

SIG P238 .380 Pocket Pistol ¹¹

Rainbow Titanium finish, SIGLITE® night sights and rosewood grips. The fit and finish were flawless. It's just 5.5" long, weighs 16.1 ounces with a full six-round magazine and one in the chamber, and it's almost too pretty to carry concealed.

Does it shoot as pretty as it looks? I took the P238 to the range with an assortment of ammunition: Winchester white box 95-grain FMJ, Corbon 90-grain +P JHP, Remington 100-pack 88-grain JHP, Aguila 95-grain FMJ, Sellier & Bellot 92-grain FMJ and CCI Blazer 95-grain TMJ.

The tritium sights are prominent and sharply defined. The rear sight is square enough so you can cycle the slide one-handed by hooking the sight on your belt and pushing down. Just for the hell of it, I loaded a magazine with one of each brand of cartridge, and took aim at 10 yards, off-hand. The trigger pull measures eight pounds, but it somehow seems quite lighter. I fired three magazines of mixed ammo. I was surprised to see that the resulting 18-round group measured about 2-1/4" across and 1-3/4" vertically. Very nice indeed for a pistol intended for conversational distances!

I suspect that, in addition to performance, one of the most appealing features of the SIG P238 is its familiar configuration. It looks like a baby 1911 and, unlike most of the competition in .380 ACP, has the familiar single-action trigger. Thumb safety and slide stop are configured and positioned like

those of the 1911, but there is no grip safety. Takedown is similar to that of the 1911, only simpler.

The SIG P238 comes with a lockable hard case, a black polycarbonate belt holster, the inevitable cable lock, a small tube of Mil-Comm lubricant/protectant and a very straightforward and readable owners manual.

My only complaint is the gun comes with only one magazine.

For an MSRP of \$699 for this Rainbow Titanium model, I think an extra magazine isn't asking too much. In any case, I did follow Oscar Wilde's advice, "The only way to get rid of a temptation is to yield to it." I've ordered a shell cordovan pocket holster from Mitch Rosen, because a gun that nice should not be sheathed in hard plastic.

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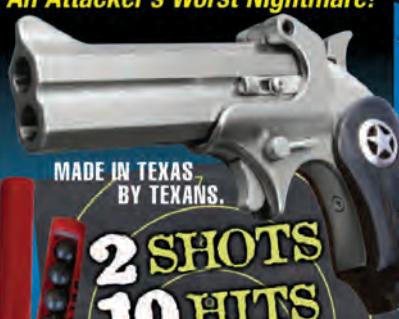
The .380 ACP does not have the stopping power of a .45 ACP or .44 Magnum, but it can be carried concealed under far more circumstances.



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