

of our break-in ammo, we concentrated on firing the dependable and economical 230-grain round-nosed bullets from Sellier & Bellot. We all know about the 200-grain lead semi-wadcutter, so we included this slug loaded by Black Hills. Also from Black Hills was our choice of a 185-grain JHP with moderately higher velocity. For an all-out defense round we chose Speer's 185-grain Gold Dot Hollowpoint. Overall, this round was the most accurate in all three guns and would probably be the most effective defense round due to expansion and a power factor of 165-166 points. It should be noted that in IPSC or Practical Shooting, a sport rooted in combat drills, a power factor of 175 is considered "Major" and awards the shooter extra points for off-center hits to compensate for handling the additional recoil. This was originally derived from the power displayed by 230-grain military ball ammo from the original GI 1911 pistol. The 200-grain SWC from Black Hills was consistent in the Kimber with groups from 2.1 to 2.5 inches. Somehow it was erratic in the Adventurer but spectacular in the Springfield, with one group as small as 0.80 inches and a power factor of 174.

Here's how the guns performed in more detail:

Cylinder & Slide Adventurer

Our recommendation: Good gun, but expensive. It's worth the dollars if any of its custom features are must-haves for your personal needs.

Our overall impression of this custom gun is that it was either chopped down in true hot-rod tradition or boiled in the cauldron of a head-shrinking witch doctor. It's built for concealment, and with its minimum length grip, the Adventurer succeeds admirably. In fact, this pistol fits into a rectangular box measuring only 6.9 by 4 inches.

The Adventurer's appearance is discrete and understated. Its matte

KIMBER ULTRA ELITE

Price.....\$1,085



SPECIFICATIONS

Warranty: 1 year parts & labor

FINISH	Satin/Matte Blued	SIGHT RADIUS	4.75 in.
WEIGHT	24 oz.	CAPACITY	7+1
OVERALL LENGTH	6.8 in.	GRIP MATERIAL	WOOD
OVERALL HEIGHT	4.75 in.	ACTION TYPE	Single
MAXIMUM WIDTH	1.4 in.	TRIGGER PULL SA.	4 lbs.
BARREL LENGTH	3.2 in.	TRIGGER REACH	2.8 in.

Our recommendation: We found the size and weight of the Kimber to be just right for concealment. We feel this is the most concise reproduction of a 1911 .45 ACP firearm we've had the pleasure of testing to date. Buy it.

Right: The Kimber Ultra Elite includes a "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. Checkering on the mainspring housing is 20 lines per inch surrounded by a border.



Left: The frontstrap is a combination checkering wider than it is high to produce a more rectangular shape. With the wood grip, deep beavertail and ambidextrous safety, the 1911-lover's hand will feel right at home.

Right: Like the C&S gun, a belled barrel on the Kimber helps accuracy without impeding function.

