The 1911 is ambiguous as it is classic. The gun’s mission changed over the years. Originally a military sidearm, the 1911 is now a favorite among law enforcement special operation units, military and competitors, as well as those interested in self-defense. While the basic design has changed very little, some brilliant people have advanced John Browning’s classic and brought it into a new century. This book offers some amazing behind-the-scenes insight about the makers of Nighthawk, Kimber, Wilson Combat, to name a few. Great shooters like Julie Golob, Bruce Piatt and Chip McCormick shared their personal stories. Ted Nugent and Razor Dobbs also make appearances as 1911 hunters. These 1911 stars also shared their practical advice which Bill shares with the reader. Bill Loeb’s writing style is concise yet sometimes irreverent, but always fresh and entertaining.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

It’s only because the title is misleading that give this book 4 stars instead of 5. Actually, I think a couple of chapters about turning a bone-stock 1911 into a custom job would make this a
WONDERFUL book.

Disclosure #1: I LOVE the 1911 platform. I have purchased a 1911 for each of my three children, and for my son-in-law, and have one in my cabinet at the moment (actually, it's in the hard case beside me). My first 1911 was a used Llama, and it was wonderful; since then, I have purchased Rock Island Armory pistols, and never regretted it.

Disclosure #2: I got this book to serve as a comparison to a book I got about my latest acquisition, an FN High Power. Here's how it worked out: that book sucked. This one is very good.

I believe that most people who shoot a 1911 fall in love with it, but I might be mistaken. I'm a large person, and I have large hands, and a small person with small hands MIGHT be intimidated by the platform or the cartridge, BUT I DON'T THINK IT HAS TO BE THAT WAY! My daughter started shooting a full-size 1911 when she was in high school, and she is a small person. She now owns the Officer’s Model, but that’s MOSTLY because it’s easier to conceal. She was able to put the rounds where she wanted them from the beginning; from the OPERATOR side, the .45 ACP just isn’t that physically intimidating. But I digress...

My point is that a LOT of people become fans. And for that group, this is a great book. You get background, bios, and some really great pictures. This isn't the DEFINITIVE book, because that would take a series, but it’s much, much better than any of the competition I’ve read.

An authoritative glance into the world of the custom 1911, Loéb captures the story behind many of the greats in the customization and modernization of the classic 1911 ordnance prints. With well over 100 years to its pedigree, the 1911 has undergone many refinements to the original design at the hand of many smiths, tinkerers and thinkers. Loéb XXXXXXXX the why behind many of these changes, bringing to the reader the type of œsitting by the fireœ • transfer of knowledge that makes you hunger for more, and as anxious to turn to the next page as you are sad to leave the last one.

Impossible to put down, filled from cover to cover with spectacular photography, and chock full of the small details one normally wouldn’t be privy to without having a personal relationship with many of the manufacturers listed â “ The Custom 1911 will serve as an invaluable resource for those looking to either jump into ownership of a high end personalized pistol, or simply looking to broaden their knowledge of the firearm. Tracing the development of several pistol makers back to their founding days sheds a unique look into the thinking, drive, and passion that drives these master craftsmen to approach the same question from so many varied angles â “ œnow that I’m addicted to the 1911, how can I make it mine.œ • Each creates their own individualized interpretations of what it means to be termed œcustom;œ • some through the precision hand fitting of parts under practiced eyes, and others through controlling every aspect of the manufacturing process â “ right down to the selection of the steel. Whatever their approach, the results are equally
as spectacular; Loëb tells the tale of one-off custom works and post-custom production models available at large.

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