

## PRODUCT REVIEW

# RUGER SP101

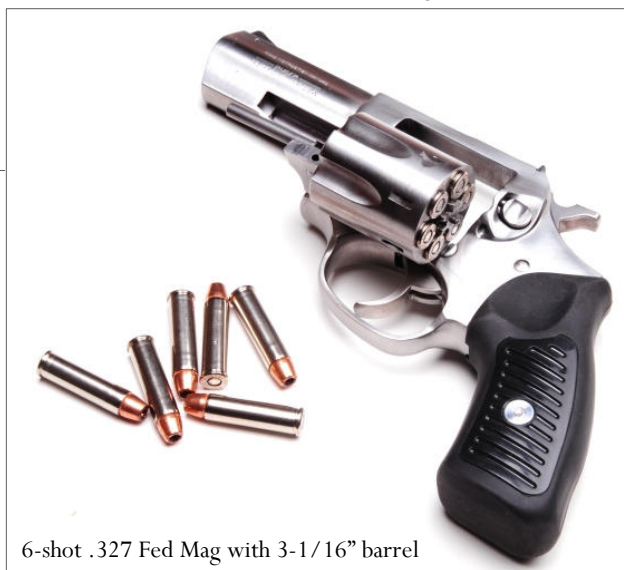
BY RICHARD LUTZ

JANUARY 2020

## COMPACT REVOLVER (.357 MAGNUM)



5-shot .357 Mag with 2-1/8" barrel



6-shot .327 Fed Mag with 3-1/16" barrel

The Ruger SP101 (c. 1989) is the strongest small frame revolver which makes it ideally suited to use with the .357 Magnum and .327 Federal Magnum rounds.

Originally deigned for the .38 Special round, it was soon realized that it was more than strong enough to handle the full power .357 Magnum round due to its beefy dimensions so the frame and cylinder were lengthened slightly to accommodate the more powerful round.

The short 2-1/8" long barrel is too short for the magnum rounds so the 3-1/16" barrel is a much better choice, which results in a substantial increase in bullet velocity and energy, especially with the .327 Federal round which is hobbled by the shorter barrel.

The Federal and Remington 125-grain JHP .357 Magnum rounds have the best one-shot stopping power record of any

handgun round against human attackers, while Buffalo Bore make a deep penetration .357 Mag load (180-grain Hard Cast LFN-GC HEAVY 357 MAG OUTDOORSMAN) that will reliably penetrate the skull of a large bear or wild bull, which makes a handgun like this a very good choice for defensive use in remote wilderness areas where one might come across large dangerous animals.

As good as the .327 Fed Mag is in the longer barrel,

the .357 Mag round is a much more versatile defensive round with a far greater range of loads available.

Although too heavy for pocket carry it is readily concealable in an inside waistband (IWB) holster or waistpack holster, in which case there is no advantage to the shorter barrel.

It needs a trigger/action job and a lighter 10-lb Wolf main spring to improve the trigger pull which is rough and heavy as it comes from the factory.

## SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

The ideal small frame revolver for the .357 Magnum and .327 Federal Magnum rounds.

## ACCESSORIES

### 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 Snap Caps.  
[Lyman Products Corporation]

### Ear Plugs

EarPro EP3 or EP4 Sonic Defenders.  
[SureFire]

### Illuminated Front Sight

XS Standard Dot Tritium Front.  
[XS Sight Systems]

### Wood Grips

Secret Service Grips  
[Eagle Grips]

### Holster

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

### Waistpack Holster

Stealth Pac  
[Mitch Rosen]

### Flashlight

G2X Tactical.  
[SureFire]

## HOT TIP

If carried in a pocket place your thumb over the hammer so it can be quickly drawn without snagging.