

HOW TO CHOOSE YOUR

BEST GUN



**15 Great Concealed
Carry Handguns:**

For Women, By Women



15 GREAT GUNS FOR CONCEALED CARRY

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Selecting a handgun for concealed carry is one of the most important decisions you can make, whether you're a college student, a businesswoman or a busy mother of three. But since there's more to keep in mind than just the fundamentals — firearm type, cartridge and size chief among them — the process can generate a host of interesting questions and challenges. Women often have specific needs and preferences to think about, and the differences between men and women really come into play when it's time to finalize your handgun purchase. For instance, your wardrobe preferences affect your choices. Your hand and body shape as well as your physical size and strength matter. How and where you want to carry is also an important factor. All these attributes can influence or alter your ability to comfortably, effectively and proficiently use a defensive handgun. So it's vital to think through and consider all the options — from pocket pistol to compact revolver.

The handguns that women predominantly prefer for concealed carry are the models that are lightweight and easy to shoot but that are still accurate and powerful. Along these lines, anyone who's trying to find the right firearm will need to look at three primary areas: shootability, reliability and efficiency. Revolvers, on one hand, are very dependable, but they are slow to reload and hold fewer rounds than semi-automatics. While they are often wider and harder to conceal than

semi-autos, revolvers require less maintenance, are easier to clean and have a low likelihood of jamming when shooting. Semi-automatic guns are quick to reload, carry more rounds and are usually easier to conceal, but issues with racking the slide or cleaning the gun may prevent some shooters from choosing them.

Ultimately, the best handgun for your personal defense is the one you will learn how to shoot proficiently and carry every day. One of the most helpful things you can do when making your selection is to find a shop or range that will allow you to rent or test out a firearm before taking it home. This will let you get the feel of various action types, test the size differences between models and experience the felt recoil of discharging different cartridges from various types of guns. Try them until you find the one that fits you the best and that you can shoot the most comfortably and accurately. Over the years, gun manufacturers have listened — and responded — to women's needs, tastes and requests, and most ladies can appreciate the wide variety of available choices. But it can still be overwhelming trying to narrow down what works best for you, so, before you buy, use this guide. Created by women, for women, and based on real-life gun recommendations, tests and everyday use, this helpful tool contains practical and tactical information you can use to make the best choice for your concealed carry handgun.



KIMBER SOLO

This little striker-fired Kimber comes in four different models to meet the demands of every shooter. This is a slim-line pocket pistol with all the great features and craftsmanship common to Kimber products. Well-built and ready for action, it is a small gun that nearly disappears when concealed. The Kimpro finish makes it nearly impervious to the elements.

TECHNICAL SPECS:

Caliber: 9mm

Weight: 17 ounces

Height: 3.9 inches

Width: .995 inches

Overall Length: 5.5 inches

Barrel Length: 2.7 inches

Magazine Capacity: 6

Trigger Pull: 7 pounds

Frame Material: Aluminum

Finish: Kimpro II

Slide Material: Stainless steel

Finish: Satin silver

Grips: Black synthetic checkered/smooth

Sights: Fixed low-profile

Sight Radius: 4.4 inches

KIMBER MICRO

Looking for an even smaller Kimber? Weighing less than 14 ounces and featuring a barrel length of just 2.75 inches, the .380 ACP Micro pistol is thin, sleek, easy to rack and even easier to conceal. Mild recoil and a crisp, single-action trigger pull make this 6+1 beauty a pleasure to shoot. Accurate, safe to carry and flawlessly reliable, the ultra-compact Micro offers the intuitive operation of a 1911 along with Kimber's attention to quality and detail.



TECHNICAL SPECS:

- Caliber:** .380 ACP
- Weight:** 13.4 ounces
- Height:** 4 inches
- Width:** 1.08 inches
- Overall Length:** 5.6 inches
- Barrel Length:** 2.75 inches
- Magazine Capacity:** 6
(Extended 7-round magazine available)
- Frame Material:** Aluminum
- Finish:** Matte black
- Slide Material:** Stainless steel
- Finish:** Satin silver
- Sights:** Fixed low-profile
- Sight Radius:** 3.9 inches





SPRINGFIELD ARMORY XD-S

Building on the popularity of the XD platform, Springfield Armory created the modestly priced XD-S in 9mm and .45, making it one of the smallest large-caliber concealed carry pistols. This single-stack, striker-fired handgun has a smooth trigger pull, but the strength required to rack the slide might be a bit excessive for some shooters. Feedback has been overwhelmingly positive from female gun owners, especially with the grip safety, the high-visibility, fiber-optic front sight and the optional, extended magazine that gives this gun a 9-round capacity. Overall, this slim, lightweight pistol conceals beautifully and is a very comfortable all-day-carry choice.



TECHNICAL SPECS:

- Caliber:** 9mm
- Weight:** 23 ounces
- Height:** 4.4 inches
- Grip Width:** .9 inches
- Overall Length:** 6.3 inches
- Barrel Length:** 3.3 inches
- Magazine Capacity:** 7
- Trigger Pull:** 5.5 to 7.7 pounds
- Frame:** Polymer
- Slide:** Forged steel
- Sights:** Fiber-optic front; steel dovetail rear



GLOCK 26 GEN 4

An accurate and compact piece, the Glock 26 Gen4 might be right up your alley with its simple, supremely durable design. It's affordable and relatively easy to clean, making this handgun a great choice for a first-time gun owner. With a wider grip than some of its counterparts — thanks to a double-stack magazine holding 10 rounds — the G26 isn't known for its looks. But it performs reliably and is designed to feed any ammo and fire in all kinds of conditions, and the patented Tenifer coating on the steel parts makes this pistol nearly maintenance-free.



TECHNICAL SPECS:

Caliber: 9mm

Weight: 21.71 ounces

Overall Height: 4.17 inches

Barrel Height: 1.26 inches

Width: 1.18 inches

Overall Length: 6.41 inches

Barrel Length: 3.42 inches

Magazine Capacity: 10

Safety: Glock Safe Action trigger

Trigger Pull: ~5.5 pounds

Frame Finish: Matte polymer

Sight Radius: 5.67 inches



GLOCK 42

If you're searching for the "Glock Perfection promise" in a .380 caliber, the G42 is a slim, petite pistol, engineered with Glock's durable, internal mechanisms ... just in a much smaller size. Thinner and shorter than the popular G26 but a bit larger than many other .380 options, this soft-shooting pistol has excellent sights (for its caliber) and is a great size to accommodate smaller people and smaller hands. Intended for simplicity of use, and true to Glock design, this concealed carry pistol has no external safeties, de-cockers or external hammers and features a flat slide release and magazine release that keep the gun smooth and compact.



TECHNICAL SPECS:

Caliber: .380 ACP

Weight: 12.35 ounces

Height: 4.13 inches

Width: .94 inches

Overall Length: 5.94 inches

Barrel Length: 3.25 inches

Magazine Capacity: 6

Trigger Pull: 5.5 pounds



SIG P238

SIG Sauer's P238, described as a "mini 1911," is a perfect option for smaller hands and comes in many different finishes (including a special-edition Rainbow Titanium). Women who own this subcompact pistol claim that they were attracted to the P238's looks, size and lighter recoil spring, which enables users to rack the slide with ease and without compromising a fingernail. Shooters can opt for SIGLITE night sights, which are very useful in low-light situations. And while the magazine capacity is just six, a spare or extended mag can provide extra insurance.



TECHNICAL SPECS:

Caliber: .380 ACP

Weight: 15.2 ounces

Height: 3.9 inches

Width: 1.1 inches

Overall Length: 5.5 inches

Barrel Length: 2.7 inches

Magazine Capacity: 6

Trigger Pull: 7.5 to 8.5 pounds

Frame Finish: Black hard coat anodized

Slide Finish: Natural stainless

Grips: Fluted polymer

Sights: Contrast or available

SIGLITE night sights

Sight Radius: 3.8 inches



SIG P938

The popular P938 is an ideal concealed carry handgun choice. Similar to the P238, the sights, trigger, simplicity of concealment, ease in slide-racking and overall quality are excellent. Plus, this solidly constructed, subcompact pistol offers the more powerful 9mm cartridge. Shooting the P938 is quite snappy, but this lightweight pistol is very accurate and comes with night sights. And with a wide variety of looks and styles to choose from, this model is sure to please.



TECHNICAL SPECS:

Caliber: 9mm

Weight: 17.1 ounces

Height: 3.9 inches

Width: 1.1 inches

Overall Length: 5.9 inches

Barrel Length: 3 inches

Magazine Capacity: 6

Trigger Pull: ~7.5 pounds

Sights: SIGLITE night sights

Sight Radius: 4 inches



RUGER LCRx

Weighing in at 13.5 ounces, Ruger's LCRx is a compact, affordable revolver with a smooth trigger, manageable recoil and, of course, no slide to rack. The LCRx is rated for the more powerful +P ammo yet still sports Ruger's modern, lightweight cylinder design. The only shortcoming is that you're limited to five rounds and, since it's a "wheel gun," reloading can be slow. The LCRx also features an external hammer as opposed to the concealed hammer of the LCR. Shooters who want the option of cocking the hammer for single-action fire have it with this little revolver.



TECHNICAL SPECS:

Caliber: .38 Special+P

Weight: 13.5 ounces

Height: 4.5 inches

Overall Length: 6.5 inches

Barrel Length: 1.875 inches

Cylinder Capacity: 5

Cylinder Finish: Ionbond

Diamondblack

Sights: Replaceable front; U-notch integral pinned ramp rear



RUGER LC9s

The striker-fired version of the award-winning LC9, Ruger's LC9s is a gun designed specifically for concealed carry. With a trigger safety, magazine safety, manual safety and visual inspection port that provides confirmation of a loaded or empty chamber, this slim, lightweight pistol offers a 7+1 capacity and a comfortable grip that can be adjusted for larger hands with a finger grip extension floorplate that can be added to the magazine. With an unloaded weight of 17 ounces, the appropriate home for this personal-protection handgun could be a holster or a concealed carry purse.



TECHNICAL SPECS:

Caliber: 9mm

Weight: 17.2 ounces

Height: 4.5 inches

Width: .90 inches

Overall Length: 6 inches

Barrel Length: 3.12 inches

Magazine Capacity: 7

Barrel Material: Alloy steel

Barrel Finish: Blued

Slide Material: Through-

hardened alloy steel

Slide Finish: Blued

Sights: Adjustable 3-dot



S&W SHIELD

Many women, even with small hands, find the M&P Shield to be a very comfortable gun to grip and shoot. This striker-fired, polymer-framed pistol, with its relatively short trigger pull, is a single-stack offered in 9mm and .40 S&W. A great combination of control, comfort and power, the Shield, available with or without a manual thumb safety, comes with a 7-round magazine and an 8-round magazine that slightly extends the grip. This handgun is only about 1 inch thick, which makes it easily concealable on small body frames, and it weighs in at 19 ounces, unloaded, for comfortable, all-day carry.



TECHNICAL SPECS:

Caliber: 9mm
Weight: 19 ounces
Height: 4.6 inches
Width: .95 inches
Overall Length: 6.1 inches
Barrel Length: 3.1 inches
Magazine Capacity: 7 or 8
Trigger Pull: ~6.5 pounds
Frame Material: Polymer
Barrel/Slide Finish: Black 68 HRC
Front Sight: White dot
Rear Sight: White 2-dot
Sight Radius: 5.3 inches



TECHNICAL SPECS:

Caliber: .380 ACP

Weight: 11.85 ounces

Height: 3.78 inches

Width: .795 inches

Overall Length: 5.25 inches

Barrel Length: 3.1 inches

Magazine Capacity: 6

Frame: Polymer

Sights: Drift-adjustable dovetail and laser sight

S&W BODYGUARD 380

The Bodyguard 380 is a hammer-fired, double-action-only .380 ACP, semi-automatic pocket pistol that has a compact and lightweight design, great for comfortable carry. The sights are excellent for such a little gun, with an optional, built-in red laser for added accuracy. This easily concealable option fits the hand surprisingly well for such a small gun. And if you're on a budget, this little Bodyguard could be a wise choice, as long as you're not bothered by its stiffer recoil spring and long trigger pull.





TECHNICAL SPECS:

Caliber: .38 Special +P

Weight: 15 ounces

Overall Length: 6.31 inches

Barrel Length: 1.875 inches

Cylinder Capacity: 5

Frame Size: Small, internal hammer

Frame Material: Aluminum alloy

Cylinder Material: Carbon steel

Finish: Matte black

Sights: Black blade front;
fixed rear

S&W 442

With a long history in the personal defense market, the model 442 is a classic J-frame S&W revolver, something generations of self-defense advocates have admired and employed. At just 15 ounces, the 442 is ideal for concealed carry because it's compact and feather light and doesn't have an external hammer that could get caught on a purse, pocket or holster. This gun is intuitively easy to shoot and fits well in most women's hands, with a comfortable, rubbery grip that you can even opt to get in pink. For those who prefer the simplicity of a revolver and seek one of the most trusted names in the industry, the 442 is an outstanding option for personal defense.





WALTHER PPS

Walther has a long history of making slim, concealable defensive pistols, and the PPS just keeps adding to that legacy. This striker-fired pistol comes in both 9mm and .40 S&W and offers a variety of magazine lengths, moving the 9mm capacity from 6 to 8 rounds. At less than an inch wide, this is a true carry pistol built for concealment. One thing to consider with this gun is the location of the magazine release. Instead of the traditional button behind the trigger, the PPS release is a small lever integral with the bottom of the trigger guard. It's not an issue unless you don't know where to look for it.



TECHNICAL SPECS:

Caliber: 9mm

Weight: 20.8 ounces

Height w/Magazine:

S/M/L — 4.4 inches/

4.9 inches/5.3 inches

Width: .9 inches

Overall Length: 6.3 inches

Barrel Length: 3.2 inches

Magazine Capacity:

S/M/L — 6/7/8

Trigger Pull: 6.1 pounds

Finish: Black

Sight Radius: 5.4 inches



KAHR P380

Exremely thin, lightweight and almost miniscule, the P380 pistol from Kahr, chambered for the .380 ACP caliber, is a high-quality, striker-fired gun that's easy to carry and shoot, comfortably fitting even the smallest hands and frames. Holding six rounds in its magazine plus one round chambered, this pocket pistol is safe to carry with a chambered round, especially when you consider its long, 5.25-pound trigger pull. The easy-to-use sights are an added bonus to this ideal concealed carry pistol that's perfect for a woman who wants to defend herself but still remain discreet.



TECHNICAL SPECS:

Caliber: .380 ACP

Weight: 9.97 ounces

Height: 3.9 inches

Slide Width: .75 inches

Overall Length: 4.9 inches

Barrel Length: 2.53 inches

Magazine Capacity: 6

Finish: Black polymer frame; matte stainless-steel slide

Grips: Textured polymer

Sights: Drift adjustable, white bar-dot combat



SCCY CPX

A new carry favorite of many women, the double-action-only, 9mm CPX-1 (or CPX-2, without manual safety) may be lacking in some of the bells and whistles, but it more than makes up for it with extraordinary affordability and reliability. The compact, American-made pistol features a recoil-absorbing grip and an internal hammer with inertial firing pin (so it's drop-safe) and comes with two 10-round magazines with finger-extension base as well as two interchangeable, flat-magazine baseplates for the user's comfort and preference. But the best part of the CPX series, available in black, two-tone and pink finishes, may be their Perpetual Warranty, which means SCCY will repair or replace your gun at their expense, no questions asked.



TECHNICAL SPECS:

Caliber: 9mm

Weight: 15 ounces

Height: 4 inches

Width: 1 inch

Overall Length: 5.7 inches

Barrel Length: 3.1 inches

Magazine Capacity: 10

Trigger Pull: 9 pounds

Grip/Frame: Zytel polymer

Sights: 3-dot steel



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