

## **S&W Model 625-3 45 ACP, about \$900** **GUN TESTS GRADE: A**



This was one fine revolver. It was well made, had a great trigger, enough forward weight to make shooting comfortable and easy, and it looked good,

too. Couple that with outstanding accuracy and adjustable sights and you've got a great handgun in every way. We could not fault the S&W 625 except for the hard time you'll have finding one. We know several people who have used 45 revolvers for IPSC competition, and now we understand why. They do the job, they handle well, and are easy and fast to reload. Today you can buy this gun in the form of the Jerry Miculek Special and, as noted above, there are several other options you may wish to consider. Although we believe the currently available options are well worth a look, we thought this older setup is one of the best we've seen. It's our first choice for those who simply must have a 45 ACP revolver.

## **S&W Model 325 Night Guard 45 ACP, \$1082** **GUN TESTS GRADE: D**

We didn't like the fact that the gun would not reliably fire loose rounds. Also, as noted above we would have to immediately alter the grips to make this gun useable. Recoil with the hot Cor-Bon was noticeable, but well within reason. The light weight of the



gun and its tritium insert were the gun's only attributes. We felt the design could have been vastly improved with a slimmer 4-inch barrel, adjustable sights—or well-regulated fixed sights—and workable grips that would give access to the DA trigger. Lighter trigger pulls would also be in order. The company could have done some rounding of the fronts of the cylinders and have softened a few more edges here and there, if a fighting handgun is what they had in mind. S&W used to make a 45 ACP revolver in the Mountain Gun form. If they made one of those out of Scandium and made sure it was fully usable and shooter friendly, then we think they'd have something. We all just didn't much like this gun and could see no reason to buy it.

## **Taurus Tracker 455SS4 45 ACP, about \$500** **GUN TESTS GRADE: B+**

We liked this gun, and regret that Taurus no longer offers it. If Taurus eliminated the muzzle brake and provided better, stiffer, clips we'd like it even more. We suspect the discontinued titanium version would have really gotten our attention, though the price may have been daunting. Despite what you might read in the comic books, 45 ACP hand-



guns don't generate all that much recoil. A light, five-shot revolver would be more likely to be carried than anything heavier. Versatility of loads comes immedi-

ately to mind. Such a gun could also be excellent for self-defense. Most gunfights involve the firing of very few shots, so a five-round Taurus might be all you'd ever need, if you prefer revolvers.

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