

of more defense-minded citizens. We'd buy both the \$616 noncompensated Model 19 or the compensated 19C, \$646, but we prefer the blowhole model.

A recent check of street prices for these guns found a range of retail choices, with a low price of \$430 for a mail-order gun. With necessary fees, shipping, and insurance, that would translate to an actual street price of \$500 to \$515. As well, we've seen these guns advertised at retail for that amount up to an additional \$45 to \$50.

In these two pistols we see the further improvement of Glock pistols. One of the very first complaints heard about Glocks was the boxy, uncomfortable grip. Hogue and several other grip makers even went so far as to bring out a sleeve to add finger grooves to the original models, as there was no other alternative to the standard grip. In response, these latest models feature an indentation along each side for the thumb, and finger grooves with molded-in checkering on the frontstrap. Checkering also adorns the rear of the grip, and its contour is similar to that of an arched main-spring housing a la the 1911 frame. With the magazine removed you can see the hollow cavity that creates this profile and a hint of the original grip that shared ergonomics with a 1-by-2 piece of pine. Also new is the standard inclusion of a track molded into the full-length dust cover designed to fit a flashlight attachment. These improvements add up to the best feeling Glock yet, in our estimation.

However, the sides of the grips are still very slippery. Brownells, among other dealers, sells grip enhancers such as the Grupo Mercari Decal Grip (tape) cut specifically for these new finger groove models, as well as the older standard-framed Glocks. These inexpensive add-ons are worth the money.

In all but one way, these models are duplicates. Their magazine capacities are 10, and it would seem more space is available for foreign

HECKLER & KOCH P7M8

Price.....\$1,222



SPECIFICATIONS

Warranty: Lifetime

FINISH.....	Black	SIGHT RADIUS	5.8 in.
WEIGHT	32 oz.	CAPACITY	8+1
OVERALL LENGTH	6.7 in.	GRIP MATERIAL	PLASTIC
OVERALL HEIGHT	5 in.	ACTION TYPE	Double
MAXIMUM WIDTH	1.15 in.	TRIGGER PULL	5 lbs.
BARREL LENGTH	4 in.	TRIGGER REACH	2.8 in.

Our recommendation: The P7M8 is among the safest firearms in the world to operate. It is about as small as anyone serious about self-defense wants to go, and there is no chink in its construction, appearance, or function. It is a production gun that makes the custom gunsmith unnecessary. If you want and can afford a top-of-the-line product, buy H&K's P7M8.

To cock the gun, you must first squeeze the grip and compress the front strap. This can be very tiring to the shooter, who has to compress the grip and isolate the trigger finger for a smooth press. We felt our accuracy would have improved if we were not fatigued by the squeeze-cocker design.



When the gun runs dry and locks back you release pressure to the front strap, insert the mag, squeeze the grip again and the gun immediately returns to battery. This is an advantage because you can shoot the gun dry to get full use of the mag's eight-round capacity

before reloading and not lose any time recharging with the weak hand or manipulating any further controls.

