

Adventurers! Today we *shoot-'em-up* at the...



I've been promising Glider Girl that I'd tutor her in "basic handgun safety & operation" and so decided to "tune up" myself.

For this, OnTarget is superb. Gun-rental, great staff, excellent facility 😊 😊 😊.

My first attempt was a no-go... To shoot at On Target you need...

- 1) Your own gun or...
- 2) Active Duty military or...
- 3) Policeman

This isn't me (yet). So... I zoomed home, got my .22 handgun, brought it back to On Target, I was in! This allowed me to rent-a-gun. This entire procedure is for liability issues, which cannot allow complete strangers to come in and rent-guns. But, if you are a gun-owner already, you meet the liability hurdle.

What to rent? Good question... With excellent advice from a staffer, my first handgun was a Ruger SP-101. This, as were all-3 of the guns I fired tonight (50 rounds each), is a completely

modern, in-production firearm. Here's the Ruger, a 6-shot revolver...



...and note my protective gear (ear-muffs and safety glasses). Note that the cylinder is open, therefore impossible-to-fire (and yes, it is unloaded). Now, what to shoot at? I chose this target...



...which is a bad-guy (more on this later) holding a woman hostage (ditto). The shooting distance was **50'** and no law-enforcement officer in their right mind would take this shot with a hand-held revolver. ***But I did, 12 times!*** OK, note the bullet holes (caliber .38-Special)...

I certainly did not want to harm the woman, so "erred left" and got 10 of the 12 shots on-the-bad-guy. Not good enough. In this situation, I would have to hit the bad guy on the first shot, the equivalent of "12-for-12" on the target.

Ruger notes: An awesome weapon. Superb "feel". Some price-point-slop in the cylinder rotation/locking. **Cost = \$675.**

Below, gun #2, a Smith & Wesson Model-67. S&W is the "Lexus of revolvers", I expected quality, and I got it...



The cylinder "lock up" clearly superior to the Ruger. Near "target grade" trigger-pull. **\$775** this is \$100 more than the Ruger. But... Hmm... Interesting results... Note the below target... ***Blasted that bad guy but...*** oops... One "flyer" (ladies lower jaw) which took-out the babe. This I'm sure the result of the somewhat sensitive trigger (overall, neat for "target shooting", maybe not-so-good in a hostage-situation).



But still, 11-of-12 in the bad guy, and "tighter placement" too.

So, the Smith & Wesson is better, yes? Well, yes, and no... Both of the above targets were "slow, patiently-aimed shots". What about a more "rapid fire"? Uh-oh, here the S&W let me down...

Note the wide pattern-spread in the below target...



...the Ruger was much "tighter" than this...

So, an informal opinion (mine; what follows is not a recommendation)...

S&W notes: The S&W is the superior target-range firearm, no question. S&W the better "hostage savior" close-range firearm (if there is such a thing). S&W "higher quality". But in the world of quick-fire, multi-shots, for me the Ruger was #1.

But... "High tech" was available... For your \$8 (handgun rental fee, unlimited number of pistols for the same \$8) there was a \$2400 (yes, 2-thousand 4-hundred dollar) semi-automatic pistol, a *Wilson Combat* in caliber .45ACP. This is much more powerful than the caliber .38 Special revolvers ☺ or ☹ depending...



Note (above) what looks to be the "weird barrel". The pistol is in the "open, safe" position, below (from the web) is the "normal view". The "clips" hold the ammunition, the entire clip goes into the handle of the gun...



Ever hear the phrase, "you get what you pay for?"...



Hot shooting, eh? Some background...

What if the lady was not the hostage, but the leader of a very clever gang that gave the guy a toy-gun, telling him "lead me outside to the awaiting helicopter" (or, her rooftop-accomplice would blast the guy). Having been tipped-off by CIA operatives, I took the shots. Pretty amazing, eh?

The drawback of the auto-pistol was weight (heavy) and the ammo-clips...



...which I had to load myself, a laborious process.

In closing, the firing range also had rifles for sale, and "my favorite" (replica 1896 Henry rifle) was on-the-rack!



No-go!

The nearly-8-pound weight was a definite deal-breaker.

Thanks for reading along!

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