

Okay, with that little piece of information out of the way let me start by making a rather strange statement: if the real deal gun upon which it is based (UMP) were a car, it'd be a Porsche Boxster. Confused? Read on....

Please note that this review was carried out on a pre-production sample. Changes may be made before the item is released.

G&G UMG

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When Porsche designed the Boxster it was to fill a gap in its product line for a relatively (for Porsche!) inexpensive sports car to complement the existing classic Porsche 911 and that's exactly what Heckler and Koch's design office did with the UMP. It might have already had the incredibly successful MP5 range in its product portfolio but what was lacking was a lighter, cheaper model, so the UMP was born. Get it now? The UMP and the Porsche Boxster were both designed to fill gaps in their respective manufacturer's product portfolio.

So then, if the real-deal kit is called the UMP why do G&G call it the UMG? Two reasons (one factual, one supposition): copyright issues and the now expected comedy of G&G ("Über Machine Gun"). Then again, given that most German companies

consider themselves the best in the world in what they do, it's surprising that H&K didn't call the real-steel submachine gun the UMG.

The name may be some part of a cunning joke but the UMG itself isn't, with first impressions being extremely favourable. As is now standard with G&G guns, the UMG comes packaged extremely well - no worries about this piece of equipment suffering from the vagaries of the UK postal system. Upon opening the box and getting to grips with the gun, it's immediately noticeable that the receiver and stock are made of a polymer type material and not the easily damaged plastic of some airsoft guns. This, therefore, accurately reflects the materials used in the real UMP. There is a rubber butt pad and cheek rest on the stock, again, exactly like the real thing. Cosmetically this is looking good. Slotting the mag into the gun and

bringing it to the shoulder further confirms first impressions and brings a smile to your face. It just feels right, with excellent ergonomics to match the excellent build quality. Another thing: no creaking. None at all. Nada, Nowt. Solid as a rock.

After spending far too much time admiring the UMG's ergonomics and external build quality, it's time to take a more in-depth look at this AEG. Weight with a loading lo-cap magazine and battery is a healthy 2.6kg. Leafing through the manual, however, gives a few points that should be noted. First, like the MP5k, the battery pack is stored above the gearbox. Unlike the MP5k, though, it's a cinch to get at. Simply fold the stock to the right-hand side of the receiver and access the flap located on the back of the receiver - simple. According to the accompanying manual, the



recommended battery for the UMG is a 9.6V pack. ROF should be more than acceptable as standard, then, but as usual this will be tested. After all, we take nothing for granted when it comes to testing new guns.

Next for a more serious look is the supplied lo-cap magazine. Boy, this thing is chunky. If an MP5 magazine is a Cadbury Dairy Milk then this baby is a Yorkie. By the looks of it, mag pouches could be a problem because this magazine is closer in dimensions to a P90 mag than an MP5 mag. The low-capacity magazine holds 70 rounds, the optional high-capacity magazines hold 530. That's over two and a half times the capacity of an MP5 hi-cap. If you're one of those players that has a seriously heavy trigger finger, then the UMG is going to be worth checking out if SMGs are your thing. After the magazine, we had a good look at the rail system supplied with this gun. With a scope rail on top, and three rails on the front, it's yet another kit fetishist's dream. Would Sir like the vertical fore grip? Or the laser? Or the flashlight? Or all three? Yes, it's another gun for the 'bolt-on goodies' brigade.

One point of note is that the muzzle of this gun is completely different from the three-lugged muzzle of the MP5. The real-deal UMP had a special suppressor designed for it by Brugger and Thomet and - yes, you've guessed it - G&G will be selling its airsoft replica of this as well.

Getting to the other end of the gun, the stock gets a good inspection as well. Compared with the stock of Marui's G36c, this one feels far more solidly built and the rubber stock and cheek pads make it more comfortable.

Looking at the manual, the section on how to strip the gun down couldn't be simpler. With the gun on its back, push the pin situated at the back of the lower receiver through, use your thumb to push the spring-loaded hop-up unit forward and then swing the lower receiver up from the gun. Job done. Nice, easy access to the internals should any maintenance/rebuilding be required. Please note, however, that on reassembly you must take care not to trap any of the gearbox wiring. Opening the receiver brings more detail of the UMG into focus. The

design is rather simple and elegant. There aren't too many sub-assemblies that go into this gun, which is exactly like the real-deal UMP, both reducing cost and making manufacturing simpler. The metal hop unit uses a linear motion instead of a dial to increase/decrease hop and the gearbox appears to be a V3 type. Once again, as with the G&G's M14, it was noticeable that the gearbox bushings were of a plastic-type material. G&G has assured us this material will match or exceed the performance of metal bushings. Time will tell on this issue but if you have any experience of the longevity and performance of these plastic bushings then please let us know. It is notable that there is no fuse in this gun and, although G&G has told us it improves ROF by reducing the voltage drop, it means if anything goes wrong inside the gun then it could be far more expensive to fix than if there were a fuse in the system that would blow before

