

CHARTER ARMS BULLDOG NO. 14420 44 SPECIAL, \$414

GUN TESTS GRADE: A-

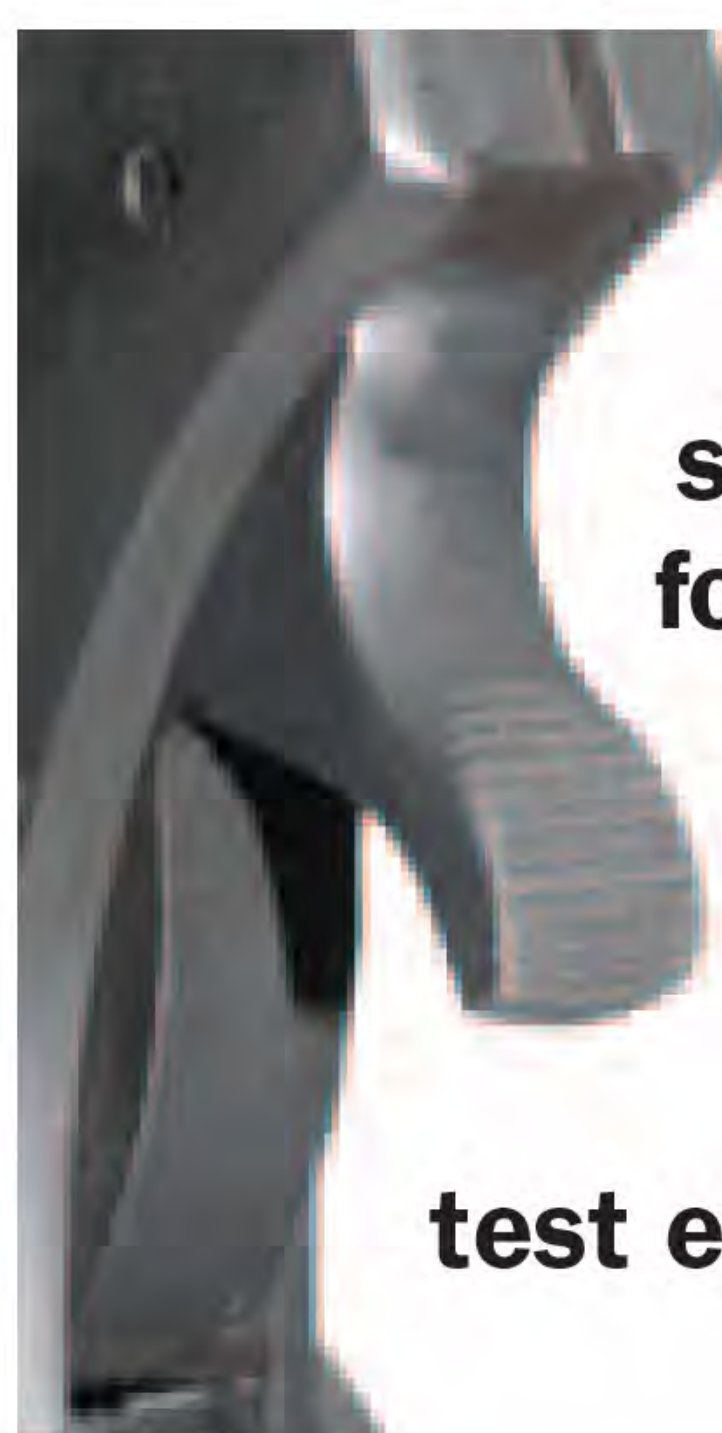
With no embellishments, and none needed, the Charter Arms Bulldog was our pick over the Taurus. We liked its tight lockup, slim grip that was much smaller than the Taurus grip, the flat-black finish, and its performance. We'd like even smaller grips for concealment, but fatter ones for heavy loads.

SPECIFICATIONS

Overall Length.....	7.2 in.
Overall Height.....	5.0 in.
Barrel Length.....	2.5 in.
Sight Radius.....	4.3 in.
Front Strap Height.....	2.0 in.
Back Strap Height.....	3.7 in.
Weight Unloaded.....	19.4 oz.
Weight Loaded.....	23.9 oz.
Capacity.....	5
Maximum Width.....	1.45 in.
Grip Thickness (max).....	1.08 in.
Grip Circumference (max).....	5.0 in.
Frame.....	Matte Black Stainless Steel
Barrel.....	Steel
Grip.....	Black Rubber
Trigger Pull Weight Single Action.....	3.8 lbs.
Trigger Pull Weight Double Action.....	12 lbs.
Trigger Span Single Action.....	2.7 in.
Trigger Span Double Action.....	3.2 in.
Warranty.....	Lifetime
Telephone.....	(203) 922-1652
Website.....	www.CharterFirearms.com
Made In.....	USA



The insides of the Charter's chambers were finely polished, and the throats had the correct dimensions for the barrel. In contrast, the barrel had a tight spot in the rifling that may have affected accuracy. The star is small, but it always worked. This basic design has been around nearly 50 years.



The Charter's hammer had only crosswise serrations, but we found them to be entirely adequate. The Bulldog was as easy to cock as the Taurus, our test evaluators said.

This is what a good sight picture looks like. There is good light on the sides of the Charter's front blade, and enough width so you don't have to hunt for the front sight. The rear notch is recessed, keeping it in the dark most of the time for good contrast. Red paint would give the front sight a lift for those who need it.



The Charter Bulldog with a set of original wood grips we bought on eBay gives a small profile that's ideal for concealment or easiest pocketing. There's a version of the Bulldog without the hammer spur that makes this comparison even closer. The 2.5-inch barrel on the Charter makes it a bit bigger than the 38 Airweight, and it does weigh a bit more, particularly with heavy bullets, but it's our first choice for a backup gun. Downside: Recoil with those wood grips and our heaviest handload was horrendous.