

Our recommendation: Despite its small capacity and short grip, this gun functioned exactly as a self-defense gun should. If you can stand the price, we think it's a buy.

Right: The Adventurer wouldn't accommodate the shooter's pinky on the grip. Adding an extended base-pad would lessen its concealability.





Left: The Adventurer's hammer is relieved with only a small hole, nor is the trigger skeletonized. The short barrel is by Bar-Sto.

Below: The mag may be a fullsized unit that has been chopped down. Inside is a traditional fol-

lower, including full-length backing to prevent rounds from nosediving.





Above: The C&S belled barrel locks up tight, but not too tight.

All three had distinctively different grips and pattern of recoil. The Adventurer is unique in that the pinky will not fit onto the grip. Adding an extended base-pad might be the answer for some, but such a move would neutralize one of its strongest points, concealability. Once the shooter pressed the trigger, the gun recoiled straight up. The sensation was of the bore line staying horizontal as the entire pistol moved upward. The Adventurer just seems to go pop and become momentarily weightless, without transferring much shock to the hand. In contrast, the Kimber bucks straight back in the most typical muzzle-flip profile, making the Kimber's recoil feel the sharpest, reflecting its narrow profile and low weight. We didn't want to spend a lot of time shooting this gun. In our view, the Springfield absorbed recoil shock the best. The shooter could almost feel the shock dissipate in a wave-like pattern through the frame to the base of the grip. Said otherwise, the Springfield has a cushioned feel, an almost reassuring thump when the gun goes off.

Even though these three guns shoot differently, in each case the keys to accuracy with each one are hold firm, watch the front sight, and fire with resolve. This is a nice way of saying what Cus D'Amato always told his protégé Mike Tyson: "Throw punches with bad intentions." In short, these short-barreled wrist cannons generate a hefty power factor and leave big holes in their wakes. The appeal of the .45 ACP round as a carry weapon is its comparatively lower pressure and blast than smaller rounds such as .357 Magnum producing the same power. This said, we tested each gun by firing at targets placed 15 yards down range from a sand bag rest.

Prior to this we spent a minimum of 300 rounds on each pistol for the purpose of breaking them in. We feel our selection of ammunition is representative of typically available .45 ACP rounds. For the large part