

count the stress under which they might be used. The idea is to avoid breaking a shot accidentally when drawing from what could be a clumsy position with clothing in the way or when holding a suspect while waiting for police. At a match, however, there is not a question of when to shoot. But we found it necessary to judge the triggers of these guns with this feature taken into account. All the little guns had long triggers. We were looking for the most predictable as well as the smoothest.

Accuracy and velocity testing showed that each of the pistols tested is accurate enough for close-quarter combat. In a practical match where the holes in the paper never lie, you can make a case for each pistol using specific ammunition. It was easy to be consistent with the Wilson K9 because of the trigger, and the sights are relieved enough to avoid premature eyestrain. We found the Glock to be the most willing to shoot, and some of the trigger's enthusiasm led to flyers when the shots broke unexpectedly.

These pistols are designed as a last defense before hand-to-hand combat becomes necessary. Still, it seems to us that the triggers reflect a need for a good liability defense in the courtroom as well as warding off trouble in the street. The Glock 26 is, in our opinion, the one pistol in this test designed to be used with the most intent and least amount of shame.

The accuracy champ was the S&W CS9. But getting settled into the first shot can take some doing, as noted above. The double-stack Glock reloads the fastest once you have the mag out, which itself can be tricky. The CS9 shoots the mag out, and for a narrow single-stack pistol, is quite willing to receive a new mag. Both Kahrs willingly give up their mags, the Wilson a little easier, but again, pushing the narrow mag into the narrow grip frame can be jerky. The bev-

Smith & Wesson Chief's Special CS9 *Retail Price...\$593*

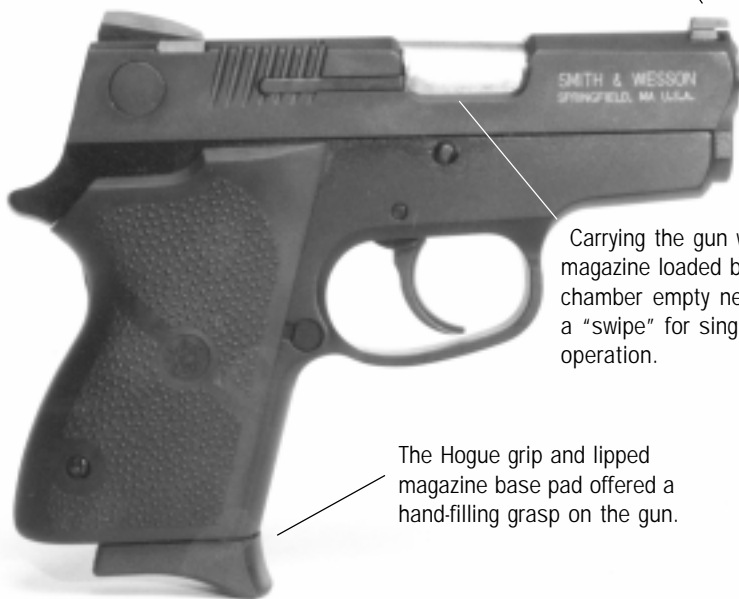


SPECIFICATIONS

Warranty: 1 year

METAL FINISH	Black	CAPACITY	7+1 rds.
WEIGHT (EMPTY)	21 oz.	GRIP MATERIAL	Rubber
OVERALL LENGTH	6.25 in.	DECOCKING LEVER	Yes
OVERALL HEIGHT	4.5 in.	ACTION TYPE	DA/SA
BARREL LENGTH	2 in.	MAX. WIDTH	2.13 in.
SIGHT RADIUS	5.1 in.	TRIGGER PULL WT.	12/7 lbs.

Our Recommendation: Buy. This gun can go both ways, serving as an able carry gun and being competitive on the range—the ideal IDPA gun.



The front post has a snag-resistant profile.

Carrying the gun with the magazine loaded but its chamber empty necessitates a "swipe" for single-action operation.

The Hogue grip and lipped magazine base pad offered a hand-filling grasp on the gun.

eled mag well on the Wilson custom gun helps, but there still isn't that much grip frame to bevel anyway. From the standpoint of finding the sights on target, the Glock sights are fast enough, and so are the Kahr's. If you don't like the sights on the K9 or the Smith & Wesson, or merely want an upgrade to night sights, the dove-

tail mounts make interchangeability easy. Here's what we found:

Smith & Wesson Chief's Special Model CS9

Our Recommendation: Buy it. As in the case of the Kahr pistols, the CS9 gave us a good feeling right away: a hand-filling grip,