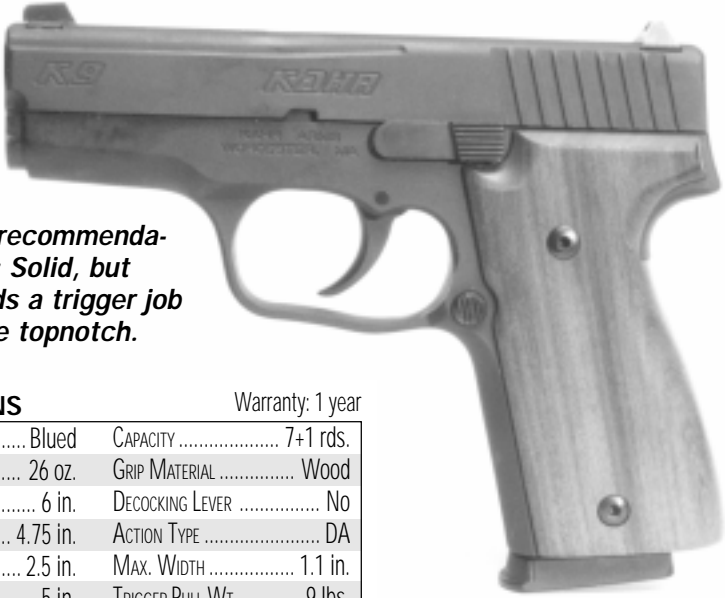


policeman's primary gun but also the same mags. Yes, the Model 26 pictured in these pages will fire even the longest pre-ban full-size magazine.

The first time we picked up the Model 26 we were disappointed to find that the short grip would only accommodate our first two fingers. Dry firing and handling produced further skepticism. To our surprise, controllability at the range was not nearly as bad as we predicted. Of all the guns tested here, the Glock 26 was the only one that shot like a full-sized gun. We would still like a longer grip, but the best that can be done is to add an extended base pad from Pierce or other manufacturer. Merely shooting the 26 with a full-length mag helps, but the little double stack mag that is standard already holds ten rounds, and a longer mag gives an ersatz feel to the gun, in our view. As would be expected from a pistol with a heavy steel slide atop a light "plastic" frame, there is considerable muzzle flip. However, with lighter-weight bullets common to 9mm Luger, the recoil was over quickly. Thus, if you are patient, the Glock 26 will reward you with satisfactory groups at almost any distance.

We judged the gun's match suitability to be very good. As wide as this gun is, there are several concealment systems and quality holsters available for it. Acquiring the 26 from a holster has been improved, along with recoil control, by adding a thumb rest in the form of an indentation on each side of the grip. The backstrap has also been contoured to present a checkered palm swell and undercut to the frame. This is a big improvement from the very first Glocks that featured nearly a straight-up-and-down grip frame. The slide release is adequately available to the thumb, but an even faster way to recharge is to pull back the locked-open slide and let it go like a bow and arrow. This has been an effective technique in IDPA matches,

Kahr K9
Retail Price...\$538



Our recommendation: *Solid, but needs a trigger job to be topnotch.*

SPECIFICATIONS Warranty: 1 year

METAL FINISH	Blued	CAPACITY	7+1 rds.
WEIGHT (EMPTY)	26 oz.	GRIP MATERIAL	Wood
OVERALL LENGTH	6 in.	DECOCKING LEVER	NO
OVERALL HEIGHT	4.75 in.	ACTION TYPE	DA
BARREL LENGTH	2.5 in.	MAX. WIDTH	1.1 in.
SIGHT RADIUS	5 in.	TRIGGER PULL WT.	9 lbs.



Slide serrations are wide and skid proof

Wood grip panel is handsome and blends smoothly into frame

Kahr uses Allen head screws to secure grip, which stops screwdriver marking

Magazine base finishes the grip profile to provide exceptional ergonomics for a small gun

No-drag front and rear sights connect visually via a white dot up front and a wide vertical rear notch. Both are mounted in dovetails; the rear is windage adjustable with a set screw

which for some time required the shooters to run their guns dry before permitting a reload. We found the mag release to be difficult to operate with just our strong-hand thumb (located on the left side only). Not even the upgrade from Aro-Tek was much better. Getting the mag back in was another story. Double-stack magazines load faster because they are tapered at the fol-

lower, and the hole in the grip frame is so large it easily accommodates the wide mag body.

Kahr K9/WilsonCombat K9

Our Recommendations: *The basic Kahr gun is worth a look. The K9 ranked on par with the CS9 and Glock in most areas, but its trigger pull was long and hard. With a Wilson trigger job, however,*