

Hi-Point Model CF .380, \$135

GUN TESTS GRADE: C+



We found the Hi-Point Model CF to be an excellent and reliable bargain, though this example had a fussy trigger. This gun desperately needed something done to improve its trigger, and probably most shooters will want stickier grips. Other than that we found no problems with the gun. The price was really right, and that can make a big difference. Recoil was not significant, even with the Cor-Bon boomers. This was largely because of the heavy slide and overall heavy weight of the gun (31 ounces). We tended to think of the Hi-Point as more of a man's gun because of the relatively large size of the grip, hefty weight, and the heavy forces needed to pull the trigger and press the slide fully rearward. If you need a .380 and don't want to spend a lot of money, this might be the gun for you.

Bersa FireStorm .380 ACP, \$307

GUN TESTS GRADE: A



At 20 ounces the FireStorm weighed 10 ounces less than the Hi-Point and an ounce less than the PPK. Still, recoil was not a problem even with the Cor-Bon loads. The excellent grips made the gun easily controllable and comfortable. We had no failures of any sort with this handy little gun. It shot to its sights for elevation with the hardball, and the Cor-Bon loads landed a touch higher. The groups were an inch or so to the right, indicating the need for a slight drift of the rear sight to the left. This gun was more friendly to smaller (female)

hands, and also a lot lighter and much more easily concealed than the Hi-Point. The single-action trigger was mushy, like the PPK, but there was some final creep before the break, unlike the PPK. The FireStorm had an advantage over the PPK in that you could lock the slide back without using an empty magazine, and of course reloads are faster because of the slide-lock lever. However, the PPK could be fired with the magazine removed. We liked this gun a lot, and we think you will, too.

Walther PPK .380, \$556

GUN TESTS GRADE: B+



The overall clean design of the PPK, inside and out, was a marvel. Workmanship was outstanding throughout, and the gun was mighty easy on the eyes. Its aura can't be denied. The PPK is a reliable, accurate, and easily carried handgun, though not without a few areas of contention. We mentioned the initial problem with the DA pull on this gun, but after we got it back from S&W, the PPK proved to be perfectly reliable. We found it somewhat hard to get the magazine out of the PPK because of the position of its release button so close to the slide. The Bersa's mag setup was better, we thought. The FireStorm had a price advantage of \$250 at suggested retail, or about \$100 at street prices (\$290 vs. \$400). Bottom line, although we like the PPK and its outstanding workmanship and grand mystique very much, and even though some of our test crew would choose it first, there are not many reasons to buy it over the Bersa FireStorm.

Written and photographed by Ray Ordorica, using evaluations from GUN TESTS team testers. GT