

## BREECH FACE MARKS OF THE BRYCO ARMS MODEL JENNINGS NINE

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**Key Words:** Bryco, Jennings, Breech face, Ejector

### Abstract

A Bryco Arms model Jennings Nine caliber 9mm semiautomatic pistol was submitted to the lab for test firing. Examining the cartridge casings from this model yielded some noticeable characteristics. The manufacturer was contacted to find the source of these marks.

### Introduction

A Bryco Arms model Jennings Nine caliber 9mm semiautomatic pistol was recently submitted to the laboratory. As part of the routine analysis, the fired cartridge casings were evaluated. Interesting marks were observed on the cartridge casings from this model firearm.

I was informed by Bryco Arms that the model Jennings Nine is the replacement for the Bryco model 59. The new model has many added external and internal features.

### External Features

The model Jennings Nine (See photo #1) features a side mounted magazine release, loaded chamber indicator (located on the top of the slide), bolt cocked indicator (located on the rear of the slide), and a disassembly lever (located at the top rear of the frame). The safety on this model also acted as a slide stop which held the slide open after the last cartridge was fired. Adjustable sights and an orange plastic front sight post is also incorporated.

### Internal Features

Dissassembly of the Jennings Nine is accomplished by pulling the slide to the rear and depressing the disassembly lever. The slide then lifts

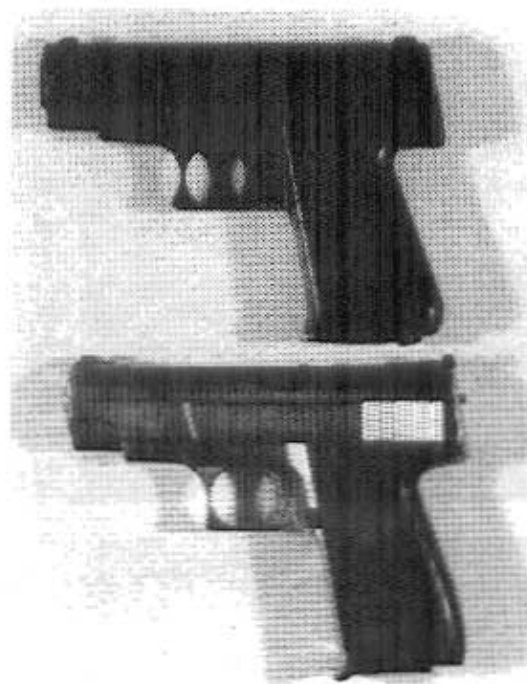
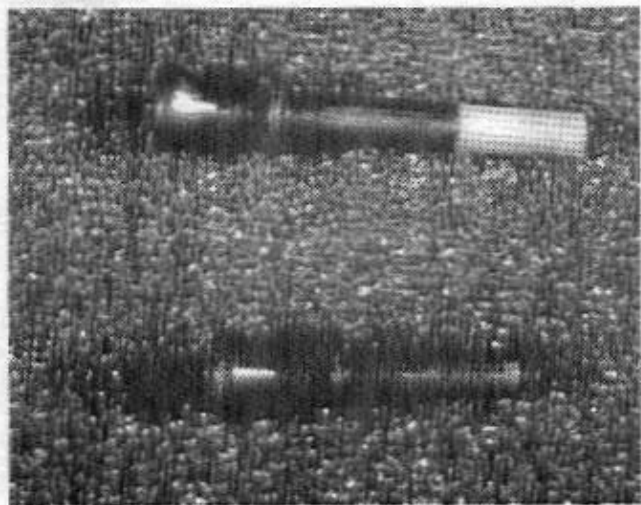


Photo 1: Bryco 59 on top and the Bryco Arms model Jennings Nine on bottom

off of the frame with the firing pin spring and firing pin spring retainer remaining on the slide. Upon disassembly of the slide, the first noticeable difference between the model Jennings Nine and the company's model 58 is the firing pin. (See photo #2). Observation of the frame reveals the

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**Photo 2:** Firing pin from Jennings nine on top (notice orange plastic cap on back acts as "Bolt Cocked Indicator") bottom firing pin is from the Bryco 59

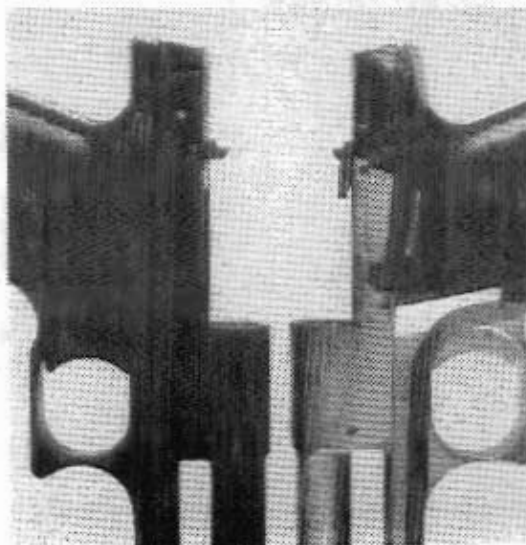
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presence of an ejector. (See photo #3). The ejector is made from steel and is very rough.

#### **Breech Face**

The breech face of the Jennings Nine encountered in this case was extremely textured with parallel marks. (See photo #4) This was quite a change from the typical circular marks associated with the model 59. A call was placed to Bryco Arms to determine the origin of these marks. I was informed the parallel marks were caused by a *triangular deburring blade* which is used in the finishing process to remove burrs. Each slide is inspected on the assembly line and the amount of metal removed is determined by the amount of burrs remaining on the slide.

A visit to a local gun shop was made to view other Jennings Nines to see if this was a reoccurring characteristic. Of the six guns available for inspection all revealed some degree of parallel marks left from the triangular deburring blade. (See photo #5)



**Photo 3:** Bryco 59 on left without ejector and Jennings Nine on right with ejector.

#### **Test Firing**

Test fired cartridge casings from the Jennings Nine revealed a distinct ejector mark. (See photo #6) All six of the models examined at the gun store had the same rough feeling ejector; however, test fires could not be obtained from those. Further testing with the evidence gun using twenty rounds each of 9mm 115 grain ball Remington, CCI, Federal, Fiocchi, and Winchester failed to reveal the primer bulge on any of the casings as noted with the Bryco 59.<sup>1,2</sup> Class characteristics with respect to the rifling has not changed.

#### **Conclusion**

The Bryco Arms model Jennings Nine is an inexpensive firearm and is encountered frequently in crime laboratories. It should be noted that parallel breech face marks are common on these guns along with a strong reoccurrence of the ejector mark.

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Photo 4: Parallel breech face marks on Jennings Nine

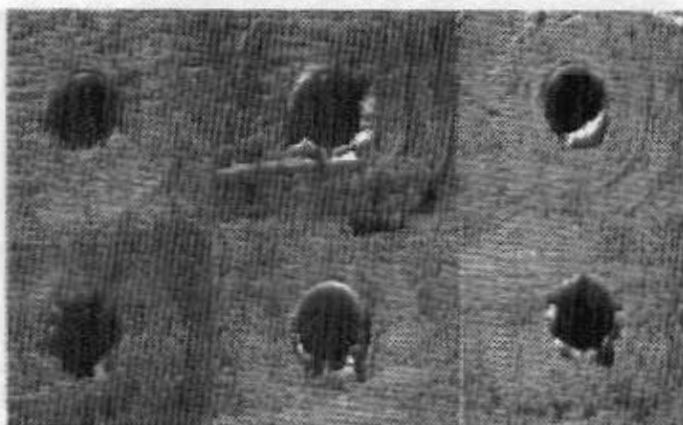


Photo 5: Mikrosil molds from six different Bryco Model Jennings Nine each containing some degree of parallel markings.

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#### REFERENCES

1. Lutz, Monty C., "Jennings Bryco 59 Semi-Automatic pistol," *AFTE Journal* Vol. 27, No. 2, April 1995, pp. 130-132.
2. Quirk, Thomas W., "Primer Bulge and the 9mm Jennings/Bryco Pistol," *AFTE Journal* Vol. 27, No. 1 January 1995, pp. 40-42.

#### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Thanks to Pete Lavelle for the photos in this article.



Photo 6: Cartridge casing from the Bryco model Jennings Nine. (Note the ejector mark in the six o'clock position between the "9" and the "m")