

# GUN TESTS VALUE GUIDE: DEFENSE SHOTGUNS

GUN NAME	ISSUE	GRADE & COMMENTS
<b>Ithaca Model 37 Defense Gun Eight Shot 3-in. 12 Ga., \$469</b>	May 09	<b>Grade A:</b> The best-handling, easiest-to-deploy shotgun had accessible controls, good trigger, and a low price.
<b>Remington 11-87 Police 3-in. 12 Ga. No. 9861, \$850</b>	Feb 08	<b>Grade A:</b> This gun had nearly everything our entry team wanted: soft recoil; good grip, surgical slug accuracy.
<b>FN Police Tactical No. 17674 3-in. 12 Ga. Pump, \$270</b>	Mar 06	<b>Grade A (Best Buy):</b> Great gun for the price. Had some trouble feeding 3-in. shells, but 2.75-in. is plenty.
<b>Winchester Defender 1300 Pump 512907308 3-in. 12 Ga., \$354</b>	Sept 05	<b>Grade A (Our Pick):</b> Also came with a pistol grip stock. Had speed, capacity, and was hard to jam.
<b>Winchester Ranger 1300 Pump Cmpt. 20 Ga. 512036631, \$354</b>	Jan 05	<b>Grade A (Our Pick):</b> Best looking, most accurate. Produced deadly pattern of buckshot and one-hole slug groups.
<b>Remington 870 Express 3-in. 20 Ga. No. 81100, \$397</b>	July 08	<b>Grade A-:</b> Our team thought this might be a better choice for home defense than a 12 gauge—lighter, faster.
<b>Mossberg Persuader/Cruiser 3-in. 20 Ga. No. 50452, \$388</b>	July 08	<b>Grade A-:</b> The Persuader pump came with a standard stock and a pistol-grip kit. Easy loading, fast onto target.
<b>Remington 870 Express Pump 3-in. 12 Ga. No. 25077, \$345</b>	Sept 05	<b>Grade B+ (Buy It):</b> Trigger and steel receiver stood out. Was possible to jam it if accidentally loaded too many shells.
<b>Mossberg Persuader 590A1 3-in. 12 Ga. No. 51411, \$443</b>	Sept 05	<b>Grade B+ (Buy It):</b> Had the best-situated controls. Receiver was prepped for better sights. Liked heavy barrel.
<b>Mossberg Bantam 500 3-in. 20 Ga. No. 54132, \$316</b>	Jan 05	<b>Grade B+ (Buy It):</b> Capacity of 5+1 was a plus. This gun was rugged, reliable, and came with a 10-year warranty.
<b>Stoeger Coach Gun No. 31400 SxS 3-in. 12 Ga., \$369</b>	May 08	<b>Grade B:</b> Short barrels, light weight, decent workmanship. Easy to operate, but obvious capacity restriction.
<b>FN Self-Loading Police SLP 3088929010 3-in. 12 Ga. \$749</b>	Feb 08	<b>Grade B:</b> Originally graded an F, we retested it after making a piston change to handle lighter loads. Fussy.
<b>HK Fabarm Tactical Semiauto 3-in. 12 Ga. Pump, \$597</b>	Feb 08	<b>Grade C:</b> This particular unit is discontinued. We had trouble reloading it under duress. Front sight snagged stuff.
<b>Mossberg 590A1 No. 51670 3-in. 12 Gauge Pump, \$693</b>	May 09	<b>Grade C-:</b> This had some appeal with its ghost ring sights, easy loading, and high capacity. Didn't like the stock.
<b>Remington 870 Ex. Mag. Pump FS 3-in. 12 Ga., \$505</b>	May 08	<b>Grade C-:</b> Though it looked tough, the folding stock was uncomfortable to shoot in any configuration, testers said.
<b>Remington Model 870 Tac-2FS No. 81402 3-in. 12 Ga., \$692</b>	May 09	<b>Grade D:</b> The Tac-2 pump stock was a nightmare. It hooked on clothing during mounting and was slow onto target.
<b>Arm Scor No. M30R6 3-in. 12 Ga. Pump, \$120</b>	Mar 06	<b>Grade F (Don't Buy):</b> Safety was unacceptable, our testers said. Recoilpad also inadequate. Difficult to load magazine.

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