

The Right Gun a



The Cobra Shadow Revolver

Reviewed by Peter Caroline

I'll readily admit that I'm more than a bit prejudiced in favor of revolvers. Even in this day of high-tech, high-capacity semiauto pistols, the traditional revolver has a lot going for it. It's simple, sturdy and ready for use without a great deal of training or technical know-how. In addition, it is not fussy about loads or projectile configuration. At 3:00 a.m., when things go bump in the dark and you come out of a sound sleep, the double-action revolver rules. Grab it, point it and pull the trigger. Mission accomplished.

I've owned, and still own, a number of double-action-only revolvers. Most of them were Smith & Wesson's old New Departure Safety Hammerless models in .32 and .38 S&W caliber. These classic "Lemon Squeezers" were great pocket guns, albeit limited in effective power. S&W later came up with the Model 40 and 42 Centennials in .38 Special, a very adequate and still popular defense cartridge. And most recently, I've had the distinct pleasure of trying out a new entry into the field of DAO pocket revolvers, the Shadow, made by Cobra Enterprises of Utah, Inc.

The Shadow, with an aluminum frame, stainless steel barrel and five-round cylinder, weighs only 15 ounces empty. It is chambered for .38 Special and is rated for +P cartridges. Compact rubber grips are standard, but rosewood or Crimson Trace Lasergrrips are available at extra cost. The streamlined frame with its fully enclosed hammer is available in six finishes: Titanium, Black or Pink Anodized, and Ruby Red, Royal Blue and Crown Gold. Being a conventional sort, I was quite gratified that the gun Cobra sent me to test had a Black Anodized frame.

Loading drill for the Shadow is straightforward and familiar: push the thumbblatch forward, push the cylinder out to the left, insert five cartridges and push the cylinder closed. The sights are rudimentary: a shallow, square notch at the rear, and a square-topped stainless ramp at the front. This arrangement is pretty much par for the course on small, defensive revolvers, but I'd really like to see a fiber optic front sight.

Thanks to the current ammunition non-availability situation, my own stock of factory .38 Special ammo was limited. My good friend and shoot-

t the Right Price¹¹

ing buddy, George McKinney, helped out from his own personal supply. I started out with some Winchester +P 125-grain JHPs, which shot uniformly high. Federal American Eagle 130-grain FMJs shot just a bit lower, and Winchester 125-grain Silvertip HPs were right on point of aim. Great...the Shadow loves Silvertips; now try and find some! All of the abovementioned rounds were quite comfortable to shoot. I had figured that the Shadow's light weight and its small rubber grip might pose a recoil problem, but this was not the case. The gun shoots where you point it, and the double-action-only trigger is quite manageable, and can be staged for more accurate fire.

I did have at my disposal a box of older Corbon .38 Special +P+ ammo with 115-grain HP projectiles. I tried one. Just one. The recoil was,

for lack of a better term, memorable. The Shadow suffered no ill effects, but I wouldn't put it, or myself, through that again.

“For years, I’ve seen the price of American-made revolvers skyrocket, and I’ve hoped to see one that the average person could comfortably afford. The Shadow fills the bill.”

At an MSRP of \$425, the Cobra Shadow is an outstanding bargain. It is 100-percent made in the U.S.A., and exceptionally well crafted and feels right, with no odd angles or sharp edges. It carries comfortably in your pocket, and will fit any holster made for a J-frame S&W. For years, I’ve seen the price of American-made revolvers skyrocket, and I’ve hoped to see one that the average person could comfortably afford. The Shadow fills the bill, and I expect that Cobra will sell a lot of them.

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