

The magazine release is on the left grip frame just below the trigger guard. Pressing it inward releases the magazine. The bottom

edges of the magazine well in the frame are sharp, and could be rounded or beveled to ease reinsertion of the magazine. It is possible

to catch the lips of the incoming magazine on that sharp edge. One touch we really liked was that the bottom of the magazines are easily removed, allowing easy cleaning.

We like the feel of the Beretta's grip and the ease of dismantling the gun for cleaning. The fit and finish are superb. All the controls fall to the hand. The double-action pull is long and smooth, with a pull of around 11 pounds. The single-action trigger pull is crisp and without creep. Although it broke a touch heavier than we'd like, at 5.25 pounds, it's very useful as it is.

The Combo set comes in a very nice carrying or storing case made of plastic with slots for all the components. It's a decently thought-out package, in our estimation.

**Shooting**

The .40 S&W cartridge in a big handgun like the Beretta gives significantly less felt recoil than the .45 ACP cartridge in a similar-size handgun. The feel of the Beretta is one of extreme comfort. The grip is large but comfortable, and easy to grasp. It spreads recoil over the hand, so there is no pain no matter how hot the ammo.

There are no rough spots to cut or abrade the hands. The front of the trigger guard is relieved for those of us who have learned to shoot with the supporting hand index finger wrapped around the guard. Everything works correctly on this handgun, and works in both calibers, as our accuracy testing showed.

We got essentially the same accuracy with both calibers. Accuracy in either .40 S&W or 9mm Luger is 2 inches at 20 yards. In .40 S&W we got slightly better groups with the PMC Starfire ammo, but the Speer Gold Dot is a bit hotter. However, the Gold Dot gave more of a muzzle blast. Your choice. Best of all, the 180-grain .40 ammunition shot exactly where the sights looked at 20 yards. In 9mm the 124-grain ammo printed to the sights, with the 115-

**Beretta 92/96 Combo Kit Pistol**

*Retail Price...\$908*



*The package comes with one barrel, slide, and magazine in each caliber. The shooter can change calibers in 30 seconds.*

**Our recommendation: Conditional buy. If you only need the 9mm Model 92, don't buy the Combo Kit. However, if you're in the market for a .40 S&W semiauto, this kit can be a smart purchase.**

**SPECIFICATIONS**

Warranty: One Year

|                      |          |                         |          |
|----------------------|----------|-------------------------|----------|
| METAL FINISH .....   | Blued    | CAPACITY .....          | 10 rds.  |
| WEIGHT (EMPTY) ..... | 33.6 oz. | GRIP MATERIAL .....     | Plastic  |
| OVERALL LENGTH ..... | 8.3 in.  | OPTIONAL GRIPS .....    | No       |
| OVERALL HEIGHT ..... | 5.5 in.  | ACTION TYPE .....       | SA/DA    |
| MAX. WIDTH .....     | 1.5 in.  | TRIGGER PULL Wt. SA ..  | 5.3 lbs. |
| BARREL LENGTH .....  | 4.6 in.  | TRIGGER PULL Wt. DA ... | 11 lbs.  |
| SIGHT RADIUS .....   | 6.3 in.  | TRIGGER REACH .....     | 2.8 in.  |

*The left-side view of the Combo shows the auxiliary barrel out of its slide. The Beretta dismounts very quickly and easily for cleaning.*

