

patterning and relief for their respective logos. Each gun allows for changing the overall dimension of the grip by removing a single roll pin and substituting backstraps. The slide release is the very same close-fitting lever relieved with a different-style cut. Each gun drops its magazine with a downward stroke of ambidextrous levers blended into the trigger guard. The trigger mechanisms on these guns are the same, but the S&W action begins with a click as it bypasses what we surmise to be a "last chance" safety.

After the first shot, these pistols revert to single-action only. Save for the striker protruding from the rear, there is not much difference between the double- and single-action triggers. To be sure, the break point is more clearly defined because the trigger must be staged further back when in single-action mode. But the best way to shoot these guns is to effect an even, full, sweeping stroke wherein the switch from DA to SA may not be apparent. We wish more DA to SA pistols could perform this transition so discreetly. Another reason you may miss this feature is because the decocker is not a lever at all, but an area cut out atop the left side of the slide that sits flush and is operated by depressing this lined and spring-loaded inset.

Each gun offers a flashlight rail. The Walther rail is inlaid in a nicely undercut dustcover. The SW99's rail is open-ended on the front and offers more room for mounting. Both pistols use a polymer guide rod, but their barrels are crowned differently. The P99 ends just short of the muzzle in a fade. On the SW99 there is a more traditional angle cut steeply into the tip. This alone may account for the slight difference in accuracy we found during testing.

The front and rear sights on each gun are identical, with the rear sight controlled by an odd-looking windage adjustment screw. The top of the Walther slide is lined, and the

WALTHER P99

Price....\$799



Our recommendation: Buy it. This gun ran flawlessly, shot acceptably, and had a good trigger.



SPECIFICATIONS

WARRANTY	1 Year
SLIDE FINISH	Black Steel
FRAME FINISH	Black
FRAME MATERIAL	Polymer
WEIGHT	24 oz.
CAPACITY	10+1
GRIP MATERIAL	Polymer
ACTION TYPE	Double/Single
TRIGGER PULL DA	9.5 lbs.
TRIGGER PULL SA	5.75 lbs.



Another common design feature on the 99s are the polymer guide rods and the integral rail on the front of the frame for mounting accessories like flashlights.

Right: The front and rear sights on the Walther P99 and SW99 are standard three-dot arrangements.

