

Accuracy and Pin Shooting

In the world of pin shooting, several things are important. The handgun must have enough bullet weight and velocity to take a heavy bowling pin and push it 3 feet off the back of a table. It must be reliable and controllable. The trigger must be predict-

able, and the sights must be highly visible. It must also have adequate accuracy. In defining adequate accuracy for pin shooting, the parameters of the game demand that you be able to keep your shots in a 2-inch circle at 24 feet, simulating the range at which handguns are usually employed in self-defense.

This doesn't represent the pinnacle of accuracy. Those standards translate into about a 6-inch group at 25 yards. While few handgunners will be satisfied with that level of accuracy, it is adequate for pin shooting, and all three revolvers tested beat it by a significant margin. Revolver whiz Jerry Miculek relates that his home brewed 200-grain cast bullets were notably unstable beyond 15 yards, but for pin shooting they were adequate and gave extra momentum to drive the pins clear of the table, which is more important than pinpoint accuracy in the pin-shooting game.

Assuming that someone purchasing one of these firearms will probably use it for other shooting as well, where accuracy may be of primary importance, we tested them for accuracy with more conventional 158-grain ammunition from both Black Hills Ammunition and Federal Cartridge Co. Both the S&W 686 and the Taurus 608 gave excellent accuracy, while the 607 was mediocre at best with the test loads.

Accuracy Results*

	Black Hills 158-gr. HP	Federal 158-gr. SP
Revolver		
Taurus 607	2.67 in.	2.96 in.
Taurus 608	1.69 in.	1.38 in.
S&W 686	1.88 in.	1.79 in.

*Benchrest, 25 yards, factory sights

Chronograph Results

	Black Hills 158-gr. HP	Federal 158-gr. SP
Revolver		
Taurus 607	1,340 fps	1,395 fps
Taurus 608	1,247 fps	1,330 fps
S&W 686	1,190 fps	1,241 fps