

Accuracy & Chronograph Data

	S&W SW99	Walther P99	S&W Sigma 40VE
Federal American Eagle 155-grain Full Metal Jacket			
Average Velocity at 10 ft.	1,089 fps	1,106 fps	1,115 fps
Standard Deviation	7 fps	12 fps	17 fps
Smallest Group at 25 yds.	1.3 in.	2.5 in.	2.1 in.
Largest Group Size	2.6 in.	3.1 in.	3.6 in.
Average Group Size	2.1 in.	2.8 in.	3.1 in.
Federal Hydra-Shok 165-grain Jacketed Hollow Point			
Average Velocity at 10 ft.	929 fps	943 fps	928 fps
Standard Deviation	4 fps	8 fps	6 fps
Smallest Group at 25 yds.	2.2 in.	3.4 in.	3.2 in.
Largest Group Size	2.8 in.	3.2 in.	3.6 in.
Average Group Size	2.4 in.	3.3 in.	3.5 in.
Houston Cartridge Factory Reload 180-grain FMJ Truncated Cone			
Average Velocity at 10 ft.	932 fps	937 fps	915 fps
Standard Deviation	33 fps	20 fps	5 fps
Smallest Group at 25 yds.	1.1 in.	1.8 in.	3.0 in.
Largest Group Size	2.9 in.	2.6 in.	3.4 in.
Average Group Size	2.3 in.	2.3 in.	3.2 in.

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GUN TESTS' Test Gun Program

Because of repeated requests from readers, we are making some of our test guns available for sale. To receive our current test-product inventory list, please email a request to ttwoodard@earthlink.com. Or send a dollar and a self-addressed envelope for a printed copy of the inventory. See page 2 for address.

cocking serrations are fine and angled forward only on the rear of the slide. The SW99's slide is bare, and the cocking serrations are mild but are cut both fore and aft of the ejection port.

A safety mechanism similar to the Sigma's is activated within the frame of the SW99/P99 pistols, detaching the hinge at the center of the

trigger. While the triggers are identical on these two guns, the P99 offers a squared trigger guard, which is much bigger inside than the SW99, but each is encumbered by a rise on the inside of the trigger guard sculpted to meet the tip of the trigger. One tester with larger fingers complained that the SW99's guard pinched the finger. We feel both guns

promote contact between the trigger finger and the inside of the guard, a no-no in our book.

The SW99's first-shot trigger began with a short take up punctuated by the feeling of it catching and letting go of a notch, then a long take up and "bang." With the gun then in single action, subsequent shots skipped this notch feeling, so long as the gun remained cocked. Somehow, the first-shot trigger of the P99 is devoid of this interruption, but the trigger is still long and very smooth.

At combat distances we shot a series of rapid-fire or "hammer" drills and found the P99/SW99 pistols were more controllable than the Sigma. One tester commented that since each of the three pistols feature flashlight rails molded into the dust cover, any additional weight attached to the front of the pistol would aid in reducing shot-to-shot split times.

GUN TESTS Recommends

✗ **S&W Enhanced Sigma .40VE, \$602.** Don't buy. Now that Smith & Wesson has gotten the short-stroke trigger to be smooth and predictable, perhaps the company should upgrade the gun that surrounds it. In our opinion, S&W can and should do better if it intends to maintain this product line.

● **Smith & Wesson SW99, \$735.** A Conditional Buy. This gun shot accurately, but there were some glitches in its operation, so we can not give it an unqualified recommendation. S&W's lifetime warranty could make a big difference in making sure it is 100 percent reliable.

✓ **Walther P99, \$799.** Buy it. In this test, this gun showed the best execution of a DA polymer defense gun. It was 100 percent reliable, it fit our hands, and the trigger proved smooth and predictable. In borrowing a patent or two from Walther, it would seem that the SW99 learned everything it knows from the p99. But the P99 didn't teach the SW99 everything Walther knows about making these types of guns. ●