid special attention to the checkering and also to the trigger pull weight where the goal was to reach the best parameters possible. This has clearly been a suc-



The CZ P-10 has an original trigger and striking mechanism, the solution is protected by two patents.

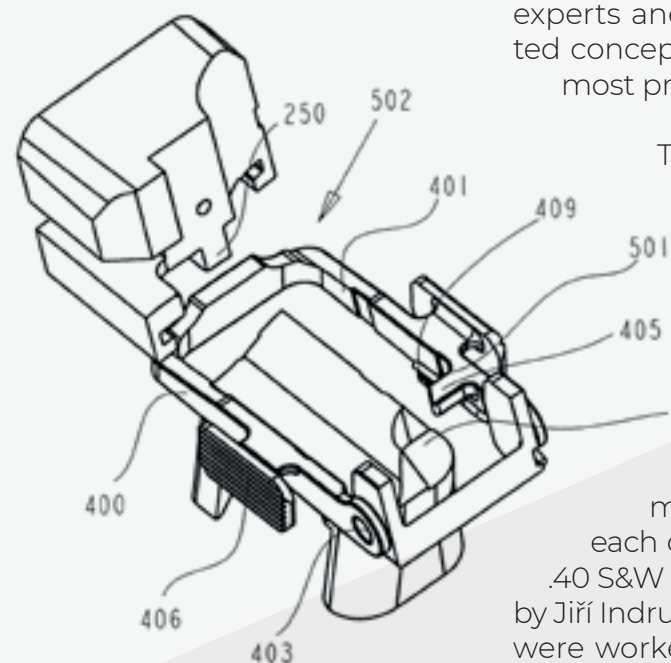
cess as together with the excellent ergonomics, the trigger properties of the new CZ pistol are what is praised the most. Where sights are concerned, the new unified dovetail of the Shadow models was used, which has opened up interesting possibilities for individual adjustments, thanks to the extensive range.

In 2017, the CZ P-10 C version entered the market, officially called a compact but in reality, it is a full modern defence and service pistol for concealed as

well as open carry. At the moment, this model is available in 9×19 calibre (the firing capacity is 15+1 rounds, or 17+1 rounds with a magazine baseplate). There are additional variants on offer, the OR (with the slide modified for an easy and secure attachment of a compact collimator sight) and the FDE with the polymer frame in a popular military Flat Dark Earth colour.

In 2019, two more models are arriving, the CZ P-10 F model in standard size and the CZ P-10 SC whose barrel and slide in standard sizes are smoothly combined with a compact frame, and the CZ P-10 S subcompact (see p. 22 for more details). With the coming of these latest models, the compacts are being partially modified. To provide better user comfort, the compacts and their younger sisters will now have a magazine release with the control on one side that can easily be swapped to the other side.

When appraising the CZ P-10 C pistols, there is a rare agreement that CZ have taken the correct route and that within the sector of polymer pistols with a pre-cocked striker, they hardly have an equal rival. And that is taking into account the price too.



The slide stop with ambidextrous controls is also patent protected.



# CZ 75 B



## 40<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY, OPERACE ANTHROPOID, REPUBLIKA

### CZ 75 B Anniversary Editions

Between 2015 and 2018, CZ brought out no less than three limited editions of its symbolic flagship product, the CZ 75 B pistol. All three have enjoyed great commercial success, put simply – all models sold like hotcakes.

#### CZ 75 B 40<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY

When there is a number 5 at the end of a year, for Česká zbrojovka it traditionally means an anniversary of the CZ 75, a groundbreaking model in many aspects that became a crucial model for the Uherský Brod company. And

that is meant in the best sense of the word.

The company has gotten into the habit of preparing limited editions of CZ 75 pistols named according to the current anniversary year of this famous weapon. The most recent one

was called the 40<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY and there is general agreement that with respect to its look, it is one of the best ones ever made.

Most of the shooting community learned about this anniversary edition from the acquisi-





tion sample photographs that literally flew around the whole world. However, the ultimate design of this edition differed slightly from the teaser. The CZ 75 B 40<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY is based on the current CZ 75 B in black finish, it is decoratively engraved, work once again carried out by the company's engraver of choice, René Ondra from Uherský Brod. In contrast to the first design, he added lines to the final design which optically give the model more depth.

The engravings are well complemented by the "handwritten" inscription on the left side that shows the usual model designation (in the name although not exactly in position). Right next to the CZ trademark, there is a number specifying the particular model of the limited series.

An ordinary CZ 75 B has a serial number and a proof mark on the

style font. In addition, each CZ 75 B 40<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY model bears the words 40<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY / 1975-2015 on the right side, at the back of the frame.

The most attractive feature of this limited edition was the unusual combination of purple-blue wooden grip panels and small parts treated by nitriding (namely the controls, extractor, grip panels screws and the baseplate). There were also some changes in the nitriding colour finish in comparison with the acquisition sample – originally, the dominant colour had rainbow gold hues, the final design was rainbow blue which complemented the grip

panels much better. The barrel was left white and polished to a high gloss.

The grip panels, made of premium Californian sugar maple, are a story in itself. They immediately catch the eye of an admirer. Some described them as if looking through the Hubble Space Telescope, others saw them with more earthy associations.

There were 1000 models in the CZ 75 B 40<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY edition, with the model marked 000 constituting the acquisition sample. That is why subsequent models bear the inscription XXX OF 999 and the serial numbers stretch between 40TH000 to 40TH999.

Primarily, this was a project for CZ-USA and 899 models were allocated for them. Shipping commenced in March 2015, however, given the complexity of the decorating, small

shipments were being prepared throughout the year until mid-2016. Demand in the United States was high, despite the price set at USD 1499 (the pistol in a faux leather case, two magazines and a certificate). To compare – an ordinary blued CZ 75 B sells for about 600 dollars. Nevertheless, most of the CZ 75 B 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary edition models sold even before crossing the ocean. The remaining 100 models was intended for the rest of the global market and only a few of those ended up on the Czech market, which makes them truly unique collector items.

#### CZ 75 OPERACE ANTHROPOID

Following the success of the CZ 75 B 40<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY edition, another interesting project saw light in 2017. This time, the special edition commemorated 75 years from one of the most successful resistance operations of the Second World War – the assassination of the acting Reichsprotektor of the Protectorate of Bohemia and Moravia, Reinhard Heydrich, by Czechoslovakian paratroopers. Although this event is a fundamental part of modern Czech

history, it is also well-known abroad, which is largely thanks to the British-Czech-French co-production movie Anthropoid from 2016. Despite not fully



satisfying the more serious film buffs, it was a great global reminder of the remarkable event. When presenting the special edition abroad, no lengthy explanations were therefore needed.

It wasn't difficult to decide which model to pick for the commemoration of operation Anthropoid. Firstly, the paratroopers' personal weapons were pistols. When considering the current CZ portfolio, the most classic model is the good old CZ 75 B in 9mm Luger calibre. Secondly, the all-steel elegant design also speaks in its favour, and finally, last year it was 75 years from the event.

Once again, the special edition 75s were decorated by René Ondra, in his engraving studio in Uherský Brod. Simply put, he is always the safest bet, Mr Ondra and his team not only have perfect knowledge of all the secrets and tricks of the engraving trade but they also know everything about CZ guns, making them well aware of the limits of what is possible and what is not.

The choice of a suitable motif was a little bit more compli-

cated this time, as the matter in hand was very sensitive. It was necessary to be factually correct but at the same time proceed with great respect

and take into account legal limitations. René Ondra therefore approached the Military History Institute in Prague which has researched operation Anthropoid systematically for a long time.

The team preparing the commemorative pistols thus welcomed a new member, the Institute's director, plk. Mgr. Aleš Knížek. Involved in the planning and drafting was also a Czech Special forces veteran and the current head of military weapons development in CZ, Martin Šanda.



The pistol was based on the standard CZ 75 B model, on the slide there is an inscription CZ 75 OPERACE ANTHROPOID. Overall, only 75 models were made, with the serial numbers 1942-01 to 1942-75 and one pilot sample. The pistols are blued and polished to a high gloss. The outline of the frame, slide and magazine is inlaid with fine silver, the controls are nickelled and together with the barrel polished to a high gloss. The all-metal magazine baseplate bears the emblem of the First Republic Czechoslovak Army.

The grip panels made of Turkish walnut deserve great praise – at

the top, the checkering incorporates the Czechoslovak flag and at the bottom, there is the Small national emblem of the Czechoslovak Republic. The overall effect is truly beautiful, without the state symbols being diminished at all.

Another key element of this series is the inscription on the slide and the sides of the frame. Here too some changes occurred in comparison with the standard pistol, which makes it the only one of its kind. After much consideration, CZ decided not to include the names of the paratroopers. Instead, the narrowed side of the slide on the left bears the date 27. 5. 1942, on the right there are the words Praha-Libeň, the place of the assassination. However, the famous last words of the Czechoslovakian paratroopers, heard from the underground crypt of the Sts Cyril and Methodius Church in Resslova street on 18th June 1942, are inscribed in three lines on the

right side of the frame, between the manual safety axis and the slide stop pin (in Czech):  
We are Czechs!  
We shall never surrender, do you hear?  
Never!

The model description on the left of the slide has also been slightly modified, it is a little smaller than the standard model and is preceded by the company's logo of a pistol in a barrel bore.



The CZ 75 OPERACE ANTHROPOID pistols were basically made to order, and in spite of their relatively high price, the whole series sold out very fast. The project ran until spring 2018, which incidentally means that dating of the compulsory proof mark, commonly used for CZ weapons for manufacture dating, fell behind in some cases after the particular model was finished and shipped. Each “assassination” pistol was shipped in a luxury leather case with a certificate confirming its authenticity.

### CZ 75 REPUBLIKA

The latest newcomer in the CZ limited editions is the CZ 75 REPUBLIKA, which was unveiled to the general public on the 28<sup>th</sup> October 2018, on the occasion of the 100th anniversary of the foundation of Czechoslovakia. As we will shortly see, this project has broken several records.

The idea to commemorate such a special anniversary of the Czechoslovak Republic came once again from René Ondra, CZ’s engraver, who recommended the commemorative edition be based on the timeless CZ 75 B. This pistol continues to be somewhat of an icon of the

tion with the interwar period – the golden era of Czechoslovak arms industry, a time when the pistol’s designer, František Koucký, rose to fame.

This edition took a while to decide on the final design and what should be included in the accessories, an important part of such projects. René Ondra refined his vision with the help of

product managers Jan Gibek and Lubor Pokorný, and also took into account his own family. His great-grandfather was a World War I legionnaire who for the rest of his life held the first Czechoslovak president, Tomáš Garrigue Masaryk, in high esteem. “With this project I wanted to pay tribute to him as well as to all those who one hundred years ago fought for the creation of our republic,” René Ondra explains.

tant element of the interwar Czechoslovak Republic national symbols. The engraving can be also found on the front and back of the grip, where it has replaced the usual

vertical checkering for a more reliable grip. The golden outline and the linden tree motif engraving continue on the bottom of the magazine base-plate. Moreover, twenty-four carat gold was also used to plate the controls – the trigger, hammer, slide stop, magazine release and manual safety, including their axes protruding from the right side of the frame, as well as the extractor and screws securing the anatomical grip panels made of briar root. The beautiful grain of this brown wood is accentuated by varnishing.

There is also a special decorative feature in the form a small coat of arms of the Czechoslovak Republic used between 1920 and 1938. It is made of gold (certified by a hallmark), embedded into the right side of the frame, between the safety axes and the slide stop.

On the left side of the frame there is an inscription in elegant retro style font PRAVDA VÍTĚZÍ (truth prevails – a motto used on the presidential standard and on the greater coat of arms) and CZ 75 REPUBLIKA. The pistol also bears the traditional CZ trademark and the calibre designation. On the left of the frame, there is a two-line text (in Czech) Made in the Czech Republic in the edition of 100 models.

The CZ 75 REPUBLIKA is based on an all-steel CZ 75 B SA/DA model in 9 mm Luger calibre. The frame and slide are blued and polished to a high gloss, with the barrel in high gloss as well. The outline of the frame and slide is inlaid with 24-carat gold. Within this area, the surface is engraved with the motif of a linden tree branch which constitutes an impor-



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The CZ 75 REPUBLIKA is based on an all-steel CZ 75 B SA/DA model in 9 mm Luger calibre. The frame and slide are blued and polished to a high gloss, with the barrel in high gloss as well. The outline of the frame and slide is inlaid with 24-carat gold. Within this area, the surface is engraved with the motif of a linden tree branch which constitutes an impor-

On the right side of the frame, slide and around the ejection port, in addition to the prescribed proof marks, each model is also designated with a unique serial number, CSR-1918 to CSR-2018. In the front of the right side of the slide, there is an inscription expressing the anniversary of this edition: 1918–2018.

Each CZ 75 REPUBLIKA pistol is supplied in a specially designed wooden case fitted with little legs. Regarding the materials, René Ondra says: “The case is made from three types of wood – Turkish walnut, ash and burr walnut veneer on the sides. The burr was difficult to find in the Czech Republic, in the end I managed to source it from Austria.”

A linden tree branch is carved on the lid, encircling the Czechoslovak greater coat of arms from the First Republic. Inside, the case is lined with dark red

microplush velvet. A portrait of the first Czechoslovak president, Tomáš Garrigue Masaryk and the Czechoslovak Republic greater coat of arms on handmade paper is mounted into the lid of the case. The lid is held open by two tricolour ribbons. The cases are supplied in black protective laminated cardboard bearing the CZ logo.

“In my opinion, this model is the most priceless CZ 75 pistol in history,” René Ondra adds. “And not just because there are only 100 models. In addition to the superb decorations and unique accessories, it is also unusual in that it has inscriptions in Czech and unique numbering. A customer thus has the option, for example, to choose a model with their year of birth. I might not live to see it myself, but I believe that one day, one of these models will become a museum exhib-

it. After all, a model with the number CSR-1928 has already been reserved for the Prague Military History Institute.”

The uniqueness of the CZ REPUBLIKA edition is reflected in the price which would have pleased the legendary interwar entrepreneur Tomáš Baťa: CZK 199,900. The price is also one of the records we mentioned at the beginning, as pistols from this edition are undoubtedly the most expensive CZ pistols ever to enter the regular market. Nevertheless, the customer response has also been record-breaking, the whole series was basically sold out (pre-ordered) immediately after it was officially presented.

Without doubt, this great success just about guarantees that we can look forward to seeing additional interesting limited editions of CZ guns in the future too.



CZ's engraver, René Ondra, working on the CZ 75 REPUBLIKA



# CZ SHADOW 2



## TOUCHING THE IMPOSSIBLE

In March 2016, the IWA trade fair in Nurnberg saw the spectacular premiere of the sport and defence pistol, the CZ SHADOW 2. This event took place ten years after the launch of the CZ 75 SP-01 SHADOW, which in 2006 marked a significant leap in the quality of CZ handguns. The second Shadow certainly dwarfs its predecessor in all the key parameters, as one can see from its winning streak at the most prestigious IPSC championships around the world.

The first model, the CZ 75 SP-01 SHADOW, is without a doubt an excellent pistol. In a way, it completely fulfils the original vision of the IPSC Production division. Its dimensions and weight allow for comfortable everyday carry, including concealed carry, and in case of need, it is the perfect weapon for self defence. But at the same time, you can win all the

important competitions in the world with it.

Even as the years stretched on, the CZ 75 SP-01 SHADOW kept on winning in IPSC, its absolute dominance lasted for many seasons. Only after a long time were competitors able to come up with models that in the hands of elite shooters equalled these superb pistols from Uherský Brod.

And at that, they were variations on the timeless CZ 75, which managed to catch up with the first SHADOW only because the rules in the Production division have allowed for the creation of guns that, albeit resembling custom-made sport specials, are in fact serially-produced. This move has opened up a new chapter of competition amongst manufacturers in this sector.

### Back to the top

In fact, Česká zbrojovka wasn't taken by surprise. On the contrary, even at the time of the 2014 World Shoot, the company had the first prototypes of a new sport pistol which was to elevate the CZ brand back to the top at prestigious championships.

At first, the development team spent what felt like a lifetime gathering and evaluating mountains of data from production and user experience of the CZ 75 SP-01 SHADOW model. The CZ Shooting Team proved an invaluable source of information and advice at this stage, since its members have hundreds of thousands of rounds behind them, they represent the elite of the target group of customers and offered their help with great enthusiasm. No wonder, since they were the ones who were able to use the new pistol in competitions and hopefully win in the years to come.

In such cases, the aim is usually finding the weaknesses. Where the SHADOW was concerned, it was more about targeting the parts and properties that would be possible to improve significantly.

At the same time, it was important to keep in mind that despite all the changes and improvements, the new CZ SHADOW 2 should remain an affordable IPSC pistol that could be purchased even by a novice shooter. And so they are.

### As fast as possible

When developing the new model, ultimately called the CZ SHADOW 2, Česká zbrojovka defined three key areas that were crucial for a sport shooter and which could also benefit other users. These areas were speed, accuracy and lifespan. The company then tried to achieve significant improvements in each

of these areas compared with the CZ 75 SP-01 SHADOW.

By speed, they meant the speed of shooting, including everything that goes with it. In the CZ SHADOW 2 the crucial step forward was the new shape of the frame. It is still a variation on the proven design of the original CZ 75 SP-01 SHADOW, but adjusted at critical points to enable the shooter's hand to get as close as possible to the bore axis, while the beavertail has been slightly extended.

The new shape of the large trigger guard with no sharp edges has a long roughened front wall. There is a standardized accessory rail on the front of the frame with a single transverse groove. On the grip, we can see a distinctive pad to the magazine release lever that can be set to three positions using a torx securing screw. In comparison with the CZ 75 SP-01 SHADOW, the magazine well has much more of a funnelled mouth which makes for faster reloading.

A new feature in this category of CZ pistols is a sport-style checking in the form of small textured squares on the front and rear of the grip.

CZ has used a similar finish of the gripping surfaces on their TACTICAL SPORTS series. For the SHADOW 2, after careful consideration, the company opted for a finer pattern with a level of roughness that is just about acceptable during extended shooting with bare hands. Although softer hands may find the grip too sharp, it is extremely reliable even when sweating. This is further helped by the modern flat aluminium grip panels, in the CZ SHADOW they are anodized hard to the specified colour twice (the basic is blue) with an inscription and the characteristic "handwritten" number 2 at the

bottom. The same one can also be found on the left side of the slide, behind the laser engraved designation. All this gives the CZ SHADOW 2 its sport status, while still being suitable for defence or for the armed forces.

Moreover, the new design of the frame significantly contributes to the low weight of the serially produced model, which is 1.33 kg when empty. However, thanks to the great balance, its perception of weight is similar to the original SHADOW (1.18 kg). Compared to its predecessor, the CZ SHADOW 2 is also more stable, the shooter is able to cope with the recoil better and the muzzle climb has been reduced.

In addition, the slide is now exceptionally durable without any increase in weight. After many tests, its design has retained the characteristic slanted edges with two pairs of cocking serrations.

### Single action in its glory

The modified SA/DA trigger mechanism fundamentally contributes to the increased rate of fire. The key changes apply to the "meeting point" of two parts: the rear part of the trigger bar and a small hooked part. On the company's current exploded drawing, this part is called a disconnecter, but originally it was called an inserted coupler and later a revolving intermediate coupler.

While the triggering process in the DA mode remains basically unchanged, in the SA mode the trigger travel is smoother and more manageable, the trigger pull weight is lower (in the range of 8 to 15 N) and with a much shorter overtravel and reset than the CZ 75 SP-01 SHADOW. Specifically, the overtravel and reset are items that an ordinary user won't appreciate that much, but when taking into account the current standard of top IPSC shooters,



these are the key factors that determine who succeeds.

The new shape of the triangular hammer with a large weight reducing hole is more of a design feature in the CZ SHADOW 2. When talking about the safety catch, the left one was originally slightly elongated. However, after feedback from users, the safety on both sides is flat. The basic accessories now include three magazines and a set of buffers.

#### A new rear sight, new technologies

When speaking about accuracy, CZ had two things in mind: the accuracy of the pistol and the precision of manufacturing.

In the first case, the accuracy potential of the new SHADOW has been increased by a somewhat longer barrel and sight line. Then there are the new sights, including an adjustable rear sight with an angled roughened sight surface, and a front sight with red fibre optic. The rear sight is compact, yet has a clear sight picture. It is very simple and therefore durable, it has proven so good that CZ has decided to use it for their other modern pistols.

Regarding production, it can be briefly said that the CZ SHADOW 2 is manufactured using a completely different

technology than the original SHADOW. In this regard, Česká zbrojovka has moved on and the CNC machining centres have been replaced by modern robotic centres. As a result, the serial production provides a more stable manufacture of a much higher quality. The precise manufacturing process has a positive impact on the accuracy of the weapon and thus significantly increases the service life of all its parts.

#### Variants and an adapter

In addition to the basic black version with its typical blue grip panels, another attractive version, the CZ SHADOW

2 URBAN GREY soon followed. The name designates a frame coated with a highly durable heat-cured Polycoat. The black aluminium grip panels on this model contrast beautifully with the grey colour.

The CZ SHADOW 2 OR entered production in 2018. OR stands OPTICS READY, which means that this model has a slide modified so as to allow easy and highly stable attachment of modern miniature collimator sights. These have become more and more popular, especially due to the fact that they enable even faster shooting – for the CZ SHADOW 2 that means one helluva speed. We have tried and can certainly agree. Moreover, collimator sights will now be joining sport shooting competitions. Given the results shown by even the very basic CZ SHADOW 2, we can definitely expect great things from this pistol in this field.

In addition to the 9×9 calibre, all the above-mentioned variants are also available in 9×21 cal., used in countries where the 9 mm Luger is forbidden for use by civilian users. Last year, another newcomer has joined the portfolio, an adapter for easy conversion of the CZ SHADOW 2 to the 22 LR cartridge. Such a rimfire pistol is a great tool for realistic, effective and at the same time affordable training. And what is more, shooting with a rimfire CZ SHADOW 2 is great fun (also tried and tested). The only negative thing is that due to focusing on maximum reliability, the magazine capacity is “only” 10 rounds. That’s the penalty for having the 22 LR calibre, as it is a rimfire cartridge.

Then there are various special editions, from the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of IPSC to a beautifully decorated model bearing the signature of three-times world champion of the Lady Production division, Maria Gushchina, who won her last title with this very model.

A separate chapter is the latest addition, the CZ SHADOW 2 ORANGE, which you can find on p. 36.

#### A new era

The CZ SHADOW 2 is entering the market with the slogan Competition Ready. This means that each pistol is factory tuned so that you can enter a competition and win straightaway after taking it out of the box. At the same time, it is a kind of a play on words in the sense that with this gun CZ is once again ready to take on their rivals – and win.

And this aim has certainly been fulfilled. In 2016, the CZ SHADOW 2 was registered for use in the IPSC Production division and since then the list of

its successes has been growing and growing. The reason is clear – with this gun, shooting at each stage is much faster and such pace has no negative effect on accuracy. Often it is not only faster speed but better accuracy too. In short: with this gun, good shooters shoot superbly and superb shooters push their talent and skills to the maximum.

See p. 41 for the list of laurel crowns achieved with the CZ SHADOW 2 pistol in 2018 – need we say more? A growing

number of shooters from all over the world have come to understand that if they want to win, they need this gun.

It seems that the CZ SHADOW 2 might be the limit where one can go in the Production division using the base of the timeless CZ 75, where design and technology are concerned. But perhaps more surprises are awaiting, after all, when the CZ 75 SP-01 SHADOW was in its prime, one might have thought that nothing better could come.

Another thing is that a problem can be approached from a completely different way yet again. In this respect, CZ gives little hints here and there. With regard to their impressive know-how, surely there might be a treat in store.

But for now, the CZ SHADOW 2 is undoubtedly the queen of the IPSC Production division and it is highly unlikely anything could change about that in the near future.

## CZ SHADOW 2 through the eyes of Robin Šebo

**Robin Šebo (b. 1988) has been a sport shooter since 2007. He first took part in an IPSC competition in 2008, at first in the Standard division and since 2012 in the Production division. Because of his great success, he was soon offered a place in the CZ Shooting Team.**

As one of the best shooters in the world at the moment, Robin takes an active part in the development and testing of new CZ pistols. He has greatly contributed to the final version of the CZ SHADOW 2 with which he immediately began winning the most prestigious world championships. So, let us listen to his views on the most important advantages this pistol brings to the main target group of customers:

- ▶ Great improvement of the grip – the undercut beneath the trigger guard and beavertail allows the bore axis to be closer to the axis of the hand thereby reducing the muzzle climb

during discharge. The sharp checkering and the flat aluminium grip panels contribute to the firmness of the grip.

- ▶ The pistol is slightly longer than the original SHADOW which means that the sight radius is also longer, thus improving accuracy as well. The upper part of the frame and the slide are 1mm thicker on each side. The result is increased weight and therefore partial stabilization of the climb – the mass of the material absorbs the kinetic energy.
- ▶ Modification of the trigger mechanism has shortened the overtravel in the SA mode, significantly improving the perception and control of pulling the trigger. The trigger travel has come closer to the “SA only” system.
- ▶ All the major parts have been treated in a new and highly durable finish, thereby increasing its accuracy, endurance and durability while reducing friction.
- ▶ The rear sight is adjustable in height so each shooter can customize the point of impact



according to his or her preferences and ammunition. The sights are designed to withstand a tremendous number of rounds without damage. The front sight is dimensionally adapted for sport shooting and fully complements the notch in the rear sight.

- ▶ The magazine release lever – its increased size is a huge advantage during fast reloading at competitions as well as during ordinary use, also with the possibility of adjustment in three positions according to the needs and comfort of the shooter.



# CZ **SHADOW 2** ORANGE



## MAKING CZ'S SPORT SPECIAL EVEN MORE SUPERB!

2019 brings some excellent news to the fans of high-quality competition pistols in 9×19 calibre – the popular CZ SHADOW 2 model gets an upgrade in the ORANGE version.

If you have been following CZ for a while, you might know that the company has always had reservations on whether or not to customize. This isn't a unique concern, the issue interests many renowned firearms manufacturers around the world. For a large factory that churns out hundreds of thousands of firearms in serial production, having its own tuning centre is not as easy or as justifiable as customers might think. The root of this is a completely different style

of work that does not easily mesh with mass production.

In the 1990s, when CZ began producing the first finely-tuned pistols for IPSC, it was considered a somewhat prestigious venue and a good way to ensure work for the prototype development workshop during idle periods. The idea of a custom shop kept cropping up now and again but never with any immediate priority. Only in the latest era that began in 2006, the Uherský Brod

company gradually discovered a way how to satisfy the needs of customers yearning for finely-tuned specials while not slowing regular serial production that was in full swing.

Nowadays, various customized and finely-tuned CZ guns are mostly created in collaboration with a carefully sourced outside supplier, on the basis of exact specifications prescribed by Česká zbrojovka, primarily using parts manufactured in the mother factory

where the final inspections take place.

This process has also been used for the manufacture of CZ ORANGE pistols. Let us remind ourselves that models bearing this name appeared on offer in Česká zbrojovka for the first time in 2012, originally just to bring out a little extra something. However, the enthusiastic response from customers made these custom grade pistols with unique orange elements

a permanent fixture in the CZ portfolio. And obviously so successful that it has encouraged the company to come up with more and more variants in other models.

### The wonders of a barrel bushing

The latest addition to this signature series is the CZ SHADOW 2 ORANGE. When seeing this gun for the first time, some might have the feeling of *déjà vu* – and rightly so. This product was unveiled for the

first time in September 2016 at the international journalist meeting organized by CZ, and its photographs subsequently appeared in many specialized magazines. At that time it wasn't called ORANGE, but it caught the attention of many sport shooters who were sorry to see this gun go on the back burner as high demand focused production on the standard CZ SHADOW 2.

Nevertheless, in 2019 the CZ SHADOW 2 ORANGE has at



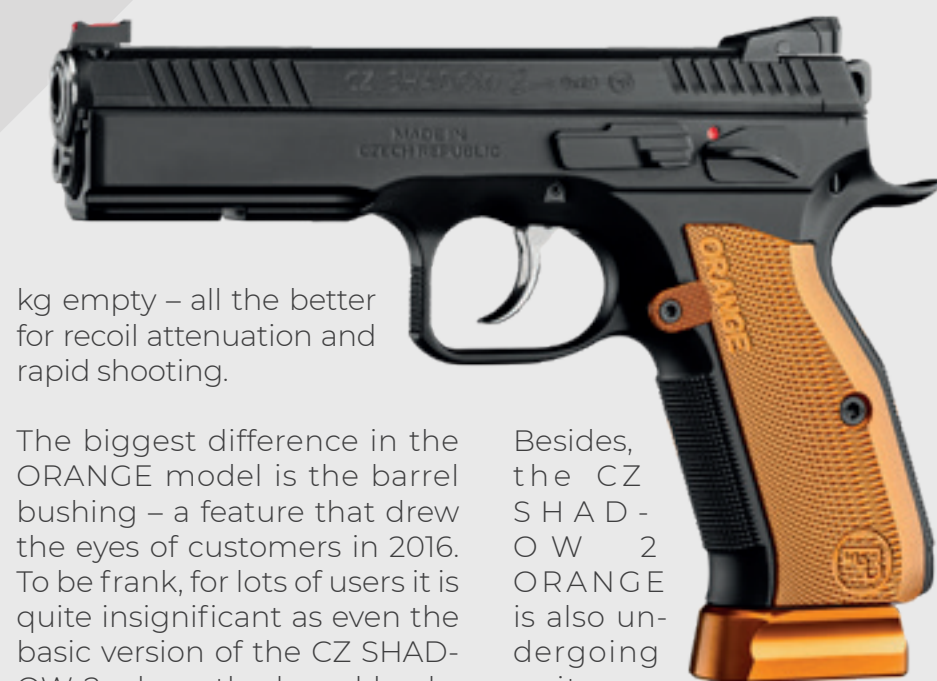


long last joined the regular portfolio and Česká zbrojovka certainly sings its praises – this gun is meant to “elevate your shooting experience and results to the very top.” So, let us see if these accolades are justified.

The new model is based on the SHADOW 2, a gun that has been incredibly successful for CZ. Specifically designed to appeal to IPSC shooters and others in the sport shooting world, it is quite hefty at 1.33

more accurately than they do themselves. However, master shooters hold the view that a good quality barrel bushing can help them achieve extra tenths of millimetres closer to their aim, which at certain competition levels can decide who wins. Moreover, there is the factor of a very slight but very welcome move of the gun's centre of gravity forward.

#### Gunsmithing adjustments, sophisticated controls



kg empty – all the better for recoil attenuation and rapid shooting.

The biggest difference in the ORANGE model is the barrel bushing – a feature that drew the eyes of customers in 2016. To be frank, for lots of users it is quite insignificant as even the basic version of the CZ SHADOW 2 where the barrel bushing is a part of the slide shoots

Besides, the CZ SHADOW 2 ORANGE is also undergoing quite extensive

adjustments: the trigger and striking mechanism are tuned to achieve the smoothest trigger travel and the main parts are hand-fitted. Experienced shooters will appreciate the shortened reset – and that is saying something since CZ SHADOW 2 already features a short reset to begin with. Naturally, all tuned CZ pistols have a polished barrel.

As standard, the CZ SHADOW 2 ORANGE is equipped with an IPSC hammer with a large weight-reducing hole. The magazine release lever is fairly wide, adjustable and can be of course swapped to the other side of the frame, a feature appreciated by left-handed users.

The lever, the flat grip panels whose design is slightly different to the basic CZ SHADOW 2, and the baseplate are made of a highly durable aluminium alloy and are anodized to bright orange. This shade has given its name to the whole family of custom-grade CZ pistols and shall remain its distinguishing mark. (Well done to CZ for sticking to their guns and resisting the efforts of some businesses to make orange grip panels a commonly available accessory.)

The controls deserve a special mention: in the basic configuration, the CZ SHADOW 2 ORANGE is available with the left safety catch considerably larger. It makes controlling the gun easier and according to the experience of elite shooters, it also helps provide a reliable grip. The safety catch on the right side is a regular flat shape, nevertheless, the company has also answered the customer demands and for the SHADOW 2 ORANGE, it offers a set of a flat left safety catch and a flat slide stop as an additional purchase. With

the flat safety catches on both sides (which some users favour), the height of the grip on the gun changes and the regular wider slide stop may get in the way.

#### Superb trigger travel

We were able to test the CZ SHADOW 2 ORANGE pistols in both configurations in September 2018 during another of the company's international meeting of journalists. We were shooting at a distance of 15 m at popper targets in various sizes and because many of us wished to have a go, there were relatively few rounds available for each shooter.

Despite these limitations, the orange CZ SHADOW 2 models were extremely well received. Those who knew what to home in on really enjoyed the trigger's absolutely superb travel and minimal reset. In those circumstances, the benefits of the barrel bushing wer-

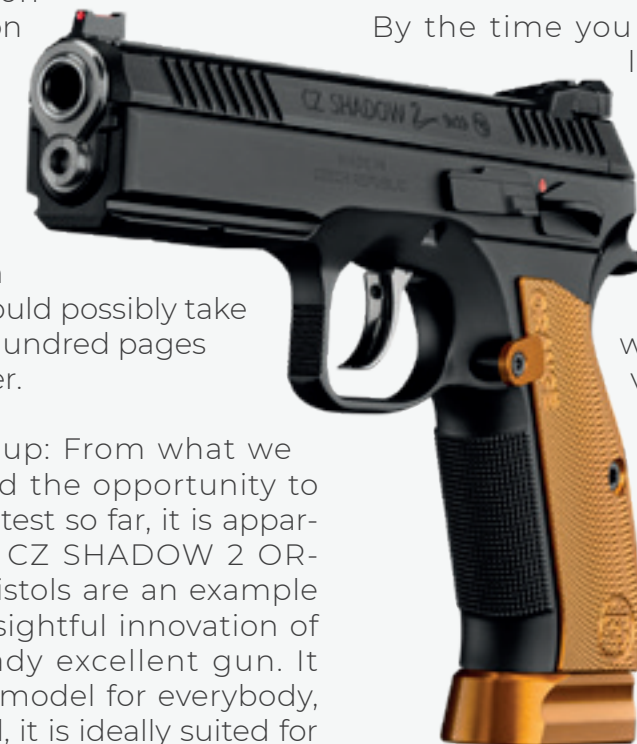
en't that evident; however, the slightly different balance of the gun is telling in itself. So which configuration to go for? Now that is a very good question which could possibly take several hundred pages to answer.

To sum up: From what we have had the opportunity to see and test so far, it is apparent the CZ SHADOW 2 ORANGE pistols are an example of an insightful innovation of an already excellent gun. It is not a model for everybody, above all, it is ideally suited for highly experienced shooters who will be able to fully exploit its potential. The well-thought-out details are an additional bonus, although as has already

been mentioned, at a certain level, these details can be a deciding factor.

By the time you read these lines, the CZ SHADOW 2 ORANGE will have had its official premiere which will have revealed its retail price. Regardless of the price though, it is a foregone conclusion that these finely-tuned specials

will not stay on the shelves for long. For 2019, not more than 2000 models will be produced for the global market.







# CZ Shooting Team

Since 1993, the success of Česká zbrojovka’s team of shooters has played a major role in the worldwide popularity of CZ guns. Today, the team includes the best shooters from the Czech Republic as well as abroad, giving it an international name - the CZ Shooting Team.

### The pistol team

The key arena for the CZ Shooting Team has traditionally been IPSC shooting and CZ continuously develops and produces an array of first-rate models for this sector. In return for that, these elite shooters in company colours participate in the development and testing of new CZ guns. The CZ Shooting Team also strives to raise public awareness of this beautiful shooting sport and encourage as many people as they can to take it up, both at the international as well as national level.

The CZ pistol team is currently divided into two parts: **World Class** – the best of the best in the world. The **Production** Division includes Robin Šebo, Ljubiša Momčilović, Michal Štěpán and

Maria Gushchina (however, Maria has lately began participating more in the Open Division). In the new **Production Optics** division, it is Andrej Hrnčiarik. The **Standard** Division includes Josef Rakušan, Zdeněk Liehne and Petr Znamenáček, in the **Open** Division there is Miroslav Havlíček and Martina Šerá.

In addition, the CZ Shooting Team supports **regional continental shooters**, for example in Argentina, South Africa, Australia, etc. This year, Germán Romitelli from Argentina won the Production Division in the Pan American handgun Championship in Jamaica with a CZ SHADOW 2 pistol.

For the CZ Shooting Team, 2018 was truly an excellent season. In

simple words, the factory shooters won anything they could with their CZ guns. Here is a small selection of some of the most important achievements:

- ▶ Robin Šebo – titles from Australia Nationals, continental African Championships, Champion of Canada;
- ▶ Ljubiša Momčilović – winner of the CZ Extreme Euro Open (one of the largest competitions in the world, last year it was the 10th anniversary which saw more than 1 000 competitors take part);
- ▶ Maria Gushchina – titles from continental African Championships, Euro Asia Extreme Open or Far East Asia Championship, where in the Production Division she sailed to victory beating all the shooters, including men;

## CZ guns for IPSC

### Production Division

Shooters may only use factory made models with open sights with no additional adjustments or modifications. In this division, the reigning model is the **CZ SHADOW 2** pistol, used since 2016. The latest newcomer is the improved **CZ SHADOW 2 ORANGE**.

### Standard Division

Factory-produced models with open sights only, without compensators and with limited dimensions (must fit in a 225×150×45 mm box). Adjustments are restricted to improving accuracy, reliability and functionality while using commercially-produced parts. Currently, shooters from the CZ Shooting Team use the **CZ 75 TACTICAL SPORTS ORANGE**.

### Open Division

There are no limitations on pistols in the Open Division, the participants therefore use individually modified or specially built models. These guns usually have collimator sights, extended magazines and muzzle climb compensators. In this division, shooters from the CZ Shooting Team use the **CZ 75 TACTICAL SPORTS CZECHMATE**.



- ▶ Zdeněk Liehne – Canadian Championship winner;
- ▶ Miroslav Havlíček – continental African Championships winner;

The pistol division of the CZ Shooting Team is looking forward to the 2019 season, with the European Championship being the greatest competition of the season, taking place in Belgrade. Everything suggests that it should be an exceptionally fruitful season for many reasons. All the team members are in great shape and they have welcomed a new member, the phenomenal **Eric Grauffel**. What is more, in the Production division, Eric and his CZ Shooting Team mates will shoot with the new CZ SHADOW 2 ORANGE which offers an even higher standard than the already exceptional CZ SHADOW 2, thanks to the barrel bushing and finely tuned trigger mechanism.

#### Rifle shooters

Slightly less known to the general public, yet also extremely successful are the long gun shooters from the



CZ Shooting Team, Tomáš Staněk and Martin Šlechta, who take part in hunting disciplines, such as the Game Rifle or Combined Game.

In 2018, Tomáš Staněk became a three times Czech Republic Champion in various disciplines and also the European Champion in Combined Game Shooting.

These exceptional results have been of course achieved with the aid of CZ sport specials.

#### Sport events for the Armed Forces

It is a little-known fact that as an important service handguns supplier, CZ also cooperates with the Armed Forces in the organization and support of various national as well as international competitions, for example for snipers, reconnaissance units, etc. What is more, since 2017, the company has organized its own event aimed at Armed Forces, the Warrior Camp.



### Eric Grauffel – CZ Academy

The 2019 shooting season has welcomed a new member of the CZ Shooting Team, **Eric Grauffel** (b. 1979), who will shoot in the company colours in the Production division with the new CZ SHADOW 2 ORANGE model. Eric is considered to be the best pistol shooter of all time.

He is an eight-time World Champion in IPSC – he won the first title in 1996 on the Open Junior division, then five titles in the Open division, one title in the Production division and at the last World Shoot, he triumphed in the Standard division.

Moreover, Česká zbrojovka and Eric Grauffel are launching a joint project called the EG-CZ Academy. The aim of this project is to create a global network of training centres which should set a new standard in this field. The headquarters will be based in Quimper, a town in

France's northwesternmost region, Brittany. A brand new multipurpose indoor shooting range is being built there at the moment, it will offer shooting from all angles and will be available for sport purposes as well as for highly effective realistic training for the armed forces. The building works are to be finished in the first quarter of 2020.

Meanwhile, in 2019 a promotional tour for the EG-CZ Academy will take place around the world, primarily in countries with a strong base of IPSC shooting where major events are held. Members of the CZ Shooting Team who rank among the best on the planet will act as shooting instructors. In addition to Eric Grauffel, the project will be joined e.g. by Ljubiša Momčilović (a long-time member of the CZ Shooting Team, an outstanding shoot-

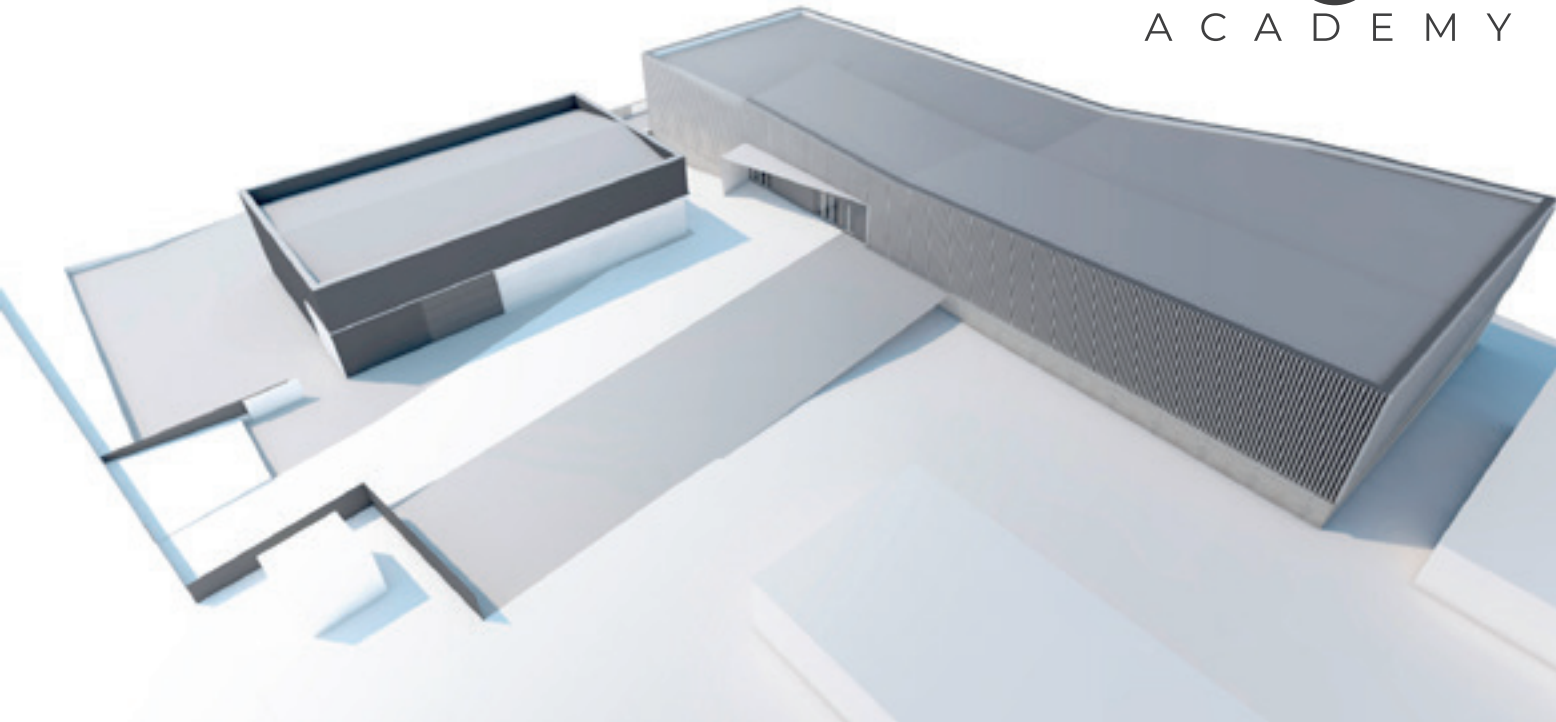
er and armed forces instructor), J. J. Racaza (the current two-times USPSA Champion in the Open and Limited divisions) and the famous Czech shooting star, Robin Šebo.

The value of the EG-CZ Academy project is reflected in the fact that many related industry companies have become its sponsors, to name just a few: Dillon Precision (reloading equipment), Shield Sights and C-MORE (collimator sights), and RCC (a Russian company whose owner is a long-time supporter of sport shooting).

More details about the EG-CZ Academy will be published in due time during 2019, and a website will also be launched to enable those interested in training to sign up for individual courses.

[www.EG-CZACADEMY.com](http://www.EG-CZACADEMY.com)

Visualization of the new multifunctional shooting range EG-CZ Academy



**EG CZ**  
ACADEMY





## ***I love speed!***

***An interview with three-time world champion Maria Gushchina***

Maria Gushchina was born in 1995 in Russia, home country to many famous shooters – a tradition she follows in impressive fashion. Introduced to shooting at age 11, she immediately fell in love with IPSC shooting, quickly making her way to the absolute top of the sport. She became world champion in the Lady Production Division for the first time in 2011 and has since repeated this feat twice more – most recently with a CZ SHADOW 2 pistol in 2017 as a member of the CZ Shooting Team. Having dominated the Production Division, she plans to repeat her success in the Open Division.

You became a member of the CZ Shooting Team in August 2015, during the USPSA Championships. It is said that your decision to join the team was very spontaneous. How do you feel about that decision now, more than four years and a world champion title later?

I am so happy that fate made me cross paths with the CZ Shooting Team. At the time I had rented a gun which was not very good, so I tried the CZ 75 SP-01 SHADOW pistol. This gun gave me the opportunity to discover my shooting boundaries and I was able to get very good results. So, when I was given the offer to join the CZ team, I readily agreed. The following year I competed with the new CZ SHADOW 2 model which I completely fell in love with, as it has made me go further still.

Lately, we have seen you more often in the Open division with a CZ 75 TS CZECHMATE, has this division become your favourite now?

I think I have explored everything in the Production Division and achieved all the goals. It breaks my heart but I think the time has come to

start something new, to feel a little bit of a beginner in a new division and to make new goals. It is always interesting to improve your skills and see your progress and I think the Open gun will give me this feeling. Besides, I love speed a lot and I really don't love reloading my gun for stages, so that's why this division is my dream come true.

**Where can we see you in 2019?**

This shooting season I will compete in Australia, Russia, a few big Czech matches, Germany, Philippines and Serbia.

**You and Robin Šebo are amongst the absolute elite in the CZ Shooting Team. You are both very competitive. What is the relationship like?**

I am lucky to have him. He is my shooting paragon whose results I aim to achieve. I can compare my shooting and his and see how good or bad I shoot in a match, if I have to push a little or be careful and not to take any risks during the next few days of the competition. It is also good to have a reliable partner who helps you, supports you and laughs with you during competitions.

In 2018 you triumphed at the Far East Asia Handgun IPSC Championship, where you won the Production Overall with your CZ SHADOW 2 pistol, beating 140 competitors, guys included. What were your feelings after the competition?

I was the happiest girl in the world at that time. I love to prove that in IPSC everyone is equal, it doesn't matter what gender and age you are – if you have talent, passion and you work hard – you can win!

**You always like to push your shooting further, what are your next goals?**

I would prefer to keep that a secret. The only thing I can tell is that I want to achieve the maximum result in the Open Division.

**Please allow me one personal question. You are said to enjoy karaoke. What is your signature piece?**

I love karaoke so much that I decided to buy a professional karaoke system to have at home. Every few days I sing and try new songs. And I think my best song in karaoke is "Rolling in the Deep" by Adele.





## I STILL WANT TO BE THE BEST IN THE WORLD

**An interview with Eric Grauffel not just about joining the CZ Shooting Team and the EG-CZ Academy project**

The CZ Shooting Team is indeed an international squad which thanks to the superb properties of CZ guns attracts the best shooters from all over the world. The latest asset to join the team is Eric Grauffel, a living legend from France and many-time world champion who has demonstrated his great talent in three IPSC divisions. Anybody who wants to improve in practical shooting will certainly welcome the fact that Eric's liaison with Česká zbrojovka a.s. is not limited to taking part in competitions.

### How did you get into guns and sport shooting?

It was my dad who introduced me to them, when I was little. When he was in the army, he became a national champion and then with some of his friends he established a shooting club. I think it was in 1975 and he ended

up presiding over it for about 10 years. When I was little, my parents both worked, I didn't have any babysitters, I basically spent just about every weekend at the shooting range. I must have been about six, so I had access to guns and ammunition from an early age. I started shooting

when I was about eight years old, so we can say that I've been around guns almost all my life.

### When did you take up IPSC shooting?

Exclusively since I was about 15, so that is around 24 years now. Let's say that in profes-

sional shooting, I am quite old. *(laughing)*

### What do you consider to be your greatest success?

My best success? I would say that it's got to be my championship titles won all over the world, some of which I have achieved several times over. I think it is something that nobody else has repeated yet and I think it will take a while before anyone does.

### And what are your immediate goals in IPSC shooting?

Shooting, I expect. I need to keep shooting, I am a competitor so I need to shoot and compete. It's like a drug for me, I just need to shoot. And regarding new goals – I don't know yet, I have already achieved a lot. But the main goal for me is to keep taking part in main events and shoot to be the best in the world. I am still very competitive.

But we don't know what division yet. I will try Production, Standard as well as Open, a last-minute call is also an option. We will see what is best. I like the idea of the last-minute decision, it kind of keeps things spicy.

### How and when did you get into CZ guns?

Well, January 1<sup>st</sup> 2019 – I am just starting with them. We are going to work on a mutual project, we have in mind a kind of a shooting academy. Also, I will be involved in the development of a new gun for the Standard and Open divisions. Working with such a renowned company is a great challenge for me, as is becoming a part of such a great team and participating in several projects all at the same time. That is a pretty big task but at the same time very exciting.

### So, you still don't know which CZ model you will choose to shoot?

I would pick all of them, a different one for each division – I like

this idea. *(laughing)* And I also like the idea of developing new guns. I have my own shop and my own team of people. We like to develop new models and I think we are very good at it. We like to test and actually modify whatever we can. So, we cut things down, do a bit of upgrading here and there or find other solutions. We improve equipment, materials and put the resulting model into production. For me it is important that other people can buy whatever I use. The models are not specific models made for specific shooters. They are customized but still accessible to everyone.

### Do you already own a CZ gun or are you still waiting for your first one?

I am still waiting. We started sorting out the necessary permits and documentation only at the start of January 2019 so it will take a while.

### What has led you to collaborate with CZ? Where did it all begin?

In a certain sense, it is only just starting now. I have always had a very good relationship with the shooters from the CZ Shooting Team, we are friends. We meet at competitions all the time, some of them I have known since they were little nippers. *(laughing)*

I have also got on very well with the with the Team's boss, Jakub Sondel. He would always come up to me and say: "Hey, who knows... you never know... one day... we will see...". And then I came up with the new project of building a shooting academy. Jakub heard about it and in the end, we thought that it would be a great opportunity to create something bigger than just a training centre.

### What do you expect from this collaboration?

Naturally, I expect that we will all

give our best to succeed. So, we all have to pull together. My job is to make sure we make good guns, to pick the right bits to modify so as to get the best result possible. And I guess Česká zbrojovka would like me to do a good job at competitions and carry on winning as well. But we must also work on the new academy which will be a great marketing tool. We will be able to make sport shooting accessible to the wider public and at the same time promote this brilliant sport. I hope we will be able to get best team of instructors in Europe as well. All that will help us promote the brand and the sport too. What I mean is that it is not just a business venture, it is much more than that.

### In what aspect do you think CZ pistols are better than the competition?

They are all different. We cannot say that the gun I used today is better than another one. It is as if you compared Michael Schumacher who was with Mercedes and then he went over to Ferrari. Success is a combination of a driver and his equipment, which plays a big part too. When we are using CZ guns, we know we are at the top of the world. We are in the lead and losing is basically not an option. So, we have a great combination of the end shooter and the equipment he or she has available. This makes for a win-win situation. And when we have great guns and great shooters, we have to find out which gun is best for each shooter.

Personally, I prefer new models. For Production I will get the CZ SHADOW 2 ORANGE with the new barrel bushing which offers even better accuracy. As I have already mentioned – unfortunately, I am getting on a bit in this line of work, so I need a few tricks to stay sharp. *(laughing)*





## Speed is nothing without control

*An interview with Robin Šebo about his exceptionally successful season and more*

Robin Šebo is one of the all-time greatest sport pistol shooters on the planet. In 2018, he put his skills on display to amass an impressive collection of championship titles in the IPSC Production Division. Combining Robin's talent and hard work with the right tool for the job – the Shadow 2 – the results were incredible, though he remains very modest about them.

You had a successful shooting season in 2018, being the Champion of Australia, Africa, Canada and Czech Republic. How does it feel?

I am very happy to have had the opportunity to travel so much in 2018. Every match has its own particular style of stages which reflect the shooting style of the

country. All of them were difficult and very important for me, some were even level 4. The competition was very strong. I trained hard during the year so I can say those wins were truly deserved. It makes me very happy and has motivated me to continue working hard on my shooting skills to achieve new goals.

Can you recall how many countries you have visited because of shooting? Do you even count them?

I have never counted how many countries I have visited, but can say I have been to each continent except Antarctica. Shooting gives one a great opportunity to travel all over the world and

meet different people. I can say that shooting has allowed me to experience many interesting things and collect lots of unforgettable memories which will stay in my mind forever.

**You also like off-road bikes and fast cars. Do you see any similarities between shooting and driving? Do you drive the same way you shoot?**

Off-road bikes and fast cars are my obsession. There are similarities in these sports and shooting – in both you have to be careful and very attentive, because every mistake can cost you a place. But you must also be fast and, in a way, furious too, while keeping your speed under control. So yes, I can say my shooting style absolutely reflects my driving. I am sure you can imagine that.

**How do you concentrate before and during a major competition? Do you have any rituals that work for you?**

I don't have any rituals before major matches, sometimes my teammates help me during shooting if I get nervous. They say the right words and support me mentally, so I usually feel much better and continue in my competition.

**What does being a part of the CZ Shooting Team mean to you?**

I am very happy to be a part of such a strong and cool team. We have the best shooters for all divisions, so it is interesting to compare our stage results together. Also, we can completely rely on each other and have fun. Each competition is a small celebration for us because we meet again and have a good time shooting.

**For many shooters IPSC is just a hobby. For you it is a bit different, as you are a professional shooter. How difficult is the knowledge that you have to**

**perform, you have to be a winner? Do you feel it as a kind of obligation or is it just a part of your nature?**

I feel it is in my nature to be the best, to desire being a winner in each part of my life. For me, it doesn't matter that I am a professional shooter or if shoot as an amateur – I want to win. The responsibility that comes with being a professional shooter doesn't make me to feel nervous during a match.

**You participate in many competitions at home and abroad. You train hard on a regular basis. You launched your own web shop, you tune guns for other people, both competitors and shooters. You reload your own ammunition and teach others how to shoot. Do you still love it? Shooting is my obsession and**

a big love in my life. I feel that I have found a profession as well as a way of life which really suits me. I can say I am a very happy person. Of course, sometimes I am tired after a difficult match and have to take a short break from shooting for a couple of days to distract my attention. But after a while I feel that I miss shooting, so I go and train and work once again.

**One of your colleagues is Maria Gushchina. Can you compare her to a movie character?**

I think there is no film star which can compare to Masha. But her character can be seen mostly in Lara Croft – she is powerful, ambitious, fearlessness, kind, beautiful and very charismatic. She is a role model for many people, in shooting as well as a person.







# CZ 457

## UNMATCHED

### The new CZ 457 rimfire rifle series

Regarding rifles for rimfire cartridges, Česká zbrojovka a.s. is not only one of the traditional world leaders in this field but also a trend-setter. This is undoubtedly reflected in their latest model series, the CZ 457.

Czech rimfire rifles are a global phenomenon. The ZKM models that were first created shortly after the end of World War 2 set the bar for ingenuity and exceptionally high quality in a production rimfire. They ranked very high and rightly deserved the huge success that followed. So much so that CZ produced guns based on the designs thought up by the legendary Koucký brothers in the mid-1940s up until very recently. A trained eye will find many features found on the timeless ZKMs even in the recent CZ 455 series of rifles.

#### New directions

However, the situation has

changed once again. Based on their extensive experience and using radically upgraded production facilities, Česká zbrojovka has launched the completely new CZ 457 model series. It is characterized by a sophisticated modular design, thought out to the smallest detail. In comparison to previous models and rival products, the CZ 457 brings improvements in all key parameters, whether we are talking about user safety, accuracy or lifetime.

It is worth mentioning that the concept of many of the new CZ rimfire rifles returns to the original reason this category of firearms was created in the first

place and why they keep enjoying such popularity. Rimfire rifles are often sought after by owners of hunting rifles, above all for practice, to have fun or in order to teach the younger generation the basics of shooting and hunting. In this respect, the design of the new CZ 457 family is certainly quite remarkable. The partial integration with the successful CZ 557 rifle series has been a great move, particularly where the fully-adjustable trigger mechanism with exceptional properties is concerned.

It is also worth stressing that this series has retained the popular CZ 455 magazines and barrelled action, which means

that owners of these guns have an option of an easy and affordable generational upgrade.

#### Safety first

All CZ guns are completely safe, not only when handled properly but during common accidents such as when the gun is dropped. So, what does safety mean in the new CZ 457 series?

One of the key distinguishing element of controls on rifles is the so-called **positive safety**, which manifests on the CZ 457 guns as a lever on the right-hand side of the receiver. The safety is released by moving the lever forward, thus indicating that the gun is ready to fire by revealing a red dot on the side of the receiver.

**bolt extractor control** on the left side of the receiver, which means it is not necessary to pull the trigger when removing the bolt for basic maintenance.

Last but not least, and once again in keeping with the current preferences



Its designers focused on partial modification and improvements of safety features in line with modern trends. After careful considerations, CZ decided to stop using the popular manual wing safety that was a characteristic feature of their rimfire rifles from the time of the famous CZ 452 ZKM model. Today, the pre-

A new element in CZ rimfire rifles is the **striker status indicator** which gives a visual and tactile status of the striker mechanism: when the striker is cocked, a small red bar protrudes from the back of the bolt shroud.

An additional benefit for safer handling is the separate

ferences of most shooters, the CZ 457 guns allow the **bolt to be opened and removed with the safety on**.

#### Improved accuracy

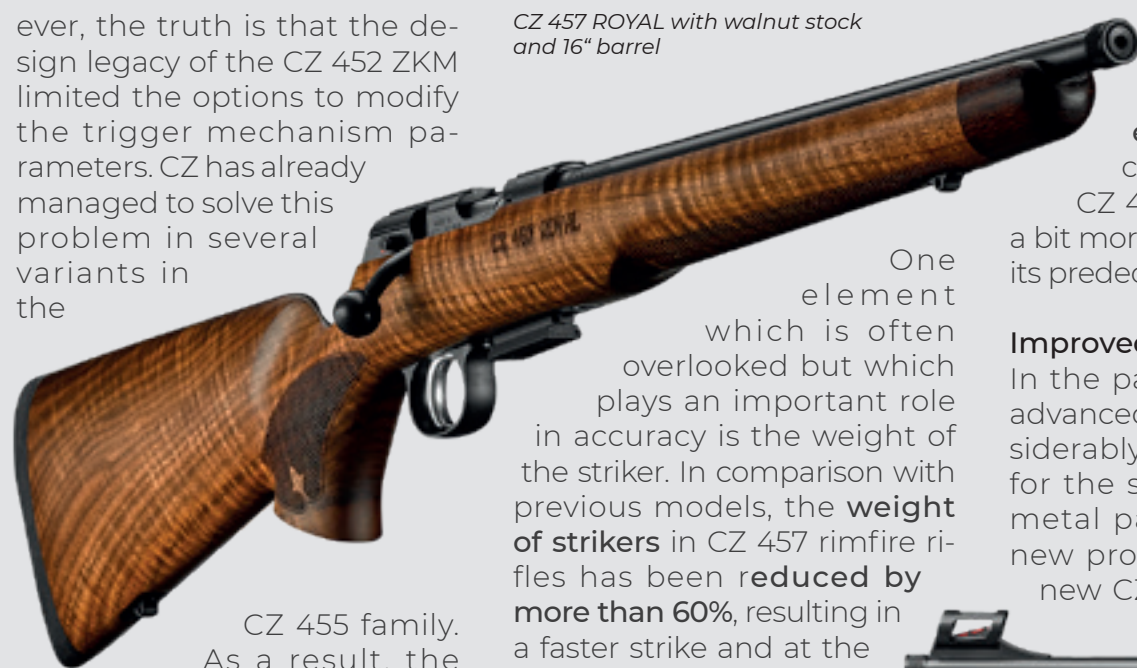
In general, CZ rimfire rifles are highly accurate firearms, how-





ever, the truth is that the design legacy of the CZ 452 ZKM limited the options to modify the trigger mechanism parameters. CZ has already managed to solve this problem in several variants in the

*CZ 457 ROYAL with walnut stock and 16" barrel*



CZ 455 family. As a result, the company has introduced a **new trigger mechanism** for the CZ 457 series. It allows the user to adjust the trigger pull weight within a very favourable range of 8 and 15 N, the trigger travel may be adjusted within 0.5-7 mm. Basically, the shooter may choose to use the gun at a common training level as well as that of a target special.

Where stocks are concerned, there has been a great improvement in all long guns from CZ, reflected in the new rimfire rifles. For CZ 457, the company has developed a **new type of bedding** which allows consistent tightening of the screws in the barrelled action within

the stock. Improvements have also been made where **ergonomics** are concerned, the grip on the CZ 457 is thus once again a bit more comfortable than on its predecessors.

#### Improved user properties

In the past few years, CZ has advanced its technologies considerably, such as procedures for the surface treatment of metal parts. The company's new products, including the new CZ 457 series, are thus

treated with **one the most durable anticorrosion surface treatments on the market.**

In addition, users will undoubtedly appreciate the **improved trigger travel**, achieved by re-designing the receiver and the bolt. Another advantage is the notably **reduced turning**

**angle of the bolt handle** (30° less than previous CZ models). Thanks to this, the gun enables comfortable handling even with a riflescope.

And while focusing on this generational upgrade, CZ has also made **improvements in the quality of work** with regard to smaller parts, such as the trigger guard, magazine frame, rear part of the bolt, new Weaver rail interface, etc.

As has already been mentioned, the important benefits of the previous CZ rimfire rifle generation have been retained: the modular system allowing an easy replacement of barrels and changing of calibres, and compatibility of the barrels and magazines with the CZ 455 series.

#### Generational upgrade

The CZ 457 rimfire rifles are replacing the CZ 455 series. In addition to replacing the variants, such as the LUX, VARMINT, AMERICAN and JAGUAR, the advantages of the new design will also be applied to completely new models with unique pa-

rameters, which CZ has not offered before.

For example, the design of the **CZ 457 ROYAL** model in .22 LR, .22 WMR and .17 HMR calibre is closely related to hunting rifles. Its thin-walled barrel with no mechanical sights is either 412.5

or 525 mm long. The premium walnut stock whose beautiful grain is emphasised by oiling features a decorative tip and Safari style swivels. Its design is based on classic stocks popular in the Commonwealth countries: its typical features are a straight comb, round cheekpiece and slim forend.

*CZ 457 MTR in .22 LR cal.*



Another new model whose design has been based on those rifles is the **CZ 457 PREMIUM**. It will especially appeal to owners of CZ 557 or CZ 527. This rimfire rifle has a premium walnut stock with a European style cheekpiece and once again features a decorative tip. The thin-walled hunting barrel is 630 mm long and is equipped with iron sights – a front sight with fibre optics and a tangent rear sight adjustable from 25 to 200 m. There is also a muzzle thread for the attachment of a silencer.

The great accuracy potential of the new series is fully reflected in the **CZ 457 MTR**, a version in the .22 LR calibre featuring a match chamber with dimensions

on the bottom limit of allowable parameters. In combination with the other innovations, the guaranteed accuracy at 50 m is only 15 mm! The hunting

variant in .17 HMR calibre is extremely accurate too.

#### Different level

Česká zbrojovka a.s. claims that the new CZ 457 family represents a new paragon of a modern rimfire

rifle in its price range without an equal rival on the current global market. Speaking from our own experience, we can certainly confirm that the properties and performance of the new CZ rimfire rifles really are a different level – we haven't been able to find a rival product that could measure up to them.

Nevertheless, the arrival of the CZ 457 also means the end of rimfire rifles based on the tried and tested concept of the Koucký brothers. Such a farewell is always poignant, the more so that in this case it is the end of an era, a very long and exceptionally successful one. Saying that, we firmly believe that without a doubt, these brilliant designers would have been very happy with the new generation of their fore-runners. They always relished new ideas and put great emphasis on the quality of manufacture – and in this respect, the CZ 457 rimfire rifles give us much to be proud of.



*CZ 457 PREMIUM*



# CZ 457 – a truly versatile top quality rimfire rifle

**An interview with a three times Olympic medallist and the face of CZ 457, Kateřina Emmons**

Kateřina Emmons, née Kůrková (b. 1983), has won an impressive number of European and World Championships alike, as well as Olympic Games. Fans of shooting sports will never forget her fantastic accomplishment at the 2008 Summer Olympics in Beijing. Although she retired from professional shooting in 2015, she has not left the world of guns and shooting behind. On the contrary. In 2019, together with her husband Matthew, also an elite shooter, she is launching a campaign to promote a new line of rimfire rifles from Česká zbrojovka a.s., the CZ 457.

One could say that Kateřina Emmons and shooting sports are one and the same, the more so because of the strong family roots and ties. Were you influenced by your family to take up shooting sports? Why didn't you choose a different sport?

As a little girl, I started with swimming. For 10 years, swimming was the sport I wanted to see myself competing in at the Olympics in the future. Around the time I was twelve, I found out that I didn't have what it took to be a great swimmer. And also, I wasn't enjoying it that much anymore, as I had been swimming since I was three. So I quit. My dad asked me then if I wanted to try shooting before deciding what to do next. I did, was bitten by the shooting bug and the rest is history.

Talking about families – many people think that you are related to the Mexican Olympics winner, Jan Kůrka ...

It may seem so but we are not related at all. Although he and my grandfather, Libor Kůrka, were in the Czech national team together.

You have four children with your husband, Matthew. Will any of them become a shooting hopeful and then a champion like their parents?

I have no idea. If I did, I would be a fortune teller (*laughing*). We try and bring our kids up to think for themselves and to learn to solve their own problems, to see things from different points of view. And if we manage to achieve that, then they will be good at whatever they want. It is entirely up to them to choose what they want to do. Sometimes we wonder what that will be as well.

You have achieved your greatest success with an air rifle. Why did you choose this gun?

Well, it was quite simple. I was really good at it, progressed quickly and soon achieved some pretty exceptional results. So there was no reason to switch to another one really (*laughing*). At the time, I knew nothing about three-position shooting with rimfire rifles. My achievements were more about luck, apart from the standing position, I was really good at that one. It was only after I fully

understood this discipline that I began to enjoy it and get a grip on it.

Were you tempted to switch to, say, a rimfire rifle after your superb results at the Olympics, and the Air Rifle World and European Championships? After all, your husband, Matthew Emmons, is an Olympic winner in this category.

I did shoot rimfire rifles from the start but as I have already mentioned, it wasn't my discipline really. It wasn't until 2007 that I understood what it was all about. That was when I learned to use the slings, that is shooting from the kneeling and prone positions. That's when things really took off. I was suddenly able to compete and even win the 3x20 three-position. So that makes competing and training a completely different kettle of fish. The highlight of my rimfire rifle career was a silver medal at the 2008 Summer Olympics.

After retiring from professional sport, many athletes carry on with their sporting activities – apart from spending



more time with their families – for example they coach. How was it for you? There has been talk that perhaps you should assist in coaching the Czech biathlon team in shooting...

At first, I gave up shooting completely and got a job at an American company dealing with car parts, here in Pilsen. They were launching a wellness project for their employees. It was a fantastic experience for me, I was in a completely new environment and I met lots of great people. But then we became the parents of two more girls, which had not really been on the cards. I went on maternity leave and my coming back there doesn't look very promising. A big family needs a lot of flexibility workwise, unless you live in a large city where you don't have to think about logistics so much.

The Czech Biathlon Union offered me a position as a shooting assistant. There is some travelling involved but I can work from home a lot too, especially doing all the preparations. And also, it means working in a highly motivating environment with people who work really hard.

That is very important to me, it is a tremendous motivation and great joy. So, I am able to use everything I have learned in my 15 years of professional shooting and apply it somehow to biathlon, which is of course a much faster sport.

In 2019, you and your husband Matthew became the faces of Česká zbrojovka for their CZ 457 rimfire rifles. How do you feel about this role? Your husband is American, will you promote these rimfire rifles in the United States too?

We feel very positively about this, of course, we wouldn't have done for it otherwise. We are not the kind of people who yearn for their name to be connected with as many companies as possible. Our credo has always been for such a relationship to make sense to both sides and we must always trust the product.

For Česká zbrojovka, the CZ 457 is an important step forward. It is a very flexible product that will appeal to many. So we are happy to promote the CZ 457 anywhere. It really is a versatile gun of first-rate quality.

Taking into account your extensive experience, what do you think about the CZ 457 series? Do you feel it's suitable for shooting sports?

Absolutely. That's why it is so appealing. It would make a great gun for higher levels of shooting sports. For the highest level – not quite. But one never knows... As soon as I held it in my hands, I was bowled over by the bolt and the trigger. They are just incredible. This is possibly the best bolt I have ever had the opportunity to try.

Which CZ guns have you used before?

To be completely frank – none. I have never made a secret of the fact that I am basically not interested in guns at all. It is funny really, but that's how it is. I take my guns as tools that enable me to do a sport. I can provide care and maintenance, I can adjust them and do some minor repairs. That's about it, that's the extent of my knowledge and interest.

Saying that, the CZ 457 is a gun category that I have a close association with and also, it's suitable for shooting sports. So for me, it is an exceptional sporting tool.

What about your husband, what's his attitude to guns?

Matt is the complete opposite in this respect. He is interested in all sorts of guns. Not just for sport, he also takes an interest in hunting, it is the love of his life. I come a close second, as he cheekily likes to point out.

Was Matt familiar with CZ guns before? If so, what does he think about them?

He really likes Česká zbrojovka as a firearms producer, above all, for their high quality of manufacture.





## Collaboration with CZ is a great honour for me

**An interview with Matthew Emmons on his journey to sport shooting and on the new CZ 457 rimfire rifle series.**



**Matthew Emmons (b. 1981), an Olympic medallist and World Champion in rifle shooting has become the new face of the CZ 457 rimfire rifle series, together with his wife, Kateřina, herself a brilliant Czech shooter. The native American has lived and worked in the Czech Republic for many years and has adopted this country as his homeland to such an extent that he conducted this interview in the Czech language.**

For shooters, the United States is the Promised Land. How did you get into sport shooting? In your wife's family, sport shooting was already pursued by her grandparents. Have you also been influenced by your family where shooting is concerned? What you say about the USA is certainly quite true but it depends on the kind of shooting. For example, the Olympic disciplines are not as well-known there as they are here in the Czech Republic. I grew up in a family where every male was a hunter. I have always enjoyed shooting so I am a hunter too.

But I never really knew that shooting could be a sport as well.

I got into sport shooting by accident. One of my dad's mates told us that some colleges in the States have shooting teams and grant scholarships. He asked me if I liked shooting, I said yes and so I began. He taught me the basics and then he found a club for me about an hour's drive away from where I lived. That's where I started training. So, the original motive was that I enjoyed it and I wanted to get that scholarship. The Olympics didn't come into it then.

**Do you remember your first gun?**

Not really, no. It was probably an air rifle of some kind. But I do remember my first rimfire rifle – a Marlin Model 60 semi-automatic. It used to be my grandpa's, so I was able to use it too. I must have been about six or seven.

**Later, you achieved superb results with a rimfire rifle at Olympic Games. Did you consider switching to a different discipline, like skeet?**

Of course! If I was to have a choice again, I would definitely go for skeet. Or archery. Both

are great fun, but not when it's pouring. *(laughing)*

**We asked Kateřina about the future shooting prospects regarding your children. We would like to ask you the same: will any of them become a shooting hopeful and then a champion like their parents?**

That's a very good question. Our aim is to teach all the kids to shoot and to understand guns, which has a lot to do with safety. If they want to compete that's fine with me but I hope they will take up a different sport. Maybe golf, biathlon or baseball... We would like our children to enjoy playing and try out various sports and commit to none of them fully until they are at least 14 or 15. Saying that, I hope that at least one of them will share my love of hunting.

**In 2019 you and your wife will help promote the new CZ 457 rimfire rifle series. How do you feel about this project?**

I am very happy to be working with Česká zbrojovka and taking part in this project. The new CZ rimfire rifle is very well thought-out. I see great potential in it and quite a few opportunities. Both me and Katka are honoured to be working with a Czech company that has such a long history of making excellent guns.

**In your opinion, what are the biggest benefits of the CZ 457 series?**

I really like the new CZ 457 a lot. I like things that are simple yet work very well. Its bolt and trigger are outstanding – very smooth and refined. And having the option to change the barrel and calibre is ideal. One can use the same gun at a shooting range as well as when out hunting, provided the country's law permits it. All you need to do is change the barrel and the stock, which takes about 5 minutes. It is very important for a gun to fit the hand nicely, it must be comfortable and shoot well. The CZ 457 has definitely made the grade.

**Have you had an opportunity to use or try some CZ guns before?**

Regrettably, I have very little personal experience with CZ guns. One of my close friends in the States is a police officer and carries a CZ 75. I haven't shot with it but at least I have held it in my hands. It is a beautiful pistol and he swears by it. Also, I know a few people from various parts of the world who used some old types of CZ rimfire rifles, I don't remember the exact models they had. They were sport shooters, or let's say hobby shooters, and they all spoke very highly of their guns. Then I also have

friends both in the US and Czech who hunt and who use the CZ 550 or CZ 557 rifles. I have never heard them say anything negative about them. They all say that they are very good quality rifles which shoot well. I certainly hope that I will have an opportunity in the future to gain some new experience with CZ guns.

**Česká zbrojovka make a wide range of firearms, from those for armed forces to those for hunting and sport shooting. Which one do you think you would relate to the most? And which one do you think would Kateřina choose?**

Hmmm.... Good question... I think I would go for a hunting rifle, so it would have to be the CZ 557. And I think Katka would definitely pick the CZ 457 rimfire rifle for sport shooting, so that would be the MTR model at the moment.

**You have lived in the Czech Republic for a number of years, your wife is a top shooter. How would you rate the standard of sport shooting in the Czech Republic? Do you think Czech shooters have access to high quality guns?**

When we take into account the size of the country, then on the whole, the standard of shooting is good. In general, the conditions for training are very good – at least where sport shooting is concerned, there is a system of state assistance to clubs that is not so common in other countries.

And yes, Czech shooters can use excellent guns. In this respect, both the best of them and the hopefuls are looked after very well. But shooting is a very expensive sport and personally, I think that with some slight modifications, especially where accessories are concerned, the new CZ 457 could make an ideal gun for those who are starting with sport shooting and who want to get to a quality rifle.







Historical photo of the Vierling from Brno aka ZKW 465 in 5.6×35 R cal.

## CZ 527 – AN AGELESS HEART IN A YOUNGER BODY

Remarkably, the technology of the Czech arms industry is linked with several sibling teams. The three Holek brothers, the Kratochvíl brothers and the Koucký brothers. The last two, Josef and František, played an important part in elevating Czechoslovakia, as the country was then called, among the most significant global manufacturers of small arms for hunting and sport. A number of their models have become true legends, with some still being produced today. Those models may have undergone some modernization, but the healthy heart of the original design has always remained. One great example is the extremely popular CZ 527 rifle platform.

The very first light rifle designed by the Koucký brothers was created just after World War 2 ended, when the famous Zbrojovka Brno factory promptly refocused on the mass production of civilian firearms due to the lack of orders from the armed forces. The new rifle was called the ZKW 465, originally including the name Vierling. It was the name of the 5.6×35 R cartridge, used as the basic calibre. Although it was

first made in the USA under the name .22 WCF in its more powerful version, it quickly gained popularity in Europe, especially used by four-barrelled break-action guns.

From the start, the ZKW 465 was introduced as a must-have for the collection of any hunting and sport shooting enthusiast. Let us quote a part of its original description:

*"This gun allows you to shoot accurately even at longer distances, which will surely be welcomed by those hunting for grouse etc. The graceful shape of all its parts forms a beautiful and harmonious whole. With its overall length of 1040 mm, it weighs 2.7 kg. The barrel is 580 mm long ... The rear sight ... easily adjustable for 75, 100, 150 m. For precise aiming, a scope may*

*be used, it can be attached and removed... There is an opening at bottom of the receiver for the attachment of a 5-round magazine. The trigger mechanism operates on a stronger as well as a more sensitive pull (adjustable to your own feel) with the help of a set trigger."*

In the ZKW 465, the set trigger was located in the trigger guard, behind the trigger itself. As for the bolt mechanism, the Koucký brothers used a cleverly modified, tried and tested Mauser 98 concept with two robust locking lugs. This little-known tidbit allowed them to offer calibres with considerably more power for deer hunting, and in addition to the 5.6×35 R, they included the 5.6×52 R and the 6.5×52 (25-35 Win.) calibres. This oversized action wasn't exploited until later, as the 465 Vierlings from Brno were originally available only in the calibre that shares that name.

### Arrival of Hornet

The first model of the ZKW 465 was produced for a fairly short time, between 1948–1950 and then also in 1953. Since in the first half of the 1950s, Soviet influence in Czechoslovakia shifted production focus to the armed forces on a large scale, leaving no free capacity for civilian production. Moreover, export to so-called capitalist countries came to a standstill for a few years. Nevertheless,



the powers that be at the time changed their mind in the end, as building a socialist state without foreign currency was no fun.

When a new generation of Czechoslovakian civilian firearms was ready to enter manufacture in the mid-1950s, the ZKW 465 light rifle could not be left behind. Together with representatives from the Department of Foreign Trade, the Koucký brothers had not failed to notice that the era of the Vierling cartridge was gone and that new, more modern calibres were coming



ZKW 465 in .22 Hornet cal.

to the forefront. The designers laid their bets on the 22 Hornet calibre, lending its name to the new variant of the rifle. It was ready as early as 1955, though it didn't enter production until 1958. It is worth mentioning that one beautifully decorated ZKW 465 was included in an award-winning collection of Czechoslovakian

an weapons at the famous international trade fair EXPO 1958 in Brussels.

Unfortunately, due to problems with the inflexible organizers of Czechoslovakian export, not many Hornets were made in Brno, but the re-

sponse from both the professionals and the customers was very favourable indeed. In 1963, the company itself proudly stated of its ZKW 465 model: "Very popular around the world for its elegance, modern design, shooting accuracy and affordable price. Rival products (including a basically direct copy) do not come to the same standard." Nevertheless, they also added

that the 5.6 Hornet cartridge was starting to be overshadowed by the .222 Remington and partly also by .22 WMR. It was clear that before further production, a new and thorough market survey needed to be carried out.

### To Uherský Brod

With the many transitions in production from military firearms to sporting firearms and other non-arms products, Zbrojovka Brno could not cope with the increasing demand for sporting arms. After extensive review, the ministry found



a permanent solution to the problem of fluctuating orders. From the mid-1960s, the new main manufacture of firearms for hunting and sport shooting in Czechoslovakia was transitioned to the younger and more modern arms factory in Uherský Brod, known today as Česká zbrojovka a.s. Amongst the models it took over from Zbrojovka Brno (still bearing Brno's famous brand name) was also the light rifle designed by the Koucký brothers, the ZKW 465.

The Uherský Brod company manufactured this original Hornet between 1967 and 1976. Though the volumes were not large, this era lay the foundations of the tradition for the Lite rifles from Uherský Brod, which are still being made today and show no signs of retiring.

Produced in higher numbers, the ZKB 680 – aptly called the FOX – was a nimble light rifle ideal for varmint control. Its 222 Rem. calibre was perfect for just such a task. The Foxes, easily recognizable by the re-modelled magazine catch on the side, had a somewhat complicated history for which there is not enough space here. So, let us mention just one snippet: later, another version in 22 Hornet calibre was produced and ultimately, customers preferred this version to the more powerful 222 cal.

#### Hitting the jackpot

Today's CZ 527 series came into being in the late 1980s. Naturally, it was based on the popular ZKW 680 FOX RIFLE, more specifically on its modernized model 2. When developing the 527 model, the primary task was to expand the portfolio by another powerful calibre – the 223 Rem. Such a pow-

erful chambering allowed the rifles to be used throughout the year, when hunting both light and medium-sized hoofed game. Still, the design team from CZ did not stop at just a new cartridge. The most noteworthy of these changes were the improved trigger travel, more reliable feeding and above all the improved trigger mechanism. Upon debut, the portfolio offered two versions – one with the traditional double set trigger (German set trigger) and one with a single set trigger, also known as French set trigger. However, the German style soon faded away, while the single set mechanism was successful, eventually being chosen for use in the CZ 550 rifles of the Medium category.

ZKB 680 FOX

The CZ 527 series hit the proverbial jackpot. Thanks to the sound design of the bolt, the original trio of the 22 Hornet, 222 Rem. and 223 Rem. calibres could later be supplemented by many modern cartridges, though not all of them would stay in the lineup for an extended period of time. With so many chamberings to choose from, CZ let customer demand determine whether a particular calibre addition was one worthwhile of remaining in the lineup.

It transpired that the dominant calibre was the truly outstanding 7.62×39 mm. It was first used in the Carbine model, an ideal working rifle for professional hunters, which is suitable for varmint control as well as for hunting small and medium-size hoofed game (roughly up to 40-50 kg live

weight). In addition, unlike the faster calibres like 222 and 223 Rem., this slower cartridge creates less damage to the game. In the USA and other countries where it is still possible to engage in expeditionary hunting, the CZ 527 Carbine in 7.62×39 cal. is popular because it can both take game and serve as a defensive firearm, while doing so in a short, lightweight

package. The ability to digest more affordable surplus ammunition makes it a popular choice for recreational shooters.

Some of the other calibres the CZ 527 has been produced in include, for example, the 221 Remington Fireball, 17 Remington and 204 Ruger. None of these are offered currently, though in 2013 CZ began producing a model in 17 Hornet, heartily welcomed especially by US customers.

Where stocks and barrels are concerned, over the twenty-five years of its existence, the CZ 527 series has grown to offer numerous versions, continuously reviewed with regard to current trends. The series offers stocks in both European and American style, thumbhole type stocks and more recently also a target-style stock for the MTR model. Regarding materials, there is walnut, laminated wood or polymer, the latter now being offered in the user-friendly soft-touch finish. With CZ's cold hammer forged barrel, models can be had with thin-walled sporter barrels or heavy varmint barrels in several lengths and with or without iron sights. There is also

a "mirror" version for left-handed users. A premier group of models includes the high-end CZ 527 EXCLUSIVE EBONY EDITION (distinguished by its helical barrel, ebony details at the tip of the stock and on the pistol grip, and a jewelled bolt) as well as some small-scale and custom-built models, such as cutting-edge sport

specials for elite Czech Combined game shooters (see p. 62 for an interview with the current European Champion).

#### New possibilities

Nevertheless, the activities of CZ are not limited to just adding new calibres or bringing new materials for stocks. The entire CZ 527 series has recently undergone a thorough review, resulting in extensive modernizations. We can very well call it a complete upgrade. Many innovations are not immediately apparent but all have brought significant improvements of user parameters.

With the addition of more and more CNC turning and milling centers at Uherský Brod, the 527's receiver has transitioned to this manufacturing process. These actions are now turned and machined from solid billet, resulting in greater precision and ultimately reflected in superior accuracy of the firearm. In simple terms, we can say that the receiver has been made both stronger and more precise.

The trigger mechanism is now the same as the CZ 557 and allows the adjustment of all the crucial parameters – the trigger pull weight, reset and overtravel.

The front and rear sights of all CZ 527 models with iron sights are the same as the CZ 557 rifle. It means these models have a windage-adjustable sloped rear sight blade and an elevation-adjustable front sight accentuated by red fibre optics. This solution is especially suitable when shooting at a moving target.

blasting. The result is a satin-matte finish with less reflection and a higher resistance to corrosion.

And still quite new is the introduction of the popular modern cartridges, the 6.5 Grendel and 300 Blackout, which have opened up yet more new possibilities...

#### Ageless heart

As we have learned, the light rifle portfolio of CZ is set, regularly amended and also significantly upgraded as required so that customers can choose a model that fits their purpose.

The CZ 527 can be a working rifle, an accurate varmint control tool, a hobby gun, or a sport special. No matter what version chosen, customers can rest assured that each model that they will hold in their hands will be equipped with an identical ageless heart, inspired by the reliable and safe bolt that the ingenious Koucký brothers put inside their first light rifle more than 70 years ago. Such a perfect heart hasn't needed any improvements..





# ALL MY RIFLES ARE FROM UHERSKÝ BROD

**An interview with the current European Champion in Combined Game Shooting, Tomáš Staněk**

Tomáš Staněk is the new, very bright star of the CZ Shooting Team. In April 2018, this top long gun shooter became the Czech Champion in Combined Game Shooting and in the summer of 2018, he confirmed his great form by winning the European Championship where the whole Czech team shone.

**Can you tell us more about the individual shooting disciplines you do?**

I take part in shotgun disciplines, namely skeet, trap and sporting, that is shooting at clay targets in open terrain; as well as in rifle disciplines. In this case, these include shooting from a prone position with two arms on the ground (fox), a standing position (boar), a standing position with the weapon either resting on one side of a post (deer) or resting on a stick (chamois), and also a running boar. In addition, I do long distance game rifle, paper game targets as well as steel plate targets or gongs. Game

shooting is basically the hunting equivalent of some IPSC divisions. The gun used must be a hunting style gun, the targets resemble real animals and the numbered zones correspond with real hunting hits.

**Are you more of a hunter or a sporting shooter?**

Now that is a silly question (*laughing loudly*)! If there were no hunters, there would be no sporting shooters. And vice versa, the sportsman in me gives the hunter assurance and peace of mind. They are two sides of the same coin, they cannot be separated. But

I strive to give both as much as I can and do it as best as I can.

**Which CZ weapons do you use?**

All my rifles are from Uherský Brod. I have a CZ 550 in 308 Winchester, a CZ 557 in 6 mm XC – that is a special calibre for sports, with a fast bullet, suitable for shooting at a distance of up to 1,000 metres. And of course, I also have a CZ 527 with which I won the Combined Game Shooting European Championship, this one is in 222 Remington calibre.

**They are rather less traditional shooting disciplines, how have**

## Czech Triumph at the European Championship in Combined Game Shooting 2

**Between 29 June and 1 July 2018, the 11th FITASC European Championship in Combined Game Shooting took place in Piancardato, Italy.**

The event, held at a beautiful shooting range, 170 km north of Rome, saw Czech shooters and Czech weapons do their very best. One of the shooters, Tomáš Staněk, a member of the CZ Shooting Team, gave a superb performance and became the European Champion.

The success of our Czech representatives is well deserved, as the competition was very strong indeed and the conditions were definitely not easy. Not only did the event host the best shooters from Europe but the temperatures stayed around 40° C.

The Championship consisted of two parts – a rifle event and a shotgun event, with the pos-

sible overall score of 800 points. The shotgun event was split into four parts with 100 points for each – two Compak sporting parts and two Universal trenches. In the rifle event, 20 rounds were shot at fixed targets (deer, fox, chamois and boar) and another 20 at three static targets (deer, fox and chamois). The highlight came with shooting at one moving target (wild boar) at a distance of 50 metres. This discipline is considered to be the most challenging in the whole competition as it is nearly always the one that decides the final ranking. In the rifle event, all the Czech shooters used the CZ 527 Varmint in 222 Remington calibre.

The best overall score was achieved by Tomáš Staněk from the CZ Shooting Team who was extremely delighted to become the new European Champion in combined game shooting, praising the Piancar-

dato event: *"I must say that this competition was the best European Championship I have ever experienced in my shooting career, the organizers did a marvellous job. I am overjoyed to have come out on top and beat some serious rivals. It is my dream come true."*

In the women category, the gold medal went to another Czech shooter, Michaela Šten-glová who also used the CZ 527 Varmint rifle. Piancardato saw the triumph of the whole Czech national team using CZ rifles, followed by the Austrians in second place and the Swedish team who came third. It is well worth mentioning that regarding the game rifle shooting, the Czech representative team have been unrivalled for five years. Such success has been significantly supported by special variants of hunting rifles, developed in CZ.

**you got into them?**

I have been shooting since I was small, at first with an airgun in the garden. My dad used to do sports shooting, so it was him who introduced me to it. And another good thing was that the local shooting range was barely 2 km from my house. I spent a lot of time there. As a hunter, I need to be able to hit a target, so I practiced and practiced, until I learnt (*laughing*).

**You and Martin Šlechta, another excellent shooter, joined the CZ Shooting Team at the beginning of 2018. How would you assess your first official season in CZ colours?**

It was a season which will be very difficult to repeat. It was great, more than great. There is not much more to add, really.

**In summer 2018, you achieved excellent results in Combined Game Shooting in Piancardato, Italy, and became a European Champion. What were your feelings during the competition?**

It was nerve-wracking right up until the last moment, no doubt about that. But the main thing was that my body was holding up, that my old neck injury didn't rear its head. When your body bears up, a competition feels completely different. If you have to concentrate on your neck not hurting, you cannot focus on shooting. And when you don't focus, you don't hit.

**Why is your rifle the best?**

Do you mean my CZ 527? It has a superb stock, tailor-made for me. It sits in the shoulder and I don't have to look for the sight line. As soon as I put it in my

shoulder, I have aimed. What is more, it has been made just so to be perfect for game shooting – it is held in a slightly different way than a classic hunting rifle, but this is an advantage in some disciplines. It also has a very good and reliable trigger and great trigger travel. But above all, the barrel is just terrific – in 222 Remington calibre, the barrel is a big thing. And also, I am used to it. All these little bits put together make one exceptional rifle that may even lead you to victory.

**Do you remember your best shot?**

One best shot? Probably a fox at 520 metres, in winter, shooting prone with a tripod. There are more good shots, maybe not loads, but definitely quite a few – and I hope more are still to come. But this take at a fox was quite possibly the best...



### Combined Game Shooting

It is an attractive sport discipline based on general hunting practices. Its uniqueness, as the name suggests, lies in the combination of shotgun shooting at clay targets and rifle shooting at fixed paper targets or a running boar paper target. Both Czech shooters and Czech guns have been at the European top for many years.





CZ **557**

## CZ 557 – FIRST-RATE RIFLES FOR THE WHOLE WORLD

For many years, the globally-renowned CZ 557 bolt action rifles have held a stable position in the hunting and sports rifle market. The numerous variations and diversity of calibres the 557 series offers have made these rifles a truly universal product, fulfilling the needs of a large number of customers from all over the world.

Although both European and US markets tend to favour a fairly limited range of calibres and certain types of material and stock designs, for the 2018/2019 season, designers from CZ have brought out some rather interesting fusions of structural and design elements. Thus, the CZ 557 rifles now offer an even more versatile solution for just about every hunter or shooter anywhere on the planet.

### CZ 557 LUX II

Regarding new products of 2018, one name worth mentioning is the second generation of CZ 557 LUX, the CZ 557

LUX II. It came as a response to the wishes of many traditionalists, local and foreign alike, who yearned for the return of some parameters associated with the CZ 550 RIFLES, the previous CZ 537 model or even with the legendary ZKK 600 series.

While the CZ 557 LUX II has retained the elegance represented by the traditional Bavarian style stock, it has also been given several innovations. The first one is a modified two-position safety which in the “locked” position blocks the bolt mechanism, thus preventing its unintentional opening, for example

when scrambling through dense vegetation during a battue or when tracking wounded game.

Another element that has also been modified is the

trigger mechanism. Where CZ rifles of the “medium” category are concerned, and after many years, Česká zbrojovka has made a return to the single set trigger. However, the trigger mechanism system, very familiar to all the users of CZ 550 series, has undergone a major

overhaul. In the CZ 557 LUX II, the improved trigger mechanism allows the user to set the trigger travel and pull weight, as well as the pull weight of the actual trigger lever after the SST has been activated.

The last difference to the CZ 557 LUX is the barrel, which is 24 inches, or 610 mm, long. This increase of nearly 10 cm allows for the optimum burning of the powerful gunpowder used in modern hunting

ammunition. Because of this, there is no loss of muzzle velocity or uncomfortable increase in the recoil and flash after discharge. This improvement will be most welcome by hunters who are not afraid to shoot at longer

The CZ 557 LUX II is available with a detachable magazine (308 Win) as well as fixed magazine (308 Win, 30-06 Sprg., 7×64, 8×57 IS). The model equipped with a detachable magazine is supplied with a shortened receiver.

It should be emphasized that all the described changes, including the extension of the barrel, have been carried out whilst taking into account the practical aspects of hunting. That is another reason why there has only been minimum



CZ 557 LUX II.



increase in weight compared to an ordinary CZ 557 – the new CZ 557 LUX II model with a 610 mm long barrel, still retaining its legendary robustness of the barrelled action, weighs a mere 3.4 kg without cartridges. Hunters who work with this rifle on a daily basis will certainly appreciate that.

**CZ 557 VARMINT SYNTHETIC**  
Another new product ready to make use of the “medium” category calibre is the CZ 557 VARMINT SYNTHETIC. As the name suggests, this new rifle constitutes the fusing of two versions of the 557 rifle series, namely the CZ 557 VARMINT and the CZ 557 SYNTHETIC. The new model therefore combines a durable anatomical polymer stock with an accurate barrelled action incorporating a heavy and highly precise barrel. What is more, both main parts have also received extensive innovations resulting in a new and extremely versatile platform.

The Synthetic stock is equipped with an adjustable cheekpiece that allows for an optimized positioning of the head towards the riflescope when shooting from various positions. Thanks to this, it no longer matters whether you need to place the perfect shot from a prone position, sitting or standing, you will always feel comfortable in any of those.

The stock has the tried and tested soft-touch finish that enhances the comfort of the grip and prevents acciden-

tal slipping when handled in damp conditions. In addition, the contrasting design of green and dark grey offers an interesting element in the overall look, guaranteeing to catch the attention of other shooters.

Yet another change in the CZ 557 VARMINT SYNTHETIC model comes in the modifications of metal parts. The most crucial one is the shortening of the barrel to 520 mm. The new rifle is therefore considerably more compact than its predecessor but the barrel is still long enough to fully exploit the potential of the 308 Win. and 243 Win. calibres it is available in.

Furthermore, changes in the design are also reflected in the muzzle that now has a new profile which positively influences the stability of the bullet at the brief but important moment when leaving the

barrel. The muzzle is fitted with an M18×1 thread for the easy attachment of a compensator, muzzle break or silencer in countries where such device is permitted or required. The trigger mechanism in the CZ 557 Varmint Synthetic has also been modified. It allows the user to set the trigger travel and trigger pull weight within a really low “target” 10 N up to 22 N.

As standard, the receiver is equipped with a Weaver rail for the quick attachment of

a riflescope, with an option to remove it and attach it again without losing the sighting. Every user who wants to shoot at longer distances will appreciate the option to have the basic version of the rail replaced by a modified one with a 25 MOA incline, which fully enables the utilization of

the whole range of vertical correction of the point of aim on commonly available optical scopes. It means you can shoot at longer distances perfectly well even with fairly basic optical equipment offering a relatively small range of sighting.

Lastly, the CZ 557 VARMINT SYNTHETIC is supplied with a 10-round magazine which has received the designers’ attention too, whereby they have taken into account modern trends of increased popularity of long bullets with a high ballistic coefficient. The new magazine has therefore been modified to place longer cartridges reliably, but the new rifle is still compatible with the

existing 4 - round compact magazine.

Overall, the CZ 557 VARMINT SYNTHETIC offers a versatile platform that performs excellently at shooting ranges as well as when hunting, especially when hunting predators at medium and long distances.

Above all, this is due to the rifle being extremely compact, thanks to the length of the barrel and shortened receiver. In its basic configuration, it weighs only 4 kg.

**New Predator**  
Another model that is worth mentioning is the innovat-

Every keen shooter will also appreciate the fact that the ergonomic stock is now equipped with a practical, height-adjustable cheekpiece. As with the CZ 557 VARMINT SYNTHETIC, it helps to keep the optimal position of the eye towards the riflescope.

A huge added value of the new Predator is the radial muzzle brake, supplied as a standard accessory. It improves

ed CZ 557 PREDATOR which now boasts several new elements. The polymer stock of this rifle is reinforced with glass fibre and finished in a real tree camouflage design that makes this model highly suitable for the hunting of shy game, where not only the hunter himself requires careful camouflaging but his gun too. The stock has a soft-touch finish whose advantages have already been mentioned.

shooting comfort when using more powerful cartridges, such as the 30-06 Sprg. Should the user for some reason prefer not to use the muzzle break, they can easily unscrew it from the M14×1 thread and attach a device in accordance with his or her preferences (e.g. a silencer) or cover it with a cap.

The innovative CZ 557 Predator rifle is currently available with a fixed magazine in 308 Win., 30-06 Sprg. and 6.5×55 SE calibres.

**Living Tool**  
The CZ 557 rifles are clearly not just a stable part of the CZ portfolio but also living tools with which the company constantly responds to the current requirements of the hunting and shooting communities as well as innovations where ballistics and

CZ 557 PREDATOR

ammunition are concerned. Those are just some more of the reasons that make the CZ 557 family so popular amongst shooters and hunters worldwide, from the most experienced to complete beginners.

CZ 557 LUX





## CZ **550** **SAFARI** CLASSICS II.

### **CZ 550 SAFARI CLASSICS II.**

In 2017, Česká zbrojovka entered a new phase of their prestigious programme for the manufacture of cutting-edge rifles for the hunting of the Big Five and other heavy game. The new generation is called CZ 550 SAFARI CLASSICS II – a culmination of the combined knowledge and experiences of many in the CZ brand and brought to life through artisan workmanship.

In order to tell you all about the luxurious CZ 550 SAFARI CLASSICS II rifles, we need to go back in time to the city of Brno in the first half of the 20th century. The local arms factory had begun to manufacture rifles based on the Mauser system soon after the end of World War I, but for a long time, it focused on military service models. Although hunting variants were made, they were based on repeating military firearms and regarding volumes, it was purely a side venture.

This changed after 1945. At that time, Zbrojovka Brno responded to the change in the market and quickly redirected their focus on mass production of hunting and sporting firearms which were in great demand not only in Europe but around the world. With the emergence of this new market, the company not only put more focus on the classic inter-war Z models, but also started the story of the first Zbrojovka rifles based on the Mauser system. Modifications in their design meant that

these models were more favourable for hunting. What is more, their receiver took into consideration the greater requirements for durability when using more powerful cartridges such as the 8×64, 9.3×62 or 5.6×61 vom Hofe.

I am of course talking about the superb ZG 47 rifle. This rifle made its first appearance in the Zbrojovka Brno portfolio not long after the end of World War 2. Unfortunately, due to a temporary refocus of the Czechoslovakian arms industry on the supply for

the military, the ZG 47 didn't enter serial production until the second half of the 1950s. By that time, the market situation had changed once again and new, more modern cartridges were being introduced. The original ZG could not meet the requirements of the new trends without undergoing extensive design modifications and this situation resulted in the decision to develop new rifles.

#### **ZKK rifles**

The development and manufac-

ture of the ZG 47 model was an operation solely in the hands of Zbrojovka Brno. To begin with, it seemed the same would be true for the new ZKK series, finalized in 1963 by the world-renowned designer brothers, Josef and František Koucký. However, around that time, competent authorities decided to concentrate the manufacture of Czechoslovakian rifles in what today is known as CZ – our factory based in Uherský Brod.

The documentation concerning the new rifles was handed over

to the Uherský Brod company in 1965 and the production of ZKK 600 and ZKK 601 commenced the following year. In 1967, a third model, the ZKK 602, appeared and it is this model that is of particular interest to us. In all these cases, the design was a modified version of the tried and tested Mauser system. The individual models differed especially in the length of the receiver and bolt. The rifles were manufactured in our Uherský Brod factory and exported around the world, marketed under the pop-



ular and well-established Brno brand. Thanks to the top quality of manufacture, customers most likely didn't know that these rifles weren't in fact manufactured by the Zbrojovka Brno factory.

The ZKK 602 model allowed the user to use extremely powerful hunting cartridges with an overall length up to 95 mm and with the diameter of the base up to 14 mm. Gradually, calibres

possibilities of CNC machining. A major turning point came in 1995 with the introduction of the CZ 550 series.

The CZ 550 is a truly universal hunting and sporting weapon, in which Česká zbrojovka put to good use everything it had

375 Holland & Holland, 416 Rigby or 458 Lott. The company also offered custom-made models. The customers were therefore able to order their rifles in other calibres or with bespoke engravings. It was one of

Nevertheless, other modifications were carried out. The original CZ 550 trigger mechanism has been replaced by an improved one borrowed

al finishes beautifully emphasise the unique grain of this wood.

tion full of dangerous buffaloes.

Taking into account the various types of hunted game and destinations, the current offer includes the following calibres: 404 Jeffery, 416 Rigby, 300 H&H Mag., 375 H&H Mag and 485 Lott. Allowing for the differences in the individual stock blanks and the diameter of the barrels, the rifle weighs between 4.1 and 4.5 kg. It might seem rather high to those used to dealing with common European calibres, but quite on the contrary. When using high power chamberings such as the 458 Lott or 416 Rigby, the weight of the rifle significantly helps to cope with the recoil. So, where CZ 550 SAFARI CLASSICS II are concerned, the hunter can admire not just the appearance but also appreciate the practical aspects and lengthy heritage that these great rifles offer.



*Z 550 SAFARI CLASSICS II. in glossy finish*

popular amongst hunters of African big game were made available, such as 375 Holland & Holland, 358 Norma Magnum or 458 Winchester Magnum. Later, there were also 7 mm Remington Magnum and 300 Winchester Magnum.

The ZKK 602 became very popular amongst big game hunters and with a few short breaks, it was manufactured until 1999. In total, more than 26,000 of these "magnum" rifles were made and many of those are still doing a great job, despite their advanced age.

#### Magnum-style CZ 550

Thanks to the manufacture of ZKKs, CZ gained a lot of experience, which they put to good use from the late 1970s during the development of modern hunting rifles. Their first attempt, called the ČZ 531, wasn't a great success. On the other hand, the CZ 537 model did much better, here the company explored the

learned until then in the development and manufacture of rifles using the tried and tested Mauser system. This has been reflected in a huge success in sales and in the fact that the 550 rifles of Medium category have been manufactured for more than two decades, with countless variants appearing in the process.

Where the Magnum category is concerned, CZ originally didn't even consider it. Luckily, in 2003, thanks to the initiative of the CZ-USA subsidiary, the original plans were reviewed. On the basis of positive feedback from African hunters and their professional guides, and with regard to the high demand for rifles using powerful "magnum" cartridges, the production programme Safari Classics was launched in 2005, primarily focusing on US customers.

At first, the original CZ 550 Safari Classics were available in the 450 Rigby and 505 Gibbs calibres. Gradually, these were complemented by further established cartridges, such as

the reasons why only 150 "magnum" rifles were made in this programme every year, as they were made in an external gunsmith's workshop in the USA by carrying out highly demanding conversions of the Czech-made CZ 550 barrelled actions.

#### Second generation

Even though the CZ Safari Classics fulfilled the expectations, after some time, Česká zbrojovka decided to look at these models in a new way and move them to an even higher level of quality. Thus, the CZ Safari Classics II concept was born.

The main difference between these series is the actual manufacturing method. The rifles are still made in a gunsmith's workshop, but in the Czech Republic. In addition, the manufacture no longer involves the conversion and complicated modification of finished barrelled actions. The gunsmith receives precise individual semi-finished main parts without surface finish which he then works further, polishes them and fits them together manually.

from the CZ 557 model. This has made the trigger travel consistent and fully adjustable, as well as making the operation of the safety very quiet.

Moreover, CZ uses their own, cold hammer forged barrels. Only barrels for the 300 Holland & Holland and 404 Jeffery calibres are purchased from the renowned German manufacturer Lothar Walther, due to a different technology.

The steel parts are treated with the DLC surface finish, which has replaced traditional bluing. This surface finish is extremely strong, durable and resistant to damage. Also, the rifles can be finished in matte or high gloss, with both finishes retaining the same properties.

And we must not leave out the chief feature of the rifle's beauty – the high-quality walnut stocks. Where CZ 550 Safari Classics II rifles are concerned, the stocks are made of grade 5 Turkish walnut in colour version dark ++. The stocks for the high gloss models are varnished with a shellac-based varnish, in matte models, CZ decided on oiling. However, both of these tradition-

In connection with the stock design, there is an important element in the form of bedding. Bedding a rifle is a method whereby epoxy resin is used to provide the correct fit between the wooden stock and the steel receiver. Once set, it ensures the stability of contact surfaces during changes in temperature or dampness. Consequently, bedding improves the precision of the fit of the barrelled action in the stock and increases its lifetime.

#### Beautiful and practical

The CZ 550 Safari Classics II rifles thus constitute a perfect combination of modern technological processes and traditional gunsmithing skills. The result is an accurate and, above all, reliable rifle that is simply befitting the African plains and thick vegeta-







# BRNO *EXPRESS*

## NOT JUST A BATTUE SPECIAL

One of the main animals hunted in Europe today is the wild boar. This highly intelligent and resilient animal has spread around most of the continent. Modern agricultural methods suit them, the boar has learned to live mainly in the night and they have practically no natural enemy.

Because of these factors, the number of wild boar has grown significantly over the last several decades, which has resulted in some problems – damage in agriculture and recently also a risk of infection from African swine fever. As a preventive measure, most authorities have suggested to radically reduce their numbers.

One way how to achieve this is by organized battues. During a battue, groups of wild boar are forced to move in daylight and hunters have a chance to hunt them down even though their senses are not as good as the boar's. However, when a large number of potential targets materializes in front of a shooter, such hunting requires not

only a quick reaction to pick the right target but also a weapon that enables the shooter to fire repeatedly in a flash.

A specific gun has therefore been created for battues, just as there is one for the hunting of big African game – a rifle with two barrels. In Europe, a rifle with the barrels placed on top each other has become the ideal solution, it is a so-called over and under rifle, generically called the Express, after a model of the same name.

### Express from Brno

With its ergonomically friendly receiver, the BRNO COMBO rifle/shotgun was perfect as the basis for a new model that would be equipped with two

rifle barrels. To fully exploit the potential of this gun, it was necessary to redesign the trigger mechanism so that the shooter wouldn't have to reposition his or her finger, that is, to equip the model with a single trigger.

The resulting model, the BRNO EXPRESS, also uses a thermostable barrel block, where the barrels are not soldered together but are fixed in a sleeve.

This means that when heated, they can freely expand. Even when one or both barrels

heat up substantially during rapid fire, the mean point of impact doesn't change in either barrel and neither does the barrel regulation.

Another much appreciated quality of the thermostable barrel block is the option to exactly adjust the barrel regulation reasonably easily, using the designated screws. Does the shooter want to have the intersection point of both barrels at 50 metres? They can have it. Do they

want it at 150 or 200 m? It's up to them. Even if the shooter changes their ammunition, especially with regard to its weight, and the intersection point changes, again, it is possible to adjust the

barrel block anew. All it takes is one visit to a shooting range.

### For prompt and accurate shooting

The single trigger in the BRNO EXPRESS switches between the barrels mechanically. Unlike an inertial system, the second round fires immediately after the trigger is pulled even if the first barrel misfires for some reason. To serve its purpose, a battue rifle must have sights that enable fast intuitive aiming even in low visibility and at a fast-moving target. The BRNO EXPRESS over and under rifle is therefore fitted with a fibre optic front sight so the shooter can find the point of aim quickly.

Also, to fully exploit its great accuracy potential, the BRNO EXPRESS is equipped with a rail for the attachment of a sighting device – a collimator sight or a riflescope, depending on the preferences of the shooter and the type of hunting. There is a choice of ei-

ther a dovetail mount (identical to the BRNO COMBO rifle/shotgun) or the more popular MIL-STD-1913, also known as a Picatinny rail.

The BRNO EXPRESS is made in European calibres intended for

bolt action firearms, that is calibres which have proven to be reliable in bolt action firearms as well as effective on large European hoofed game. And Zbrojovka Brno relies only on tried and tested calibres.

### Versatility

In the past, the complex and demanding manufacture of the barrel block resulted in a higher price which prevented Express style rifles gaining wider popularity. Some shooters were also worried about having to carry out complicated adjustments of the barrels when switching ammunition. Neither of these arguments applies to the BRNO EXPRESS over and under rifle.

You may feel that you do not have enough boar to deal with in your hunting district to warrant the purchase of the Express, but the BRNO EXPRESS is not just a battue special – it is an extremely accurate and versatile rifle that can be used in the hunting of any hoofed game. It is a rifle that distils down the shooting experience, enabling you to show off everything you have ever learned.

The BRNO EXPRESS has arrived and it is waiting for you. The decision is yours. In any case, the cost of entry is affordable for almost anyone.



# CZ **SCORPION** **EVO 3**



## **FROM A1 TO MICRO**

**CZ SCORPION EVO 3 A1**  
*and its semi-automatic derivatives*

**We live in turbulent times full of security threats which pose a great challenge to the armed forces. This situation has reinforced the role of firearms with short burst-fire mode using pistol cartridges, which pose a lower risk of collateral damage during anti-terrorist operations in urban environments. One of the best modern submachine guns of the modern age is the CZ SCORPION EVO 3 A1. Nonetheless, this trend toward 9mm platforms also benefits law-abiding fans of sport shooting, for whom Česká zbrojovka a.s. has prepared several strictly semi-automatic SCORPION variants.**

Česká zbrojovka a.s. developed the CZ SCORPION EVO 3 A1 submachine gun in response to needs in today's asymmetric conflicts, taking into account the latest trends in the field in order to offer superior quality and top properties at a competitive price.

The design of this light automatic firearm in 9×19 calibre revolves

around a patented blowback design that combines a robust dynamic slide with a removable trigger housing. The slide is guided by a central guide rod with one recoil spring. This solution offers the user an added bonus of quick and easy disassembly without the need for tools.

Because of this, the receiver can be manufactured from two

firmly connected parts made of durable structural polymer. The same material has also been used for the handguard, trigger mechanism housing, pistol grip and the folding telescopic stock. The result is a pleasantly low overall weight as well as good thermal comfort. Another major bonus are the abundant MIL-STD-1913 rails.

To achieve high reliability, a hammer striking mechanism has been used. The firing mode can be set at single shot, three-round burst and full automatic, and firing occurs from a closed bolt. The fire mode selector on both sides also serves as the manual safety. Another safety feature is the automatic firing pin block safety that prevents unintentional discharge – for example, when a loaded gun with the safety off is dropped.

The CZ SCORPION EVO 3 A1 submachine gun is characterized by excellent ergonomics, the result of extensive consultations with members of elite military and security forces. Hence, shooters find all the

controls and gripping surfaces where they need them, together with the option to partially move the pistol grip to adjust the reach to the trigger.

The CZ SCORPION EVO 3 A1 submachine gun offers great shooting comfort and high accuracy in all modes of fire. In addition, it is absolute reliable, a quality confirmed by extensive experience in the field. Due to its advantages, this model has quickly found its place in the armament of a rapidly growing number of armed and security forces, primarily in elite units the world over. And what is more, it has proven that its users can fully rely on it in any conceivable climatic conditions on Earth.

### **The S1**

Inevitably, such a great gun quickly caught the interest of civilian shooters. To their great delight, the first strictly semi-automatic variant of the Scorpion entered the market in 2011, it was the CZ SCORPION EVO 3 S1 model. The biggest difference to the submachine gun was the absence of short burst fire option (with the mechanism modified so as to ensure this change cannot be reversed). Where other parameters were concerned, it performed and handled as excellently as the automatic A1.

The first semi-automatic Scorpion received good reviews, there was even a special sport shooting discipline created





just for this model abroad. The basic variant uses the 9×19 cal., later a 9×21 was added for markets where the 9mm Luger (as the ammunition for official forces) is not permitted for use by civilian shooters.

In 2015, the **CZ SCORPION EVO 3 S1** Pistol arrived, taking into account US legislation. It is basically an S1 model with a new rear plate on the back of the receiver without the option to attach a shoulder stock, the user may use an arm brace instead. Frankly, for shooting it isn't the best option but luckily, the Scorpion properties are so great that despite this inconvenience, the pistol model sold very well. On the other hand, the use of low-profile iron sights which have subsequently been used on all semi-automatic Scorpions was definitely a step in the right direction.

**The CARBINE**  
In 2016, the **CZ SCORPION EVO 3 S1 CARBINE** made an entrance. The crucial change here was the use of a 16.2" cold hammer forged barrel which allowed this gun to break free from the closely observed SBR category in the USA (where the limit is 16"/41 cm).

But it certainly wasn't the case of "let's just extend the barrel and leave it be". In addition to the long barrel, the CARBINE model was also given an extended polymer handguard designed so as to allow comfortable grip with the other hand (there is a distinct notch

in the rear part). On the top of the handguard there is a long Picatinny rail, smoothly linked to the receiver rail. Since the front sight is mounted at the very front,



CZ SCORPION EVO 3 A1

this solution has also significantly extended the sight radius.

A major innovation is the design of openings on the sides and bottom of the handguard which conform to the popular M-LOK mounting system. Compared to the Picatinny, this system provides a much more streamlined profile.

The front of the handguard is octagonal and provides ample room for a silencer, which means there is a ½×28" muzzle thread (an identical one is also used on the Pistol version).

As standard, this model is offered with an interesting dual chamber muzzle brake or with a faux silencer from SilencerCo.

The semi-automatic SCORPION CARBINE is equipped with

a folding telescopic stock complying with requirements of some foreign armed forces – it has an axis and a locking button made of aluminium alloy.

Naturally, these innovations have improved the shooting comfort as well as accuracy. Thanks to the extended handguard, the CZ SCORPION EVO 3 S1 CARBINE is very comfortable to use, 5-round groups at 50 yards keep to just under 5 cm. We can basically say that by making the barrel longer, the great potential of this great gun has been fully exploited.

To begin with, the CZ SCORPION EVO 3 S1 CARBINE was only sold in the USA where it is also assembled using a number of parts Made in the USA. However, since 2018, it has become available on other markets within the distribution network of Česká zbrojovka a.s. as well.

#### SCORPION MICRO

In 2018, a new model appeared on the scene – the CZ SCORPION EVO 3 S2 MICRO, the result of an effort to develop a small gun with a silencer for plain clothes special



CZ SCORPION EVO 3 A1 CARBINE

forces operatives. In this miniature version, the modular design goes the opposite direction of the carbine – this model features a 4.2" long

cold hammer forged barrel with a ½×28 muzzle thread (essentially the same length commonly used on many current compact pistols).

The MICRO therefore has a short handguard with classic rail on the top, while the sides and the bottom have openings for the M-LOK system. Attached to the bottom is also a polymer hand stop, effectively preventing the supporting hand slipping in front of the muzzle.

For the civilian market, the CZ SCORPION EVO 3 S2 MICRO is equipped with a faux suppressor, taking all this into account, the overall length without brace is 415 mm. To compare: the basic CZ SCORPION EVO 3 S1 is 610 mm long, the CARBINE is 826 mm.

Following the trend of other semi-automatic Scorpions, the MICRO also sports low profile iron sights, including an adjustable dioptre rear sight.

In the US, the CZ SCORPION EVO 3 S2 MICRO is classified as a pistol, meaning that CZ-USA supplies this model with an SB Tactical telescoping arm brace to support the forearm of the shooting

hand. Should anyone over the ocean wish to have a shoulder support for their SCORPION MICRO, they would need to apply to the government for the proper permit, shell out a substantial amount to pay the tax associated with it and wait 9-12 months for approval. Happily, here in Czech we were able to test a model equipped



CZ SCORPION EVO 3 S2 MICRO

with a regular folding telescopic SCORPION stock and to tell the truth, without it we probably wouldn't have had so much fun. And what fun it was!

Many claim that such diminutive semi-automatic "long" guns in 9×19 cal. are pure nonsense. If you need something for defence at a usual distance, a pistol will do nicely, as it is considerably smaller, lighter and cheaper. But if you need to shoot effectively at longer distances, go for a truly long gun in a more powerful calibre.

It's true that in everyday life, compact pistol carbines don't offer the greatest variety of use, we are talking armed escorts for cash-in-transit and the like. But then there is hobby shooting for which the CZ SCORPION EVO 3 S2 MICRO is perfect.

We tested it on metal poppers in various sizes at 15 m, on the same firing point as the CZ

P-10 pistols. The P-10s are superb pistols but at such distance, some smaller targets posed a challenge for less experienced shooters. With the MICRO, everyone managed to plink pretty continuously and soon it was about who was faster. Despite the pint-sized dimensions, shooting was surprisingly comfortable. The dioptre rear sight was especially popular, loved even by those who otherwise don't favour this type. Due to the short sight line, the iron sights made us feel as if we were looking through a tiny collimator sight, though for longer distances, a proper collimator sight would be preferable.

Going by current information, the CZ SCORPION EVO 3 S2 MICRO is primarily intended for the US market but we hope that, like the CARBINE, this model will become available in other regions as well. The SCORPION MICRO is a brilliant plaything and it would be a shame if shooters outside the US could not enjoy it too.





# FROM THE CZ 805 BREN TO THE CZ BREN 2

## The saga of CZ assault rifles

Following a protracted and demanding tender, the elite French anti-terrorist unit GIGN confirmed what many experts had already known – Česká zbrojovka a.s. has once again put itself amongst the global elite and its latest products are among the best in the world. This is an especially impressive feat when one considers that development of the BREN platform began just one decade ago.



Although Česká zbrojovka a.s. was founded in 1936 with the main focus on the manufacture of cutting-edge aircraft machine guns, after the end of World War II it refocused on the production of basic individual weapons. In particular, the company's submachine guns and assault rifles represented the absolute top in their category worldwide and were supplied in large numbers both to local armed forces as well as

those abroad. Names like Škorpion and vz. 58 are alive and admired even today.

Things got complicated in the 1980s. The development of the new LADA weapon system in modern 5.46×39 cal. was taking so long (despite just being an improved clone of the Soviet AK system) that by the time it was completed, the Czechoslovakian Communist regime had come to an end. The rea-

sonably good LADA guns were quickly modified to comply with the western style 5.56×45 cal., however, in the new political and economic situation, the heavily reduced national army just wasn't interested anymore. And since one could purchase piles of unused AKs abroad for next to nothing, there was no demand from outside the country either. CZ had to focus primarily on civilian production.

### A new era

With the end of the Cold War came an expectation of world peace. Contrary to that came 9/11 which opened up a new era of global asymmetric conflicts and terrorist attacks. The Czech Republic had always been considered an exceptionally peaceful region, but even this small country could not ignore the severe worsening of global security. As an active member of NATO, Czech Republic's professionalized army takes its peace-keeping missions seriously and actively participates when called upon for efforts abroad.

Though once a firearms manufacturing powerhouse, the 1990s saw lacklustre guidance from Czech politicians when it came to domestic arms factories. Such inattention threatened to send the country down the same road as France – an ex-arms industry superpower reduced to

reliance on foreign purchases to provide for basic armament. At best, it could hope to manufacture firearms designed elsewhere and to build them domestically under license.

However, the situation in CZ changed in 2006 when a new general director was appointed, bringing with him a new vision. Ing. Lubomír Kovařík, MBA, who in 2018 became the President of the international CZ Group holding, was aiming high. First and foremost was to ensure that CZ would be the supplier of personal automatic firearms for the Czech armed forces.

### The new BREN

Straightaway in 2006, the company began working on a new weapon series, originally designated CZ 805 in compliance with their system of terminology, whereby each sector starts with a designated hundred (e.g.

for rimfire rifles it is CZ 4XX, rifles CZ 5XX etc.). But then, under the terms of the acquisition of perspective parts of Zbrojovka Brno, Česká zbrojovka also acquired a set of their trademarks. Amongst them was a famous name that immediately caught the attention of the marketing experts: BREN.

It is common knowledge that this is the name of a light machine gun developed by Zbrojovka Brno in the first half of the 1930s for Great Britain and that it is considered to be the most successful model of its category to date.

One can imagine what happened next. On the one hand there was a highly-renowned trademark whose ownership only makes sense if used on a high-quality product. On the other hand, there was a new family of modern automatic

Historical photo of the BREN machine gun from Brno



### The meaning of BREN

The light machine gun developed by Zbrojovka Brno in the 1930s for the British Army was originally called the ZGB model 33 (the ZGB stood for Zbrojovka Great Britain, the number 1933 the year of manufacture). This is the name stated in the licence agreement dated May 1935. Soon though, it was decided to use a more attractive name, BREN. It is an acronym made up of the initial letters of the city of Brno where the gun was primarily made, and the London borough of Enfield, the location of the Royal Small Arms Factory which carried out the testing and subsequently mass produced the guns.



weapons whose number designation was not exactly catchy...

And so it was that the CZ 805 from Uherský Brod got a new name – the CZ 805 BREN. Now, it was necessary to ensure the new guns would show that they were worthy to bear this famous name.

### A learning curve

In line with modern trends, in the first phase, CZ launched the development of a modular automatic firearm in two basic proposed versions: the first one was to use the 5.56×45 NATO and 7.62×39 mm calibres (with the 6.8 SPC coming later); the second one 7.62×51 mm NATO or 300 WSM. Moreover, the guns were to be modular as far as calibre and barrel length/style, in accordance with the required tactical or logistic needs.

The next step was fundamentally influenced by the Czech Army requirements who had decided that for its partial rearmament, they would only purchase assault rifles and carbines in 5.56×45 mm calibre. Thus, this calibre became the standard for the first generation of the new assault rifles from Uherský Brod, that is for the CZ 805 BREN A1/A2 models.

Looking back from the perspective of today, it was quite the learning curve for both CZ and the Czech armed forces. For CZ, they were developing and preparing for production a new category of firearm. Though they had extensive experience manufacturing the 7.62mm vz. 58 service rifle, that production had ceased long ago and the technologies used for its manufacture were no longer preferred. With modern technologies in place and the 5.56×45 cartridge as the rifle's basis, manufacturing was proving challenging. Much was rid-

ing on the success of this platform, as evidenced by the many worldwide firearms manufacturers who have attempted to field 5.56×45 rifles only to have their reputations impacted in varying degrees.

As for the Czech armed forces, they had to relearn how to procure firearms that meet their needs. From defining the correct requirements to testing and evaluation of samples to taking delivery of the finished firearms and equipping troops with them – they had to put in place new processes for all of this.

So, when on the 18th March 2010 a contract with the Ministry of Defence of the Czech Republic was signed to supply the CZ 805 BREN A1 rifles, CZ 805 BREN A2 carbines and CZ 805 G1 underslung grenade launchers in 40×46 mm cal., it was just the first step on a long and hard journey to a truly perfect rifle.

The CZ 805 BREN rifles and carbines entered serial production in 2011, making use of highly advanced technologies. Even in this respect the return of the Uherský Brod company to supplying the armed forces meant a radical turning point, as the new CNC milling and turning centres were soon being used for other projects and contributed to the arrival of the latest, exceptionally successful generation of CZ firearms.

Where usage experience is concerned, it is no secret that after the first models were delivered, some grievances arose. These were partly caused by the users themselves, especially due to incorrect handling and insufficient cleaning, some minor ones were dealt with by the manufacturer at its own expense. Moreover, experience from practical use and from combat was used to further improve the models.

Therefore by 2013, the CZ 805 BREN rifles and carbines evolved to models generally considered to be of very high quality, a belief enforced by success in export. Yet in the meantime, further changes were taking place in CZ.

### Between generations

Around that time, the company saw more and more product managers with experience from active duty in the armed forces. In addition, there emerged a new generation of designers who felt at home with advanced sophisticated development methods and who used them to design products with the needs and requirements of the end users in mind.

This new crowd first came up with the idea for the CZ 807 assault rifle, still partially based on the original 805, which Česká zbrojovka entered into a number of tenders abroad. The requirements asked for a truly multi-calibre weapon, using the 5.56×45 mm NATO and 7.62×39 mm calibres as standard. The company's model enjoyed the most publicity in tenders in India and Pakistan. Incidentally, in relation to the latter, information about a variant using the 7.62×51 mm NATO calibre, was published for the first time in November 2016.

The 807 turned out to be an excellent rifle, able to compete with similar products from renowned foreign manufacturers. Thanks to this, the model enjoyed very good commercial success in 2016 and 2017, but once again, another significant change was coming.

### The CZ BREN 2

Since 2006, CZ has gained a lot of experience with the development, testing and combat use of assault rifles. In the end, it transpired that the original concept

of the CZ 805 could not offer any more significant improvements. But at the same time, the company product managers and designers became convinced that with their know-how, they would be able to create a new model, several steps above the previous BRENS. They were proposing to create a new model series that shared little with the current guns. It turned out that the company confidence was not exaggerated and the risks were undoubtedly worth it.

The new model was briefly called the CZ 806, though it was soon renamed the CZ BREN 2. Under this name it entered serial production in 2016, in the first phase just for the Czech armed forces who, after thorough testing, decided to complete their rearmament with this particular model in 5.56×45 mm NATO calibre.

Everyone who has had the opportunity to try out the CZ BREN 2 and compare it to the original CZ 805 BREN agrees that it

was the right choice. The ten years of experience between the design of the two is well evidenced. Not to mention the fact that over the past decade, technologies and manufacturing processes have moved on too, which is of course reflected in the user parameters and durability of modern firearms.

Currently, the BREN 2 models are regarded as one of the finest short-stroke piston rifles in the world. In the 5.56×45 mm NATO version it might not be so obvious, as the competition really is strong. It is a different matter for the 7.62×39 mm variant. This cartridge has been around for many years but it doesn't change the fact that the Soviets had done a great job and that today, it is popular for use against targets with ballistic protection. As the decision of the GIGN unit previously mentioned at the beginning of this article clearly shows, there is probably no equal rival for the CZ BREN 2 in this calibre at the moment.

Speaking of the French tender – their requirements were exceptionally demanding, since their guns must shoot reliably with special subsonic cartridges and with a silencer.

It therefore comes as no surprise that BREN 2 rifles have begun garnering more and more success abroad. For instance, in March 2018 it was announced that a licence agreement had been signed involving the CZ BREN 2 rifles as well. Under this agreement, Hungary will produce CZ firearms for their own armed forces.

Bearing a name synonymous with the Czech pride in arms manufacture, the current BREN rifles combine the most advanced firearms manufacturing technology, functional design driven by experience in modern combat and the ergonomics expertise of the CZ brand into one of the most premiere service rifles in existence.







## CZ BREN 2 FROM THE POINT OF VIEW OF A SHOOTER

Martin Helebrant

**I had the opportunity to get to know the new CZ BREN 2 assault rifle during an event organized at a shooting range near Bzenec, in southwestern Moravia. It is a fairly large outdoor range whose conditions are described by many as similar to the dry and sandy environment of the Middle East.**

I first saw the CZ BREN 2 rifles during a presentation of the final pre-production models. The event was organized for selected journalists and I can say that I felt very honoured to have been invited.

At the time, it was already an open secret that Česká zbrojovka was further improving their CZ 805 BREN rifle, espe-

cially with regard to a tender for India and some other countries. Some features that had been upgraded were already known, so I hadn't been expecting any significant changes. I understood just how wrong my expectations had been the moment CZ representatives opened the first case. The new rifle is simply different.

### Ergonomics inspired by M4

As soon as I held the gun in my hands, I could feel it was significantly lighter and its balance was different. In comparison with the original CZ 805 BREN, the weight of the CZ BREN 2 is concentrated more to the centre. The ergonomics and layout of the controls have been based fairly consistently on one of the currently most popular models,

the M16/M4. So, if the shooter is already used to this type of gun, there won't be much he or she will need to get acquainted with first. The most significant difference is probably the position of the cocking handle which is shaped like the letter T in the M16/M4, placed on the top of the receiver, while in the BREN 2 it is flat and placed on the side towards the front of the receiver.

The barrel of the gun that was presented to us was 11 inches long (280 mm), which is the basic version, there was also a short carbine with an 8-inch (207 mm) barrel. This model is suitable for special forces and anyone who needs a short and nimble rifle allowing operation in enclosed areas. The gun was

fitted with a Meopta ZD Dot 1.5 collimator sight and a vertical pistol grip on the front bottom rail. The carbine was equipped with folding mechanical sights and short slanted forend.

We were also supplied with several magazines of various types and design, all NATO standard compatible, and an ammo box full of common 5.56×45 NATO from Sellier & Bellot, a company based in Vlašim. In the target area we put up several paper targets for aimed shooting and beside them we set up a group of metal silhouettes. First, we checked the zeroing, using the paper targets. The original idea was for each participant to shoot first at paper targets with circles. However, on that day,

the Bzenec shooting range was very different from the Middle East. The winter was nearing its end, the temperature was hovering just above zero and it was raining. At first there was just drizzle but later it started to rain harder with a snowflake here and there for good measure. Weather most foul one could say. The paper targets turned into wet rags, but at least we were able to zero the rifles.

### Familiar controls

First I tried out the carbine. After inserting the magazine, I loaded a round into the chamber and put the gun to my cheek. I am aware of how light the new CZ assault rifle is and thanks to the different centring also how nimble it is. I aim at a target of a prone



shooter at a distance of about 70 metres and see the reticule.

I release the safety. The movement is smooth and feels so natural and familiar that one can't help but be taken aback. I turn the gun slightly to the side and visually check the fire mode selector – yes, it is set to single shot fire.

I put the gun back to my cheek and pull the trigger. The trigger pull weight is firm, appropriate for the intended military use. Similarly to the M16/M4, it only has one pull weight. The trigger travel is smooth, without grating or jumping, nothing that would hamper effective combat shooting.

I fire off the first round. The carbine has a shorter barrel, so the pressure on the muzzle is greater, making a bit of a “racket”. However, I did not register any flash, despite the gloomy weather. The target rings but I can't see the exact hit. I fire again and hear another ring. But I still don't know where I am actually hitting.

Luckily, there are some wet sand banks behind the target that show where the bullets go. So I pick a clump of grass next to the target and fire again. A small geyser of sand shoots up, exactly where I was aiming.

#### Refined behaviour

I shoot again and move onto double shots. The results are good. The new BREN 2 is very refined, holds the sightline, repeat shots are fast, the muzzle climb is minimal. The gun feels very similar to the American army M4 carbine, though I believe the CZ BREN 2 behaves slightly better after discharge.

After all, the stock of the M4 houses parts of the recoil unit and there is also a buffer with

the recoil spring. All that moves and hits you just under your cheekbone. The hits are not bad, you learn to ignore them after some time, but still, they are there. The CZ BREN 2 does not have such problems. Even the sound of the discharge is slightly less sharp, not so noisy. The upgrade of the flash hider has met the expectations, the new one doesn't reverberate (like a tuning fork) and at the same time it tightens up every time at the muzzle, due to the pressure of the combustion gases.

After finishing one magazine I swap for another one and release the bolt with a flick of the finger. With my thumb I change the fire mode selector to short burst fire. Once again, I have the feeling of *déjà vu* – regarding ergonomics, the CZ BREN 2 mimics the controls of the M16/M4.

I start with short burst fire aiming at the metal figures. In spite of its low weight, the carbine “holds” the hits reliably in the torsos of both the kneeling and the standing targets even at a greater distance of more than 30 metres. After getting to know the gun better and firing off short bursts, I hold the finger on the trigger for slightly longer. The carbine is still controllable, I try to fire a burst and “steer” from the right onto a clump of grass and gradually move further left. The wet wall of the sand bank serves as a “projection screen”, it clearly shows where each projectile lands. The results are very satisfactory.

#### In combat mode

From the third or fourth magazine, I begin to really enjoy myself and have the confidence to go further. I take another gun with a collimator sight and try combat fire.

I shoot from all positions, I crawl on the ground, run up the bank

and down, drop down from running, push down as if under fire and shoot while moving. I reload in the combat style, dropping the empty magazines in the sand, not carefully placing them in pouches. They will get collected at the end, after the mission is accomplished. Before loading up magazines again, I just tap them against my thigh – between the case and the follower, sand is grating. It is a brutal thing to do to a gun but the manufacturer's representatives don't object and besides, they do the same. The CZ BREN 2 copes with such atrocious treatment for quite a long time.

Only after some time several magazines start to show some failings, such as a double round (the bolt tries to push two rounds into the chamber at the same time) and when there is a stronger jolt, the rounds at the top occasionally jump out of the magazine. Such problems mainly occur in standard US military magazines made of soft aluminium. It is a known problem, many experienced shooters therefore prefer to use more robust magazines of other brands.

But this is something that doesn't really concern to the gun itself. In these unfavourable conditions, the CZ BREN 2 performed excellently and I began looking forward to having a go at the advertised accuracy.

#### At 300 metres

My second testing of the BREN 2 took place during a meeting of journalist on the occasion of the 80th anniversary of CZ's existence. This time, the Bzenec shooting range certainly lived up to its reputation – the weather was boiling hot and the annoying fine sand got literally everywhere.

Once again, we tested both short carbines and long guns. While most of those present enjoyed highly dynamic shooting, I opted for a model with a collimator sight and a bipod. I lay down in the sand and began harassing a target set at 300 metres – a silhouette of a prone shooter.

Despite having a cotton mat under my body, the amount of dust and sand released by the gases at the muzzle after each discharge was considerable. However, after a short practice I managed to hit the target fairly reliably, better than I had expected to.

Then I took the short carbine fitted with a collimator sight and wondered if I would at least frighten the target. An accurate shot was a bit complicated as the aiming dot practically covered the whole target. I shot from the prone position, without a bipod.

Before emptying the magazine (30 rounds), I scored several hits. Possibly five, which means that I had managed to hit the target with every fifth or sixth hit. The others fell very close.

I felt well proud so I tried shooting while standing up, without support. If there had been a live enemy and not a piece of metal, I would have definitely made him seek cover. Just before the magazine emptied, I even managed to hit it with two consecutive shots.

#### The trusting feeling

By coincidence, one of my colleagues came to see me at that moment. Those two hits resulted in him giving a wolf whistle and I thought that if I wanted to keep my reputation, I shouldn't tempt fate too much. So I went and joined another group where dynamic shooting was in full swing.

The shooters had split into two teams, with one loading magazines and one emptying them from various and at times impossible positions, taking turns. The guns took a right battering. I cannot really imagine a real-life combat situation where a soldier with an assault rifle would shoot for such a long time and with such high combat cadence. Yet, the BREN 2 worked extremely reliably indeed.

I am well aware of the fact that neither of the testing sessions described above represent a systematic prolonged testing, but they prove a lot, making me feel very confident. All in all, the CZ BREN 2 series obviously shows that it definitely is the second generation of CZ assault rifles and that since the times of the first one, Česká zbrojovka has certainly picked the right path.







## CZ **BREN 2** BR



### **BATTLE RIFLE IN 7.62×51 MM NATO CAL.**

Between 10<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> September 2018, Česká zbrojovka held the third Meeting of Professional Journalists. The event, which welcomed about sixty journalists, bloggers, vloggers and many other professionals, took place at the Testing Shooting Range in Bzenec. Here, several new firearms made their world debut, including the CZ BREN 2 BR assault rifle in 7.62×51 mm NATO calibre.

It must be noted that this powerful calibre had been planned for the CZ BREN weapon system as early as January 2006, during the idea phase of the project. However, CZ first concentrated on the development of a model in 5.56×45 mm NATO calibre. This calibre was requested by the Czech Army and sub-

sequently became the standard choice for the CZ 805 BREN A1/A2 models. Further calibres were being added gradually, hand in hand with the improvements of the design, which is now truly multi-calibre. Thus, the CZ 807 model came into existence, primarily intended for the 5.56×45 mm NATO and

7.62×39 mm calibres, though CZ rifles in 7.62×51 mm NATO were also included in a tender for Pakistan.

Despite the fact that the 807 model enjoyed reasonable commercial success, in the end it played the role of a quality “in-between” product. In fact,

during that time, the development of the brand new CZ BREN 2 model series was finalized, with serial production beginning in 2016.

#### **Battle Rifle**

The September presentation of CZ rifles in Bzenec revealed a version of the BREN 2 in 7.62×51 mm NATO calibre. For now, it bears the name Battle Rifle, a term given to semi-automatic or automatic military rifles equipped with a detachable magazine using full-power chamberings such as the 7.62×51 mm NATO calibre (or 308 Win, the slightly different commercial alternative).

The traditional models of this category, the FN FAL, M14 and

H&K G3, are now being joined by their modern successors. After years of being overlooked, the tried and tested 7.62×51 mm NATO calibre is enjoying a comeback. That is because in the asymmetric warfare of the global war on terrorism, the need for significantly greater effective range at the small unit level has become very apparent.

#### **New elements**

At first glance, the CZ BREN 2 BR gives an impression of a slightly larger assault rifle. Such impression is basically right, as the Senior Product Manager for military weapons from CZ, Ing. David Kreisl, explains. The design has been based as much as possible on the 5.56×45 mm NATO/7.62×39 model. We have

retained the technical design, all the controls, the method of stripping, assembly and cleaning. Some minor parts are interchangeable, the telescopic folding stock is identical. Otherwise, everything else has been enlarged and strengthened so that the firearm is reliable with the considerably larger and more powerful cartridges. This has led to the only significant difference in the design: to provide reliable extraction of the cartridge cases, the CZ BREN 2 Battle Rifle is equipped with two ejectors.

Another feature worth noting is the STANAG magazine. The company has not only designed it but also manufactures it from subcontracted





fine, any misses were solely attributed to the user.

The shooting itself (for safety and practical purposes only single round fire was allowed) was comfortable, even for those who tried shooting in the standing position. The recoil was easily manageable, without a doubt helped by the fact that, apart from the inline style of the stock and its thick buttplate, it was an automatic weapon.

#### The journey to DMR

Even though the stated calibre and the results may lead to this conclusion, the CZ BREN 2 BR is not categorized as a Designated Marksman Rifle. It is a basic individual weapon with the effective range considerably greater than that of assault rifles in 5.56×45 mm NATO or 7.62×39 mm calibres. The advantage of the CZ battle ri-

fle is the fundamental design unification with the CZ BREN 2 assault rifles. Hence the controls and maintenance are the same, which should significantly simplify training. In addition, it has retained the option of short burst fire, which may be suitable e.g. when engaging in suppressive fire.

By being introduced to the professional community in September, the CZ BREN 2 BR enjoyed its public premiere. Even

so, armed forces from several countries have already been testing the BR model for some time, reportedly with good results. Other armies are waiting to see what will follow. With the completion of a quality assault rifle in 7.62×51 mm NATO calibre, CZ has created a wide window of opportunity to further expand their portfolio – a DMR version included. It is said that the Uherský Brod company may have taken some steps in that direction already...

#### CZ BREN 2 BR – approximate data

calibre	7.62×51 mm NATO
overall length with flash hider and the stock unfolded and extended	1000 mm
overall length with flash hider and the stock folded	739 mm
barrel length	407 mm
weight without magazine, with iron sights	max. 3.82 kg
weight of empty magazine	180 g
magazine capacity	25 rounds

parts; the capacity of 25 rounds constitutes one of the largest on the market. After some rather unsatisfactory experience with transparent plastic, which wasn't oil-friendly, CZ now uses a more durable black polymer. To allow the user to keep check on the number of cartridges, there are openings in the back wall through which the light colour of the magazine spring is visible even in low light. The general practice today is to favour steady tactical reloading, however, if the user wants to see how many cartridges there are left, all they need to do is to tilt the firearm slightly to the side.

Another innovation, although not directly connected to the calibre but to the growing tendency of CZ to modernize their weapons hand in hand with the wishes and requirements of customers, is a split receiver

and an independent forend. This feature allows far greater variability, whether with regard to barrel lengths or accessory rails. In Bzenec, the company presented the CZ BREN 2 BR rifle with one long MIL-STD-1913 rail on the upper receiver where it is integrated with the receiver itself and the forend, and another one on the lower receiver, attached on the bottom, spanning from the end of the forend to the trigger mechanism housing. There are no rails on the sides. The company deliberated whether to opt for one of the more and more popular M-LOK system, but in the end decided on a set of standardized threads which, in line with current trends, allow armed forces to have the rails and accessories made to their exact requirements. Any reasonably equipped manufacturer should be able to do that.

#### At the shooting range

We were able to try out the CZ BREN 2 BR on a 300 m range. We were shooting with 308 Win S&B Match ammunition, the rifle was fitted with a combination of an EOTech collimator sight and a triple magnifier, as well as a bipod. In the target area, there were popper targets in a size roughly resembling a human torso, with several even smaller ones for a more challenging aim.

Experienced shooters had no trouble to hit every time from a supported prone position. Those with sharp eyesight had a bit of an advantage, as some grappled with the relatively low magnification. It was necessary to keep in mind the correct triggering technique, since 300 m is quite a distance and any small errors are noticed. Nonetheless, the accuracy potential of the rifle seemed







## CZ **BREN 2Ms**

### GOOD-LOOKING GUNS SHOOT WELL

The CZ BREN 2 assault rifles have been a great success for Česká zbrojovka a.s. They will be especially appreciated not only by members of the official armed forces but also fans of semi-automatic firearms for civilian use. The new generation of CZ BRENS is now also available as a strictly semi-automatic version.

However, the sad fact is that at the moment, the future of this sector hangs in balance. The reason for that is the EU legislation restricting gun laws. As an ill-conceived attempt to resolve an increased threat of terrorist attacks, it unnecessarily complicates the lives of law-abiding citizens. Naturally, CZ is aware of this situation, though they most definitely are not ready to do

away with their guns just yet. On the contrary! In 2019 the company is launching two semi-automatic CZ BREN 2Ms rifles.

#### Modular System

The design is, of course, based on the tried and true automatic BREN 2 models. No less surprising are the well-thought-out innovations that prevent short burst fire once and for all, even

if one was to try and retrofit their gun using parts from assault rifles.

The letters Ms in the name stand for Modular Semi-automatic and refer to one obvious significant change: these two rifles have a detachable forend which opens up a world of possibilities for their owners with regard to customization. The



CZ BREN 2Ms rifles share this feature with the CZ BREN 2 BR assault rifle, mentioned on p. 86. By this move, CZ has responded to the decline of MIL-STD-1913 mounting rails. The semi-automatic BREN 2 models offer users one long rail on the top of the gun (fitted with folding iron sights including a fully adjustable dioptre rear sight as standard) and further configuration is left up to their own needs and preferences. The possibilities are endless and trends come and go all the time.

#### Two calibres

The semi-automatic CZ BREN 2Ms rifles have retained all the benefits so admired in the BREN 2 assault rifle models: simple design, extreme reliability, high accuracy, low weight, great balance, perfect ergonomics and controls on both sides or easily interchangeable ones. Even the folding shoulder stock is the same, at first sight it might seem somewhat plain but in fact, it does a great job. What is more, the semi-au-

tomatic BREN 2 rifles feature a sleek three-prong self-tightening flash hider.

And last but not least, there are the brilliant polymer magazines designed by CZ. They are the simplest distinguishing element that tells us what calibre the particular model is. The CZ BREN 2Ms is entering the market in two versions, the .223 Rem. and the 7.62×39. In the latter, the 30-round magazine is noticeably curvier.

Let us also point out that the current CZ magazines are made of highly durable black polymer and in line with modern trends, they feature transparent windows on the rear wall – if the shooter wants to see how many cartridges are left, all he needs to do is to tilt the rifle slightly to the side.

#### Attractive design

Let's be honest – although the final result of the first generation of CZ BRENS is very good indeed, where design is concerned, there is quite a bit to

be desired. Inevitably, this goes for the semi-automatic CZ 805 BREN S1 model as well.

On the other hand, the CZ BREN 2 rifles couldn't be more different in this respect. In addition to all the bonuses that have been mentioned, they are pretty good-looking. Both CZ BREN 2Ms models therefore confirm the well-known rule: just as good-looking planes fly well and good-looking cars drive well, good looking guns shoot well too. When you have had a go, you will undoubtedly agree with us.

Let us only add that both existing CZ BREN 2Ms models have a 280 mm long barrel, the length with the shoulder stock unfolded is 807 mm and the overall weight without a magazine is a mere 2.9 kg. And when customers looking for a long modern semi-automatic firearm to add to their collection take into account the reasonable retail price, the decision is clear.





## CZ 4M TACTICAL EQUIPMENT

*The top level of safety, effectiveness and comfort*

One of the companies in the CZ Group international holding is 4M Systems a.s., whose experts develop and manufacture a comprehensive portfolio of cutting-edge tactical equipment for members of armed and security forces.

4M Systems was founded in 2015 with the aim to provide the best possible services and products to professionals from the defence and security forces in the country. The company employs former members from special and armed response units of the Czech Army and Police, specialists with many years of experience in the field of special purpose fabric materials and quality inspectors with international experience. A key component of the company's strategy is intensive collaboration with end users and continuous effort to meet their requirements arising from the ever-changing daily experience of the specialized work they do.

The resulting products bear the name CZ 4M and are offered as an integral part of Česká zbrojovka's wide portfolio for the armed forces. Thanks to their exception-

al quality, they are becoming more and more popular with many happy customers and fans.

The 4M Systems portfolio is truly comprehensive and offers many products, from clothing to backpacks and ballistic protection. Moreover, it is constantly updated and improved according to current demand. The following description of their latest products is just a small sample of their wide range of offerings.

### CZ 4M SPIRIT ballistic t-shirts

One of the most remarkable of CZ 4M's products is the line of ballistic t-shirts. They are a perfect example of how common solutions can be combined with a unique know-how, thus improving the end product for the user.

The aim was to develop and produce a ballistic t-shirt designed to

be as inconspicuous as possible that would also have the highest possible level of protection at NIJ STD Level IIA or IIIA, with user parameters surpassing all other rival products on the market.

The ideal ballistic material was designed by experts from the German company TEIJIN. The system for the insertion of a ballistic insert is protected by two unique patents. The company also collaborated with the best experts when choosing material for the t-shirt itself. The solution came from the Czech company MOIRA. The first layer of the material quickly draws moisture away from the body while the second layer can retain a high amount of moisture for a long time. Testing has proven that the material performs well for more than 12 hours of physical activity as well as during hot summer months.

The result of this extremely challenging two-year development is an original line of CZ 4M SPIRIT ballistic protection t-shirts which constitute the absolute best in the category. There are three types available (Flexi, Open, Comfort), each of them offering slightly different parameters for differing occasions and the t-shirts can be purchased in three colours – black, white and FDE. Their advantage lies in the compatibility of the ballistic insert across all the three types of shirt. This allows the user a choice of various t-shirts for various tasks while needing just the one ballistic insert. There is, of course, an option to have a ballistic insert with an anti-stab layer conforming to the HOSDB KR1/SPI level of protection. Each t-shirt is also supplied with a MOIRA Ultralight undershirt to ensure the correct performance of the MOIRA Diagon material.

### CZ 4M STRIKER 2.0 plate carrier

In 2018, 4M Systems a.s. managed to fulfil a prestigious contract for URNA, the rapid reaction unit of the Czech Police, for the development and supply of plate carriers. This light version of a "ballistic vest" is used for kinetic and airborne operations, the URNA also uses it for plain-clothes operations against particularly dangerous perpetrators.

The company had been tasked with developing a new generation plate carrier that would reflect the latest requirements for com-



fort of wear, with a high level of protection and at the same time allowing maximum mobility and weapon use. The CZ 4M STRIKER 2.0 carrier has been designed with the help of most advanced technologies and materials. In its development, 4M Systems applied their latest patents for fastening and sizing systems.

The carrier is equipped with an inner ventilation system, CP2® fastening system and a new size adjustment system at the back. The Honeywell Centurion basic fabric is an extremely durable and lightweight composite of fibre and flexible polyethylene layers. Together with the metal components being replaced by carbon composites, the weight of the carrier has decreased to below 900 g.

The CZ 4M STRIKER 2.0 carriers were supplied to the Czech police anti-terrorist unit in the middle of 2018 and are used during everyday training and operations.

### CZ 4M MERINO 165® performance clothing

One element that can significantly influence the performance of a human body is the element of comfort. Along with mental distress, it can decide and often does, what results will one achieve at a shooting range, during training or in combat.

High-quality equipment is therefore extremely important, including clothing layers. Research has shown that individuals with the right combination of clothing achieved 30% better results in shooting than those who had to cope with cold, sweat and such seemingly insignificant details as unpleasant scratchy clothes. Particularly in adverse conditions, it is worth it to choose clothing carefully and combine the individual items accordingly.

4M Systems took all that into account when developing their new product line, the CZ 4M MERINO 165®. This performance clothing has been designed for those who favour natural materials or for special force units on operations with an increased risk of ignition (the target group is therefore members of anti-riot or armed response units as well as military personnel who take part in operations with the risk of IED deployment). The merino wool natural fibre with antibacterial properties can withstand temperatures of up to 570°C and its weave has been improved with



technology similar to that used for synthetic fibre. Thanks to this, CZ 4M MERINO 165® products are not only more durable than other merino products, but the transfer of moisture away from the body to the outer layer where it can evaporate better has also been considerably improved. It has thus been possible to improve the well-known weakness of woollen materials that ordinarily retain moisture.



# THE CZ MILESTONES



## A firearms factory established in Uherský Brod

The factory was founded with the aim of transferring the strategically significant production facilities as far away as possible from Czechoslovakia's western borders that were under threat. It was a branch plant of Česká zbrojovka, a joint stock company from Prague, whose main plant was based in Strakonice. At the time, the brand new factory in Uherský Brod was the most modern and most efficient plant of its kind around, and not only in Czechoslovakia.

## Vz. 48 submachine gun enters production

The vz. 48 submachine gun (renamed 23-25 submachine guns in 1950) in 9 mm Parabellum calibre was considered the most advanced weapon in its category. Its magazine was located in the pistol grip, with the bolt partially encircling the barrel. By 1953, the Uherský Brod factory had produced 545,000 submachine guns in total; 345,000 of those in 7.62 mm Tokarev calibre (the 24/26 submachine gun).



## Vz. 58 submachine gun enters production

The vz. 58 submachine gun in 7.62x39 mm cal., today classed as an assault rifle, constituted an alternative to the Soviet Kalashnikov. The original design of the Czechoslovakian engineers was truly exceptional. The weapon was made in Uherský Brod for the Czech armed forces as well as for export up until 1984. In total, nearly a million models were produced in that time.

## Vz. 61 Škorpion submachine gun enters production

The legendary vz. 61 Škorpion compact submachine gun was an extremely innovative and immensely successful attempt of the company to fill in the gap between classic submachine guns and service pistols. By 2000, just over 207,000 models were made in the basic calibre, the 7.65 mm Browning. There was also a shorter, 9 mm Browning, version, made in smaller quantities during the 1990's.



## CZ 75 pistol enters production

This revolutionary model was the brainchild of the legendary designer, František Koucký. Having received an assignment from what is today Česká zbrojovka Uherský Brod (CZ), he began working on the new pistol in 1969. His new creation had perfect ergonomics, and with its unique double action trigger mechanism, it helped to define a new category of pistols, the Wonder Nines. These are large capacity SA/DA pistols in 9mm Luger calibre and the CZ 75 has been one of the most popular of them for many years.



1936

1949

1959

1962

1975



## Česká zbrojovka a.s., Uherský Brod established

Following the privatization of Česká zbrojovka, the state enterprise, a new joint-stock company is created. Its main factory is based in Uherský Brod and the main focus of the business is on the development and manufacture of high quality handguns. In addition, it also produces high precision components for the automotive and aviation industries. It is a wholly Czech company owned by Czech shareholders.

1992

## CZ-USA established

By establishing a foothold in the USA, CZ fundamentally strengthened its position on the most prestigious arms market in the world. CZ-USA deals with sales and servicing, initially it was based in California but in 1998 it moved to Kansas City, Kansas.

1997

## 2004: Purchase of the firearms division of Zbrojovka Brno

By acquiring the Firearms Division of Zbrojovka Brno a.s., CZ achieved its aim of keeping the famous tradition of firearms manufacture in Brno going. The newly-formed company, whose name was initially BRNO RIFLES, started operating at the turn of 2006/2007 and focused on the development and production of break-action firearms. In 2008, it became a daughter company of CZ and in 2010, its name was changed to ZBROJOVKA BRNO, s.r.o.



2004

## Dan Wesson Firearms brand acquisition

Through CZ-USA, CZ became the owner of the brand Dan Wesson Firearms, a renowned American brand of weapons. The original company was founded in 1968 by a grandson of the legendary Daniel B. Wesson and focused on the manufacture of revolvers. Under the new Czech-American leadership, it soon became one of the most highly regarded manufacturers of modern versions of the famous 1911.

2005

## Under new management

In 2006, Ing. Lubomír Kovařík, MBA, became the company's new Chief Executive Officer. Almost immediately, he started extensive modernization and launched the development of a new generation of CZ firearms. Ing. Ladislav Britaňák, MBA, took over as the Sales Director.

2006





### Development of new generation CZ service weapons launched

Since its founding, CZ has maintained a close focus on weapons for the Armed Forces. However, in 1992 it was forced to cut down on the development and production of automatic firearms as a result of the political and economic situation. Then in 2006, there came a turning point for the company with the new management making a decision to once again put the main focus of the business on the manufacture of service weapons. It was a pivotal moment in the modern history of the brand.

### CZ 75 SP-01 SHADOW pistol enters production

The start of the production of the competition-focused variant of the popular CZ 75 SP-01, the Shadow, was a significant milestone in the development of CZ. Parts of this exceptional all-steel pistol, also popular with the Armed Forces and for personal defence, have been subsequently used in other CZ pistols. Until the arrival of the CZ SHADOW 2 in 2016, the original Shadow dominated the Production Division in IPSC. The Shadow triumphed in many events, but one of the most successful achievements has to be two World Champion titles, won by Adam Tyc.

### Number of CZ 75 models reaches a million

After the establishment of Česká zbrojovka a.s. in 1992, pistols from the CZ 75/85 model series became the company's flagship products. It was reflected in a significant increase of the production volume as well as in the expansion of the portfolio by new variants, such as sport specials, compacts and subcompacts. Thus in the autumn of 2007, Uherský Brod saw a celebratory assembly of the millionth CZ 75, with all the variants taken into account. Where just the standard size CZ 75/85 pistol is concerned, the manufacture surpassed a million in 2014.

### Entry to the Armed Forces weapons market, start of the rearmament of the Czech Republic Army

This year marks the beginning of serial production of a new generation of CZ assault rifles, submachine guns and grenade launchers. The first success in this field comes with the complete rearmament of the Czech Republic Army. The company supplies the Army with CZ 805 BREN A1/A2 assault rifles, CZ 80 BREN G1 grenade launchers, CZ SCORPION EVO 3 A1 submachine guns and CZ 75 SP-01 PHANTOM pistols.



### Success of CZ service weapons on global markets

During 2015, CZ employed around 1,800 people and produced 235,526 weapons. Its consolidated profit was CZK 4,190,000,000 (70% of that was profit from sales abroad). Until then, the record profit had been CZK 450,000,000. Such a phenomenal result was due to the success of the CZ P-07 pistols, CZ 75 pistol evergreens, CZ 455 rimfire rifles and CZ service weapons, and above all, the CZ SCORPION EVO 3 submachine gun.

2006

2006

2007

2011

2015

### Assembly plant opened in Peru

In 2016, CZ expanded into another foreign market when it opened a separate part for the assembly and repairs of CZ weapons in the Peruvian military factory FAME, in Lima. As part of the project, the Czech company supplied its modern equipment as well as tools, and provided training for the technical staff. The Peruvian company thus got the opportunity to assemble Czech weapons and provide servicing and sales, firstly on the local market and then all over Latin America. It was the first time CZ transferred its technologies into this up-and-coming region.



### CZ BREN 2 assault rifle enters production

In the development of the second generation of CZ assault rifles, the company cooperated with members of elite Special Forces and used state-of-the-art technologies. Their design was based on the soldiers' experience of the CZ 805 BREN model in combat. The CZ BREN 2 is a highly advanced individual multi-calibre weapon in 5.56×45 NATO and 7.62×39 calibres, with an option to be configured to meet the requirements of any mission anywhere in the world. The first customer was the Army of the Czech Republic.

### Further growth and expansion

As a result of the success of the new generation of CZ weapons, Česká zbrojovka a.s. now employs over 1,900 people. Moreover, the company has expanded into more than 100 countries around the world. In addition, a licensing agreement was signed for the manufacture of CZ service weapons in Hungary in March 2018. The major milestone of 2017 was the CZ P-10 C model entering production. It is the first member of a brand new family of striker-fired pistols, in comparison with rival models, the CZ P-10 C boasts many innovative features and offers superb user properties.

### CZ Group Holding established

As of 2018, CZ has become a member of the international CZ Group Holding. In addition to the mother company in Uherský Brod, the holding company will gradually incorporate other companies that engage in manufacturing and developmental programs of similar nature. The President of the CZ Group Holding is Ing. Lubomír Kovařík, MBA.

### Changes within management

At the start of the year, CZ saw some changes in its organizational structure. The aim of these is to make the best of the company's potential, increase the production volume and speed up work on projects of strategic importance. The new CEO is Ing. Ladislav Britaňák, MBA.

2016

2016

2017

2018

2018





Assembly of the CZ SCORPION EVO 3 S1 semi-automatic carbines in CZ-USA

## THE CZ FAMILY

### *The subsidiaries of Česká zbrojovka a.s.*

Customers from all over the world traditionally associate the CZ brand with the firearms factory in Uherský Brod whose history in this field of business dates back to 1936. Although this is largely true, as the vast majority of CZ firearms are manufactured in south-eastern Moravia, the CZ family has grown considerably over the years and keeps growing still. In 2017, it became a part of the international holding, Česká zbrojovka Group. Let us meet some of the holding's other prominent members, namely those who are also engaged in the firearms industry.

#### CZ-USA

In the United States, Česká zbrojovka has been represented by the company CZ-USA since 1997. In 1998, CZ-USA made its headquarters in Kansas City, Kansas. The company is headed by its President, Alice Poluchová, and its activities include much more than just distributing CZ guns in the prestigious market of North America.

One of their extremely successful projects has been launching a line of high-quality affordable shotguns, sold under the CZ brand today. This family includes break-action models, pump-action models and semi-automatic models manufactured by outside companies under the direct supervision of CZ-USA which is also the sole distributor. In addition, CZ-USA was the prime mover in the creation of the SAFARI CLASSICS series

that has successfully followed in the long Czech tradition dating back to 1967 concerning the manufacture of powerful, accurate and reliable bolt-action rifles for the hunting of African big game. The first SAFARI CLASSICS models were introduced in 2005 and quickly gained a great reputation within the target group of customers. This series includes premium quality guns from serial production as well as individually-tuned rifles whose

design is based on the popular CZ 550 model, chambered for a wide range of powerful hunting cartridges. Moreover, their extensive portfolio of accessories forms an integral part of this product line.

In recent years, CZ-USA gradually started assembling and then also producing modern CZ firearms in the United States. In the first phase, it focused on the semi-automatic variants of the CZ 805 BREN assault rifles and the CZ SCORPION EVO 3 sub-machine guns. Currently, the Kansas City company is producing the CZ P-10 pistols.

#### Dan Wesson Firearms

The activities of CZ-USA are also closely connected with the Dan Wesson Firearms brand. The company was originally founded under this name in 1968 as a business venture of Daniel Baird Wesson (1916-1978), the

great-grandson of the co-founder of the Smith & Wesson empire. It was a small business based in Monson, Massachusetts, bearing the name Dan Wesson Arms Inc until 1983. To begin with, the company was planning to deal with the wholesale of firearms (incidentally, in April 1968, Dan Wesson even made a personal visit to what is today Česká zbrojovka a.s.). However, in the end the company succeeded with the production of original revolvers, whereby it used patents of Karl R. Lewis, an unfairly ignored gun designer. The revolvers gained great fame for their performance, accuracy and reliability.

In the early 1980s, the Dan Wesson company relocated to Palmer, followed by relocation to new premises near Norwich, New York, in the late 1990s.

There, it launched the production of DW revolvers in 2000,

after adopting new manufacturing processes and the latest technology. At the same time, a crucial strategic decision was taken to expand the exclusively revolver DW brand with clones of the timeless M1911, or the M1911A1 pistol.

With the new millennium, the Dan Wesson Firearms company got back into shape with good prospects of further growth. Not long after that, it caught the eye of CZ-USA who were looking for new alternatives to strengthen their position on the North American market. The Dan Wesson Firearms brand became a part of the CZ family in 2005 when it was purchased by CZ-USA. Initially, it appealed to CZ-USA largely due to the popular revolvers, though it soon transpired that the pistols based on the ingenious M1911 held a far greater sales potential. Dan Wesson 1911s are quite possibly the







*Dan Wesson Firearms specialize in first-rate clones of the M1911A1 pistols*

most accurate “out of the box” 1911s with many user-friendly innovations and a whole range of first-rate finely tuned parts of the best quality possible.

Under the guardianship of CZ-USA, the range of Dan Wesson pistols is constantly being changed and upgraded, although some models have become firm fixtures, particularly the exceptionally popular Pointman line.

#### ZBROJOVKA BRNO

The former legendary arms giant was formed in 1918 from the artillery workshops in Brno following the fall of the Austrian-Hungarian Empire. Initially, it was a military repairs plant but within a decade, it had transformed into a state-of-the-art firearms factory whose products belonged amongst the absolute best in the world. The company's main domain was the serial production of bolt-action rifles using the Mauser system, with the vz. 24 model being the most popular, and the manufacture of innovative automatic firearms, the first one being the ZB vz. 26 light machine gun. Besides other models, this model was further developed into the

legendary Bren machine gun whose design subsequently served as the base for the development of heavy and large-calibre machine guns.

Zbrojovka Brno became a key strategic partner for local armed forces as well as one of the biggest global names on the market of service guns. In a bid to balance the production programme, it soon began to include non-military products, such as cars, ball bearings, bicycles, weighing scales, aircraft engines, machine tools and typewriters. The company gradually grew



into a large group of separate businesses dealing with associated or complementary production, later it also included metallurgical, coal and ore-processing bases and expanded abroad. Before World War 2, Zbrojovka Brno was basically a self-sufficient behemoth, employing over 20,000 people and using more than 10,000 machining tools.

Under German occupation, the company's many works had to refocus on the manufacture of German firearms and after World War 2, Zbrojovka Brno was nationalized. The lost output for the armed forces was compensated for by putting more focus on non-military production, primarily focusing on the serial production of new guns for hunting and sport shooting. Although the production of service firearms picked up again, it definitely came to a stop in the late 1950s. A decision made by the authorities meant significant reduction in the manufacture of civilian firearms at Brno and in the 1960s most of this production line was transferred to the firearms factory in Uherský Brod, today's Česká zbrojovka a.s. Because of this move, CZ has been able to carry on in the legacy of the famous BRNO

firearms brand, known for their popular ZKM rimfire rifles, ZKW light rifles and the ZKK medium and magnum rifles.

Subsequently, the Brno company's firearms production was reduced to break-action models only, with the share of firearms production falling precipitously until it was less than 3% of the total factory outputs. Thus, the activities of the former firearms giant focused chiefly on the production of typewriters, computer technology, diesel engines, tools etc.

Nevertheless, following the events of 1989, it transpired that the design and production spirit of Brno Zbrojovka firearms was still safe and sound, having survived those turbulent times. In fact, the firearms division was the only viable part of the privatized Zbrojovka Brno a.s. At the beginning of the 21st century, the determination to keep and



*BRNO COMPETITION – a popular over and under shotgun from Zbrojovka Brno, a subsidiary of Česká zbrojovka a.s.*



*The unique know-how of Zbrojovka Brno is based on the combination of modern technologies and traditional gunsmithing practices*

develop the Brno firearms brand came under great strain when the joint-stock mother company faced bankruptcy. Thanks to the intervention of CZ, the healthy core of the Brno firearms division was saved and became the foundation of a new company, BRNO RIFLES. The newly-emerged company underwent reorganization, relocated to the premises of the company's former school right next to the main factory, optimized its machinery and launched the production of completely new models that follow the current global trends for hunting and sport shooting firearms. Its current portfolio includes the cutting-edge BRNO COMBO rifle/shotgun and most recently also the BRNO EXPRESS over/under rifle.

Since 2010, this successor of the legendary Brno firearms industry bears the name ZBROJOVKA BRNO, s.r.o.





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# *Stay in touch!*

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