

# BROWNING HI-POWER

SMALL ARMS REVIEW TEAM

## SELF-LOADING SERVICE PISTOL (9x19MM)



FN Mark III Hi-Power

The Browning Hi-Power (c. 1935) was based on a design by John Browning and completed by Dieudonné Saive at FN Herstal after Browning's death in 1926, and is essentially a simplified and improved version of the Browning designed Model 1911 (a .45 ACP chambered pistol adopted by the US Army in 1911 with a seven round magazine) that uses a high capacity 13 round magazine via a double column magazine (the first pistol to use such magazines).

FN's Mark III variant incorporates an ambidextrous thumb safety and a firing pin safety to make it drop safe.

The design also incorporates a magazine safety that most people remove as it makes the trigger pull heavier and stops users firing the pistol with the magazine removed. This feature was intended to prevent accidental/negligent discharges by people who think a pistol with a round in the chamber is

unloaded because the magazine is removed, thus an attempt to idiot-proof them, and not a desirable feature if you are ever in a situation where you have a pistol and ammunition but the magazine has been damaged, is out of reach, lost or stolen.

They were widely used during WW2, notably by German forces after the FN factory in Belgium was captured by the invading Germans, and by Allied forces via models produced in Canada (Inglis).

Although production of the original Hi-Power ended at FN in 2018 (later replaced by an much heavier variant that does not have an accessory rail for a light/laser or a red dot sight mount), there are huge numbers of Hi-Power's in circulation worldwide due to them being adopted by many armed forces (still used by some armies), while newly produced Hi-Powers are still being manufactured by a number of companies, notably

by RFI in India (Inglis variant using tooling from Canada), Springfield Armory in the US (essentially a FN Mark III), and Girsan in Turkey (imported into the US by EAA). The later is essentially a FN Mark III that is available with an accessory rail for a light/laser.

The Hi-Power, also known as the GP35 and P35, has an excellent reputation for reliability. Many use a spur type hammer like the one on the Mark III variant pictured above, but some prefer the rounded "burr" hammer as it is less likely to "bite" the web of a user's firing hand.

It is a strong pistol designed for military specification rounds, so use +P civilian rounds or mil-spec NATO rounds, not standard pressure civilian rounds intended for use in older pistols as this can result in 'limp wrist' malfunctions due to a weak grip as a result of an injury or awkward firing position.

### RECOMMENDED ACCESSORIES

**Log Book**  
Firearm Usage & Maintenance Log Book.  
[Blackheart International]

**Field Bore Brush**  
Hoppe's BoreSnake.  
[Hoppe's]

**Firearm CLP**  
Beak Free CLP.  
[Safariland]

**Dry Fire Rounds**  
A-Zoom 9mm Luger Snap Caps.  
[Lyman Products Corporation]

**High Visibility Sights**  
XS 24/7 Standard Dot Tritium Front and Tritium White Stripe Rear.  
[XS Sight Systems]

**Holster**  
BHYCS-TB Inside the Waist Scabbard with Thumb Break.  
[Black Hills Leather Store]

**Ear Plugs**  
EarPro or EP3 or EP4.  
[SureFire]

### SPECIFICATIONS

Weight: 0.9 kg (2 lb)  
Length: 197 mm (7.8 in)  
Barrel Length: 119 mm (4.7 in)  
Action: short recoil  
Magazine Capacity: 13 rounds

### HOT TIP

Training magazines can suffer metal fatigue to their springs so don't use them for combat.