

RUGER LCR

SMALL ARMS REVIEW TEAM

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 the best pocket gun.

With the polymer lower and metal (steel or aluminium) upper this revolver 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-automatic pistol takes far longer. Unlike most 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 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 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 (steel upper) is not recommended as there are a limited range of loads for this round which operates at very high pressure (higher than the .357 Magnum) which can cause extraction issues. Many gun stores do not stock this ammunition.

The 5-shot 9x19mm variant (steel upper) has sharper recoil

than the .38 Special variant as the 9x19mm round operates at higher pressures, so isn't suited to novice shooters (better in the heavier SP101 unless one uses reduced recoil loads like the Hornady 9mm Luger 100 gr FTX Critical Defense Lite load). It is best used with full moon clips which greatly aid the 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 (e.g., 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.

We recommend a .38 Special chambered LCR loaded with the Hornady 38 Special 90gr FTX Critical Defense Lite load and (for the recoil sensitive) the Federal Personal Defense Hydra-Shok Low Recoil 38 Special 110 Grain load.

SUMMARY

Ideal for jacket pockets and a great choice for inside waistband (IWB), 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 or EP4. [SureFire]

High Visibility Front Sight

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

Grip

Secret Service Grips. [Eagle Grips]

IWB Holster

Workman. [Mitch Rosen]

Waistpack Holster

Stealth Pac. [Coronado Leather]

Tactical Flashlight

E1B Backup MaxVision. [SureFire]

HOT TIP

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