

Colt Mustang Pocketlite .380¹¹

ammo: Federal Personal Defense 90-grain Hydra-Shok JHP, Winchester WinClean 95-grain BEB, Winchester white box 95-grain FMJ, Blazer 95-grain TMJ, Remington 88-grain JHP, Corbon +P 90-grain JHP, American Eagle 95-grain JHP, Independence 90-grain FMJ, Sellier & Bellot 92-grain FMJ and a bag of mixed-brand FMJs and HPs that I'd accumulated over the years. I loaded up the two magazines provided, and proceeded to blast away offhand at a target 10 yards distant.

My initial impression: the new Mustang is a delight to shoot. The checkered polymer grips provide a firm hold. The sights are clear and sharp. The rear sight is black, the front a matte stainless, so there's a good contrast between the two. The grooved trigger is crisp, surprisingly so for a pocket pistol, with a pull that measures a hair above five pounds, although it seems much less. My little finger curls nicely under the magazine. Interestingly enough, although it is a six-round magazine, there are witness holes for seven rounds. Believe me, the seventh round will not fit.

I did mention closer tolerances earlier. There isn't the tiniest bit of slop in this gun; everything fits right and locks up tight. No rough edges or sharp corners. It's a pleasure to see

this level of quality coming from an American manufacturer. The Mustang shot well regardless of what was fed through it...HPs, FMJs, mixtures of both...all chugged through with no problems. Recoil was insignificant, and the downrange results were impressive, small six-round groups in the kill zone. All in all, a very pleasant and rewarding experience.

The Colt Mustang does not have a magazine safety. Some like 'em, I don't. And the slide can be retracted when the thumb safety is ON, so you can clear the chamber while the pistol is on Safe, a handy feature.

Disassembly for cleaning is pretty much what you'd expect from a mini 1911, minus the barrel bushing and recoil spring plug, which the Mustang does not have.

All in all, Colt has come up with the best Mustang ever, a really neat little pocket gun that offers surprising accuracy, reliability and good looks. And it is a Colt. MSRP is \$599. I missed out on buying a Mustang 20 years ago; I'm not going to make that mistake again.

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