

S&W MODEL 36-1 CHIEFS SPECIAL 38 SP., ABOUT \$300

GUN TESTS GRADE: B

Highly polished blued steel and checkered walnut are the earmarks of earlier S&W handguns, and the Chiefs Special was no exception. We found some machining marks, and as collectors know, the older the better for finest vintage Smith quality. We liked this gun, but would have liked it more if the hammer had not been cut off. Still, we did our best and fastest DA work with it.



SPECIFICATIONS

OVERALL LENGTH.....	6.7 IN.
OVERALL HEIGHT.....	4.4 IN.
BARREL LENGTH.....	1.9 IN.
SIGHT RADIUS.....	3.4 IN.
FRONT STRAP HEIGHT.....	2.2 IN.
BACK STRAP HEIGHT.....	3.3 IN.
WEIGHT UNLOADED.....	19.4 OZ.
WEIGHT LOADED.....	21 OZ.
CAPACITY.....	5
MAXIMUM WIDTH.....	1.30 IN.
GRIP THICKNESS (MAX).....	1.16 IN.
GRIP CIRCUMFERENCE (MAX).....	4.5 IN.
FRAME.....	BLUED STEEL
BARREL.....	BLUED STEEL
GRIP.....	CHECKERED WALNUT
TRIGGER PULL WEIGHT DOUBLE ACTION.....	14 LBS.
TRIGGER PULL WEIGHT SINGLE ACTION.....	2.7 LBS.
TRIGGER SPAN DOUBLE ACTION.....	3.1 IN.
WARRANTY.....	N/A
TELEPHONE.....	(800) 331-0852
WEBSITE.....	WWW.SMITH-WESSON.COM



Above: We could get all our fingers onto the Chiefs' handle, which helped us shoot it extremely fast in DA mode. We could shoot this gun faster than either of the other two revolvers, at close range, with good hits. We found the gun shot as accurately for us DA as in SA



shooting. It required careful work to cock the hammer, and we do not recommend bobbing the hammer, nor trying to use a bobbed hammer in the single-action mode.

Above: We were only able to get two fingers securely onto the short grip of the Centennial Airweight. However, this proved to be enough to control it.



The swell in the grip panels helped us hold onto the gun.

Above: We got all four fingers onto the slim grip of the Bodyguard. Despite its being a very light gun, it didn't bother us in recoil at all.