

Defensive Pistols

Things to Consider When Choosing a Defensive Pistol

There are a couple of fundamental questions which need answering before you can choose a proper “defensive handgun”.

First, what is the purpose of the defensive handgun?

The role of a defensive handgun is to stop a violent assailant from inflicting serious bodily injury or death upon you or a loved one. A defensive handgun is not necessarily a competition gun, or a hunting gun, or a recreational plinking gun. Many of these handguns have overlapping characteristics. We must remember we are focused on the use of a handgun for self-defense against a violent assailant.

Secondly, where are you going to place or carry this handgun?

If you are going to carry it concealed on your body, you will obviously need a pistol of appropriate size. If, however, you plan to carry this pistol in a briefcase, or a purse, or simply have it in the home to defend against a violent home invader, then the selection criteria are slightly different.

The following are some factors to consider when contemplating the purchase of a defensive handgun:

Reliability: This handgun must be 100% reliable. Remember, we are not talking about shooting paper targets here. There are serious consequences to a malfunctioning defensive pistol in a time of need.

Quality: Pick a quality handgun you will trust in a fight.

Size: Appropriate to your needs (concealment vs. “house gun”). Should fit your hand reasonably well. No pistol is going to fit your hand perfectly; that’s where training comes in.

Weight:

- Heavy enough to be controllable under recoil.
- Light enough to carry all day if needed.
- *Super-light guns will result in more felt recoil*

Sights:

Defensive Handguns need good sights to get good hits.

Home defense and Concealed carry handgun sights should be:

- Robust
- Fixed
- Night Sights – Sights with tritium inserts.

Trigger and Other Controls:

- Easily usable.
- Trigger pull weight should be 4 lbs. or more.
- Simple — Controls should be simple to use.

Comfort:

- No sharp edges or corners.

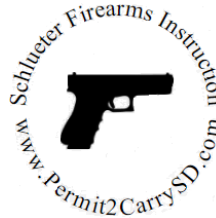
Caliber:

- **We recommend a minimum caliber of: 9mm**

Cost:

- Expect to spend \$400-\$1,000 minimum.

**IF YOU HAVE ANY
QUESTIONS IF YOUR
DEFENSIVE PISTOL
OR EQUIPMENT IS
ACCEPTABLE FOR
THE CLASS YOU ARE
PLANNING ON AT-
TENDING PLEASE
CONTACT THE IN-
STRUCTOR.**



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Schlueter Firearms Instruction



Defensive Pistol

Frequently Asked Questions



Website:

www.Permit2CarrySD.com

Defensive Pistols

RECOMMENDED DEFENSIVE HANDGUNS

We recommend using a handgun appropriate for self-defense chambered in a minimum caliber of 9mm/.38 Special.

What We Recommend for Home Defense Pistol

By “Home Defense” we mean you are going to keep this pistol in the home to use only if there is a violent attack at home. It does not need to be small and concealable. We recommend a full-size, semi-auto, chambered in a minimum caliber of 9mm.

Some good home defensive pistol choices are

- Glock 17
- Glock 19
- S&W M&P®9 M2.0™
- S&W M&P®9 M2.0™ COMPACT
- Walther PPQ
- H&K VP9

What We Recommend for Concealed Carry

“Concealed” means you don’t want anyone to see it. Therefore, this is a smaller pistol than described above in “Home Defense”. One defensive pistol could be pressed into service under both categories. If you are going to purchase only one defensive pistol and use it for concealment and home defense, go with the smaller version. We recommend a mid-size (compact) semi-auto, chambered in a minimum caliber of .380ACP or .38 Special.

Some good concealed carry choices are

- Glock 19
- Glock 26
- Glock 43
- Glock 42
- S&W M&P®9 M2.0™ COMPACT
- S&W M&P®9 SHIELD™

What handgun should you train with?

If you only own a handgun that meets our minimum standards and want to train with it, bring it! Throughout your course, you will learn all the strengths and weaknesses of that handgun. In the end, that pistol may be perfect for you or you may want to go shopping. Either way, the place to learn about your pistol is at one of Schlueter Firearms Instruction Courses, not in a time of need.

If you own multiple handguns and trying to decide which one to pick or you are planning to purchase a pistol to attend a class with the following is some factors you should consider when selecting a defensive handgun.

WHAT HANDGUNS WE DO NOT ALLOW!

- A handgun with a trigger pull weight of less than 4 lbs.
- For Double Action (DA) pistols, this refers to the initial trigger pull (hammer forward/decocked)
- Handguns with Safety devices that are disconnected, pinned, or otherwise rendered inoperable are not allowed!
- For handguns equipped with external Safeties:
 - Safety must be operable by the firing side thumb.
 - If it is not, the pistol is not allowed. No exceptions.
- Pocket Pistols are NOT ALLOWED!
 - The use of “Pocket Pistols” which are a very small handgun usually in .25, .32, or .380 calibers.
 - Their small size and complexity will greatly increase the difficulty level of learning new techniques and could cause increased frustration on the part of the student.
- No Derringers are allowed!
- No single-action revolvers are allowed!

Accessories:

Magazines:

- Stick with factory magazines.
- High-capacity magazines are the best choice if they are legal in your area.
- High-capacity magazines. You may not have the luxury of a spare magazine when someone breaks in, so the magazine in the weapon should be high capacity.

Flashlights:

- Concealed Carry – Separate flashlight. Carry a flashlight, by all means.
 - We recommend carrying the light separate from the gun to keep the overall weapon size to a minimum.
- Home Defense – A flashlight is recommended for a defensive handgun and it can either be attached to the weapon or separate.

HOLSTERS:

The approved method of carrying in a holster in one of our classes is with a shooting side, outside the waist band belt mounted holster, this is required for any class where holsters are allowed.

In our defensive firearms courses we have set up the criteria for approved holsters for the student’s safety – see defensive firearms course descriptions on our website.

Holsters we recommend:

- Safariland 6377 or 6378 ALS® Holsters
- Safariland 578 GLS™ Pro-Fit Holsters
- Blade-Tech® Classic or Revolution

Qualities of an approved styled holster:

- Form fitted leather or kydex
- Holster must cover and protect the trigger & trigger guard.
- Holsters must be rigid enough to remain open when drawing and re-holstering.

Belt – Quality belt, designed to carry a holster and firearm are strongly recommended.

Holsters not allowed in our classes:

- Blackhawk Serpa® Holsters or Similar Holsters requiring trigger finger release mechanisms – Will not be allowed into our classes!
- Fobus Holsters are not allowed in our classes due to retention and fit issues.
- Inside the waist band holsters are not allowed in Defensive Pistol I, II, III, Defensive Rifle/Pistol, and Defensive Shotgun/Pistol classes
- Inside the waist band Appendix Carry holsters
- Fanny packs holsters
- Purses holsters
- Shoulder holsters
- Thigh holsters
- Pocket holsters
- Briefcase / Day planners holsters

Although the above styled holsters are not allowed for Schlueter Firearms Instruction courses we understand outside of our courses students may choose to use a variety of concealed carry methods. If your method of carry will eventually be one of the above, we can give you some advice on selecting a quality holster during defensive pistol courses.