

Accuracy & Chronograph Data

	Taurus	S&W	Ruger
Federal American Eagle .44 Magnum 240-grain JHP	Taurus Model 44	S&W 629	Ruger Redhawk
Average Velocity at 10 ft.	1325 fps	1321 fps	1315 fps
Standard Deviation	14 fps	27 fps	25 fps
Muzzle Energy	936 ft.-lbs.	931 ft.-lbs.	922 ft.-lbs.
Smallest Group at 25 yds.	1.7 in.	1.5 in.	1.8 in.
Largest Group Size	2.0 in.	2.1 in.	2.2 in.
Average Group Size	1.9 in.	1.9 in.	2.0 in.
Winchester 240-grain .44 Magnum JSP	Taurus Model 44	S&W 629	Ruger Redhawk
Average Velocity at 10 ft.	1355 fps	1290 fps	1286 fps
Standard Deviation	16 fps	16 fps	13 fps
Muzzle Energy	979 ft.-lbs.	888 ft.-lbs.	882 ft.-lbs.
Smallest Group at 25 yds.	1.7 in.	0.80 in.	1.2 in.
Largest Group Size	2.1 in.	1.4 in.	1.8 in.
Average Group Size	1.8 in.	1.0 in.	1.5 in.
PMC .44 Special 180-grain JHP	Taurus Model 44	S&W 629	Ruger Redhawk
Average Velocity at 10 ft.	844 fps	812 fps	770 fps
Standard Deviation	15 fps	14 fps	23 fps
Muzzle Energy	285 ft.-lbs.	264 ft.-lbs.	237 ft.-lbs.
Smallest Group at 25 yds.	1.7 in.	2.0 in.	2.3 in.
Largest Group Size	2.0 in.	2.2 in.	3.0 in.
Average Group Size	1.9 in.	2.1 in.	2.7 in.

been contributing to a tendency to short-stroke the trigger, not letting it move completely forward between shots. Cleaning the chambers also seemed to help.

A stubborn cylinder latch made swinging the cylinder away from the frame difficult. We found that when pressing the latch forward we were being fooled into thinking it was all the way in. We discovered that it needed an extra push to disengage.

The Hogue rubber monogrip would not be our choice for handling the .44's recoil. Though the open backstrap design leaves zero gap between the hand and the grip—a desirable trait—the 629's grip otherwise captures the hand with a sticky rubber compound and deep finger grooves. There's no place for the gun to go, so the hand, wrist, and arm absorb all the recoil. After letting off six rounds of the Winchester 240-grain jacketed soft points, we expected to see a detached arm lying on the ground with the gun still rooted firmly in the hand. Hogue's

wooden grip or even Smith & Wesson's older style two-piece grip might be a better choice.

Ruger Redhawk

Our recommendation: Listed at \$515 MSRP, the Redhawk is not only the least expensive gun in this test, but we surmise it to be the strongest of the three. Its stainless-steel fabrication makes it appear to be carved out of a single chunk of steel.

All three test guns surpassed the accuracy displayed by most of today's revolvers and semi-autos that are sold as target models. The Redhawk may have posted a third best average for the Federal ammunition, but when you factor in the human error possible during a hand-held test, you have to say that 2.0 inch versus 1.9 inch is a tie.

The Redhawk trailed somewhat with the .44 Special cartridges, and we think this capsule rundown tells the story of the Redhawk. This is a .44 Magnum from the ground up. Even

the cylinder stop stands twice as high through the frame into the timing groove as on its competitors. The front sight is firmly dovetailed via a base that is more than 50 percent of its total mass, and it sits up high enough to offer a commanding sight picture. Despite a single action that we feel is unnecessarily heavy and a trigger that needs to be radiused for comfort, it was the only gun we tested that was successful at knocking down turkeys and rams as well as the pigs without any sight adjust-

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Test Gun Program

Because of repeated requests from readers, we are making some of our test guns available for sale. To receive our current test-product inventory list, please email a request to ttwoodard@earthlink.com. Or send a dollar and a self-addressed envelope for a printed copy of the inventory. See page 2 for the mailing address.