

Personal Defense Handgun Recommendations

I can recommend these handguns for personal protection and concealed carry. My recommendations are based on first-hand experience.






My recommendation standards concern: accuracy, concealability and reliability. I did not list handguns that I've reviewed which didn't meet my standards. There are many other fine handguns that I have not reviewed.

Some of the models are available in different calibers and with other options.

I will update this document periodically. [011208] rollin@force-options.com

| | Firearm | Comments |
|---|--|---|
| 1 | <p>Glock 26</p>  | <p>9mm, 10-round magazine; 15-, 17- and 30-round 9mm Glock magazines will also fit and function.</p> <p>After-market extended magazine floor plates add length to the grip.</p> <p>Lots of holsters available (I like Blackhawk Serpa, Fobus and Uncle Mikes kydex).</p> |
| 2 | <p>Kahr P9</p>  | <p>9mm, 7-round magazine, longer trigger pull than Glock, but smooth.</p> <p>Very flat/thin and comfortable to carry in inside-pants holster.</p> <p>Comes in polymer or steel frames.</p> |
| 3 | <p>Glock 19</p>  | <p>9mm, 15-round magazine, slightly larger than Glock 26. 17- and 30-round magazine also fit.</p> <p>Ported barrel versions are <u>NOT RECOMENDED</u> for point shooting from the hip.</p>  <p>FORCE-OPTIONS.COM</p> |

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 4 | <p>SigArms P239</p>  | <p>9mm, 8-round single-stack magazine. No sharp edges. A few bucks more than a Glock, but it is Sig Sauer quality. After-market grips are available.</p> |
| 5 | <p>Springfield XD subcompact</p>  | <p>9mm, 10-round magazine (larger magazines also fit), more features than Glock. Trigger pull is “spongier” Glock. Magazines are stainless steel. Ambidextrous magazine release, loaded chamber indicator, cocking indicator. Grip safety is awkward when trying to lock slide to rear manually. Lots of good holster choices for the XD series pistols.</p> |
| 6 | <p>Makarov</p>  | <p>9x18mm Soviet, 7-round magazine (E. German & Bulgarian models preferred), reasonably priced when available, but ammo is not common. Some commercial US-made self-defense loads available – but they are pricey. Steel-cased Soviet/foreign-made ammo is best priced (for practice) – Check the gun shows. Rubber stocks are available. Accurate and inexpensive. Disassembles like a Walther PPK.</p> |
| 7 | <p>CZ83</p>  | <p>9x18mm Soviet, 12-round magazine, reasonably priced when available, ammo not common. Some commercial US-made self-defense load are available – but they are pricey. Alloy frame. Soviet/foreign-made ammo is best priced – check gun shows. Double-action/single-action, accurate, inexpensive, ambidextrous safety if carried with the hammer cocked. Accurate. Disassembles like a Walther PPK.</p> |

| | | |
|----|--|--|
| 8 | <p>Firestorm 22</p>  | <p>.22 Long Rifle, 10-round magazine, magazine disconnect safety, double-action/single-action, rubber stocks.</p> <p>Only use Remington Golden™ hollow point ammo (for reliability). Good accuracy. Made by Bersa. Alloy frame.</p> <p>This is the best all-around .22 cal pistol I've ever owned! Good for learning, training and just fun shooting too. Made by Bersa –sold by Firestorm.</p> <p>Fobus makes a Kydex right-hand holster for the .380 ACP version that will work for this pistol too.</p> |
| 9 | <p>Beretta 21 Bobcat</p>  | <p>.22 Long Rifle, 7-round magazine, small, light, double-action/single action, which can be loaded without pulling the slide to the rear (tip-up barrel).</p> <p>Very concealable with an Uncle Mike's inside-the-pocket holster.</p> <p>For very close range (under 9 yards). Carry a second magazine for sure. Taurus P-22 is similar but it is a double-action-only.</p> |
| 10 | <p>Kel-Tec P-32</p>  | <p>.380ACP, 7 round magazine, very light & small.</p> <p>I don't favor the caliber, as ammo is more expensive than 9mm, but this pistol is very thin and concealable!</p> <p>Best for distances less than 20 yards!</p> <p>It is really easy to carry concealed. - only 9.4 ounces!</p> |
| 11 | <p>Star BM</p>  | <p>9mm, single-action. Inexpensive when available used, but spare magazines may be difficult to find. Nice & flat.</p> <p>Scaled-down version of the Colt 1911 style pistol. All steel construction.</p>  |