

PERFORMANCE TABLE

	Beretta Model 96	Glock 22	H&K USP40	Sig P229	S&W 4006	Walther P99
Winchester 155-gr. Silvertip						
Average Velocity at 15 ft.	1,135 fps	1,194 fps	1,125 fps	1,108 fps	1,154 fps	1,221 fps
Standard Deviation	16 fps	27 fps	8 fps	14 fps	12 fps	11 fps
Average Muzzle Energy	444 ft-lbs	491 ft-lbs	436 ft-lbs	423 ft-lbs	459 ft-lbs	506 ft-lbs
Smallest Group at 25 yds.	3.50 in.	1.50 in.	3.00 in.	3.00 in.	3.38 in.	3.75 in.
Largest Group Size	4.25 in.	3.25 in.	3.39 in.	3.50 in.	4.00 in.	4.00 in.
Average Group Size	3.80 in.	2.65 in.	3.28 in.	3.28 in.	3.60 in.	3.88 in.
Remington 180-gr. JHP						
Average Velocity at 15 ft.	970 fps	1,055 fps	973 fps	954 fps	983 fps	1,037 fps
Standard Deviation	18 fps	4 fps	10 fps	12 fps	9 fps	5 fps
Average Muzzle Energy	376 ft-lbs	445 ft-lbs	379 ft-lbs	364 ft-lbs	387 ft-lbs	430 ft-lbs
Smallest Group at 25 yds.	3.00 in.	2.13 in.	2.75 in.	2.75 in.	3.00 in.	3.38 in.
Largest Group Size	3.50 in.	3.25 in.	3.39 in.	3.25 in.	3.38 in.	4.00 in.
Average Group Size	3.25 in.	2.75 in.	3.18 in.	2.98 in.	3.28 in.	3.68 in.
Speer Lawman 180-gr. TMJ						
Average Velocity at 15 ft.	954 fps	1,051 fps	968 fps	943 fps	986 fps	1,027 fps
Standard Deviation	8 fps	13 fps	10 fps	5 fps	30 fps	5 fps
Average Muzzle Energy	364 ft-lbs	442 ft-lbs	375 ft-lbs	356 ft-lbs	389 ft-lbs	422 ft-lbs
Smallest Group at 25 yds.	3.25 in.	2.50 in.	3.00 in.	1.88 in.	2.50 in.	2.88 in.
Largest Group Size	3.63 in.	4.00 in.	3.39 in.	2.50 in.	3.00 in.	3.38 in.
Average Group Size	3.50 in.	3.38 in.	3.23 in.	2.28 in.	2.85 in.	3.13 in.

Accuracy testing consisted of five consecutive 5-shot groups with each load. fps=feet per second. ft-lbs=foot-pounds

Beretta calls Bruniton, which has been found to be more corrosion resistant and more durable than bluing. No cosmetic or structural flaws were noted. The barrel's chamber face and feed ramp were highly polished. Moving parts, including the barrel and slide when locked into battery, had little or no play.

Both of the grip panels were made of plastic with a dull black finish and molded checkering. They covered the sides of the frame only, leaving the front and back straps exposed. Each panel was held securely in place by two slotted screws. The grips mated to the frame with no gaps or rough edges.

The two double-column magazines supplied with the pistol had steel bodies and were finished to match the rest of the pistol. There were two witness holes in the rear of each magazine. The followers were made of black plastic, as were the removable floorplates. The floorplates extended slightly below the bottom of the frame. Both magazines were expertly constructed.

Functioning was almost perfect. The only glitch was one failure of the slide to automatically lock to the

How We Tested

During this head-to-head evaluation, we fired 200 rounds of commercial ammunition through each .40 S&W pistol. Accuracy testing was conducted indoors at 25 yards using a padded pistol rest. We fired five consecutive 5-shot groups with each

of three brands of ammunition: Winchester 155-grain Silvertip hollow points, Remington 180-grain jacketed hollow points and Speer Lawman 180-grain totally metal jacket ammunition. Accuracy and velocity results are detailed in the accompanying performance table.

rear after the last round in the magazine was fired. Since this occurred on the 20th round, well within the normal break-in period for a new firearm, our shooters did not fault the pistol.

This Beretta's extractor also acted as a loaded chamber indicator. When it engaged a chambered round, the extractor protruded from the right side of the slide and exposed its red dot. In low light, when the dot could not be seen, it could be felt. We thought this was a definite plus.

Although this Beretta was moderately muzzle heavy, it pointed slightly high. Target acquisition was satisfactory. Serrations on the rear of the slide were relatively shallow, so some of our shooters grasped the safety levers when manipulating the slide. Those with small hands felt the

grip was almost too large, but no one thought it was uncomfortable. Grooves on the front and back of the grip frame weren't what we would call deep, but were an aid in gripping the pistol. Felt recoil was sharp, but not heavy.

The Model 96's controls worked smoothly. The slide release, positioned on the left side of the frame, was easy to reach and manipulate. Reaching the reversible magazine release, located at the left rear of the trigger guard, was a long stretch for those with small hands. But, once reached, the large button was easily depressed.

This pistol was equipped with two safeties. The first was a passive firing pin block that prevented firing if the trigger wasn't pulled to the rear. The second was a manual safety