










## OVERVIEW: GUN TESTS' 9MM HANDGUN PICKS AND PANS

In the last few years, we've tested quite a few 9mms, some of which we've liked, and others we haven't. Here's a quick summary of how those guns have fared in past Gun Tests evaluations from the last three years.

Product	Dimensions L x H x W in.	Weight (oz.)	Finish	Best Accuracy	Capacity	Pros/Cons	Bottom Line	
Ruger P95DC	7.1 x 5.5 x 1.3	29	Stainless/ Polymer	1.8 in. @ 25 yds.	10+1	Great trigger, low price/ Clunky cosmetics	Best Buy, \$351	
Sig SP 2009 Pro	7.25 x 5.75 x 1.4	29	Black Polymer	1.4 in. @ 25 yds.	10+1	Streamlined, snag free/ pricier than P95DC	Buy, \$596	
CZ 100	7 x 4.9 x 1.2	23	Black Polymer	2.0 in. @ 25 yds.	10+1	Great grip fit, single action operation/ Not as good as P95DC	Don't Buy, \$351	
H&K USP9	7.6 x 5.25 x 1.4	27	Stainless/ Polymer	1.6 in. @ 25 yds.	10+1	Cocked & locked carry/ very heavy DA trigger	Buy, \$701	
Glock 17	8 x 5.1 x 1.2	25	Black Polymer	1.2 in. @ 25 yds.	10+1	Undercut grip is very comfortable/ Some don't like trigger	Buy, \$616	
S&W CS9	6.25 x 4.5 x 2.1	21	Black	1.1 in. @ 15 yds.	7+1	Great grip/ SA to DA transition is jarring	Buy, \$593	
Glock 26	6.5 x 4.25 x 1.1	21	Tenifer	1.7 in. @ 15 yds.	10+1	Capacity/ grip is short	Buy, \$616	
Kahr K9	6 x 4.75 x 1.1	25	Blued	2.1 in. @ 15 yds.	7+1	Solid operation/ Needs trigger work	Buy, \$538	
Wilson/ Kahr K9	6 x 4.75 x 1.1	26	Armor Tuff	1.9 in. @ 15 yds.	7+1	Many upgrades, great trigger/ expensive	Don't Buy, \$1,286	

**But when it quit during testing, we found its construction was lacking. Don't buy it.**

It had been suggested that we refer to this test as the good, the bad and the ugly because of the wide range in price and quality. The Miltex Makarov earned the title of all three. The best news was that we've seen the eight-shot Makarov selling for as little as \$150 (with an FFL), transfer fees, shipping, and insurance would jack the gun's

price to you to at least \$200 to \$225.

The other good news was it actually shot with the best point of aim, delivering a sub 3-inch group. We felt confident enough at this point to run it through the chronograph. The Norinco ammunition (priced at only \$7.50 a box) produced a power factor of 97 (1,024 fps average times a bullet weight of 95 grains). The standard deviation was only 8 fps. This indicates consistent pressures. The bad news

was the firing pin was not always willing to strike the primer. Furthermore, even though the mags would hold eight rounds, it would only feed when filled with seven cartridges. The ugly reared its head when firing pin and de-cocker decided to exit the slide after only 25 shots. That was the end of our experience in 9X18.

Because the gun failed, we didn't really have a chance to test the Miltex version of this vener-

Product	Dimensions L x H x W in.	Weight (oz.)	Finish	Best Accuracy	Capacity	Pros/Cons	Bottom Line
Hi-Point Model C	6.7 x 4.9 x 1.5	29	Black	1.5 in. @ 10 yds.	8+1	Inexpensive/ top heavy; hard to shoot	Don't Buy, \$100
Taurus PT-111	6.1 x 4.4 x 1	19	Blued	1 in. @ 7 yds.	10+1	Good accuracy, good value/ short grip	Buy, \$344
Kel-Tec P-11	6 x 4.4 x 1	17	Blued	1 in. @ 7 yds.	10+1	Reliable, less expensive/ short grip	Buy, \$309
S&W SW9M	6.4 x 4.6 x 1	18.5	Black	2.2 in. @ 7 yds.	7+1	Slim, snag- resistant/ misfires a problem	Don't Buy, \$366
Jennings Nine	6.6 x 4.8 x 1.2	34	Blued	3.7 in. @ 15 yds.	12+1	Nice fit & finish/Poor accuracy	Buy, \$145
Hi-Point JS-9	8.8 x 5.2 x 1.3	40	Black	2.8 in. @ 15 yds.	9+1	Decent accuracy/ finicky funtion, poor cosmetics	Don't Buy, \$140
Lorcin L-9mm	7.6 x 5.4 x 1.4	36	Stainless Blued	4.6 in. @ 15 yds.	10+1	Gun failed in testing	Don't Buy, \$117
Walther P99	7 x 5.4 x 1.1	25	Black	1.6 in. @ 25 yds.	10+1	1998 Handgun of the Year	Buy, \$799
Astra A-75L	6.5 x 1.1 x 1.2	23	Blued	4.3 in. @ 25 yds.	8+1	Low cost/ rough in spots, stiff trigger	Buy, \$323
Ruger P93DC	7.2 x 5.7 x 1.1	30.5	Stainless	3.6 in. @ 25 yds.	10+1	Reliable/ sights hard to align	Buy, \$520



able pistol design. However, we would like to pass along our view of the Makarov design and function because there were positives worth noting.

At first glance you will readily notice the profile that recalls Walther pistols. The Mak is just a little larger than a PPK. The grip is ideal for shooting with one hand, albeit the thumb swell limits it to being shot with the right hand only. The sights are fixed and extremely

narrow, with checkering across the top of the slide to limit glare, which is somewhat unlikely due to its blued finish. The Makarov front sight is no more than a sliver, but we could easily pick it out against the black-and-yellow Shoot-N-See target.

The trigger is double action only with a very heavy pull and long reach. The effort needed to break a shot is minimized, however, by what adds up to be superb ergonomics that include a magazine

extension as well as the aforementioned grip plus one-half inch of frame overhanging the backstop. The magazine release sitting at the bottom of the grip may be considered old fashioned, but the mag will likely never be accidentally dropped.

The Makarov cartridge, which measures 9mm by 18mm in length, is ballistically somewhere between the .380 ACP (9mm Kurz, or short) and a light .38 Special round. The overall design of the Makarov pis-