What about a Reverse Plug?

The T-1 Reverse Plug modification was developed primarily to address an aspect inherent in the original design of the 1911 pistol; that being that the original pistol structure was designed to accommodate ammunition producing only an 820 fps muzzle velocity. This inherent aspect of the design has become a serious issue in more recent times due to a substantial increase in the loads (including +P) commonly found in ammunition available today.

Today’s factory-loaded .45 ACP ammunition is frequently delivering muzzle velocities of 855 to over 1020 feet per second, thereby inducing as much as a 120% increase in recoil forces beyond that which the pistol was originally designed for.

Even with the use of stronger, modern steel alloys (as in the 1911 A2) and an increase in recoil spring tension, the pistol’s physical design is still deficient in its ability to safely and reliably accommodate these substantially increased loads and the greater stresses they impart to the pistol’s structure.

The key deficiency that creates this problem is that effectively all the recoil pressure is transferred to the barrel bushing (or compensator, if used) which is secured to the pistol by a very small surface area – the barrel bushing lug.

The undesirable affect of this flaw has been demonstrated; with extended use of high velocity ammunition, the design will eventually fail. This results in the barrel bushing blowing off the front of the gun or the slide breaking where the bushing connects to the slide recess.

Increasing the area of this lug has demonstrated improvement in durability, but the correct solution to this Achilles Heel is to remove that pressure from the bushing entirely.

The T-1 Reverse Plug modification does exactly this and eliminates the problem by transferring the spring pressure and recoil to the slide - where there is much more surface area and mass available to handle these increased stresses.

Our T-1 Reverse Plug applies no pressure AT ALL on the barrel bushing or NCO Compensator, creating a more durable, more reliable pistol that can safely and effectively fire high velocity / high pressure +P ammunition indefinitely.

The modification required to use the T-1 Reverse Plug system on a 1911 A1 slide is minimal. The slide is modified to accept the T-1 Reverse Plug by cutting the dust cover back by the thickness of the reverse plug rim 0.075". We then add a touch of cold blue and that's it.

Added Benefits – An additional benefit of using the T-1 Reverse Plug is enjoyed when removing the slide for cleaning or for selection of a different slide assembly for a
different application. With our T-1 Reverse Plug modification a shooter may quickly and easily remove the slide stop pin and remove the entire upper unit assembly as a single unit.

This design allows for slide changes on our 1911 A2’s in seconds – particularly useful in switching to a .22 LR assembly or to an Officer’s 3 1/2” barrel assembly while in the field – and all with just the removal of the slide stop pin. This means no more struggling with a recoil spring, plug, or bushing when changing the slide/barrel assemblies.

For cleaning you simply remove your extended recoil spring guide rod and recoil spring and the rest of the components fall apart for cleaning.

A complete T-1 Reverse Plug Modification is very affordable and includes slide modification, spring, reverse plug and guide rod for $67.00. A T-1 Compensator is also available for only $94.00 plus $25.00 Slide modification.
Combat NCO with three interchangeable slides. One in .22 caliber.
**Combat NCO 1911 A2**  
**T-I Reverse Plug Install Instructions**

The Combat NCO 1911 A2 T-I is a +P capable pistol. To achieve long life of a 1911 type pistol especially when any loads over 850 fps are used a reverse plug is recommended. In conjunction with that, an 18.4 or 20v NCO variable weight spring should be used.

The intent of the reverse plug is to redirect the increase in spring tension to the dust cover of the Slide. This eliminates the pressure on the barrel bushing or compensator if used. The 1911 bushing cavity is compromised to accept a barrel bushing lug in the Slide. That area is weak and subject to breakage. The T-I Reverse Plug eliminates that fault.

The slide modification involves removing about .075” off the rear of the dust cover face. The removed metal represents the rim thickness of the reverse plug. At no time however should the distance of the Slide tube that contains the Reverse Plug be shorter than 1.622” shown in section AA of the drawing fig. 1. The original dimension should be 1.697”.

The material can be removed by file, saw and file or mill. Old blue with heated metal the job is complete. A 3” Office guide rod is recommended used. The Slide can then be removed as a unit by removing the Slide Stop Pin for weapon cleaning.

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**Fig. 1**

The diagram illustrates the dimensions and modifications needed for the reverse plug installation. The text provides instructions on how to install the reverse plug and the modifications required.