

# Best Guns for Home Protection

Shotguns and handguns for folks with limited physical abilities

[Does not cover concealed carry weapons]



Marc

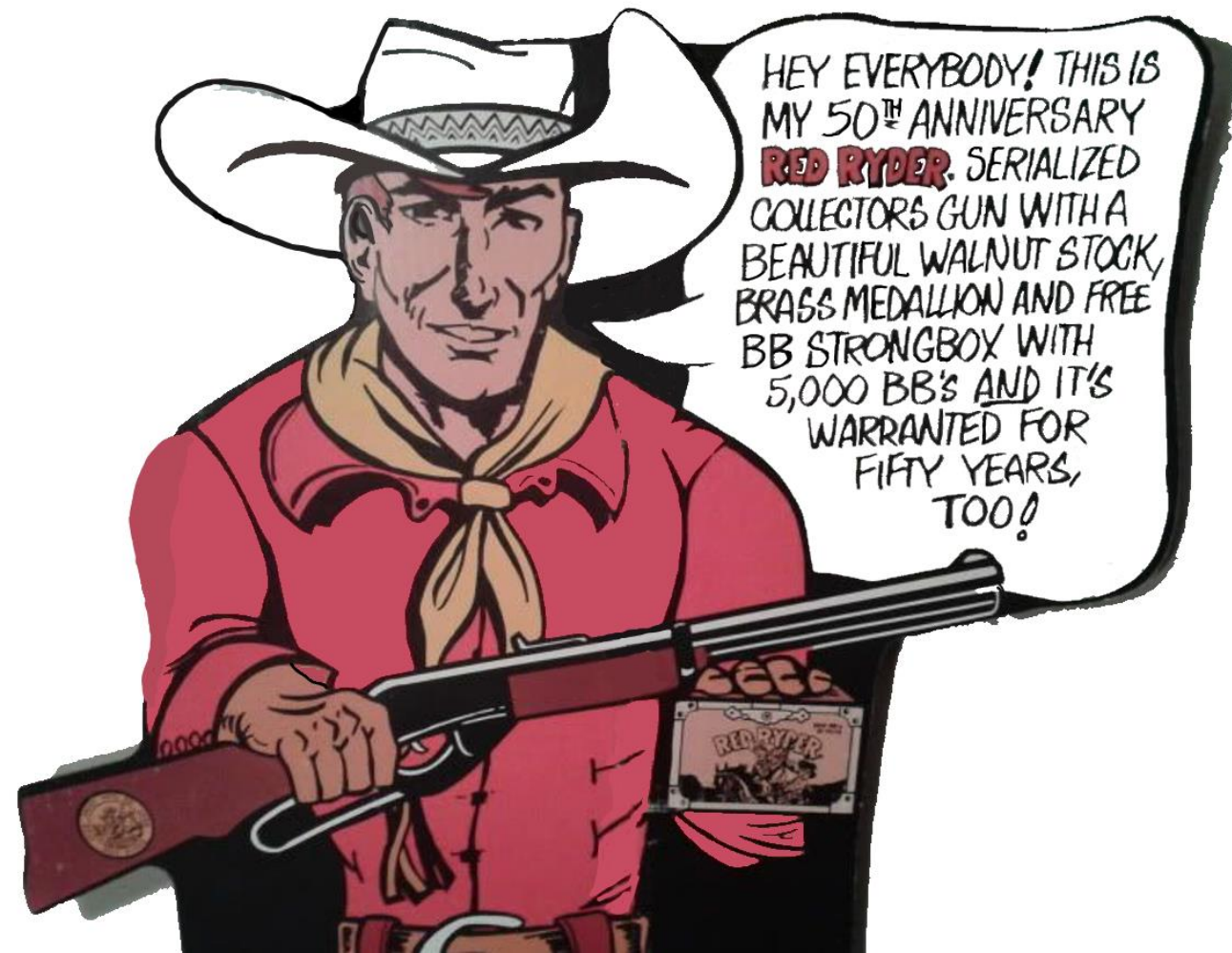
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# START WITH THE *WORST* GUNS FOR SELF DEFENSE

First let's acknowledge that any gun you own that works, and you have ammo for is better than no gun when you need one. Otherwise, please avoid:

- High caliber handguns of the size 357 mag, 44 mag, .460 & .50 S&W magnum. The recoil is crazy bad, and you could hurt yourself.
- Shotguns in 10 and 12 ga. size. Even the gas operated ones have bad recoil.
- Any "bullpup" type. Typically a bullpup gun is a semi-auto short barreled rifle, shotgun, or handgun. Otherwise perfect for home defense, they will intimidate the new user to the level of not knowing which end to point. They are for novel sporting use by experienced people only.





HEY EVERYBODY! THIS IS MY 50<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY **RED RYDER**. SERIALIZED COLLECTOR'S GUN WITH A BEAUTIFUL WALNUT STOCK, BRASS MEDALLION AND FREE BB STRONGBOX WITH 5,000 BB'S AND IT'S WARRANTED FOR FIFTY YEARS, TOO!

- Any single or double barrel shotgun except in 410 gage. They kick badly, there's no recoil relief.
- Any long barreled rifle or one with a scope on it. (more later)
- Semi-auto military or police style handguns with heavy spring resistance to racking the slide, and a heavy trigger.
- Black powder guns.
- Antique or Curio guns: Too old and could be dangerous to use.

- "Pocket" handguns .22, .25, .32 cal. (No stopping power.)
- Air Rifles or Air-Soft rifles. This includes BB or pellet guns (and Red Ryders).
- Paintball guns, staple guns, glue guns, solder guns, grease guns, tattoo guns, etc.!?!

# Kandy Koloored Killers:

In response to marketing firearms to women, manufacturers have produced polymer stocks, grips, and frames in bright and pastel colors and even flowered patterns. While a woman who wants to promote breast cancer awareness might choose a pink gun for her personal protection, IT IS AS IRRESISTABLE TO CHILDREN as a toy bubble gun, squirt gun, or even a glue gun.

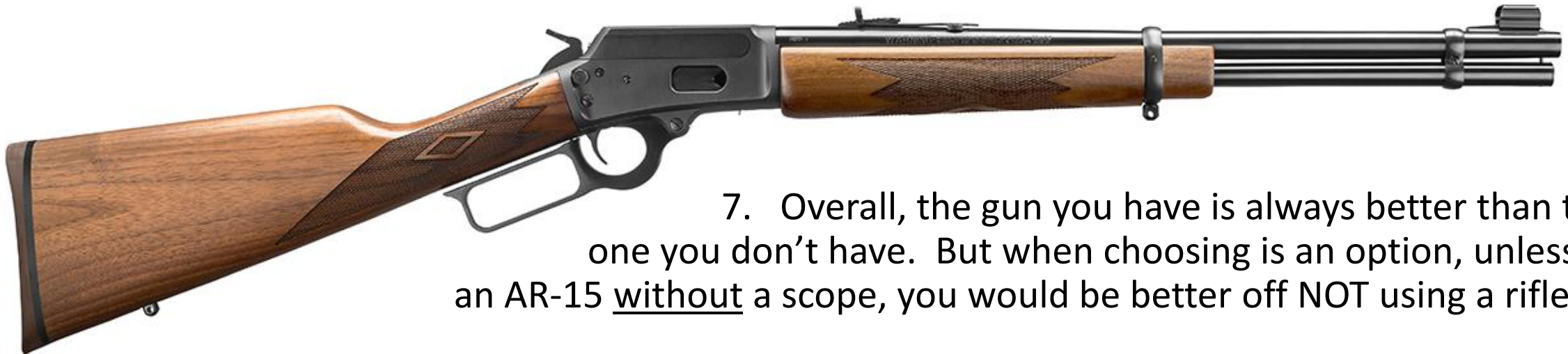


If your personal taste is attracted to these colors, remember children are too. If they get their hands on it, horrible things can happen. I do not recommend these guns and refuse to sell them. If you have one, PLEASE keep it locked from children.

# Why not a hunting rifle for self defense?

- 1. Rifles require careful aim for that single bullet to hit its victim. This takes a second or more of focus time to arrange. You really cannot shoot from the hip, like in movies (It's just a movie). Rifles are a long-range weapon.**
- 2. The long barrel gets in the way when firing from a position of cover. Like a shotgun as well, it is easy to be seen and lacks stealth. If it has a scope mounted, that hardware is unusable at close range and in the way. Shotguns don't usually have a scope attached. Telescopic sights are useless at night.**
- 3. Only a semi-auto rifle allows you to fire multiple shots quickly. Many have used the short carbine style AR-15 effectively, but they are bulky and somewhat expensive. (AR stands for *Armalite*, not *Assault Rifle*) They are best used for defense in the stripped-down iron sight version, ie, no scope.**

4. Bolt action rifles are very difficult to rapid fire. Even today some say, the only person who ever knew how to work the action quickly was Lee Harvey Oswald (**IF** he actually did at all).
5. There is a high risk of over-penetration from the powerful rifle round. This means the bullet can travel through walls and hit unintended victims. Modern wood-framed housing walls cannot stop a rifle bullet.
6. Lever-action carbines are a blessing and a curse for home defense, unless you are Chuck Connors from "The Rifleman." Most are found in powerful higher calibers, .30-30 plus, having serious recoil. They can require more leverage, some eject out the top, are slow to operate, and have complicated breach mechanisms for maintenance. Tubular magazines limit it to flat-nose bullets that effect long-range trajectory: accuracy good only to 125 yards, but OK for close home defense. But they are nostalgic-looking.



7. Overall, the gun you have is always better than the one you don't have. But when choosing is an option, unless it's an AR-15 without a scope, you would be better off NOT using a rifle.

There's a big difference between firearms used for mobile concealed carry, (meaning on your person, in your car, or in your purse) and those that stay in your home as protection against break-ins. For many experienced shooters they are one and the same. But while a shotgun is appropriate in the home, you wouldn't want to carry one around while grocery shopping.



# Home Alone Defense

*(So easy a kid can do it!)*

- Some states require that hunting shotguns never be loaded with more than 3 shells. That does not apply to personal protection within the home. Be sure to check for a plastic limiting plug in the tube and remove it prior to loading it.
- Most shotguns hold 5 shells. Each shell holds at least seven pellets. One thing is for sure, if you hit a robber with a shotgun discharge, he will be seriously wounded.
- A word of caution for pump-style shotguns: racking the forearm, which ejects a spent shell and loads a fresh one, must be firmly and completely cycled. It cannot be done timidly or the shell will not load or eject properly, leaving you fumbling with a mis-loaded gun.

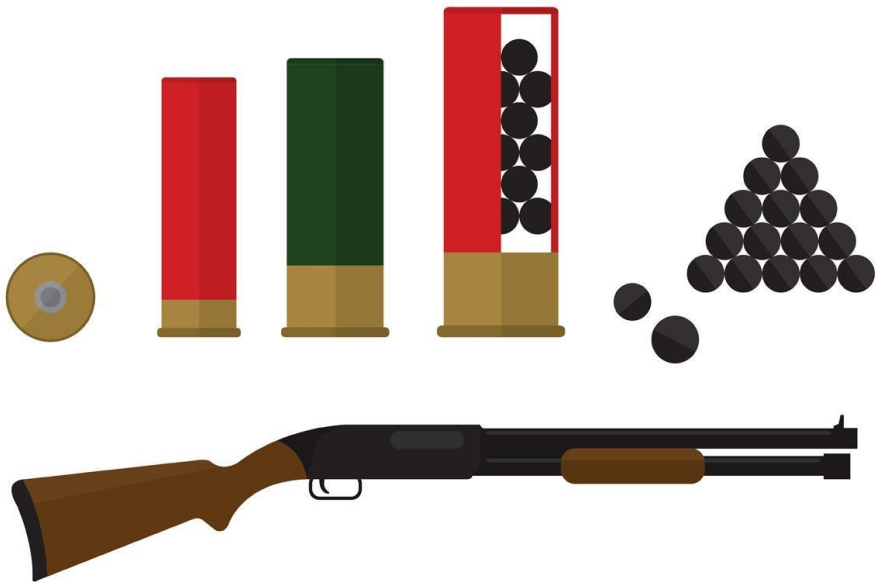




# SHOTGUNS:

Many people advocate the use of a shotgun for home protection. It still requires that you know how to aim it. For close distances, it does not scatter the shot very wide, and at less than 10 yards distance the shot will cover a 12" area. That's the distance you would be shooting inside a house.

If you don't aim it correctly, you could easily miss your target, same as a handgun. This is true for all the shotgun gauges, from the smallest sized shell (.410), to the largest (12 ga). The size of the lead shot determines the number of strikes. From #2 (duck and goose load) to "double-aught" buckshot works best for defense.



One well-known government official once said to just fire it in the air and it will scare the criminals away. Except if you do that in a city you can be arrested for discharge of a firearm within city limits. Not recommended. Then what do you do when the criminal keeps coming? And, oh yes, what goes up does come back down !?! Never bluff.



## Shotguns come in 4 flavors:

- 1. Semi-auto:** These hold typically 5 shells. Some are prone to mis-feed or fail to fully eject the empty shell after firing. The spring inside is hefty, and it depends on a smart snap and release of the loading lever for that first shell to load. Trying to be quiet and slowly close the bolt may cause a mis-feed. The ching-ching noise of that bolt closing against the spring pressure is usually enough sound to warn the robber to leave, now. It's quite distinctive. If that doesn't do it, hitting the trigger in his direction will get his attention. The gas operation lessens the kick considerably.
- 2. Pump (and lever-action):** See previous comments for semi-auto. The pump shotgun is not semi-auto, it only feeds one at a time as you rack the forearm. The guns kick because they are not gas operated. They are only as dependable as you can smartly and completely rack the forearm (or lever), otherwise they will fail to feed or eject properly. However, it does make the dreaded "shuck-shuck" sound, as does the rare **lever action** shotgun.

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**3. Two-barrel over-under, or side-by-side:** These can be fired individually with two separate triggers. This is NOT as confusing as it might sound, but after firing only 2 shells you must reload. They have no gas-port relief system to absorb the recoil, so expect a firm kick to the shoulder. They are very simple to operate with no misfeeds.

**4. Revolver:** Known as the popular handgun “The Judge” made by Taurus, this handgun holds five .410 caliber shot shells or 50 cal. bullets. It is also the same as the “Circuit Judge” handgun by Rossi, both more expensive firearms. Again, no gas ports to absorb recoil. Although the load is light (.410 dia.) compared to a 12 gage, it still requires a strong-armed person. Unfortunately they are heavy, and have heavy trigger pull. However, they are very dependable as all revolvers are, and will inflict considerable damage to the victim (and the shooter’s wrist).



*The Judge:  
Weight empty: 2 lbs.*

# The only shotgun we offer, and why

One pump style shotgun is being offered among the MANY of those available, for a number of reasons. Recommended is a 20 gage size with an extended tube magazine, *customized by us* to excel at home protection. Simple to handle and operate and low priced, this model is very reliable. After considerable research and comparison, the Mossberg Cruiser was chosen. Not the heavy Military and Police “tactical” model, it has a light trigger, easy to repair, low recoil, good availability of parts, and handy customer service. The overall length and shortest possible barrel length, placement of safety and bolt release buttons, customized stock length, shell capacity, added night sights, no frills and overall ruggedness make it the perfect home companion.



More about this gun in the presentation “The Top Ten Countdown.”

# HOW MANY ROUNDS ?????!!!

Tactical shotguns, however, can take many more shells in a detachable magazine (as many as 12). You should never purchase a tactical shotgun as a “first firearm” as there may be state restrictions against their use, they are rather intimidating to learn how to use, and look like something from a sci-fi movie. One thing is for sure, a shotgun can make a big hole in your china cabinet, your walls, your TV, your windows, etc. Be Careful!

However, semi-auto handguns hold up to 17 bullets. Some states restrict their capacity to 10 bullets. Of course, if you need more shots, all you do is eject the spent magazine and pop in a fresh one with 10 more rounds, in two seconds. The magazine must be forcefully slammed into the grip to hear it “click” in. Only put the mag in *after* a round has been placed in the empty chamber.

*Before* you open the slide, eject the mag first. This prevents jams from the round still in the chamber.

Revolvers have no magazine, the cylinder can hold a specific number bullets (or shells). A revolver can hold 5, 6, or even 10 rounds depending on bullet caliber and size. They’re not all “6-shooters.” They must be manually reloaded, which can take a half-minute to empty the cylinders and fumble with loading more rounds.... Trying not to drop them... always fun.....



# HANDGUNS ARE THE BEST CHOICE

You can put it in your pocket, slide it down your boot, hang it from your hip, hide it in your bra (!yes!), stuff it in your purse, hang it from a magnet in your car or your desk, keep several backup-loaded magazines, strap it under a pant-leg, or under a jacket. Inside a briefcase, violin case, or backpack. Or own a dozen and have one in all these places! The options are endless for hiding one at home, too. You can't do that with a long-gun!

And if you choose to get your concealed carry license eventually, you can wear it outside the home and always keep it with you.

Light weight, inconspicuous, easy to hide, easy to use: handguns!

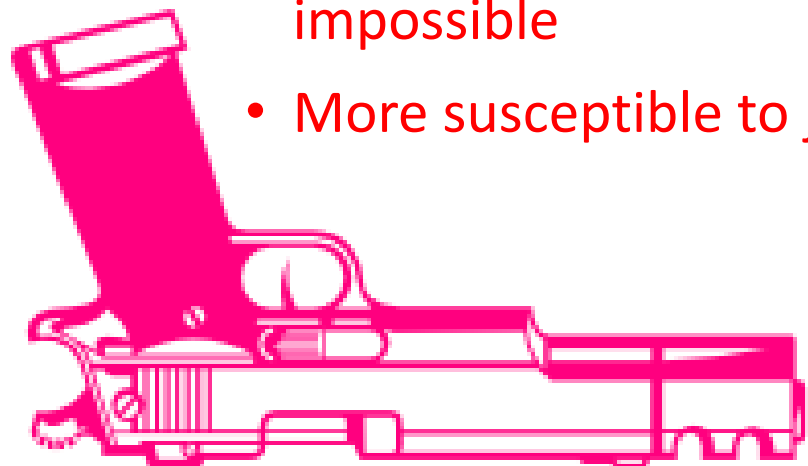


# PISTOL OR REVOLVER?



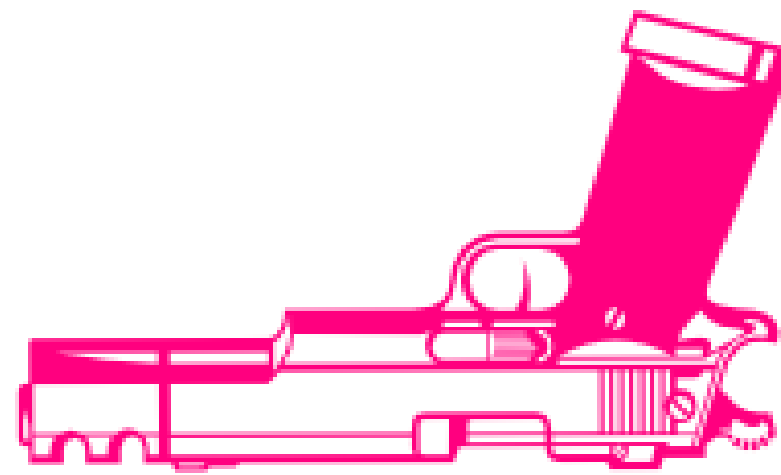
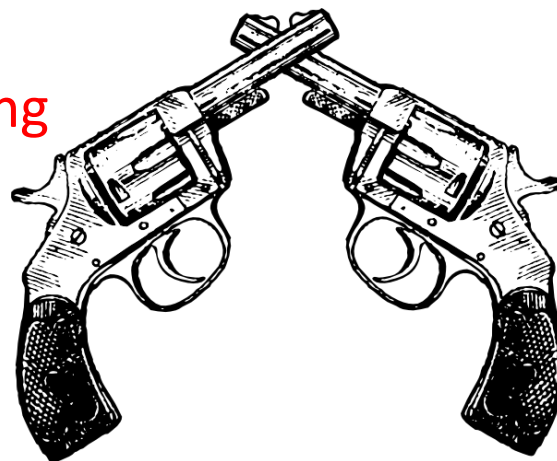
Pistols

- Absorb recoil better
- 9mm is inexpensive ammo
- Manual safety can be forgotten
- Very slim and light weight
- Carry more ammo in magazine
- Easy trigger pull
- Racking can be difficult or impossible
- More susceptible to jamming

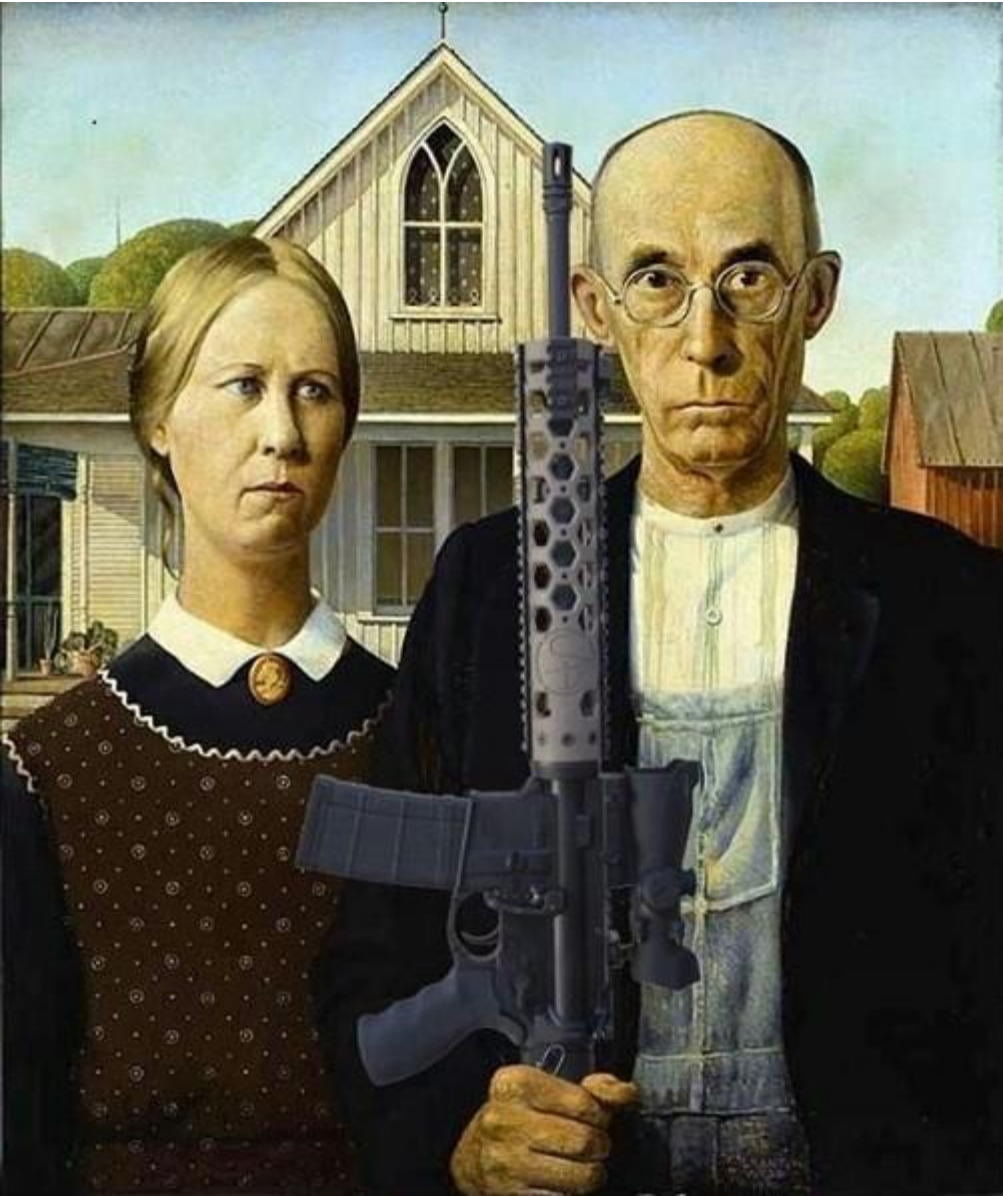


Revolvers

- Very reliable
- Simple to operate
- No extra safetys to forget about
- Ammo is more expensive
- Limited capacity, only 5 or 6
- You absorb all the recoil
- Double action trigger is difficult



# How do you choose?



There have been several studies done on handgun ergonomics and the relative size of a shooter's hand and hand strength. Many questions were asked on trigger placement, manipulation of slide lock levers and magazine release buttons, recoil management, grip size, overall weight and balance, sight aim, complexity of operation, accuracy achieved in firing, and loading of the magazine.

Several of the studies were done independently of the manufacturers, regarding the limitations of strength due to age, inexperience, male/female stature, and physical health. Testing has most consistently been done for women of ages 21 through 70, with a wide variety of handguns over a period of several years. They weren't former or current police or military members, or competition shooters: *just plain folk. Like us.*





# Pick one of these puppies!

What was found helped to lay the groundwork for this list of choices. We played with each selection ourselves to measure each criteria. Additional value was added in regard to ruggedness, parts availability, number of years in production, and warehouse stock availability. Maybe the list will change in the future, we don't know. But this list is one we are proud to offer.

You might be surprised to find certain top brand names not included in the list: like FN, Benelli, Berretta, H&K, Walther, Kimber, Remington, or Browning. Nothing bad about them – they just didn't fit our criteria; just as military, police, and hunters all have their own criteria. In reducing the list to what we felt were the top 9, you can be sure that *your* needs were considered and met.

*The handgun choices are limitless  
(but we whittled it down to 9)*

- **S&W M&P Shield EZ:** 9mm Compact, holds 9 rounds, 23 oz empty, 3.7" barrel
- **IWI Masada:** 9mm Full size, holds 11 rounds, 23 oz empty, 4.1" barrel
- **Springfield XD Mod 2:** 9mm Full size, holds 17 rounds, 28 oz empty, 4" barrel
- **Bersa Thunder:** .380 ACP, Compact, holds 9 rounds, 20 oz empty, 3.5" barrel
- **Springfield 911:** 9mm Micro-Compact, holds 7 rounds, 15 oz empty, 3" barrel
- **Sig-Sauer P238:** .380 ACP Micro-Compact, holds 7 rounds, 15 oz empty, 2.7" barrel
- **Glock 19:** 9mm Full size, holds 11 rounds, 23 oz empty, 4.1" barrel
- **Ruger SP101 Revolver:** 9mm Full size, holds 5 rounds, 25 oz empty, 2.25" barrel
- **Colt Cobra Revolver:** .38+P Full size, holds 6 rounds, 25 oz empty, 2.1" barrel

# The Criteria for Choice

These metrics fit both men and women. The guns were rated on comfort-to-hand size, likeability of revolvers vs. semi-automatics, caliber recoil, single, double, or striker action type, barrel length, pistol weight, trigger pull, and price. Guns with varying grip thickness and length, barrel length, ammo capacity, construction, design, sights, and features were compared.

One of the major obstacles that eliminated most of the competition was slide racking strength required. THIS WAS HUGE. It's not just a *technique* issue, but the grip of slide serrations and the tightness of recoil spring used, made all the difference to anyone with limited hand strength.

Country of manufacture was not a consideration if their US customer service kept an adequate supply of parts in stock. We acknowledge that today, some of the best guns are coming from overseas by non-US sources, and that US companies are having their guns made for them around the world. It's not hard to find a 100% Made in USA handgun for sale these days, but outsourcing lets these companies also market their goods to overseas military and police as well. Times have changed!