

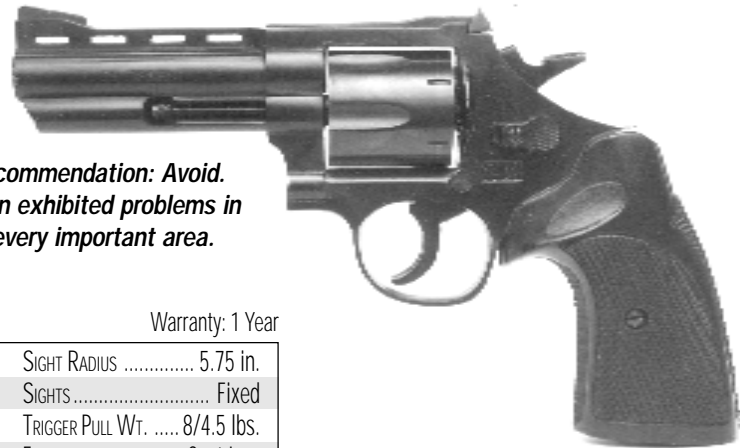
did not interfere with speed loading and had a flat bottom to aid benchrest shooting. Beneath the grip, we found a coil mainspring design. The frame was a cast affair with harder metal crudely inlaid to defer wear at critical junctures, such as surrounding the firing-pin hole and on the top strap just above the cylinder gap. The frame was medium sized and would be accept reloading with K frame-sized speedloaders if the cylinders were chamfered. Instead, we found the cylinders to be unnecessarily tight and ejection was often troublesome.

Cast-frame revolvers like the 102 have their drawbacks. From the way the black finish was peeling away from the tip of the barrel, we could see the edges and contours of the underlug were not evenly machined. We suspect the heavy black finish hides a number of casting flaws—so much so that we would not be surprised to find a layer of Bondo here and there. Thus, our first impression of the gun was that it was meant to be a prop in a stage play, not a working firearm.

At the range, we did indeed find that the 102 functioned, however. Our bag of ammunition held three different types of .38 Special loads, including a 130-grain FMJ from Winchester, a remanufactured 158-grain lead semi-wadcutter from Master, and a 148-grain lead hollow-based wadcutter from 3D. When we began shooting the 3D HBWC, we immediately noticed lead shavings upon ejection. The forcing cone was being surrounded by lead, and rings of the material were dropping away upon ejection. Despite a heavy double action and long sweep of the hammer in the SA mode that produced heavy hits, misfires were common. The hammer on the 102 featured a separate nose pin. Most manufacturers have gone to the internal floating firing pin in revolvers because it is easier

F&L Model 102

Retail Price...\$135

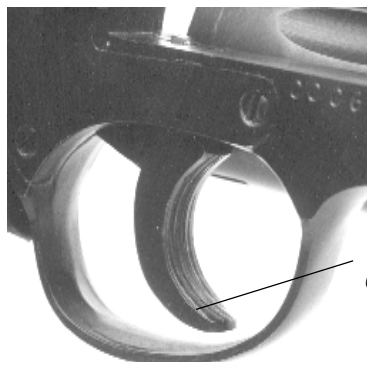


Our Recommendation: Avoid. This gun exhibited problems in nearly every important area.

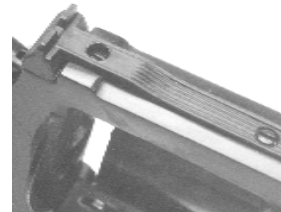
SPECIFICATIONS

Warranty: 1 Year

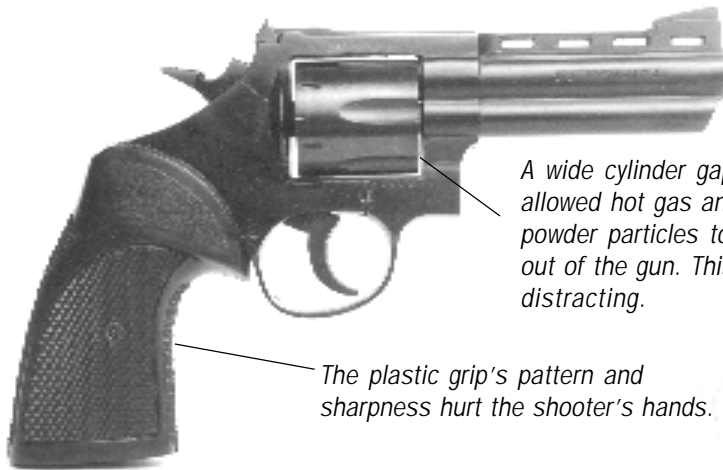
FINISH	Black Paint	SIGHT RADIUS	5.75 in.
WEIGHT (EMPTY)	36 oz.	SIGHTS	Fixed
OVERALL LENGTH	9.2 in.	TRIGGER PULL WT.	8/4.5 lbs.
BARREL LENGTH	3.9 in.	FRAME	Cast Iron
MAXIMUM HEIGHT	5.2 in.	CAPACITY	6
MAXIMUM WIDTH	1.5 in.	GRIPS	Plastic



The 102's trigger had sharp edges that made double-action shooting uncomfortable.



The F&L's sights looked adjustable, but weren't.



A wide cylinder gap allowed hot gas and powder particles to shoot out of the gun. This was distracting.

The plastic grip's pattern and sharpness hurt the shooter's hands.

Right: Crucial areas of the F&L revolver were reinforced with harder-metal inserts.

