

PRODUCT REVIEW

S&W M&P 380 SHIELD EZ

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SELF-LOADING PISTOL (.380 ACP)



The Smith & Wesson M&P 380 Shield EZ (c. 2018) is ideal for people with a weak firing hand who want something more powerful than the smaller .32 ACP chambered Beretta 3032Tomcat, thanks to the easy to operate slide and light 4.5 lb trigger pull.

It uses 8 round magazines and has a flange on the rear of the slide to help make racking the slide easier, and a reversible mag release button.

The version with the manual safety catch (pictured) is best as it helps prevent accidental discharges, especially when removing the pistol from a holster or reholstering it. A manual safety catch can also help stop a gun snatcher quickly using the pistol.

Although once considered inadequate for defensive use, new bullet designs have made .380 ACP pistols adequate (if not ideal) for such use.

We recommend the Federal Personal Defense 99 Grain

Hydra-Shok Deep 380 Auto load (220 ft-lbs/1,000 fps) and Underwood 380 ACP 68 Grain Xtreme Defender load (255 ft-lbs/1,300 fps) as they have very good penetration and good stopping power.

For people who don't have hand strength issues we

recommend the more powerful +P version of the 68 grain Underwood load (296 ft-lbs/1,400 fps).

Only use S&W mags as aftermarket mags are notoriously unreliable. These factory mags have a loading aid built into them in the form of a thumb stud on the side of the follower. Don't use mags

used for live-fire training for combat use as they could have damaged feed lips or their springs could have been damaged by metal fatigue caused by the many compression cycles involved in loading and unloading during training.



SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

This easy to shoot pistol is ideal for anyone with hand strength issues due to its easy to rack slide and light recoil.

RECOMMENDED ACCESSORIES

Manual

M&P 380 Shield EZ Owner's Manual. [Smith & Wesson]

Log Book

Firearm Usage & Maintenance Log Book. [Blackheart International]

Field Bore Brush

Hoppe's BoreSnake. [Hoppe's]

Cleaner/Lubricant

Slip 2000 725 / Slip 2000 EWL. [Slip 2000]

Dry Fire Rounds

A-Zoom 380 ACP Snap Caps. [Lyman Products Corporation]

Ear Plugs

EarPro or EP3 or EP4. [SureFire]

High Visibility Sights

XS 24/7 Standard Dot Tritium Front and Tritium White Stripe Rear. [XS Sight Systems]

Tactical Light

XC1-B LED Handgun WeaponLight. [SureFire]

Holster

BHYCS-TB Inside the Waist Scabbard with Thumb Break. [Black Hills Leather Store]

Flashlight

G2X Tactical. [SureFire]

HOT TIP

Training magazines can suffer metal fatigue to their springs so don't use them for combat.