

ing mechanism with an external hammer and a double-action/single-action trigger.

Our testing showed the Glock outdueled the Sig Pro for top honors, showing utter reliability and first-rate human engineering. Some shooters familiar with other Sig handguns may also like the Sig Pro's controls. The S&W Sigma, in contrast, malfunctioned too often for our tastes, which knocked it out of the running.

To come to these conclusions, we test-fired the guns head-to-head with three brands of commercial ammunition and graded them on accuracy, handling, malfunctions, and other matters critical to the performance of a self-defense gun—hardnosed, unbiased fact-finding and evaluation you won't find in any other gun magazine. Accuracy testing was conducted outdoors at 25 yards using a sandbagged pistol rest and open sights. Here are the results of our examinations:

Glock 31

Our Recommendation: *This gun is our first choice. The Glock 31 wasn't handsome, but it was reliable. Also, its human engineering was first rate, and accuracy was better than we expected.*

In our view, defensive firearms must first be reliable. Glock pistols are known for functioning flawlessly, and our Model 31 wasn't an exception. The pistol readily digested all of the .357 Sig ammunition we fed it. In fact, it was the only handgun in this test that was 100-percent reliable. This alone was enough to give the Glock the top spot in this test.

However, the Glock 31's accuracy was also slightly above average. Its smallest five-shot groups averaged 2.58 inches at 25 yards with both Remington 125-grain and Federal Premium 150-grain jacketed hollow points. We also obtained decent 3.18-inch groups with UMC 125-grain

Glock 31, .357 Sig

Retail Price...\$559



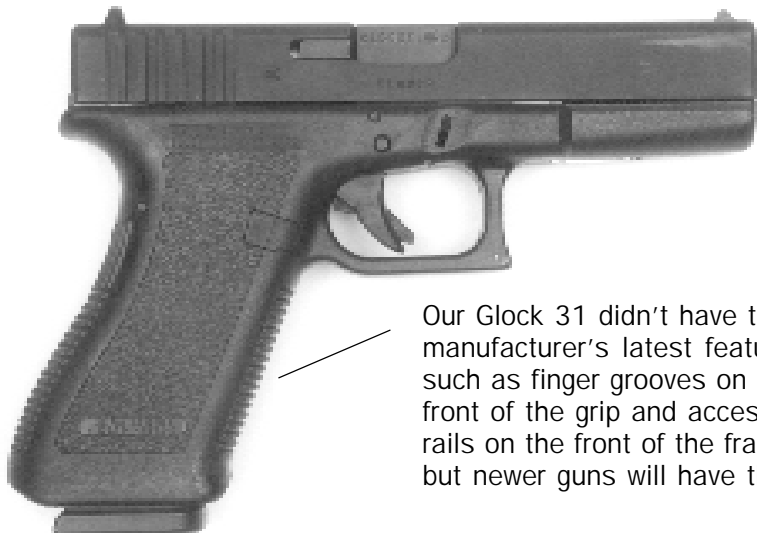
SPECIFICATIONS

Warranty: Limited Life

METAL FINISH	Black	CAPACITY	10+1 rds.
WEIGHT (EMPTY)	26 oz.	GRIP MATERIAL	Polymer
OVERALL LENGTH	8.1 in.	DECOCKING LEVER	No
OVERALL HEIGHT	5.4 in.	ACTION TYPE	Glock "Safe"
BARREL LENGTH	4.5 in.	MAX. WIDTH	1.2 in.
SIGHT RADIUS	6.5 in.	TRIGGER PULL WT.	6.5 lbs.

Our Recommendation: *This gun functioned reliably, felt great, and shot accurately enough for a defensive handgun.*

Plastic sights will be less durable than metal.



Our Glock 31 didn't have the manufacturer's latest features, such as finger grooves on the front of the grip and accessory rails on the front of the frame, but newer guns will have them.



The Glock 31's slide catch was a stamped-steel lever with a grooved face. The magazine release was a polymer button with a serrated face. Right- and left-handed shooters could disengage the manual trigger-blocking safety without any special effort while pulling the trigger.