

# REVOLVER COMPARISON

small and superfluous, in our opinion. We did notice, however, that the spindly front sight was bent to the left.

Likewise, the rear sight was also poorly made, in our view. Elevation adjustment is made on top with a single screw that does not click, and the windage adjustment is a push-pull affair with small flat-blade screws. We feel Taurus is cheating both the customer and themselves by providing such a poor sighting system.

## Smith & Wesson 617

**Our recommendation: Buy it.** With the highest MSRP (\$534), obviously the quest for a good rimfire trainer is a "get what you pay for" game. Save for some roughness in the double-action trigger that should be easy to correct, S&W didn't let us down. Any serious revolver shooter should have this gun. Speedloading and recoil control aside, this is the ideal training tool for trigger control and other fundamentals.

The reason the Smith & Wesson product is so much more expensive is it was not built down to the caliber. This is a regular full-size revolver normally chambered for six rounds of .38 Special, .357 Magnum or even five rounds of .44 Special. It features a rugged, no-nonsense lightly polished stainless steel facade, click-adjustable sights for windage and elevation, rounded case-hardened trigger, target hammer, snag-free cylinder latch, full-lug barrel and shrouded full-length ejector rod.

When we first handled the S&W Model 617, we remarked on how much it resembled the company's other revolvers. Just because it fires the tiny .22 round, Smith & Wesson did not give it short shrift. Despite the 10 little holes in the cylinder, this gun weighs in with the full-sized target models of larger caliber and comes with a full-sized Hogue monogrip with exposed backstrap for more

## SMITH & WESSON MODEL 617

Price.....\$359



**Our recommendation: This is a full-size gun shooting a pint-size round. It handles like a centerfire. Buy it.**



*The 617 strongly resembled the company's other revolvers. Despite the 10 holes in the cylinder (top), this gun weighs in like a full-sized target model with click-adjustable sights, rounded case-hardened trigger, target hammer, and full-lug barrel (bottom).*

### SPECIFICATIONS

WARRANTY .....	Lifetime
METAL FINISH .....	Stainless Steel
FRAME MATERIAL .....	Steel
WEIGHT .....	2.75 lbs.
CAPACITY .....	10
GRIP MATERIAL .....	Rubber
ACTION TYPE .....	SA/DA
TRIGGER PULL DA .....	13.5 lbs.
TRIGGER PULL SA .....	4.5 lbs.



*The 617's sights allow for the least amount of light between the edges of the front sight and the inside of the rear notch.*