

FIRESTORM DELUXE DLX 45 ACP, \$482

GUN TESTS GRADE: C

Very slight detail differences in the two handguns were interesting. The test might have been a draw but for glitches with the DLX—the slide stop would not lock back on the last shot, and the link pin need to be peened in place because it fell out during disassembly.

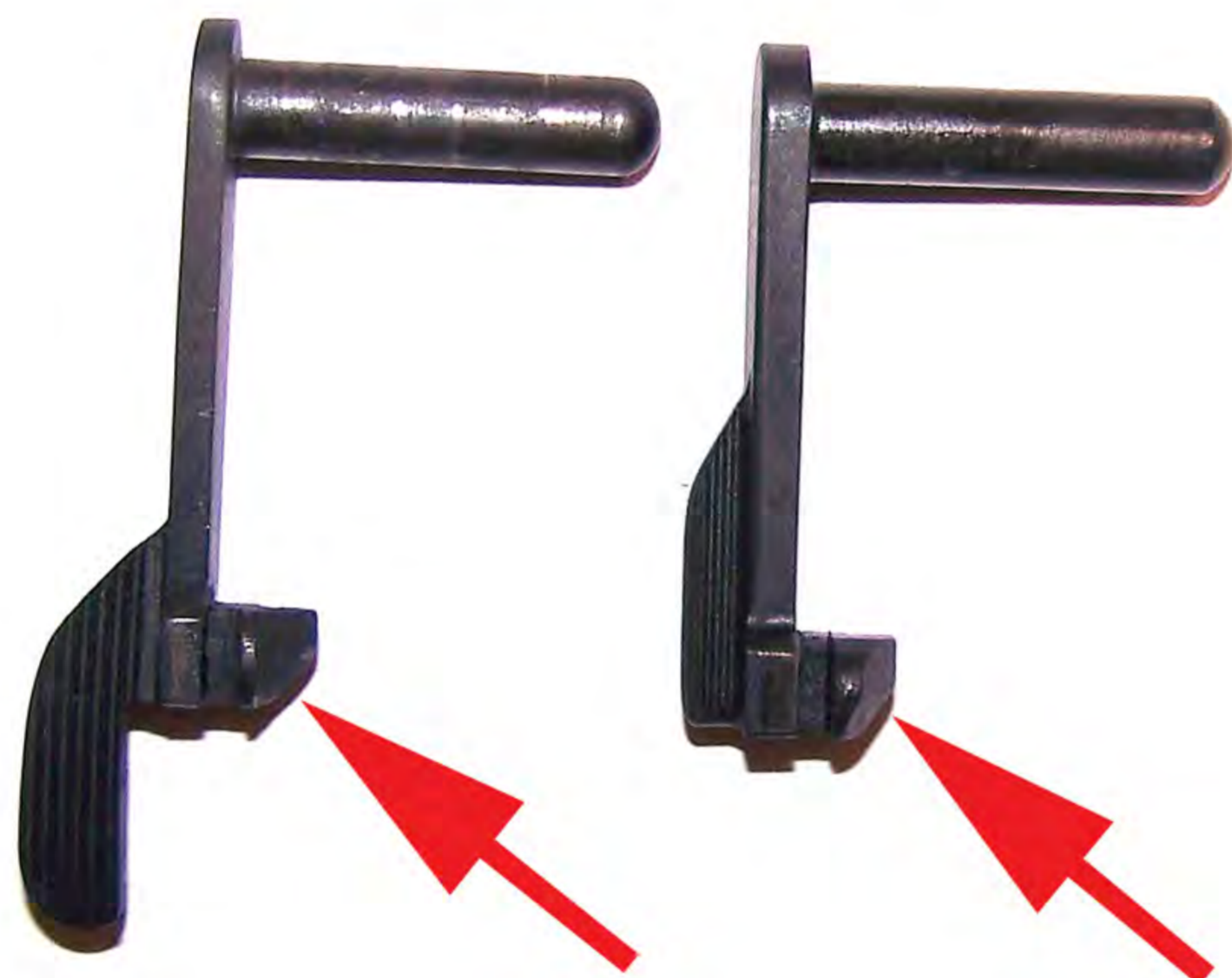
SPECIFICATIONS

OVERALL LENGTH	8.5 IN.
OVERALL HEIGHT	5.75 IN.
BARREL LENGTH.....	5 IN.
SIGHT RADIUS	7.2 IN.
FRONT STRAP HEIGHT	3.0 IN.
BACK STRAP HEIGHT.....	3.75 IN.
WEIGHT UNLOADED.....	39.5 OZ.
CAPACITY	8+1
MAXIMUM WIDTH.....	1.2 IN.
GRIP THICKNESS (MAX.).....	1.3 IN.
FRAME.....	BLUED STEEL
BARREL.....	BLUED STEEL
SLIDE	BLUED STEEL
GRIP	CHECKERED PHILIPPINE WOOD
GRIP CIRCUMFERENCE (MAX.).....	5.2 IN.
TRIGGER PULL WEIGHT.....	3.9 LBS.



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The added weight of the extended control surface on the Firestorm slide stop, left, kept the part from springing up and engaging the slide to lock (arrow), is our best guess. The slide stop at right solved the problem. This glitch can be serious. This is one of the reasons we said attention to detail favors the RIA Tactical.



The new Firestorm is produced by Metro in the Philippines. The Series 70 design will accept drop-in 1911 barrels with minimum fitting, and other aftermarket parts easily adapt to this handgun and the RIA.



The link pin was simply too loose in the slot, and it fell out of the Firestorm barrel upon field stripping.

The bold front post of the Novak, shared by both pistols, is a very good design. The Firestorm's sights are similar to Novaks, but with a difference. The sighting notch is 1/16 to 1/8 inch further forward on the sight block than a true Novak, resulting in a shorter sight radius.

