



THE INFINITY OF YOUR DREAMS

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IT WOULD BE very easy to make several comparisons when talking about Infinity Firearms, like “the Ferrari of race guns”, but to be honest that should be very apparent. Sandy Strayer left STI (Strayer-Tripp International) in early 1994 and started Strayer-Voigt, Inc., in June of 1994. Known as SVI at the time, Strayer teamed up with Michael Voigt to manufacture and market their own line of modular frame 1911s. The design was based off the original polymer grip, of which Strayer was the designer and a co-patent holder. The modular design meant that the frame was actually two pieces, the lower half being the grip, which allowed the guns to use a double stack magazine without

increasing the thickness of the grip. That is a pretty simple explanation of things that were going on within the “race gun” market and how things were shaking out in USPSA, which only had two divisions, Limited and Open, at the time.

If you didn’t have a high capacity, often referred to as a wide body, 1911, you were not going to fare very well in competition shooting. However, this article isn’t about the history of race guns in USPSA but more about the advancements Infinity Firearms has brought to market with their many custom-built guns, including the newest enhancements to their lineup. But first let’s talk about why an Infinity Firearm is so

highly coveted in the race gun world.

In their Texas facility, which is still family-owned and driven by second-generation Brandon Strayer, they make every part of the pistol in-house from billet barstock. That means that the quality of the parts is 100 percent within their control. They are not waiting for slides or frames to come in that may not meet their tolerances; instead, they are building guns with parts made right the first time. This isn’t just the major components used, but the grips, springs and even the small screws used in every one of their custom-built firearms. Every pistol is built to a customer’s specific functional and cosmetic desire. You start your dream gun on Infinity’s GunBuilder program selecting every aspect of the design you want.

The options are endless, from their interchangeable breech face slides to the different slide cuts and grip options. The interchangeable breech face is an Infinity exclusive that allows your firearm to have multiple calibers with the same slide. The

guns are hand-fit and finished by only top-level engineers, and every handgun is tuned and tested. All the major components are specially heat treated and cryogenically treated as well as offering optional PVD coatings for maximum strength and longevity.

The pistol sent for review is the new IMM Open pistol featuring their new hole design, compensator, and the new internal breech face extractor. Before we get to the features of this beautifully crafted handgun, let's talk about the shooting. I have shot a few open guns over the years, but I have never actually competed in a large USPSA match in Open Division with a real Open gun. I have always been an iron-sight shooter in Single Stack and Limited divisions until the last two years, where I primarily shot Carry Optics. Let's face it, my 47-year-old eyes are just able to see a red dot better than irons anymore. I was looking forward to shooting this gun in a match, but before that happened, I was going to need to hit the range to test it out.

As with any finely tuned race gun, or going back to the race car comparison, you are going to need the right "fuel" to make it go. In this case, we had a few hurdles to



jump over to get the right ammunition that would maximize the gun's performance. The initial ammo sent didn't meet major power factor; it was well below 165pf, causing the gun to not be 100 percent reliable. Strayer, not satisfied with my report back that the ammunition used was under-powered, wanted to double-check the gun while I waited for a second batch of ammunition. The gun was inspected, tested and sent back. Strayer also arranged for one of the Infinity Team shooters to send me his hand-loaded ammunition as well. The tested ammo sent

was 174 power factor, and the gun loved it. The second batch of ammunition used from Eley was their 124gr 38SuperComp and was a consistent 167.1 power factor. The gun ran this ammunition and the Atlanta Arms 124gr that was a 168.4 power factor. The SIG Romeo3XL tracked the best with the handloaded ammunition, as it worked the compensator like it should. It is not uncommon for an open gun to like hotter ammunition.

Normally we would run some drills and compare times as part of the review, but the





PHOTO BY CAROLE BRYANT.



Infinity was just so much fun to shoot that we didn't write anything down. I worked through several draws into an 8-inch circle from the Safariland 015 holster with a transition into an A/C zone steel USPSA target that the second shot was basically a controlled pair at 12 yards. The gun was extremely easy to shoot fast and accurately. On the scale it showed it weighed in at 53.5 ounces; however, the balance of the gun made it feel much lighter. I was actually very surprised by the weight of the gun, so I tried it on another scale just to check. The trigger pull averaged one pound 15 ounces on the Wheeler Engineering digital trigger gauge, with a very short and positive reset. Strayer

sent the gun with several magazines that had zero issues during the testing and the match I was able to shoot.

This new IMM Open gun features a new hole design in the Accuracy Enhancing Technology Sight Tracker barrel fitted on this pistol. This consists of two small squares offset from one another on the top of the barrel, but further inspection shows that the squares are angled into offset holes directing the gas right and left instead of directly up, like many traditional holes in other designs. The top leading left square is cut into part of the barrel and the compensator. The reason for this design, according to Infinity, "was to take advantage of high pressure gases just

prior to the pressure drop that occurs in the compensator, with little effect on bullet velocity. Remember, making 'fast' barrels are also part of the 'synergy' (all parts optimized) of an Infinity Pistol where 1+1 = 3. A true win for competitors."

Besides how well they function, the aesthetics of the design and the flow from the top of the barrel into the compensator are amazing.

One of my longtime pet peeves with some open gun builds are how the compensator looks like an afterthought attached to the gun, with no concern for the lines and how the slide, frame and compensator should all fit seamlessly together. The Infinity slide, frame and compensator treatment set the bar extremely high here. I have not seen a better-looking setup on a gun; the way the lines of the butler cut on the frame flow into the rounded cut on the slide into the flutes down the side of the compensator are stunning. You can barely feel where the barrel's island is fitted into the slide cut or where the slide ends and the compensator begins. I am betting that you couldn't fit a gnat's eyelash in between where the hand-fitted parts meet up. Besides being a beautifully machined titanium part, Strayer says "the new compensator design was created by an improved dot tracking technology algorithm that balances port volume and angle of inclination of each port for improved accuracy and speed."

The interchangeable breech face is





an Infinity exclusive feature that they introduced in 1998. This was to allow multiple calibers from the same slide on their pistols. However, a new feature of the interchangeable breech face was introduced recently, an internal extractor attached to the breech face of the gun. The 1911 design has used basically the same designed extractor system since its initial testing over 110 years ago. There have been a few manufacturers try an external slide mounted system with varying degrees of success, and there have been other attempts to enhance the extractor

part itself. The spring steel arm with hook can be the single point of failure when it comes to the reliability of a 1911 feeding system. Infinity decided to take on this 100-year challenge and design something new. Brandon Strayer explained that “extractors actually perform two functions. The first is to aid in the successful feeding of the round into the breechface seat. The second being to ‘extract’ the case from the barrel chamber.” Strayer stated that Infinity started by using a “super clean steel” that resists cyclic failure by many magnitudes as compared to

commercial or even aircraft-quality materials, giving the shooter more confidence in the performance of his or her pistol. Critical cross sections were then significantly increased, including an enlarged hook profile to guide the round into the breechface seat more reliably, with only the slightest amount of friction. Strayer says that the biggest benefit of this feature for the shooter is that there is no tuning or readjustment ever required and having a modular drop-in unit that can be replaced quickly with simple tools in a matter of minutes.

After the initial testing, I was able to head to the Area 5 Championship held at the Bluegrass Sportsman League in Wilmore, Kentucky. I am only an A class in Open, earning that shooting a Limited gun, with most of the scores counting from 2010. I ran the Eley 124gr 38Supercomp ammunition during the match, which it – and the gun – ran the entire match with zero issues. It was 167.1 power factor, which was the lightest of the ammo tested, and the gun ran fine. I was a little conservative on the first couple of stages, getting used to the gun in a match, but was able to throttle up the speed and finished middle of the pack by the end of the match. In my last stage I picked up two mikes and a no-shoot that kept me out of the top 20, but I only had eight deltas and managed a 76 percent of the Division Champion. The gun was extremely easy to shoot and I can see why once you go “open” you don’t come back. I also was able to shoot Open at the Steel Challenge World Speed Shooting Championship with the Infinity, and set personal best on five of the eight stages during the match.

Are Infinity Firearms expensive? I would answer that by saying “they ain’t cheap.” You can get a buzz and a bad headache off cheap tequila or sip on Don Julio. Eric Clapton can probably play “Layla” on a knock-off Stratocaster, but it isn’t going to sound the same as it would on a Fender Custom Shop Signature model. You can tell the time with a Seiko, but an Omega Speedmaster is an investment that you will pass on to a loved one. Avoid the headaches and hit the range with an investment that you can pass on after you are done making the sweet sounds of the perfect cadence of gunfire – that is what an Infinity firearm is worth. ■

