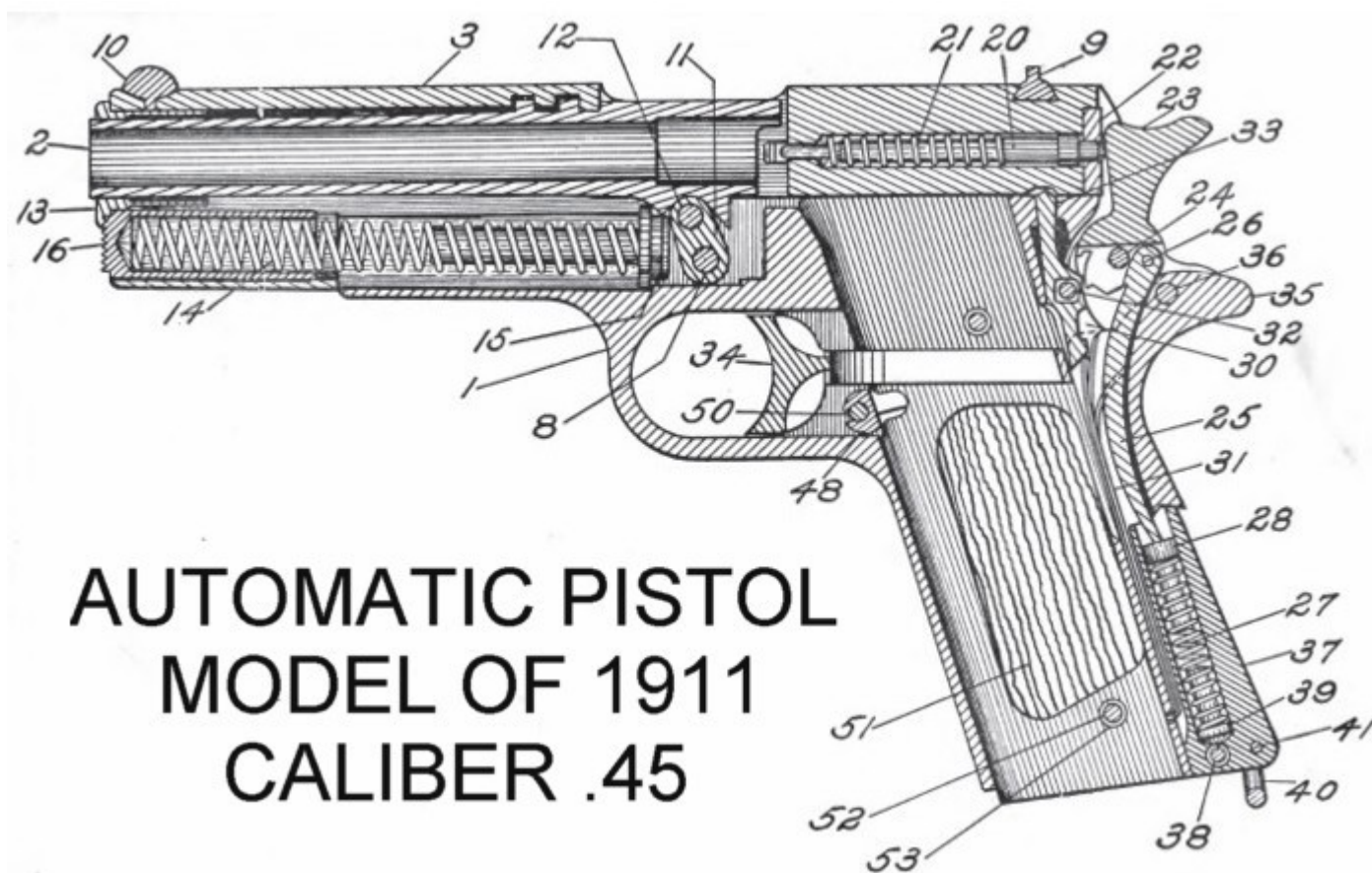


THE 1911's GRIP ANGLE = MISSES IN CQB.



The 1911 Colt automatic pistol caliber-45, was the standard-issue side arm of US Forces for 70 plus years, from 1911 to 1985. And it's still carried by some military and police members. The 1911 is beloved by gun enthusiasts, and ubiquitous in the world of the gun. However, it has two design faults, and each of them can be fatal for a user.

One is the slide stop pin, which can result in the 1911 jamming when fired.



For info on that, see the You Tube video titled: [The 1911 - A Fatal Flaw. Click here for the info in text form.](#)

The other fault is the 1911's grip angle which can result in shooting low and missing, even at close quarters.



And that can have fatal consequences for a 1911 user, because if you're going to be shot or killed, there is an 80 percent chance that it will happen at less than 20 feet.

THE GRIP.

The grip is one of the most important things in combat firing. The pistol should be placed in the crotch of the hand and firmly grasped. The barrel should be in direct alignment with the forearm, so if you pointed your finger instead of the gun, it would be right on target.

"For accurate shooting the gun must be in line with the forearm."



THE 1911 IS NOT A NATURAL POINTER.

Due to its grip angle, the 1911 is not a natural pointer like a pistol, which when placed in the hand is directly on the target.



When the 1911 is placed in the hand and gripped, the gun muzzle will point down.



And because of that, the wrist must be cocked upward to bring the 1911 in line with the target.





WW II soldiers were told that after a little practice, this adjustment will become instinctive.

Now, saying that doesn't make it so, and in particular in **real close quarters combat** when someone is trying to kill you or be killed.

And you don't have to be a combat veteran to know that. For example, Sight Reliant Shooting has been taught for use for 100 years, but studies of Police combat cases have found that it is seldom used. In combat, Officers default to instinctive shooting of some type.

Another problem with having to cock the wrist upwards, is that with firing, the gun will jump in your hand. So you will have to check the guns alignment before firing again to assure accuracy. And in the extreme stress of close quarters combat that is not likely to happen.

A CRUSH GRIP.

According to Applegate, in life or death combat, you will grasp your gun in an almost convulsive grip. In Kill or Get Killed, he said...."in the midst of battle excitement, a man instinctively grips his weapon in this manner and certainly does not take time to hold his breath, line up the sights, and squeeze the trigger."

And with a crush grip, the middle, ring and little fingers will torque the gun down and around to the left which will make low shooting worse.



To prevent the low shooting problem, soldiers were taught to hold the arm down and straight, and with the wrist and elbow locked. The shoulder is used as a pivot point to bring the gun up to eye level.



The sights are not used and the gun is fired instinctively, point blank in the general direction of the target.





These pics are from the Fairbairn and Sykes book: *Shooting To Live*, and show the method they developed based on Police experiences in hundreds of gunfights in China in the early 1900's.

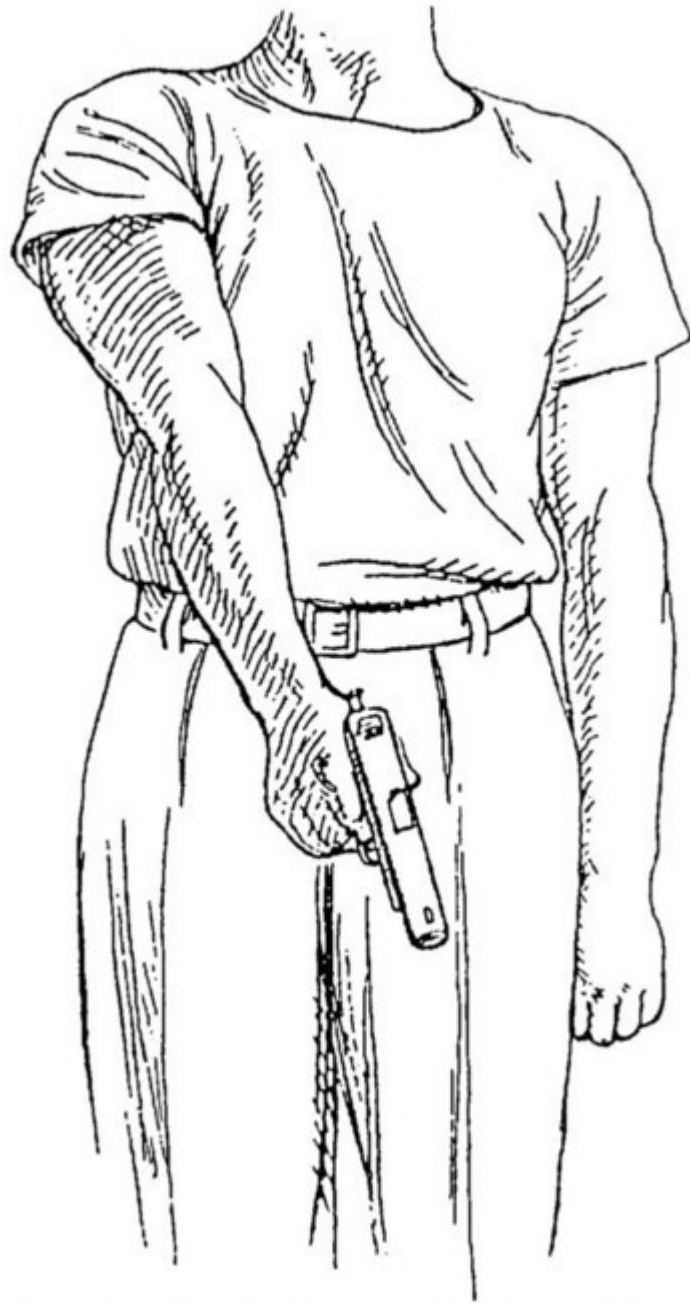


FIG. 2.—Preliminary to Ready Position.

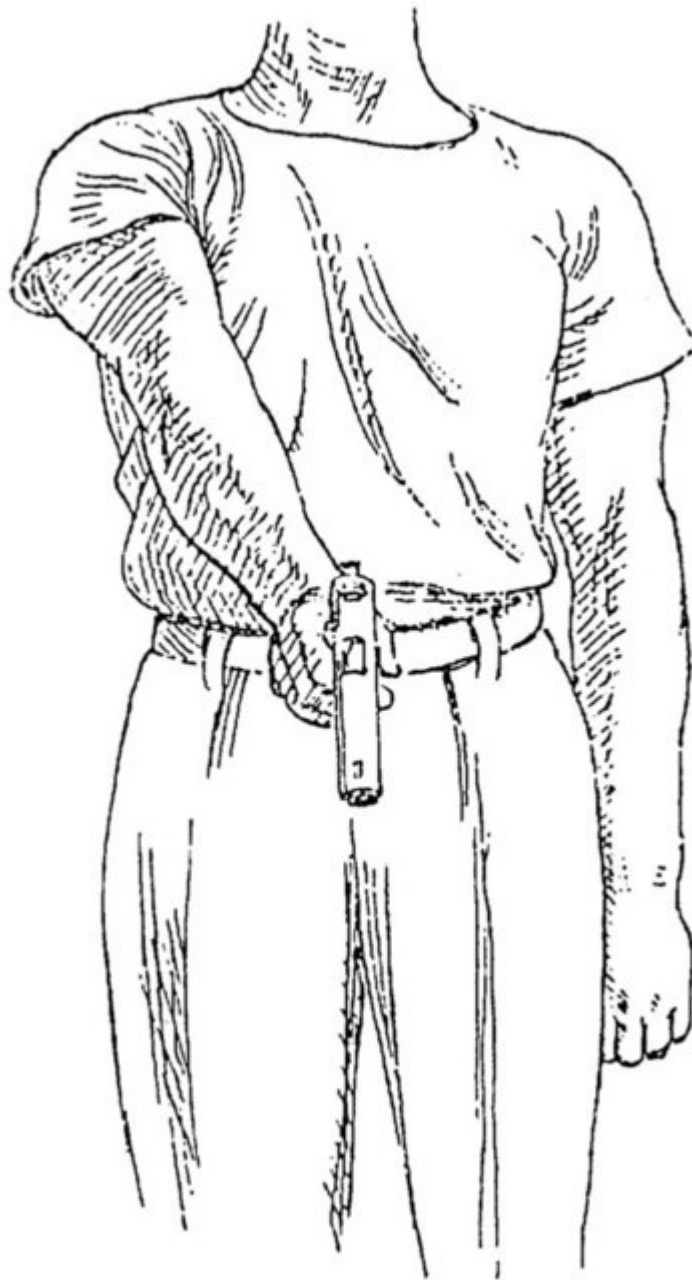


FIG. 3.—Ready Position.



FIG. 4.—Firing, Arm Fully Extended.

My concern is that in a self defense situation, it is unlikely that one will have the time and composure to grip the gun correctly, straighten the arm and lock the elbow and wrist, and then bring the stiff arm and gun up under the eye, and then shoot. And then, also have the presence of mind to check and make sure that the grip and locked wrist and arm are the in the same position after the recoil experienced with firing each shot to assure the accuracy of the next shot.

And if the combat area is confined, or filled with obstructions or obstacles, or the action is dynamic, the grip problem could be fatal.

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After writing, and rewriting, and thinking about this article and the subject of CQB shooting, the thought popped into my mind that it is no wonder that the mantras of the "modern shooting schools" have been USE YOUR SIGHTS, and FSP-FSP-FSP, FRONT SIGHT PRESS, FRONT SIGHT PRESS (see the front sight on the target and press).

They tacitly acknowledge the bad grip design of 1911, and they also recognize that in a high stress situation you will have a crush grip on your gun and that the muzzle will be pointing down.

So you must USE YOUR SIGHTS or bring the front sight up into view, or you will shoot low and miss, and probably die.

Unfortunately for those who are not SEALS or SWAT operators who train 24/7, the run of the mill folks and Police, they'll focus on the threat, their near vision focus will be lost due to the automatic dump of adrenaline into the blood stream which happens instinctively in a real life threat situation, and they'll shoot low and left, unless they know of, and use, an alternate shooting method. The acknowledged hit rate of less than 20% in real life and death armed encounters over the past 30+ years or so attests to that.

[Click here for more info on the 1911's bad grip angle as detailed by Applegate in his book Kill Or Get Killed.](#)

The info is in the article: Point Shooting as taught by Fairbairn, Sykes and Applegate.

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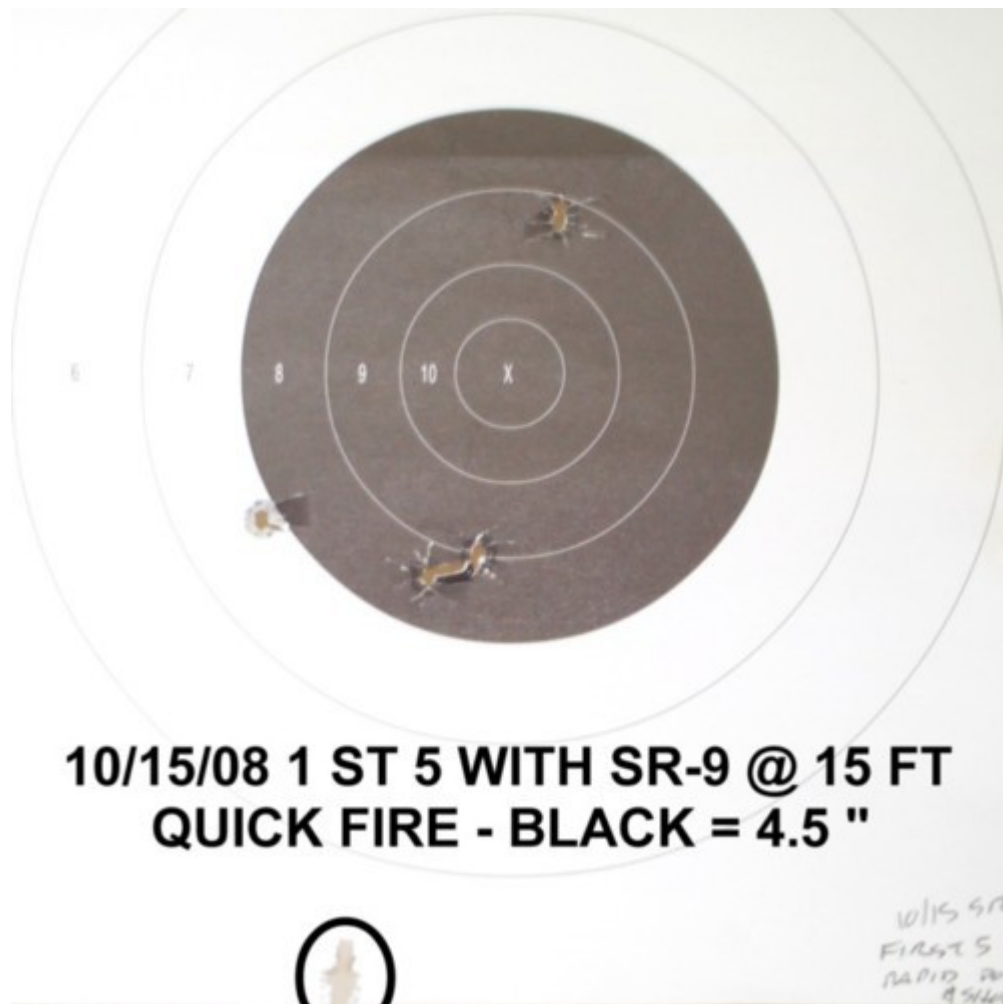
As to instinctive shooting which is used in gunfights, I favor what I call AIMED Point Shooting or P&S.

With P&S, all you have to do is grab your gun with your index finger along the side, point your index finger at the target, and pull the trigger with your middle finger. It's a shooting method that's been around since at least 1835.









It is brain dead simple, fast, accurate, and deadly effective. And it can be learned and maintained with little or no training.

With your index finger along the side of the gun, it, the barrel and the sights will be in alignment. So you get **automatic** and correct sight alignment when you grab your gun, and **automatic** and correct sight placement when you point at a target, and for each shot made.



The grip provides a strong and level shooting platform made up of the natural pincer of thumb and index finger, and with the ring and little fingers adding tenacity to the grip.

With this four fingered grip, front punches and elbow smashes can be made, and the gun and forearm can be used as a crude battle axe. You can squeeze the bejeebers out of the gun, and all you will do is add to the strength of the grip.

P&S is not dependant on the marksmanship grip, a stiff arm, or the use of the sights. And it can be used when moving, and against moving targets, even aerals.

Unfortunately, this simple, instinctive, accurate, and deadly method of shooting, which the U.S. Army says works, can not be used with the 1911 because of the design of the 1911's slide stop as mentioned above. For more on that, see the video: [The 1911 - A Fatal Flaw.](#)

[Here is a link to that info in text form.](#)

End.