

ACCURACY & CHRONOGRAPH DATA

	Kimber Ultra-Elite	Cylinder & Slide Adventurer	Springfield Ultra Comp
Sellier & Bellot 230-grain FMJ			
Average Velocity at 10 ft.	726 fps	736 fps	769 fps
Standard Deviation	5 fps	10 fps	19 fps
Power Factor	167	169	177
Smallest Group at 15 yds.	1.9 in.	2.6 in.	2.2 in.
Largest Group Size	2.8 in.	3.3 in.	2.3 in.
Average Group Size	2.4 in.	2.9 in.	2.2 in.
Speer Gold Dot 185-grain GDHP			
Average Velocity at 10 ft.	891 fps	900 fps	893 fps
Standard Deviation	13 fps	19 fps	21 fps
Power Factor	165	166	165
Smallest Group at 15 yds.	1.6 in.	1.8 in.	1.3 in.
Largest Group Size	2.8 in.	2.6 in.	2.4 in.
Average Group Size	2.2 in.	2.3 in.	1.8 in.
Black Hills 185-grain JHP			
Average Velocity at 10 ft.	833 fps	848 fps	874 fps
Standard Deviation	7 fps	7 fps	4 fps
Power Factor	154	157	162
Smallest Group at 15 yds.	2.2 in.	1.8 in.	1.7 in.
Largest Group Size	2.9 in.	3.8 in.	2.4 in.
Average Group Size	2.4 in.	2.9 in.	2.1 in.
Black Hills 200-grain SWC			
Average Velocity at 10ft.	805 fps	834 fps	869 fps
Standard Deviation	21 fps	19 fps	18 fps
Power Factor	161	167	174
Smallest Group at 15 yds.	2.1 in.	1.8 in.	.80 in.
Largest Group Size	2.5 in.	3.4 in.	2.1 in.
Average Group Size	2.3 in.	2.7 in.	1.5 in.

ever to come out of a factory custom shop, a package we refer to as factory custom, meaning such guns have a higher production rate than purely custom guns like the Adventurer. It includes a slick "melt-down" appearance, checkering fore and aft, matching wood grips, Novak-style sights lined on the rear face with luminous three-dot inserts, fully radiused frame and slide, ambidextrous slide safety, skeletonized hammer and trigger topped with a two-tone finish. A little bigger than the Adventurer, it is evenly proportioned and fits inside a rectangle measuring 6.9 by 5 inches. Despite being the largest gun of the trio and holding the most rounds (7+1), the Ultra Elite proved

to be the lightest in terms of handling qualities. This gun offers natural ergonomics, and there is room for all three support fingers on the grip. Checkering at the rear on the mainspring housing is 20 lines per inch surrounded by a border. This produces a pyramid-shaped stippling. The frontstrap is a combination checkering wider than it is high to produce a variation of a pyramid with a more rectangular shape. Together with the wood grip with classic checkering, deep beavertail and ambidextrous safety, the hand that is accustomed to the feel of a 1911 style pistol will feel right at home.

We found the size and weight of the Kimber to be just right for concealment. In short, we feel this is

the most concise reproduction of a 1911 .45 ACP firearm we've had the pleasure of testing to date.

All average group sizes came in at less than 3 inches, well above the old standard of defensive accuracy—if you could cover it with your hand, the groups were acceptable. Shooting from a standing position, we found the Kimber shot close to point of aim regarding elevation. As with all three short-barreled guns, avoiding shots to the left or right was a matter of matching trigger control to a short, tricky sight radius. We found it less tiring and more successful to mount the gun expecting the sights to be off, and rather than be overly critical of our hold, we just tried to break the shot as the front sight crossed the bull.

The Kimber shot to point of aim, while the Adventurer shot low, and the Springfield just about shot one hole at 12 yards offhand, but 6 inches high. Both the Kimber and the Adventurer were close in terms of raw accuracy and displayed trouble-free operation.

Springfield Ultra-Compact

Our recommendation: This gun needs work to function with complete reliability. We'd pass on it.

Of the trio, the Springfield Ultra-Compact has the feel closest to a full-size .45 pistol. Selling for a little more than two-thirds of either the Kimber or half the Adventurer, it is designed to do the same job as these guns but with fewer frills. Plain but effective Novak sights are standard. The mainspring housing is lined but not checkered, the frontstrap treated only to a satin finish. The trigger and hammer are both relieved, but neither the slide nor the Brazilian-made stainless steel frame has been radiused or "melted down." We noticed several sharp areas on the gun. Operationally, a full beavertail safety is supplied, but the slide safety is for right-handed shooters only. The grip is an inexpensive, heavily grooved wraparound rubber grip