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My Plastic Fantastic Re



Reviewed by Peter Caroline

My grandmother is turning over in her grave; I paid retail!

Let me start at the beginning. While cruising the aisles at the 2009 SHOT Show, I came upon a large crush of people at the Ruger booth. It was déjà vu all over again. At the 2008 SHOT Show, Ruger introduced their little LCP .380 pistol, and you had to line up to get your hands on one. This year, the crowd was swarming around a little .38 Special +P revolver. What's so special about a five-shot .38 snubnose? Well, this one has a plastic lower frame assembly (what Ruger refers to as a "high-tech polymer fire control housing"), a black hard-coated aluminum frame, and a double-action-only trigger to die for. The grey stainless steel cylinder was dramatically fluted to reduce weight (total weight of the LCR is only 13.5 ounces) and highly reminiscent of the old Enfield Mark 1 revolver.

Naturally, I had to have one to test. So I talked to several Ruger representatives and passed out copies of my business card and FFL. Then, after I returned home from the Show, I waited. And waited. And waited. The months went by, and even after I contacted Ruger and reminded them, still no LCR. Near the end of

July, I happened to be in Murphy's firearms emporium in Tucson. I was telling them about my lack of success in obtaining an LCR. The response was, "Oh, we have one. Right here." I looked at the revolver in question. There it was, an LCR, right on the counter in front of me. Almost as in a dream, I opened my mouth and the fateful words came out, "I'll take it."

Okay, I shelled out \$475, including tax, which was still 50 bucks under MSRP. So I can still console myself that I got a deal. Anyway, the proof of the pudding is in the eating, or in this case, the shooting.

I had fired one of S&W's scandium ultra-light revolvers a year or so ago. It was a gun you loved to carry, but hated to shoot. A pretty snappy recoil tended to discourage much target practice. I figured I might be in for a similar experience with the LCR. I initially tried it with the classic "three grains of Bullseye, 148-grain HBWC target load," and it was a very pleasant shooter. There was not much more recoil with some CCI Blazer 158-grain RN rounds. I finally tried some nearly .357 Magnum-level 158-grain handloads that I had worked up years ago for an unbreakable Dan Wesson .38 snubnose. The LCR's Hogue Tamer grip with Sorbothane®