

Accuracy/Chronograph Data

	Ruger GP100	Smith & Wesson	Rossi	Smith & Wesson
Winchester 148-grain Lead Wadcutter Special Match	KGP-161	Model 14/K38	Model 971	686-5
Average Velocity at 10 ft.	794 fps	763 fps	752 fps	750 fps
Standard Deviation	10 fps	22 fps	11 fps	12 fps
Power Factor	118	113	111	111
Smallest Group at 25 yds.	0.92 in.	0.67 in.	1.50 in.	0.79 in.
Largest Group Size	1.58 in.	1.52 in.	3.50 in.	0.95 in.
Average Group Size	1.24 in.	1.08 in.	2.45 in.	0.86 in.
Federal Classic 158-grain Semi-Wadcutter	KGP-161	Model 14/K38	Model 971	686-5
Average Velocity at 10 ft.	838 fps	788 fps	765 fps	804 fps
Standard Deviation	7 fps	8 fps	14 fps	8 fps
Power Factor	132	125	121	127
Smallest Group at 25 yds.	1.48 in.	0.87 in.	1.51 in.	1.37 in.
Largest Group Size	1.84 in.	2.15 in.	3.20 in.	2.48 in.
Average Group Size	1.70 in.	1.38 in.	2.14 in.	1.87 in.
3-D 125-grain Semi-Wadcutter	KGP-161	Model 14/K38	Model 971	686-5
Average Velocity at 10 ft.	877 fps	826 fps	801 fps	794 fps
Standard Deviation	44 fps	85 fps	15 fps	33 fps
Power Factor	110	103	100	99
Smallest Group at 25 yds.	1.12 in.	1.09 in.	1.94 in.	0.90 in.
Largest Group Size	4.25 in.	1.81 in.	3.64 in.	2.30 in.
Average Group Size	2.30 in.	1.40 in.	2.74 in.	1.58 in.
Hornady Custom 148-grain Hollow-Base Wadcutter	KGP-161	Model 14/K38	Model 971	686-5
Average Velocity at 10 ft.	768 fps	736 fps	728 fps	730 fps
Standard Deviation	18 fps	23 fps	14 fps	16 fps
Power Factor	114	109	108	108
Smallest Group at 25 yds.	1.63 in.	0.77 in.	2.65 in.	1.30 in.
Largest Group Size	2.42 in.	2.46 in.	5.20 in.	2.30 in.
Average Group Size	1.91 in.	1.57 in.	3.72 in.	1.74 in.

produced one really good group out of five, measuring 1.18 inch (actually a 0.43-inch four-shot group with a flyer). We take this to mean a handload using a 125-grain bullet would be worth investigating. This GP100 liked the Winchester Super Match 148-grain Lead Mid-Range (X38SMRP) best. Consistent groups of less than 1.5 inches are well within this gun's reach right out of the box.

Rossi/Interarms Model 971

Our recommendation: Pass. While offering more accuracy and stopping power than so many other guns at this price, it's still a weak

sister compared to the other revolvers in this test.

The \$290 Rossi M971 is the lowest-priced revolver of this trio. It is a close copy of a S&W K-frame with a coil-action spring similar to the Smith J-frame series. The resulting trigger is more than acceptable, both in DA and SA mode. The stock grip strongly resembles the aftermarket accessory available from Pachmayr. Upon inspection, it is easy to see where money was saved. Despite a nicely-polished stainless-steel finish, some of the gun's machining needed to be cleaned up. The

cylinder latch was difficult to operate at times. The breech face and ratchet guide could be smoothed as well. The crown of the barrel definitely needed improvement, in our estimation. It was finished with a rounded edge that lacked definition.

The Rossi's accuracy reflects all of the above and one other element. We found accuracy for each gun shot from the Ransom Rest to be directly related to how well it fit the supplied inserts. The Rossi would not seat perfectly in either the K-frame round-butt insert or in the K-frame square-butt insert.