

Rossi Model 971

Retail Price...\$300



SPECIFICATIONS

Warranty: One Year

METAL FINISH	Stainless St.	SIGHT RADIUS	7.75 in.
WEIGHT (EMPTY)	40 oz.	CAPACITY	6 rds.
OVERALL LENGTH	11.25 in.	GRIP MATERIAL	Rubber
OVERALL HEIGHT	5.5 in.	OPTIONAL GRIPS	Yes
MAX. WIDTH	0.9 in.	ACTION TYPE	SA/DA
BARREL LENGTH	6 in.	TRIGGER PULL Wt. SA	4 lbs.

Our recommendation: Pass. The other guns, while more expensive, are also much better than this product, in our view.



Above left: The Rossi's accuracy was less than stellar, we thought, and likely reflected poor tolerances in crucial areas of the gun. The Winchester ammo that shot sub-1-inch groups elsewhere ballooned to 2 inches in this gun. Likely culprits: All six cylinders were out of line (above right). Also, the barrel crown should be redone, we believe.

ing either the single-action or double-action mode with equal ease.

Furthermore, accuracy was consistent with all four types of ammunition. We took a trip down the barrel with our range rod to inspect cylinder-to-bore alignment and found three cylinders slightly out of time. Still, all four brands including the 3-D factory reload shot well

enough to serve as match ammo. This tells us just how good the K38 really is. Properly timed, this revolver should be extremely rewarding to shoot. Careful handloading would undoubtedly add to its outright exceptional performance.

Ruger GP100 KGP-161

Our recommendation: Buy it. The

\$474 GP100 was handsome, strong and accurate. Its double-action operation was good, but if you like single-action games like silhouette or bullseye, it will be your friend for a long time.

The stainless-steel finish and rugged construction of the Ruger GP100 made a strong first impression. Indeed, no .38 Special loads we know of will test the durability of this gun. How does durability fit our quest for accurate results? You can practice as much as you want without fear of damaging the gun no matter what ammunition is used, even hot loads. As a result, the GP100 may be a little heavy, but not enough to complain about.

However, the gun's rear sight does need work, in our estimation. It has a white outline around the notch that we found distracting when carefully searching for the front sight or the light bars around it. The intended purpose for this blade design is to speed sight acquisition, but it is our feeling that the front sight is the component that should be accentuated. Once the front sight is found in hard focus, it can then be readily placed into the rear notch. We would prefer that the Ruger have a plain black rear blade to relieve it, and if we bought the gun, we would blacken the white outline out completely.

On the upside, the Ruger grip was excellent. Full-sized and devoid of finger grooves, it proved to be just the right shape to fill a variety of hands. The left side of the grip featured an indentation to anchor the thumb.

Stepping up to the firing line, our shooting technique was dictated by the characteristics of the Ruger's trigger. Casual dry-firing had led us to believe that firing the gun double action would be a good idea, because it seemed the trigger could be staged or pulled back to rotate the cylinder and held before the final short press. This did not prove to be right. Time seems to slow down when you bring all your concentration into play, and we found the fi-