

Practical Arms Training Academy

Selecting the home defense and personal protection carry firearm.

PRE-PURCHASE CONSIDERATIONS: Brand, Price, & Type. Firstly, you should consider the intended use of the firearm. Is it for a specific application or multiple uses, price range, action type that suits you better, how it fits and feels in YOUR hand, availability of ammo, brand reliability, dependability, warranty or guarantee, caliber, recoil, size and likelihood that you'll carry it, comfort and ability to operate the trigger.

REVOLVERS:

Pros: Easier to Use, reliable, less Jams, easier to carry compact, usually less expensive.

Cons: Less ammo capacity, slower reloading, fewer external safety's, hard double action pull, more "felt" recoil.

SEMI-AUTO:

Pros: More ammo capacity, faster reloading, less "felt" recoil, typically more safeties.

Cons: Difficult to manipulate slide, may appear more complicated to operate, jams more frequently, ammo sensitive, must be kept clean.

LARGE BORE SEMI-AUTO PISTOL - 10mm, .40, .45 ACP: Have more than adequate power for all defensive situations. Requires extensive practice to adapt weight, recoil and muzzle blast. Hand and arm strength, stiff slide, magazines are hard to reload. Difficult to conceal under everyday clothing, usually carried in an open holster by law enforcement. Price \$450.00+.

MEDIUM BORE SEMI-AUTO PISTOL - .38, .380 ACP, 9mm: Practice and handling repetition drills are still required, moderate recoil. Effective in most close confrontations, smaller frames make it easier to carry. Price range: \$350.00+.

SMALL BORE SEMI-AUTO - .22 Rim Fire (RF), .25 ACP, .32 ACP: Minimum size and weight. Minimum stopping power, use as back-up only. Ammunition sensitive, potential cycling problems can occur with off-brand ammo. Regular cleaning and de-linting with these firearms is a must. Price range: \$300+.

LARGE FRAME/ BORE REVOLVERS - .41, .44 MAG, .45 LC (+P AMMO): Preferred by hunting medium to some large game. Extremely accurate to 50 yards and reliable performer. Not ammo sensitive. Back up to the game rifle or deep wilderness handy camp gun. Too powerful a round for urban dwellings and densely populated areas. Price range: \$375.00 +.

MEDIUM AND SMALL FRAME REVOLVERS - .44 spc, .38/.357, .32 H&R Magazine (5 & 6 shot): Good overall choice for the personal carry and home defense, 2" to 4" barrel. A simple manual-of-arms, most concealable, ease to make safe. Reliable performance and not ammo sensitive. Suggest buying "double action" only. 357 is the most versatile, uses .38 & +P to 357 magnum. Price range: \$300+.

SMALL BORE REVOLVERS - .22 & .22 magnum RF, 2"- 6" barrel: A good learner, economical, low recoil and noise. Ideal for target practice and small game. It will not stop a charge. Price \$195.00+.