

GUN TESTS VALUE GUIDE: SMALL PISTOLS

GUN NAME	ISSUE	GRADE & COMMENTS
Taurus Millennium PT145 Pro SS No. 145SSP 45 ACP, \$421	Jan 07	Grade A (Best Buy): Ten rounds of big bullet with a full-size grip. Thumb safety and Heinie sights are pluses.
Springfield Armory XD40 SC HC XD9822HCSP06 40 S&W, \$566	Jan 07	Grade A (Our Pick): The 2006 subcompact XD carries over the superior ergonomics found on the full-size models.
Kahr PM40 40 S&W, \$814	Nov 04	Grade A (Our Pick): The PM40 was well made, reliable, and had enough accuracy for just about any purpose.
Springfield Armory XD40 40 S&W, \$489	Oct 02	Grade A (Best Buy): We can't think of another handgun selling for under \$500 that offers so much.
Glock 33 357 Sig No. PI3350201, \$599	Sept 06	Grade A (Buy It): Despite its size, no compromise in accuracy. Recoil control hampered by lack of grip.
Glock 37 45 GAP, \$640	June 04	Grade A (Our Pick): Moderate blast and recoil. Also, no malfunctions.
Sigarms P239 357 SIG, \$620	Aug 01	Grade B+ (Buy It): The P239 is one of the most accurate and reliable smallguns in recent memory.
Glock Model 27 40 S&W, \$641	Jan 04	Grade B+ (Buy It): Very abbreviated grip, which can be solved for less than \$10. Reliability better than in Jan 01.
Springfield Sub-Compact XD 40 S&W, \$498	Nov 04	Grade B+ (Buy It): Too heavy and bulky as a hideout, but it was a fine-performing and thoroughly reliable pistol.
Glock Model 30 45 ACP, \$637	Jan 07	Grade B+ (Buy It): Glock's most usable subcompact 45. Extended slide release would make it more versatile.
Smith & Wesson 4013TSW 40 S&W, \$789	Aug 98	Grade B+: This compact wasn't cheap. Great handling and performance.
Heckler & Koch P2000 V3 40 S&W, \$879	Nov 07	Grade B+: The P2000 V3 offered 12+1 capacity in a more compact body.
Smith & Wesson 4013TSW 40 S&W, \$940.	Apr 05	Grade B+ (Buy It): Not every hot defense load is a joy to shoot, but most accurate round was easiest to handle.
Walther P99 40 S&W, \$799	Nov 99	Grade B+ (Buy It): Good execution of a DA polymer defense gun. 100% reliable. Smooth trigger.
SIGArms P239 40 S&W, \$620	Nov 03	Grade B (Buy It): Slim, concealable, and accurate, this is what compact firepower is all about.
CZ 2075 Rami 40 S&W, \$559	Nov 04	Grade B (Buy It): The gun was a handful, kicking more than a full-size 1911. We'd like this gun more with a longer grip.
Springfield Armory Ultra Compact 45 ACP No. PX9161L, \$952	Sept 06	Grade B (Buy It): More expensive than polymer pistols, the price was in line with 1911s with comparable features.

Log on to GunReports.com or Gun-Tests.com to read complete reviews of these products. Some grades may include comments in parentheses that reflect original recommendations.

357 SIG, 40 S&W, 10mm, 400 Cor-Bon, 45 ACP, 45 GAP

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Glock 23 40 S&W, \$641	Oct 02	Grade B (Buy It): Some still cry out for a mechanical safety. Rejoice in the Glock's simple design and short trigger.
Sigarms P226 40 S&W, \$699	Nov 07	Grade B: Also shoots 357 Sig.
Glock 27 40 S&W, \$616	Jan 01	Grade C (Conditional Buy): For \$10 we added the necessary ergonomics to overcome its lack of available grip.
Taurus PT140 40 S&W Millennium Pro 140SSP, \$484	Jan 04	Grade C (Conditional Buy): Defensive capabilities would be improved with a more precise trigger.
Smith & Wesson CS45 Chief's Special No. 103014 45 ACP, \$830	Jan 07	Grade C (Conditional Buy): Points and shoots well. High price and limited capacity put other guns ahead of it.
Sig Sauer P239 40 S&W, \$595	Aug 98	Grade C: A lot of attention was paid to what makes a carry gun desirable.
Smith & Wesson SW99 40 S&W, \$735	Nov 99	Grade C: There were some glitches in its operation, so we cannot recommend it.
Beretta Mini Cougar 8040 40 S&W, \$709	Nov 03	Grade C (Conditional Buy): The DA trigger was too heavy, and it would require work before we could recommend it.
Glock 33 357 Sig, \$641	Aug 01	Grade C (Conditional Buy): This subcompact offers accuracy, power, and capacity; grip fits only two fingers.
Beretta 8040F Mini-Cougar 40 S&W, 651	Aug 98	Grade C: If you have a full-size Cougar and want a more compact version for carry, buy this.
Heckler & Koch USP LEM Compact 40 S&W, \$821	Oct 02	Grade C (Conditional Buy): The LEM system limits crossovers from other types of pistols.
Smith & Wesson 4040PD 40 S&W, \$867	June 04	Grade C (Conditional Buy): Would like a spurred hammer. Titanium makes it high priced as well as high tech.
Smith & Wesson SW990L 40 S&W No. 120233, \$729	Sept 06	Grade F (Don't Buy): Reliability with hollowpoints was unacceptable.
Glock 29 10mm, \$668	June 98	Grade F: In 200 rounds, it failed to eject 22 times. Extractor held the spent case very tightly.
S&W Enhanced Sigma 40VE 40 S&W, \$602	Nov 99	Grade F: Ours proved to be fussy about ammo and was long on muzzle flip when it worked.
Kahr K40 40 S&W, \$602	Jan 01	Grade F (Don't Buy): Not easy to shoot fast or consistently. Long, uncertain trigger break point. But good ergonomics.
Taurus PT140 40 S&W, \$484	Jan 01	Grade F (Don't Buy): Our inability to make the gun shoot fast was enough to make us pass on this one.
AMT DAO Back Up 400 Cor-Bon, \$399	June 98	Grade F: Workmanship was below average. Functioning problems with Cor-Bon 165-grain JHPs.