

## Colt's Concealed Carry Officer

Retail Price...\$813



### SPECIFICATIONS

Warranty: 1 Year

FINISH..... Stainless/Matte Bl.	SIGHT RADIUS .....	6.1 in.
WEIGHT (EMPTY) .....	CAPACITY .....	7+1 rds.
OVERALL LENGTH .....	GRIP MATERIAL .....	Rubber
OVERALL HEIGHT .....	ACTION TYPE .....	SA
MAX. WIDTH .....	TRIGGER PULL Wt. SA .....	6 lbs.
BARREL LENGTH .....	TRIGGER REACH .....	3.4 in.

**Our recommendation: With fixes, this is a superb self-defense gun.**



During our testing, we had access to a Colt CCO that had been slightly modified from factory standard in ways that make it a superb defense gun, in our view. It's minor changes like the following that factored into our decision to recommend the CCO:

- It had been fitted with cocobolo-wood Ahrends Tactical grips.

- The insides were coated with The Robar Companies' proprietary NP3 Teflon/electroless-nickel finish, which prevents rust on non-stainless parts and adds lubricity.

- Robar also installed a Videki trigger in place of the plastic one that came with the gun, and gave it a clean pull of 4 pounds.

- The owner of the CCO beveled the front edges of the slide and frame, and removed the sharp bottom edge of the beavertail grip safety. These changes took only a few minutes with a file. (When you file off the sharp edges of the slide you can restore the original dull gray finish to the stainless steel very cheaply and easily with ferric chloride solution purchased at any Radio Shack. Just dab it full-strength onto the stainless steel until it looks right.)

With these changes, we'd pick the CCO over all the other guns for day-to-day carry as this one was set up, but concede it would take extra money to get this gun into this condition. We estimate the basic charges, filing and replacing and improving the trigger, to cost about \$125. Thus, we placed it second to the Kimber for value received.

sides of the top rib and around the edges of the ejection port that needed attention. We hasten to add that the Springfield Champion needed some serious file work too. It had edges that can easily cut you, much less your \$75 holster. How-

ever, the rear sight was of a shape that would be easy on the hand while clearing stovepipe jams, and it also provided the longest possible sight radius.

The Colt CCO came with a skel-tonized Commander-style ham-

mer, beavertail safety, slightly opened magazine well, extended thumb safety, and a perfect sight picture. It also had an undercut trigger guard that added greatly to the solid feel of this handgun. It came with two magazines in a well-made plastic case.

The CCO had exactly the same disassembly procedure as the full-size 1911. There were no tricks or surprises here. On the range, the CCO gave acceptable accuracy, though we'd have liked it to be better. We found—once again—that .45 automatic pistols have distinct preferences for ammunition. So-called hardball from different makers gave distinctly different results on the target. The CCO preferred the Winchester 230-grain FMJ over the 230-grain PMC and the 200-grain JHP Blazer.

One thing our test results don't show is that the CCO was the quickest to get on target. Presenting the gun from the ready position, the CCO was the fastest to bring to bear on any given target, mostly because of its superb balance and light weight. It was also fastest on multiple targets for the same reasons. Its light weight hindered the speed of follow-up shots just a bit over the Kimber, but the CCO's sight radius advantage tended to make up the difference. On the downside, the Kimber and Champion had shorter slides that were a bit easier to get out of the holster.

### Springfield Champion

**Our recommendation: We didn't like the really poor accuracy, takedown method, or the sharp edges of the \$629 Champion, but we loved its trigger pull, looks, and overall feel. You'd need to do some serious filing on the front of the slide to protect your holster, and if you're at all serious about your shooting, you'll have to improve its accuracy.**

The Champion, like the CCO and Kimber, came with essentially all the goodies any serious handgunner would want. These include a