

Gunfacts Shoots:

THE SIG 210-6

staff report



Nick Croyle levels off with the deluxe SIG 210-6, found it an elegant arm that shoots better than he does.

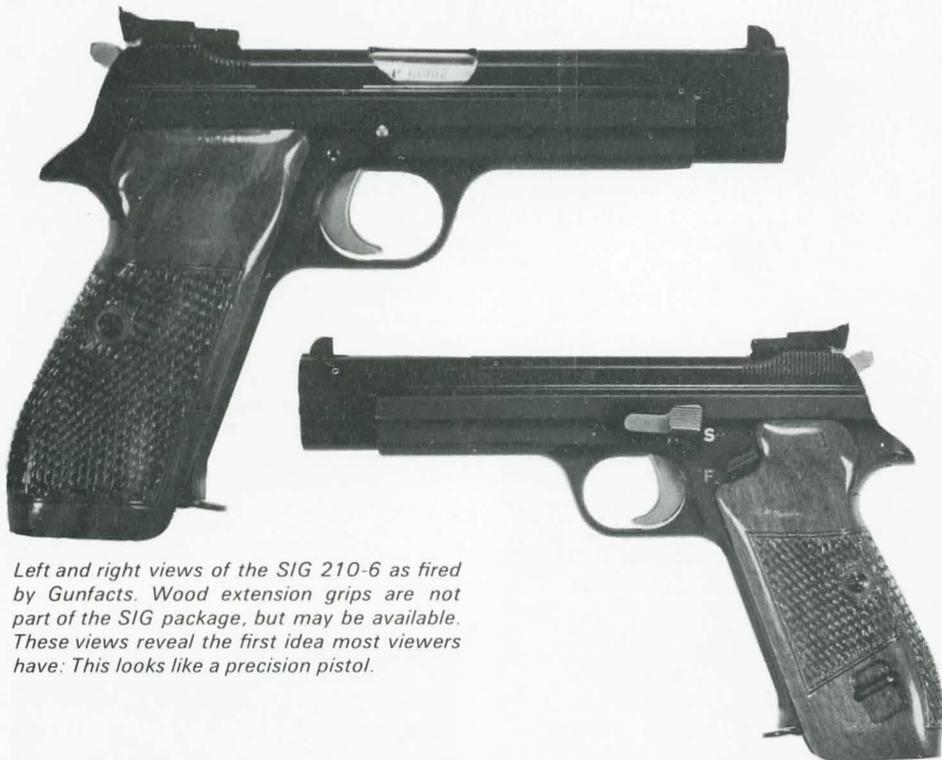
The Facts: The complete line of SIG 9mm handguns will soon be available here. A shipment of the SIG 210-6, the model tested here, is now available from Gunfacts' source, Gold Rush Guns, 1567 California St., San Francisco, Calif. 94109. Of course, like everyone else, Gold Rush can sell interstate only to dealers.

Principal dimensions of the SIG-210-6 are charted here. The pistol is a large military type self-loader of basic Browning locked-breech type. Its variations from the norm are most interesting. Principal among these are the dovetailing of the slide and the unitized hammer-sear-spring component as per the Tokarev.

The slide does not surround the frame, as in the Colt M1911 and other large self-loaders (The Astra 400 and 600 being other exceptions) of Browning type. The Swiss chose to put the slide inside the frame. The result is a long mating surface and this, when coupled with Swiss machining, provides a rigid arrangement. The SIG slide, when locked all the way back, is as rigid as most self-loaders cocked and locked—there is no play.

The one-unit sub-assembly containing most of the fire control mechanism comes out in one piece, but it does not simply pull out. There is a screw holding it in place, which may be seen in an accompanying photo. Apart from this, takedown is quite straightforward and proceeds as with most Browning-derived designs.

The P-210 is available in three calibers—9mm Parabellum and 7.65mm Luger are standard; 22 LR may be used in a conversion unit. There are several variations, which may be summarized as *service* (P210-1&2), *service target* (P210-6) which is the standard pistol plus adjustable sights, and *target*, (P210-5) which adds a special long



Left and right views of the SIG 210-6 as fired by Gunfacts. Wood extension grips are not part of the SIG package, but may be available. These views reveal the first idea most viewers have: This looks like a precision pistol.

barrel and extra sight radius. The 22 conversion unit (P210-1) is not available with target sights. P210-1 has wood grips.

All guns have a grip bottom magazine release, and P210-2, P210-5 and P210-6 are furnished with plastic grips, with deep checkering. One magazine is provided in the standard box. The finish of the P210-1 standard version is polished; P210-5 and the rest are sandblasted. Gunfacts had special wood target extension grips for trial. These are not part of the standard package and if sold, will be sold separately, price unknown yet.

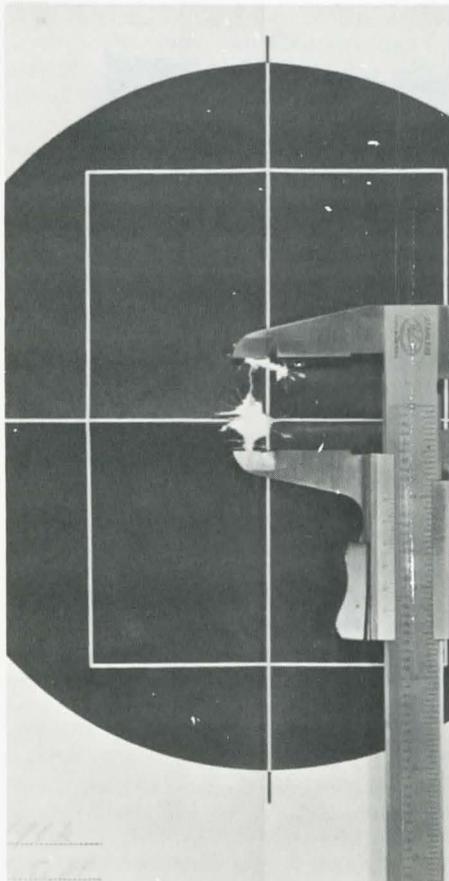
Fit and finish on these guns are remarkably good, with exceptions noted

below. The SIGs are superbly turned-out machines. Trigger pulls are soft and light, not crisp. The standard grip is quite comfortable. The safety and slide release are not nearly so convenient as, for one example, the M1911 Colt.

The hammer mechanism incorporates a second notch, which is not exactly the same as a half-cock as used in the U.S. The function is simply to catch the hammer should it follow down or slip when hand-cocked. The sample P210-6 would pull off this second notch quite easily, with the safety either on or off. The firing pin was driven with sufficient force



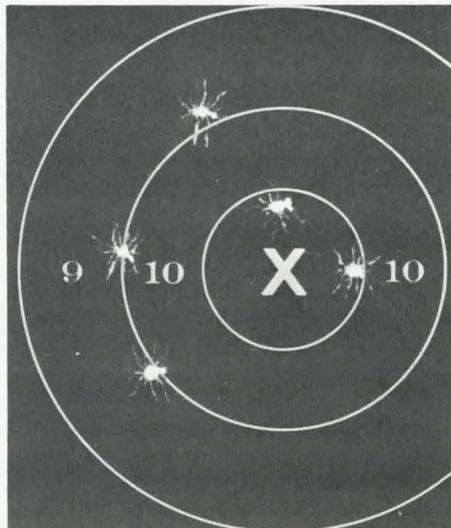
The stripped SIG 210-6 looks like this. Barrel is left in slide to show basic Browning approach. Unitized hammer group is non-Browning, of course. Note long track on slide, which houses inside frame.



This is a 50-meter machine rest group and measures just a few thousandths over 1" for 10 shots.

SIG DIMENSIONS

| | |
|--|--------------------|
| Caliber | 9mm, 7.65mm Luger* |
| Length overall | 8½" |
| Barrel length | 4¾" |
| Twist | 1 in 9¾" |
| Rifling | 6-groove |
| Weight, empty | 36½ oz. |
| Magazine capacity | 8 rounds |
| Sight radius | 7" |
| Rear sight | Click adjustable |
| * 7.65mm model is ¾ oz. heavier, has 4-groove rifling. | |



This group shot one-handed by Gunfacts' gunner Nick Croyle. Range was 25 yards; widest shots are 2-3/4" apart. This is not Croyle's best group.

to dent primers. Gunfacts tried perhaps eight types of ammunition in an effort to make the gun fire from this condition, but was unsuccessful, although all primers were marked.

One other sample reported by the importer would not pull off the second notch with the safety properly applied, but would drop the hammer if the safety was moved minutely and the trigger pulled. Upon disassembly and inspection, Gunfacts found that the parts relationship in the safety mechanism/trigger set-up required absolute tightness in fitting to eliminate all slack in order to avoid this condition when safety is on. Apparently, all SIG 210's will drop the hammer from the second notch when safety is off.

The sandblasted finish of the SIG pistols appears to be two-toned. In a conversation with SIG's president, Gunfacts learned that the two tones are unintentional. SIG hardens the entire slide (and the entire barrel) and the hardened steel's response to sandblasting differs sufficiently to provide the finish difference.

SIG prices are high, but the quality is commensurate. The pistol tested here retails for \$225.00. The P210-1 service type will be less; the P210-5 will be more. The 22 conversion unit will sell for about \$100.

The Results: Gunfacts turned the P210-6 and a supply of ammunition over to Nick Croyle, an ardent but

not competitive handgunner. His comments follow:

"The SIG's accuracy is such that anytime the hole didn't appear where I intended it to go, I was sure it was my fault. All groups obtained were as small as I could hold.

"Feed and extraction/ejection was solid and reliable. No hitches at all. The SIG simply shot and promptly dumped the empties.

"I got used to the soft trigger fairly easily. I should imagine someone disciplined to the NRA course of fire and standard American arms might find what feels like a two-stage pull to be a disadvantage. I found myself taking up so much of the slack as the pistol came down from recoil that the gun went off. Fortunately, the SIG behaves very mildly during recoil and even these shots were on the paper.

"I have wondered since about the extension grips furnished. They don't seem to make sense to me. Full competition would call for full fitted grips; in field use, these are simply begging to be chipped or splintered, aside from the way they screen the clip release."

Gunfacts staff members also fired the SIG. Their results and general comments parallel Mr. Croyle's. The gun did bite Technical Editor Davis, but he uses a very high hold and many automatics bite him.

The Opinion: This is a first-class firearm. Very simply stated, it shoots very well indeed. The price is not high when compared to roughly similar target-grade guns of similar performance.

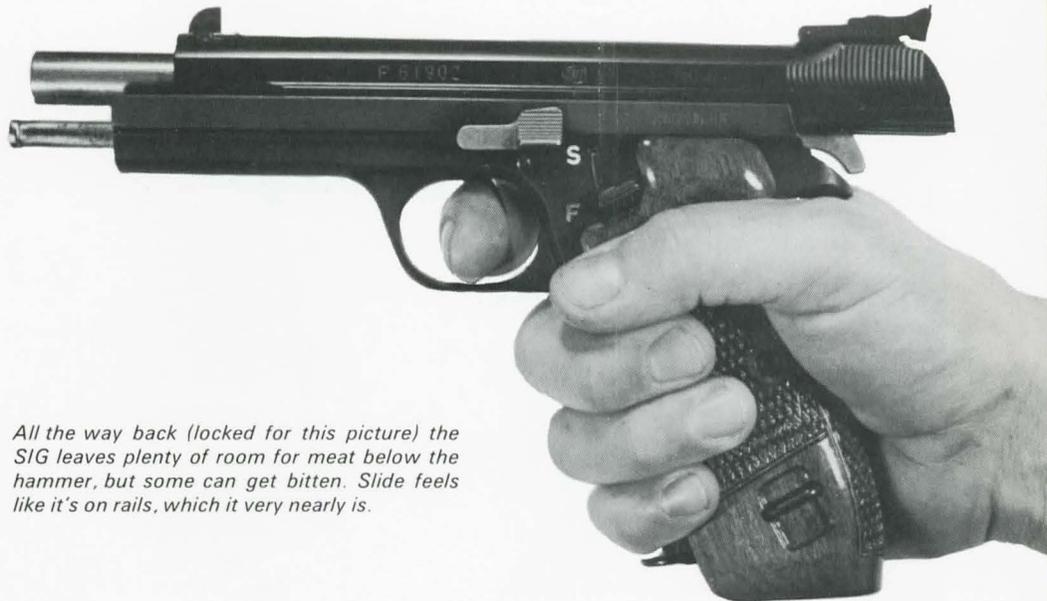
Gunfacts does feel that a \$225 handgun sold cased ought to have a spare magazine included. It would be exceedingly irritating to have the gun out of use because of magazine damage or loss. And magazines for SIG 210 pistols are simply not to be had at every high-grade gun shop.

Gunfacts also feels the manufacturer should take special note of the safety notch situation for the American market. Nowhere does SIG call this a half-cock, nor does the manual recommend employment of the second notch in any way. Still, Americans are accustomed to half-cock notches that do not, at the least, pull off easily. Millions of U.S. firearms employ half-cock as their only safety. As to whether or not this is a fault, the question is moot. The safety is designed to block sear movement. Its design requires very careful fitting to do this to the extent required to hold the second notch. There is no question about the full sear engagement—it won't slip when the safety is applied.

That leaves, still, a very fine arm, for the most part very nicely made, very accurate. That would seem to be enough. ■



SIG should be comfortable in most hands, including quite large mitts like these. Extension grips aren't really needed. SIG is big.



All the way back (locked for this picture) the SIG leaves plenty of room for meat below the hammer, but some can get bitten. Slide feels like it's on rails, which it very nearly is.



This little unit contains most of the fire control apparatus, includes window to lubricate through. A screw holds this in place in Gunfacts' sample gun.