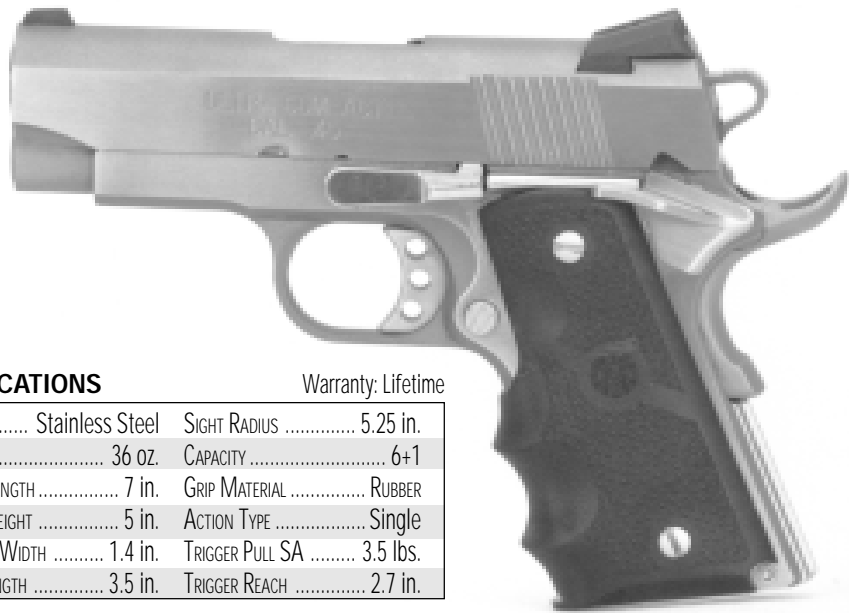


SPRINGFIELD ULTRA-COMPACT

Price.....\$699



SPECIFICATIONS

Warranty: Lifetime

FINISH	Stainless Steel	SIGHT RADIUS	5.25 in.
WEIGHT	36 oz.	CAPACITY	6+1
OVERALL LENGTH	7 in.	GRIP MATERIAL	RUBBER
OVERALL HEIGHT	5 in.	ACTION TYPE	Single
MAXIMUM WIDTH	1.4 in.	TRIGGER PULL SA	3.5 lbs.
BARREL LENGTH	3.5 in.	TRIGGER REACH	2.7 in.

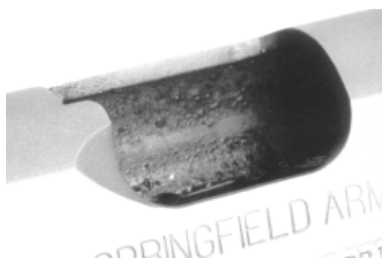
Our recommendation: Pass. This gun needs interior work to function with reliability, and its sharp exterior edges are out of place on a concealment gun.

Right: The Springfield Ultra-Compact's Hogue rubber grip is an inexpensive, heavily grooved wraparound style, which makes for a full-handed, solid feel. Neither the slide nor the Brazilian-made stainless steel frame were "melted down."



Left: We noticed several sharp edges on the gun, including the front of the slide, the front sight, and the front of the frame.

Right: The less refined Springfield was very accurate, but it threw empty cases straight back, striking the shooter in the forehead, eyes, and nose. Remedy: Lower the ejection port.



finish blends well with the tightly checkered wood grip. The hammer is relieved with only a small hole, nor is the trigger skeletonized. We judged hammer drop to be on the heavy side. Front and rear sights are by Novak set into the slide via dovetails. The front sight is staked into place but shows no dot or luminous capsule such as one by Trijicon. However the plain front blade is easy to pick up, thanks to an adequate sight radius. The short barrel is a BarSto product. The backstrap consists of a 1.5-inch line mainspring housing. The short grip makes using the pinky impossible for all but the smallest hands. The front of the grip lacks serration, and all edges are smooth. The finish seems to resist abrasion.

When a gun shoots this well you always want more, which was problematic since only five rounds fit in the mag. Moreover, the mags can be difficult to load at first, but we never encountered a malfunction. The mag is perforated with counting holes, but its follower design does not allow for full capacity. It seems this may be a full-sized mag that has been chopped down. Inside is an old-school follower, including full-length backing that provides extra stability to prevent rounds from nose diving. But this also limits capacity to five rounds. Though we found it difficult to load the first round into the mags due to the stubborn followers, the remaining four went in easily, and the Adventurer ran virtually trouble free.

Controllability is better than it should be with the short handle, as the mechanics of the gun make recoil easy to predict and manage. Perhaps this is due to the weight of the pistol, a hefty 34 ounces but all wrapped up in a tight center of gravity.

Kimber Ultra Elite

Our recommendation: It looks great, and runs flawlessly. The melted-down exterior handles smoothly. Buy it.

This is one of the prettiest guns