

BERETTA COUGAR 8045F

Price.....\$719



Our recommendation:
Don't buy. It has a comfortable grip, but it recoils heavily. Its accuracy was only mediocre.



SPECIFICATIONS

WARRANTY Ltd. Lifetime
 SLIDE FINISH Black
 FRAME FINISH Black
 FRAME MATERIAL Steel
 WEIGHT 32 oz.
 CAPACITY 8+1
 GRIP MATERIAL Plastic
 ACTION TYPE Double/Single
 TRIGGER PULL DA 12.25 lbs.
 TRIGGER PULL SA 6 lbs.



Left: Components of Beretta's unique rotating barrel system, including the recoil rod and spring assembly, central block and the barrel seen here in locked position with the chamber fully supported by the central block. Above right: Upon recoil the barrel not only unlocks but rotates about 20 degrees. A guide channel cut into its underside rides upon a boss located atop the central block. It was reliable as long as the gun was kept clean and lubricated, but we could not substantiate a reduction of recoil attributable to this system.

the way to mounting the gun. But this limits the capacity to 6 rounds. With 6+1 in the chamber and hammer down, the Sig's hammer design is such that a practiced shooter can easily use the weak-hand thumb to pull back the trigger. As previously mentioned, we felt the SA trigger on this pistol is too vague for our liking.

But we still believe it is best to be familiar with only one trigger at a time. Certainly the consistent results from the benchrest session indicate that the P245's slide to frame and barrel fit is best taken advantage using the SA trigger. With three very different loads, groups ranged from 1.6 to 2.8 inches. While none of the guns were completely happy digesting the 200-grain lead semi-wadcutter, all groups measured either 2.5 or 2.6 inches. The typical malfunction was the slide falling short of returning to battery. The Sig was also the only one to prefer the heavier 230-grain jacketed ball ammo over the lighter bullets that operate the slides of shorter pistols more reliably.

Beretta Cougar 8045F

Our recommendation: First impressions can be deceiving. This \$719 gun has a great grip and lots of engineers behind it, but the recoil is considerable.

There was something about the Cougar we liked immediately. Maybe it was the all-steel package. We knew early that it needed more grip than the mild vertical lines on the front and rear straps offered, so we added adhesive grip tape. It definitely helped.

Then we noticed that it liked to be cleaned and oiled regularly. This isn't odd, but many of today's defense guns, especially the plastic ones, just seem to spit out whatever you lubricate them with. We first discovered this need while trying to shoot many rounds of lead semi-wadcutters. Our choice of Black Hills 200-grain LSWCs were accurate and pleasant to shoot, but the Cougar complained after about 200 rounds. The problem was, once again, failure of the slide to return completely to battery. Cleaning and oiling were all that was required,