

What Is The Best Handgun to Buy?

So you have decided you want to buy a new handgun, but you are having trouble deciding which one. Good news is there are tons of options available, bad news is this can make it difficult to decide which is the best handgun to buy. What is the best handgun to buy? That is a question not easily answered, as the best handgun for one person may not be even close to the best for someone else. Here are three important questions you should ask yourself as you try to decide which is the best handgun to buy, and a few options we personally recommend.

1. What Do I Plan to Use This For?

The first and most important question you should ask yourself when planning a handgun purchase is simple. What do I plan to use this for? Your intended use should be a major factor in your decision. For example, if your intention is to purchase a personal, concealed carry pistol, you may want a smaller handgun that conceals easily. If you intend to enter marksmanship competitions, you may want a handgun more suited to that.

2. What Caliber Do I Want?

Another important question to consider is what caliber of ammunition you want to use. Different caliber of ammunition can behave differently, be more prevalent or scarce, may have large pricing differences, and can often have different uses. .22 long rifle ammunition is plentiful and affordable, but is not widely recommended for self-defense, while .45 magnum is often too much for comfortable handling and more expensive. Many (us included) recommend 9mm for personal carry as it is often readily available, affordable, versatile, and offers very useful characteristics.

3. What is My Budget?

A budget is an imperative component for any purchase, but is especially integral when considering a new handgun. These days there are many high quality but affordable handguns on the market, but prices can also vary greatly. Depending on your budget, some brands and models may be eliminated from your options list immediately.

4 of Our Favorites:

Walther PPQ M2



The PPQ is a fantastic option to the Walther line. Available in a variety of calibers and formats, the PPQ is a versatile offering. Key features include a highly innovative and extremely well regarded ergonomic grip designed to fit the hand as best as possible, paired with a smooth trigger, a very lightweight polymer body, and ample 15 round magazines. This is a very smooth firing, reliable, and comfortable pistol great for home defense and concealed carrying. MSRP: \$649

Smith & Wesson M&P SHIELD



Smith & Wesson reliability in a compact, easily concealed format. The Shield is one of the smaller offerings on this list, designed for compact and comfortable concealed carry. It is a lightweight polymer body, available in 9mm, .40, and .45 calibers. The Shield is a thinner profile with a smaller magazine (7 + 1 without extension), which may be drawbacks for some, but for those looking for a smaller carry weapon or something to better fit smaller hands this is a great option. MSRP: \$449

Beretta 92FS



Beretta is highly regarded for extremely reliable, well engineered weapons, and one of our personal favorite brands. The 92FS is no exception. This is one of the larger pistols here, at 8.5 long, and a bit on the heavier side as well at 33oz, making it a bit less appealing for smaller shooters looking to conceal carry, though for those interested in a larger pistol or for solely home defense the 92FS is a serious contender. Features 9mm caliber and an ample 15 round magazine capacity. MSRP \$675

Glock 19



Everyone's favorite Austrian brand, Glock has a well earned reputation of excellent weapons, and the Glock 19 is no exception. The 19 is available in a 9mm, with a 15 round magazine standard, but manufacturer options including 17 and 33 round capacities. As a more compact offering of the Glock lineup, the 19 comes in at 30oz in a 5 tall frame, making it a more concealable (and our preferred) option of the Glock range. Of course, Glock is known for reliability, a reputation that continues with the Glock 19. MSRP: \$599

Hopefully this post will have helped you narrow down your options and make a more informed decision in purchasing your new weapon! Remember as you do your research to always keep in mind intended use, caliber choices, and budget to be sure you make the best purchase you can.