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Sigma series has a checkered reputation. Ours proved to be fussy about ammo and was long on muzzle flip when it worked.

The Enhanced Sigma is still one of Smith's most economical guns, and it has a greatly improved trigger. The molded polymer frame features simple grip patterning, a pleasing grip-angle with beavertail overhang for support, and a well-placed mag release. This is one S&W model that will fire with the magazine removed, and this warning is molded into the frame. As is all the rage, there's an indentation for a flashlight attachment on either side of the dust cover.

The slide is satin stainless with rear cocking serrations and a polymer guide rod. We judge the slide-to-frame fit to be quite loose. The front sight is staked in, and ours was crooked to the left. It featured a white dot, but this dot, although luminous, is painted on and is not protected by being inlaid. The rear sight is a no-snag Novak design and also features painted dots. The slide had a flat top to it, but the machining all around left much to be desired, in our view.

The first shooting impression we always look for is grip-to-trigger orientation. All three pistols offer an excellent grip. The SW99 and the P99 even offer the option of changing the back-strap to fit the hollows of different-sized hands, and both arrived with two extra inserts, but we felt the moderate sized one it came with was just fine. We felt both these guns were superior to the Sigma in grip.

The Sigma functioned best with the Hydra-Shoks, but found a way to jam repeatedly with our other test rounds. During break-in we used up our supply of Black Hills 180-grain rounds and experienced not a single malfunction. By the time we reached our bench-rest session, the Sigma mags had developed a penchant for not pushing the round up far enough so that the rim of the cartridge was hit-

## S&W SIGMA .40VE

Price....\$602



**Our recommendation:**  
**Don't buy. This gun**  
**experienced too many**  
**malfunctions, in our view.**



### SPECIFICATIONS

WARRANTY .....	Lifetime
SLIDE FINISH .....	Stainless
FRAME FINISH .....	Black
FRAME MATERIAL .....	Polymer
WEIGHT .....	25 oz.
CAPACITY .....	10+1
GRIP MATERIAL .....	Polymer
ACTION TYPE .....	Double
TRIGGER PULL .....	11 lbs.

*The biggest drawback of double action on the semi-auto is finding the breaking point of the trigger. The Sigma trigger's double-jointed action first deactivates the safety then goes to a crisp break. We liked the Sigma trigger the best because it was easiest to find the breaking point of the trigger and activate it briskly.*

