

Lake Island Bullseye and Qualification Course

.22+.38+.45...Enough said.

Everyone who has completed the Lake Island Bullseye and Qualification course in the past few years has heard me say, “ all you really need is a .22, a .38/357 revolver, and a .45”. All other calibers are fine for their specific need and use. Unfortunately, most pistols chambered in those calibers are not suitable for Bullseye shooting at 25 yards here at the range.

Issue #1: Very few have adjustable sights. Without adjustable sights these pistols are not suitable at 25 yards. As part of the class we sat down and tried to see where the rounds would “print”. The shortcomings of fixed sights were obvious to all. You can do everything right and still miss the target. For some reason the majority of fixed sight pistols shoot about 2+ feet low, even from a rest. I have tried to shoot some of the pistols with a little more success than a new shooter, but it was still unsatisfactory. Amazingly, some are quite good--just not your \$300 Firearm.

Issue #2: Production details and quality control. At this point in our lives we should recognize the fact that you get what you pay for. An inexpensive pistol can't compete against an expensive one. Prices vary quite a bit. One thing we must keep in mind is what the firearm was designed to do. As we discussed in class most of the Wonder 9's are used for the military and for police use. For this reason they must function under the worst circumstances imaginable. Extreme climate and weather conditions cannot effect the operation of the firearm. The user's life depends on it. What makes the firearm so dependable is also what makes it not suitable for 25 yd ranges. At 21 feet, no problem. At 25 yards almost no hits out of two five shot strings. The opposite can be said about a qualifying Bullseye gun. Accurate at 25 and 50 yards, just don't drop it into the mud or dirt and expect it to work.

Just a quick mention about quality control. With all the advancements in production techniques and plastic materials I think the industry has done a good job. BUT as time goes by, what will happen to those pistols in 50 years, or after 10,000 + rounds. I think all of us who have been around for a while have had a tool or appliance we bought decades ago, or were given to us by a parent just finally wore out. We replace it and discover the plastic, as opposed to metal parts, wore out in no time at all.

The question becomes, what do you intend to do with the firearm you are about to purchase? Target use or self-defense?

More to come.

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