

nose High Velocity bullets (shooting 0.7-inch average groups to the Smith's and the Browning's 1.2-inch groups). All the guns shot superbly with Federal's Gold Medal Ultra-Match 40-grain lead roundnose bullets, but the Ruger (0.7 inch) still edged the Smith (0.8 inch) and the Camper (0.9 inch). With the PMC ScoreMaster 40-grain lead roundnoses, the accuracy margin between the Ruger and the Smith was the same as with the Federal round (0.9 inch for the 22/45 and 1.0 inch for the M22A), followed by the Browning (1.6 inches). The Smith tied the Ruger in group size with CCI Pistol Match 46-grain lead roundnose bullets, both at 1.1 inches, followed closely by the Browning at 1.2 inches.

In addition to the accuracy data, we also found operational differences that we think make the 22/45 the best gun in this test:

Ruger 22/45

Our recommendation: Buy it. Cheaper and more accurate than the other guns, it also duplicates the feel of a 1911. Also, its trigger feel is classic Bullseye, making it the perfect cheap date for your centerfire 45.

The \$199 pistol that surrounds the silver-colored, hinged trigger is unmistakably Ruger in appearance and function. The barrel is a heavy bull design backed by the distinctive butterfly-shaped grip (Ruger refers to them as "bolt ears") with which to pull back the breech bolt. The bolt-stop pin is just in front of the ears and requires the adjustable rear sight to be moved forward. This makes for the shortest sight radius of the three, but that was of no consequence, we found. The grip frame is polymer and very much like the one found on the company's larger centerfire models of "P" and "K" designation that handle cartridges ranging from 9mm to .45 ACP.

The model designation 22/45 is

Ruger 22/45

Retail Price...\$199



SPECIFICATIONS

Warranty: None Written

METAL FINISH	Blued	SIGHT RADIUS	7.75 in.
WEIGHT (EMPTY)	35 oz.	CAPACITY	10+1 rds.
OVERALL LENGTH	9.5 in.	GRIP MATERIAL	Polymer
OVERALL HEIGHT	5.4 in.	ACTION TYPE	SA
MAX. WIDTH	1.24 in.	TRIGGER PULL Wt. SA ..	3.5 lbs.
BARREL LENGTH	5.5 in.	TRIGGER REACH	2.5 in.

Our recommendation: Buy it. This gun feels like a .45 in the hand, and shoots great. It also doesn't cost a lot.



Yes, we know. It's filthy. But in function testing, the Ruger 22/45 kept on firing despite the crud. We recorded no malfunctions with the gun.



Part of the Ruger's appeal is the 1911-like feel of its polymer grip.

The Ruger's bull barrel offset any accuracy disadvantage the short sight radius may have caused.

