

S&W MODEL 952-2 PERFORMANCE CENTER NO. 170244 9MM, \$2402
GUN TESTS GRADE: C FOR SELF DEFENSE, A FOR TARGET

The Model 952 was superbly fit and finished, and set up as well as any handgun we've seen. It's not ideal for self defense, we thought. The safety was not suited for fast use in self defense, and the hammer was too small to cock easily. But it would be a fine tool for NRA Centerfire competition.



SPECIFICATIONS

OVERALL LENGTH	8.4 IN.
OVERALL HEIGHT	5.7 IN.
BARREL LENGTH	5.0 IN.
SIGHT RADIUS	7.1 IN.
FRONT STRAP HEIGHT	2.5 IN.
BACK STRAP HEIGHT	3.5 IN.
WEIGHT UNLOADED	39 OZ.
CAPACITY	9+1
MAXIMUM WIDTH	1.5 IN.
GRIP THICKNESS (MAX)	1.4 IN.
GRIP CIRCUMFERENCE (MAX)	5.8 IN.
FRAME MATERIAL/FINISH	POLISHED/MATTE STAINLESS STEEL
BARREL	STAINLESS STEEL
SLIDE MATERIAL/FINISH	POLISHED/MATTE STAINLESS STEEL
GRIP MATERIAL/FINISH	STIPPLED WOOD
TRIGGER PULL WEIGHT SINGLE ACTION	4.6 LBS.
TRIGGER SPAN SINGLE ACTION	3.5 IN.
WARRANTY	NONE WRITTEN
TELEPHONE	(800) 331-0852
WEBSITE	WWW.SMITH-WESSON.COM

Right: Taking the 952 apart was not hard, but getting it back together was not the easiest job we've had. The finish inside was as good as the finish outside. There were no stamped parts inside, or at least none that hadn't been fully machined. **Inset:** The mag well was beveled for easier or faster insertion of a fresh magazine. There is no reason not to have such a setup, even for a pure target gun.



Left: There was a lifter in the right side of the frame for the plunger in the slide that locks the firing pin. This was driven by the grip safety. The hammer could be dropped without pressing the grip safety, but in that condition the firing pin was locked and the gun would not fire. The hammer could also be dropped if the safety were on, and again the gun would not fire. The 952 could not be fired, nor the hammer dropped, with the magazine removed. The trigger pull was excellent, but a tad on the stiff side for some of us, at 4.6 pounds.