

PRODUCT REVIEW

RUGER LCR

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POCKET REVOLVER (.38 SPECIAL)



Five-shot .38 Special chambered Ruger LCR with 1.87" barrel (Model 5401).

The Ruger LCR (c. 2010) is a small double-action-only (DAO) revolver that is widely considered to be the best pocket gun, with the 5-shot .38 Special variant being the best as it has good stopping power without excessive recoil.

With the polymer lower and steel upper this groundbreaking revolver is the equivalent of self-loading Glock pistols, is simple to use, reliable, durable and robust. It also has the best trigger pull on any mass production pocket revolver.

If a round fails to go off (due to a defective primer) you can instantly fire the next round by simply pulling the trigger, whereas manually reloading a semi-auto pistol takes far longer. Unlike most semi-auto pistols, revolvers will fire when the barrel is pressed against an attacker, and will also fire from inside a jacket or vest pocket in an emergency thanks to the internal hammer that will not catch on the lining, whereas all semi-auto pistols will likely jam after the first shot due to the movement of the reciprocating slide or the ejection of the fired

case being impeded, and might not fire at all if the pistol's barrel/slide is pushed out of battery if it is pushed forward against the inside of the pocket towards the attacker to aim it.

The 5-shot .38 Special variant is 3.4-oz lighter than the .357 Magnum chambered variant (13.5 vs. 17.1) as it uses an aluminium upper rather than a steel upper (both use a polymer lower) so has more recoil than the .357 Magnum variant when loaded with the same .38 Special rounds, thus recoil sensitive people may prefer the heavier .357 Magnum chambered variant for use with the .38 Special loads.

The 5-shot .357 Magnum variant has very heavy recoil with magnum rounds, so if you want to use such rounds the substantially heavier Ruger SP101 is a far better choice.

The 6-shot .327 Federal Magnum variant is not recommended as there is a limited range of loads for this round which operates at very high pressure, which can cause extraction issues, while reduced power loads (and the

less powerful .32 H&R Magnum rounds that can be loaded in it) are no better than many .38 Special loads.

The 5-shot 9x19mm variant has markedly more recoil than the .38 Special variant so is not suited to novice shooters or recoil sensitive users (this round is better suited to the heavier SP101). It is best used with full moon clips which greatly aids extraction of fired cases. Rounds can be loaded without such clips but the fired cases will need to be extracted with the aid of a rod to punch out each case (like a Monadnock D-Jammer Impact Tool).

Loaded full moon clips can be bent in some situations so they should be carried in a protective holder to prevent damage, such as the FMC or PMC full moon clip carriers (Del Fatti Leather) or plastic 35mm film canisters.

I recommend a .38 Special chambered LCR loaded with the Hornady 38 Special 90 gr FTX Critical Defense Lite load which has a reputation for consistent performance in short barrel revolvers like the Ruger LCR and S&W Centennial.

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

Ideal for jacket and vest pockets and a great choice for deep concealment bellyband and crotch holsters.

ACCESSORIES

Log Book

Firearm Usage & Maintenance Log Book.
[Blackheart International]

Cleaning Kit

BoreSnake Soft Sided Cleaning Kit (34002 for .357/38/9mm handguns).
[Hoppe's]

Speedloader

HKS Speedloader Model 36-A.
[HKS]

Dry Fire Rounds

A-Zoom Snap Caps.
[Lyman Products Corporation]

Ear Plugs

EarPro EP3/EP4 Sonic Defenders.
[SureFire]

High Visibility Front Sight

Ember Standard Dot Yellow—Ruger LCR (.22-.327-9mm Only).
[XS Sight Systems]

Wood Grips

Secret Service Grips.
[Eagle Grips]

IWB Holster

The Workman.
[Mitch Rosen]

Waistpack Holster

Stealth Pac.
[Mitch Rosen]

Tactical Flashlight

6PX Pro.
[SureFire]

HOT TIP

Line a jacket or vest pocket with leather if you intend to carry the LCR inside it.