

and twice with Remington 125-grain jacketed hollow points. Furthermore, the pistol failed to fire six times due to light firing-pin strikes. This occurred once with the Remington load, twice with the Federal load, and three times with UMC 125-grain metal case ammunition. All of the misfired rounds went off when we ran them through the gun a second time.

During firing, we also found that the Sigma's point of impact changed drastically when we switched bullets weights. At 25 yards, the point of impact matched the point of aim of the Sigma's sights when using Federal Premium 150-grain jacketed hollow points. However, the gun shot 5 inches high and to the left with the Remington and UMC 125-grain ammunition. Still, though the Sigma was the least accurate pistol in this test, we felt its accuracy was adequate for defensive work. Its smallest five-shot average groups, 3.48 inches at 25 yards, were obtained using Remington 125-grain jacketed hollow points. UMC 125-grain metal case ammunition came in second with 3.68-inch groups. Federal Premium 150-grain jacketed hollow points brought up the rear with 3.95-inch groups. One of the reasons for this Smith & Wesson's lackluster accuracy was its poor trigger. Like the Glock 31, the Sigma had one trigger pull and no second-strike capability. However, its trigger movement was as heavy as a true double action-only pull. Consequently, the trigger's release was several pounds heavier and much less consistent than the Glock's. The pull let-off at anywhere from 10.5 to 13 pounds.

The Sigma's controls were similar to the Glock's. The manual safety, which was built into the bottom portion of the two-piece trigger, prevented the trigger from moving rearward if it wasn't depressed by the shooter's trigger finger. The slide catch, a 1-inch-long lever on the left side of the frame, worked positively. The magazine release, a tear-drop-shaped button at the left rear of the trigger guard, was protected from being inadvert-

Accuracy & Chronograph Data			
Remington 125-gr. JHP	Glock 31	Sig Sauer Sig Pro	S&W Sigma
Average Velocity at 15 ft.	1,331 fps	1,259 fps	1,361 fps
Standard Deviation	48 fps	36 fps	13 fps
Average Muzzle Energy	492 ft-lbs	440 ft-lbs	515 ft-lbs
Smallest Group at 25 yds.	2.50 in.	2.75 in.	3.00 in.
Largest Group Size	2.75 in.	3.25 in.	3.75 in.
Average Group Size	2.58 in.	3.00 in.	3.48 in.
UMC 125-gr. Metal Case			
Average Velocity at 15 ft.	1,342 fps	1,263 fps	1,368 fps
Standard Deviation	24 fps	52 fps	36 fps
Average Muzzle Energy	538 ft-lbs	443 ft-lbs	520 ft-lbs
Smallest Group at 25 yds.	3.00 in.	2.00 in.	3.50 in.
Largest Group Size	3.50 in.	2.50 in.	4.00 in.
Average Group Size	3.18 in.	2.23 in.	3.68 in.
Federal Prem. 150-gr. JHP			
Average Velocity at 15 ft.	1,060 fps	1,028 fps	1,098 fps
Standard Deviation	59 fps	38 fps	7 fps
Average Muzzle Energy	375 ft-lbs	352 ft-lbs	402 ft-lbs
Smallest Group at 25 yds.	2.38 in.	2.50 in.	3.50 in.
Largest Group Size	2.75 in.	3.00 in.	4.00 in.
Average Group Size	2.58 in.	2.82 in.	3.95 in.

ently depressed by the grip's thumbrest. However, the thumbrest also obstructed the shooter's access to the release. In handling, the Sigma was less muzzle heavy than the Glock. This lessened muzzle stability with the arms extended, but made target acquisition a little faster. In our range tests, the grip afforded a secure and fairly comfortable grasp, but the shape of its backstrap caused the front sight to align high when the gun was pointed. The long tang at the top back of the frame did a decent job of spreading recoil over a large portion of the shooter's hand. Nevertheless, the Sigma's muzzle jumped more than the other .357 Sig pistols in this test.

Gun Tests Quick-Buy Advice

Glock 31, \$559. Buy it. This gun functioned reliably, felt great, and shot accurately enough for a defensive handgun.

Smith & Wesson Sigma, \$393. Don't buy it. In our tests, it failed to feed and failed to fire—the kisses

of death for a self-defense pistol. **Sig Pro 2340, \$596.** A good choice if you're already a Sig pistolero, but lefties should go with the Glock. ●

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