than the 19 in rapid-fire drills of five shots in 10 seconds. In fact, it matched the more expensive H&K pistol with average groups of 3.2 inches. The Tactical S&W was only a tick behind at 3.3 inches.

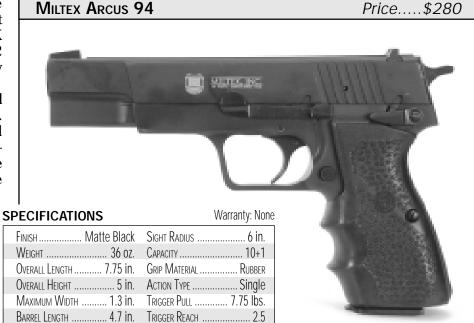
During our testing, we noticed some oddities worth mentioning. Both the Smith & Wesson pistol and the Arcus 94 feature a magazine disconnector that renders the gun unusable with the magazine out. Pushing the mag button on the Arcus will leave the mag in place but slightly ajar. Pressing the mag release on the TSW causes the magazine, loaded or empty, to shoot out abruptly. Still, the chambered round will not fire.

Standing and shooting rapid fire, in the manner we feel these guns were intended to be used, the P7M8 and Glock 19C produced the best results, in our view. Reason: The way they handle recoil. The P7 features an internal piston that reacts with each shot to dissipate energy. But with this comes a price. The friction from the piston produces heat that becomes quite noticeable after as little as 60 rounds. We felt this increase in heat was also affecting accuracy, as earlier stand-and-shoot sessions promised better groups than we achieved from the bench. While superior from a bench rest, the P7 was equaled in the offhand drills because of Glock's effective porting of the barrel. This gave the 19C a marked advantage over the other guns. Each shot had little effect on the original sight picture. This made it noticeably faster to regain sight alignment. In fact, we were able to look through the shot and completely track the sights from shot to shot.

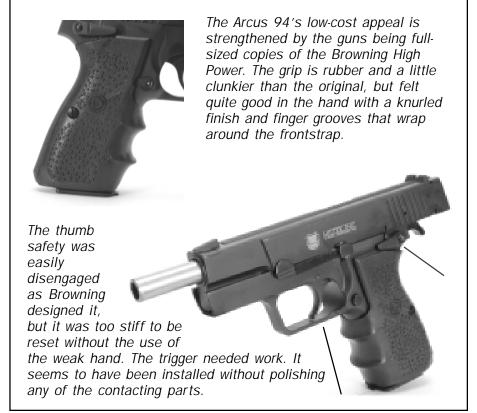
Other details and insights about the products follow below:

Miltex Makarov

Our recommendation: We got a glimpse of a really fun pistol to shoot at a very low price, \$225.



Our recommendation: We found it difficult to ascertain the true accuracy potential of this pistol without refining the trigger. But it did prove reliable with a variety of ammunition beyond our selection of designated test ammo. We simply emptied our closet of odd-lot rounds into it and each time it cheerfully went bang. It's hard to fault an all-steel full-capacity 9mm pistol at a bargain price when all it ever does is operate faithfully as intended. Haggle for the lowest price, and buy it, but don't forget you won't have any support for it after the sale.



October 1999 GUN TESTS 5