

WEAPON GUIDE

RUGER PC CARBINE

SMALL ARMS REVIEW TEAM

SELF-LOADING SPORTING RIFLE (9X19MM)



PC Carbine with Magpul PC Backpacker stock.

The Ruger PC Carbine has an excellent reputation for reliability and is legal in areas that ban military style rifles like the AK-47 and M16 as it lacks military features like a separate pistol grip, flash hider and bayonet lug, and is chambered for a low power handgun round.

Although low powered compared to most centerfire rifles, it has enough power for defensive use and far less muzzle blast and flash than the 5.56x45mm and 7.62x39mm rifle rounds. The 16.5" barrel increases velocity over a short barrel handgun so performs about the same as the best .357 Magnum handgun loads in a handgun, which have the best handgun stopping power record in police service.

The best 9mm rounds in a handgun (mostly self-loading pistols, though some revolvers are also chambered for it) have a 90% one-shot stopping power record in police service, whereas the best .357 Magnum rounds in a handgun (mostly revolvers, though a few self-loading pistols have also been chambered for it) have a 95% one-shot stopping power record in police service—a substantial improvement.

To put this in perspective, a 90% one-shot (to the upper torso) stopping power record means it will stop 9 in 10 attackers, but a 95% one-shot stopping power record means it will stop 19 out of 20 attackers. A BIG difference. That said, one must bear in mind that these stopping power statistics include lowly motivated attackers who will stop attacking because of pain or the fear of further injury, whereas highly motivated attackers are less likely to be immediately stopped.

The standard PC Carbine weighs 6.8 lbs, whereas the Magpul PC Backpacker stock reduces this to 6.2 lbs, a noticeable reduction smaller users appreciate. The PC Carbine can be ordered with this stock from Davidson's (a distributor exclusive). The Magpul stock is designed so the forend/barrel assembly clips into the buttstock to stop the two pieces knocking against each other during transport. A spare magazine can also be stored in the buttstock.

It is best fitted with a tactical white light like the Streamlight TR-3 Gun Light (on the standard stock) or TLR-1 (on the Magpul stock with an M-Lok rail adaptor) to identify

targets in low light situations.

The PC Carbine accepts Ruger pistol magazines and comes with an adaptor to use the far more common Glock magazines used in pistols like the G26, G19 and G17.

When the receiver is removed from the stock, to clean it or fit the Glock magazine adaptor, the two receiver bolts are removed. During reassembly the forward bolt is torqued down, which can flex the stock so it binds the arm that lifts up and holds the bolt back when the last round is fired (the last round hold open device gives you a visual indication that the gun needs to be reloaded). This can be addressed by placing a thin washer on the receiver's bolt hole so the bolt does not compress the stock as much when the bolt is torqued down, or by relieving the stock around said arm.

The +P pressure civilian rounds and similar pressure mil-spec NATO rounds are best, not standard (SAAMI) pressure civilian rounds as this can result in malfunctions due to contaminants like sand or mud getting inside the action.

We recommend the proven Speer 124 Grain Gold Dot +P load used by the NYPD.

SUMMARY

The best rifle for defensive use in the home that can also be discreetly transported.

ACCESSORIES

Log Book

Firearm Usage & Maintenance Log Book.
[Blackheart International]

Cleaning Kit

Legend Cleaning Kit (HPUL22)
[Hoppe's]

Dry Fire Rounds

A-Zoom Snap Caps.
[Lyman Products Corp.]

Ear Plugs

EarPro EP3 or EP4.
[SureFire]

Sling

CQB 3 Point Sling.
[Sturm Ruger]

Fiber Optic Front Sight

PC Carbine Fiber Optic Front Sight
[Ruger]

Tactical Light

TLR-1 or TLR-3 Gun Light.
[Streamlight]

HOT TIP

Training magazines can suffer metal fatigue to their springs so don't use them for combat.