

**SMITH & WESSON 3953TSW**

Price.....\$694



**SPECIFICATIONS**

Warranty: Ltd. Lifetime

|                      |                 |                       |         |
|----------------------|-----------------|-----------------------|---------|
| FINISH .....         | Stainless Steel | SIGHT RADIUS .....    | 5.5 in. |
| WEIGHT .....         | 28 oz.          | CAPACITY .....        | 7+1     |
| OVERALL LENGTH ..... | 6.5 in.         | GRIP MATERIAL .....   | PLASTIC |
| OVERALL HEIGHT ..... | 4.8 in.         | ACTION TYPE .....     | Double  |
| MAXIMUM WIDTH .....  | 1.2 in.         | TRIGGER PULL SA ..... | 13 lbs. |
| BARREL LENGTH .....  | 3.5 in.         | TRIGGER REACH .....   | 2.7 in. |

**Our recommendation:** People tend to see revolvers as being more reliable than semi-automatics. On top of this, people tend to see Smith & Wesson purely as a maker of revolvers. But this model descends from one of Smith's most durable and successful models. We spent a lot of time firing this gun because we liked it. Had the trigger been lighter and less tiring, we'd have spent even more. Buy it.



*We didn't notice any deficiency in the crown, but recutting it would likely make the TSW more accurate.*



*The TSW's grip is plastic. A modest section of 30 lines-per-inch checkering is found on the front strap.*

*Smith & Wesson has gone a long way to improve the performance of this pistol by increasing the contact surface between the frame and slide. Measuring only 6.4 inches in length, almost all of the slide is in full contact with the frame at time of lock up. Fit is as tight as you'd want on a defense gun, maybe tighter.*

Power copy named the Arcus 94. Miltex began importing these pistols in 1998 from Bulgaria. As recently as July 31, we spotted as many as two dozen of them at a local gun show, and decided to test these guns because they are still widely available. There are still plenty of Arcus 94s out there for \$280 and less, and their low-cost appeal is strengthened by the guns being full-sized copies of the Browning High Power design, well known for its accuracy and reliability.

We spent more time shooting the Arcus than any other pistol in the test. We even oiled it once. The mags hold ten rounds, and the gun never malfunctioned over the course of 400+ shots. Its trigger is scratchy to the point of laughter, but its full-size steel frame brings recoil down to a pleasingly comfortable level.

On our test gun, the finish was matte black and not the most durable. The thumb safety was easily disengaged as Browning designed it, but it was too stiff to be reset without the use of the weak hand. The trigger needed work. It seems to have been installed without polishing any of the contacting parts. The grip is rubber and a little clunkier than the original, but felt quite good in the hand with a knurled finish and finger grooves that wrap around the frontstrap like those available aftermarket from Hogue. The low-mounted sights are of the three-dot variety and are dovetailed into place front and rear, meaning they are adjustable for windage and easily changed out if you so desire. The extractor is mounted externally and held by a hollow roll pin amid the slide serrations.

**Glock 19 and 19C**

**Our recommendation:** Glock successfully upgrades its gun ergonomics to put two of the company's most aggressive (and one of the loudest) midsized-caliber handguns into the hands