



Robar's Custom Colt New Agent DAO

– *Not your father's 1911*

[BY JOHN HIGGS]

Pick up a high end wristwatch and you will probably first look to see the brand.

If it's a Rolex or an Omega, it's a quality timepiece with a long pedigree, built to exacting standards. When I picked up the New Agent Double Action Only (DAO) pistol the first thing I noticed was the rampant Colt, the trademark of an American company with a pedigree that dates back to 1836. Turning the pistol over, I found the Robar logo, a sure sign that this pistol had been customized and refinished to exacting standards.

At Robar, all custom finishes are done to the same high standards required by Robar's NADCAP aerospace certification that qualifies the company to coat—among other things—the internal parts of Apache combat helicopters.

The customized Robar version of Colt's New Agent features a Robar high visibility rear sight and Novak front sight, melt job on sharp edges, trigger job, beveled magazine well, throat-

ed barrel, and polished feed ramp.

The custom two tone finish is black Poly-T2 on the slide with NP3 on the frame, barrel, internals, and both Colt seven-round magazines. Poly-T2 is the latest finish from Robar and is available in gun metal grey, black, tan, olive drab, and dark green. It is a PTFE based epoxy coating that provides lubricity and protection from corrosion. NP3 is a combination of Electroless Nickel and embedded Teflon. It is extremely durable, very slick, and highly corrosion resistant with a hardness factor of about 48-51 Rockwell. When two NP3 coated surfaces rub together, the friction is drastically reduced, and no liquid lubrication is required, which means that less dirt and gunpowder residue stick to the gun.

I shot the Colt at conversational distances out to around twelve yards. Groups were tight, with the standard Colt seven-round magazine emptied

into one ragged hole. The Robar installed sights are easy to pick up, and provide a classic black on black sight picture. There were no failures to feed or eject, although a couple of times, I goofed and tried to fire a double tap before the long double action trigger had travelled far enough forward to reset. That's simply operator error, and once I got used to the trigger and stopped trying to treat it like the traditional 1911 single action, everything worked fine.

I field stripped the pistol and wiped all the surfaces with a dry piece of paper kitchen towel. The pistol looked very clean, and only required a run through the barrel with a BoreSnake, since the bore is probably the only surface not covered with NP3 or Poly-T2.

It's entirely possible that this particular pistol will still be shooting on the second centennial of John Browning's original design. ★

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