I am not a rifle guy, not that I don’t have one of the black rifles, but my competition experience is very limited with them – so when USPSA announced that we were going to be adding Pistol Caliber Carbine to the mix of divisions, it didn’t sway me either way. I supported the idea of adding the division but wasn’t going to run out and get set up to shoot it. I was too busy switching from shooting Single Stack division to getting my Production gear set up and adding a Carry Optics gun to the mix to worry myself about a PCC setup.

After I had gotten through the Production and Carry Optics Nationals, it was time for me to switch back to Limited division and start thinking about the Nationals that were held this past October. We announced that after the Open Nationals the folks at Universal Shooting Academy would be holding a PCC-palooza match, using several of the stages from the Open match.

Since I was going to be there already, it got me started looking into what it would take to get set up to shoot this match. I first looked into getting an upper and block for the AR I already had, then I looked into just getting one already set up. There are a ton of options out there, from several hundred to well over $2K in price.

I got a chance to shoot a platform that used the Colt/Uzi mags, which was my first time shooting a PCC AR; it was fun, but one thing that concerned me would be doing mag changes. I was able to check out the Sig MPX last year at the “Sig Day at
The Range” during SHOT Show and liked it. However, finding one in stock proved to be difficult.

One afternoon while watching match videos online, I saw a USPSA competitor shooting PCC with a Mech Tech CCU, and I noticed that he was moving easily through the stages with the unit on his Glock frame. When it came to the classifier stage in the video and the mandatory reload, it looked like it was a piece of cake. He was reloading into a pistol grip from his belt with a standard size Glock magazine. Well, this was something that piqued my curiosity. I spent the rest of the day doing some research on the Mech Tech CCU. I went to the Mech Tech website to review what they offered and the cost. During my research, I clicked on a link that was from their testimonial page that took me to Hickok45 YouTube channel where he had several videos of him shooting and doing a review of the CCU.

Mech Tech sells this as the “World’s most versatile pistol accessory” and it is available for the Glock, 1911 and the XD family. The CCU is an upper for your semi-automatic pistol. CCU stands for Carbine Conversion Unit; it is not a firearm and does not require any special licensing to purchase. On the Mech Tech website (www.mechtechsys.com) under the FAQ’s section, they explain the BATFE position on this and include a link to the BATFE website.

The CCU comes in four different configurations of butt stocks to choose from, and they have a lot of accessories that you can add on that are also listed on their website. I was looking to add this to a Glock 17 Gen Four frame and thought that the M4 adjustable stock would be the best way to go. I also read the cautions and what I may need to do on their website. They said that after-market triggers may not work with the CCU; this was not a problem, since the frame I intended to use was stock. The CCU does not hold open on last round fired, and since the unit is a blowback-operated action, they do recommend using only good quality factory-loaded ammunition. It is capable of safely firing ammunition up to +P – but they say specifically DO NOT USE +P+ or “hotter” loads (so no 9mm major open ammo). I do not reload 9mm ammo and have only been using factory loads, so I was not concerned about this either.

A Glock frame requires a feed ramp piece that is supplied with the CCU; there are two sizes, so if you are ordering one, you will need to specify which model of the frame when ordering. This feed ramp is not attached to the lower; rather, it just sits there during the assembly of the CCU upper. When the upper is in place, the ramp is trapped inside, and a small magnet keeps the ramp in place during assembly and disassembly. After going over everything, I clicked on the link to order the unit. I filled out all the required information on what unit I wanted.

I received a phone call from the Mech Tech office, which is located in Kalispell, Montana; I had a very nice conversation with the folks there and explained to them what I would be using this for. They were very excited about USPSA adding the PCC division and felt that they had a great product that many of our competitors would be interested in. I was very pleased with their excitement about getting involved with USPSA since we added this division, and I was eager to get the unit and give it a try.

By the end of the week the unit showed up, all packed up in a cardboard box with "MORE IS ALWAYS BETTER..."
foam to protect it. From the time I had ordered it and was waiting for it to come, I had purchased two of the Glock 31-round magazines with the plus-two extensions on them and had my C-More RTS2 red dot ready to go. I popped the red dot on there, got the feed ramp installed and the frame assembled on the upper, then I had to pack it up and head down to Florida for the Nationals.

My plan was that I would shoot the CCU during the off day between the Open and Limited nationals, get it sighted in and make sure everything worked. However, I did not get a chance to do so because of the hurricane that disrupted the Nationals. My first attempt at shooting the unit would come that Friday afternoon after the hurricane had come and gone. I went to the practice bay that was set up and, with the help of some fellow competitors, got the C-More sighted in on the CCU. It’s a good thing they were there; I have never sighted in a C-More, and they got me dialed in in just a few minutes compared to the time it would have taken me.

We were ringing steel at different distances with ease. The sight stayed zeroed after several hundred rounds, and there were no issues with ammo. I have been running the aluminum-cased Federal 115gr 9mm that I had been running in my CZ AccuShadow. At under $10 a box, and using a Federal primer, this ammo had been great in my CZ and I was hoping that there would be no issues running in the CCU. I have now run well over a thousand rounds of the aluminum-cased ammo through it and have only had three failures, all from failing to extract the spent case completely out.

I have also run several hundred rounds of T1 Ammo 147gr competition load with no issues with the unit. If given a choice, I would run the T1 Ammo all the time; it feels a little softer when shooting it, with less dot bounce.

We ran eight or nine different stages from the Nationals with our PCCs, which was my first match experience in PCC. I never felt “outgunned” during the match. As a matter of fact, I felt that I had some advantages over the other competitors. The CCU is very easy to move around in a course of fire. You are holding the unit by the grip of your handgun, and it feels very natural to move around with. The unit is not long, and it makes getting into and out of a position or a port fairly simple.

I think one of the areas that this unit shines is the ability to reload it, much like reloading a pistol. Now if you are running the long mags and add the extended base pads, you should not have to do this. I am running the Taylor Freelance plus 10’s on there and have 41 rounds, which is more than enough…I hope. But when you have the classifier stages or stages with mandatory reloads, being able to do a quick reload is essential. The CCU allows you to perform a reload much like you would do with your pistol and use a standard-length magazine from a regular mag pouch.

Since October I have been able to run this in several monthly club matches and continue to get more and more comfortable with it. Having the additional rounds with the Taylor Freelance base pads allows me to be more aggressive and gives me the ability to have to make up shots.

If you have the frame already and are looking at getting into PCC but don’t want to break the bank, the Mech Tech CCU unit is something that you should consider. ■