

**Wilson/Kahr K9**

Price...\$748 + customer gun (\$538)



**SPECIFICATIONS**

METAL FINISH .....	Armor Tuff	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. ....	8 lbs.

Warranty: 1 year

**Our recommendation:** *This is a good product, but it's just too expensive for the upgrades it delivers, in our estimation.*

*this gun would be a contender as an IDPA/carry combo.*

*We don't recommend you buy the more expensive Wilson Combat conversion of the K9. Functionally, there's a lot to like about this conversion package. It's just too*

*expensive, \$1,286, for what it delivers, in our view.*

The Kahr K9 sends a natural feel to the shooter through its all-steel frame and slide. It gives the impression of a pistol that was designed from the ground up to be a sub-

compact, not a downsizing of a pre-existing gun. It is flat, concealable, and leaves no doubt as to where you should seat your grip. The double action-only trigger sweeps just over 0.8 inches in its travel from forward rest position to follow through. Once cocked, the trigger has approximately 0.35 inches of take-up in its arc before actual sear engagement (this is a hinged trigger). While initial engagement is the same for both the stock pistol and the custom gun from Wilson

Combat, the journey the trigger finger takes on its way to breaking the shot is noticeably different in each gun. Weight of trigger pull (9 pounds for the stock Kahr versus 6.5 pounds for the Wilson-modified version) is not really the issue. The Wilson-converted gun breaks cleanly at the same point after a shorter pull than the stock gun. During rapid-fire drills at a near target, this is not as noticeable, but off a rest accuracy was affected. Off a rest, both pistols demonstrated surprising accuracy by hitting steel silhouettes of pigs set at 50 meters. The Wilson was

**Chief's Special Revolvers and Pistols**

Smith & Wesson recently has turned its marketing of good-looking pistols up a notch with the release of the Chief's series pistols and matching revolvers. In our view, these guns are first-rate firearms.

The new Chief's Series revolver is a five-shot J-frame .38 Special with +P capability with an exposed, but reduced, hammer. The Chiefs come in a non-reflective black-matte finish along with markings to match the semi-auto series. As appealing as this is, we'd like to point out that S&W has for years offered a five-shooter with "hammerless" design. Few shooters feel the option of pulling back the hammer for a single-action shot is relevant to a deep concealment gun such as a J-frame. We have been carrying an air-weight (18-ounce) Centennial series Model 442 for four years, and are of the opinion that nothing with an exposed hammer beats the Centennial series "hammerless" for concealment. The latest version of the 442 is, like the new Chief's series, rated for the use of the hotter +P ammunition. Either way, a deep-concealment aluminum-frame gun is not to be used for endless practice sessions. But we have found our 442 to be

a good shooter. Initially, we had to watch for the extractor rod backing out from concussion, but Loc-Tite fixed that. The trigger has a long stroke that can be smoothly pulled straight through or, single-action fans can stage the trigger. The last moment of trigger pull can be passed up for quick action, but the staging lockup is easily found for careful shots. The gun lacks sharp edges and is virtually snag free.



**Above:** *The Chief's series pistols and matching revolvers are first-rate firearms. The new Chief's Series revolver (left) is a five-shot J-frame .38 Special with +P capability, and it makes a nice complement to the CS9 9mm pistol (right).*