

\$781 gun has too high an MSRP for a pistol that may need a new crown and action work.

The 4053 Tactical Smith & Wesson has nearly everything a good DAO semiauto needs to succeed as a carry piece. It's the right size. It's virtually snag free. It featured genuine Novak sights with a three-dot system, and it offers 9+1 of potent .40 caliber S&W ammo. However, it didn't shoot as well as we thought it should, and we thought it was harder to shoot than it should be.

Among the gun's flaws: A polymer base pad finishes the steel mag, providing a forward protruding lip that lengthens the front strap by 0.6 inch and completes the grip frame. The trigger guard is undercut to lower the pistol in the hand, but without this base pad, the grip is too short and the gun is out of balance. The gun ran flawlessly, but was tiring to shoot from a rest. While the action on the 4053TSW is smooth, it also requires some strength to operate. To solve this problem, a good action job would be needed, probably adding \$100 to the gun's retail cost. Gripping the gun necessitates finding the outer edge of the trigger with the inside of the first joint of the finger, not the pad as in the operation of single-action triggers.

During our testing, we thought the Smith & Wesson 4053TSW had the best trigger face, but it also took the most energy to pull it back. None of the test ammo we shot in the 4053TSW allowed us to break the 3-inch-group barrier consistently at 25 yards, but Winchester's 180-grain flat-point jacketed bullet came closest with an average of 3.4 inches. The Federal American Eagle rounds wore the same profile, but in lead. Despite a single best group of 2.2 inches with this ammo, the average group size still measured 3.6 inches. From a rest this was also the most fatiguing gun to shoot.

We checked with Teddy Jacobson at Actions-By-T in

Ruger P94DC .40 S&W

Retail Price...\$520



SPECIFICATIONS

Warranty: No Written

METAL FINISH	Matte Gray	SIGHT RADIUS	5.7 in.
WEIGHT (EMPTY)	34 oz.	CAPACITY	10+1 rds.
OVERALL LENGTH	7.5 in.	GRIP MATERIAL	Plastic
OVERALL HEIGHT	5.6 in.	OPTIONAL GRIPS	No
MAX. WIDTH	1.4 in.	ACTION TYPE	DA/SA
BARREL LENGTH	4 in.	TRIGGER PULL Wt.	8.5 lbs.

Our recommendation: The P94DC was rugged and reliable, but the CZ did everything this gun could at a lower price.



This gun, while still compact, measured 7.5 inches in overall length and weighed 34 ounces.

The Ruger's three-dot sight (two rear, one front) presented a complex picture, we thought.



We had one misfire with the Ruger, but were unable to make the problem recur. The problem could have been ammo, rather than gun related.

Sugarland, Texas, to see what could be done about the 4053TSW's poor groups. Jacobson is one of the foremost gunsmiths specializing in refining law-enforcement gun actions. We guessed the 4053TSW's poor accuracy could be laid at the feet of its long-stroke trigger, and Jacobson said there are spring kits and points of refinement that can be addressed on the gun. But he

also urged us to check the crown on the barrel for rough spots. As seen in the accompanying photo, the lands and grooves go right to the crown. We're willing to bet recrowning the barrel would do wonders for the gun.

From the bench we didn't find any load from our choices that were particularly accurate. Recrowning the barrel is an obvi-