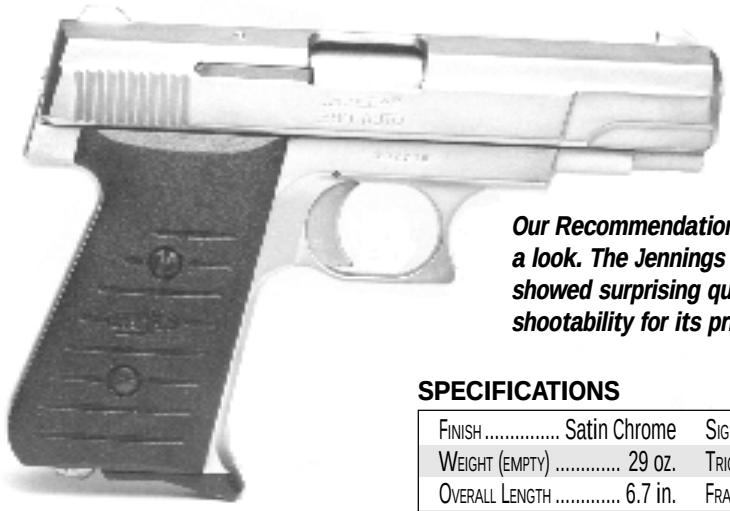
Jennings Model 46 .380 Auto — *Retail Price...$99*



Our Recommendation: Worth a look. The Jennings gun showed surprising quality and shootability for its price.

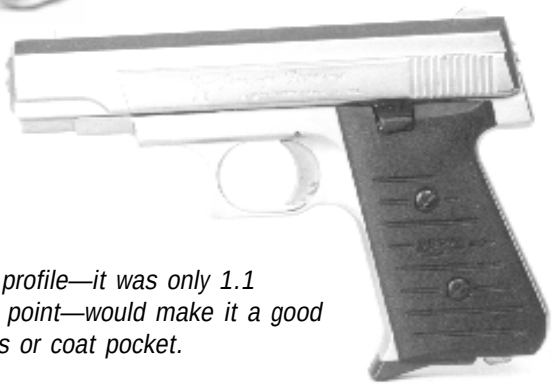
SPECIFICATIONS Warranty: 1 Year

Finish	Satin Chrome	Sight Radius	5.5 in.
Weight (empty)	29 oz.	Trigger Pull Wt. (SA)	8 lbs.
Overall Length	6.7 in.	Frame	Steel
Barrel Length	4 in.	Slide	Steel
Maximum Height	4.6 in.	Capacity	7+1
Maximum Width	1.1 in.	Grips	Plastic

The Jennings was "dehorned" surprisingly well, with rounded corners on the grip and frame and a low-profile sight.

The Jenning's thin grip was comfortable for many hand types. It also offered a great deal of control, making the .380 ACP very shootable.

The magazine's latch didn't lend itself to speedy loading, we thought.



The Jenning's flat overall profile—it was only 1.1 inches thick at its widest point—would make it a good gun to slip into your pants or coat pocket.

knife if you are far enough away.

The $99.95 Model C from Hi-Point was a polymer-framed exercise in absurdity. Manufacturers go to polymer to reduce cost, and it makes sense on the consumer's end for this reason alone. Also a resulting loss in weight makes a polymer-framed gun lighter and easier to carry. In the case of the Model C, Hi-Point took a modern polymer-frame design with better-than-average ergonomics (save for a stubborn slide safety) and saddled it with a massive steel slide. This raised the center of gravity so high second shots were forced to wait while we put the gun back on target. The lower part of the gun looked modern, and the slide, resembling a loaf of bread, made this pistol look like a product of the Russian automobile industry circa 1960.

Most important in this class of cheap self-defense guns, the Model C proved reliable with all the ammunition we tried, but it was so unpleasant to shoot we put it aside after firing 3-inch groups at 10 yards from a bench rest. The massive slide slowed the pistol's ability to cycle and weighed heavily against the shooter's wrist, especially when shot from a sandbag. The sights were molded into the top of the slide, two red dots at the rear and a red notch up front. They were not easy to find, but not to worry. The shooter had plenty of time to align them while the gun cycled. Once the round was chambered and ignited, the bus-like slide slammed to the rear and stopped, then rushed forward and smashed closed. The slide assembly around the striker mechanism was covered with a glob of white grease that subtracted from our confidence in this machine's functioning, but to the gun's credit, it didn't balk, fail to eject, or fail to fire. However, we could have used a hammer and a finishing nail to accomplish these same firing functions, and the ham-