

Autauga Mark II .32 ACP Price.....\$399



Our recommendation: Buy it. This gun knows its job—self defense—and does it well.

SPECIFICATIONS

FINISH Matte & Brushed
..... Stainless Steel
WEIGHT (EMPTY) 12.2 oz.
OVERALL LENGTH 4.3 in.
OVERALL HEIGHT 3.2 in.
MAXIMUM WIDTH 0.9 in.
BARREL LENGTH 1.6 in.
SIGHT RADIUS 3.5 in.
MAGAZINE CAPACITY 6+1
GRIP MATERIAL PLASTIC
ACTION TYPE DAO
TRIGGER REACH 2.6 in.
TRIGGER PULL DA. 8 lbs.
Warranty 1 year + Lim. Life

Above: The Autauga is the first modern firearm, as far as we know, to utilize cast-in rifling, and we suspect it won't be the last. Cast rifling works very well indeed. This gun took 100 rounds to break in, per the instructions, and then it worked perfectly. The magazine holds six rounds.



Right and left sides of the DAO Autauga Mk II .32 ACP pocket pistol. This simple gun has no controls other than the magazine release. With a round chambered, simply press the trigger to fire. The slide does not stay open after the last shot.



previously. The back strap was concave and the front strap was curved forward at its bottom. The synthetic grip material was just sticky enough to aid control while not sticking to your pants pocket. The grip panels were recessed on each side in line with trigger finger and thumb. All together, the grip permitted a very good grasp on the gun and gave all the needed control.

Accuracy was all that could be expected for a gun with a non-target type trigger and fixed sights. It shot only an inch to the right of point of aim at 7 yards, which is more than acceptable. A left-handed shooter was not able to get his shots to print quite as close to the point of aim, but they were still close enough.

Smallest group was 1.3 inches at that range, and we achieved that twice, and with both types of ammunition. Empties were pitched everywhere. They landed to the right and left of the gun, behind it and in front of it, but they all left the gun completely. The next round was all ready to go after every shot, and that's all that counts.

With this design the slide does not stay open after the last shot, but we did not find that to be a problem. This, however, is not a gun designed for speed reloading. The small magazine release requires the fingernail of the left hand to release while the gun is held securely by the right hand. The magazine catch is designed to totally avoid accidental releasing, and that's another strong plus for the 32 Mark II. Inserting and releasing the magazine is easy enough, and it seats positively and securely. Two magazines come with the gun. They are well made and may be easily disassembled for cleaning.

Disassembling the Autauga for cleaning was a bit of a chore. One blocks the slide partly open with the magazine and then punches out a transverse pin from the slide. The slide can then be pulled rearward, lifted, and eased forward off the gun. That's as much takedown as is needed for cleaning. Autauga recommends a paste-type lubrication rather than a liquid. This gun has stainless parts rubbing against other stainless parts, and the makers are aware of the potential for galling. They suggest Brownells' Action-Lube Plus or another paste-type lubrication. That type of lube also tends to pick up less dust while the gun rattles around in your pocket or purse. The company especially suggests keeping the breech face clean, where a buildup of carbon can decrease reliability.

Bottom Line

We'd buy this gun in a trice if we needed a minimal-size pocket pistol. With a suggested retail price of \$399, it's less costly than comparable handguns, and performed with the best of them. This one is so small and may be carried so easily that it stands a very good chance of being where it's needed. It's a real, live, made-in-the-U.S.A. winner.

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