

# S&W M&P9 SHIELD

SMALL ARMS REVIEW TEAM

## SUBCOMPACT SELF-LOADING PISTOL (9X19MM)



S&W Performance Center Ported M&P9 Shield M2.0 with Hi Viz sights and flush fitting 7 round magazine.

The Smith & Wesson Shield (c. 2012) subcompact pistol uses a single stack seven round magazine when chambered for the 9mm round, three rounds less than the larger Shield Plus (c. 2021) which uses semi-staggered magazines. People with small hands generally prefer the narrower grip on the Shield to the Shield Plus, while both their grips are tall enough for people with small hands to get all their fingers on it for optimum control without the need for a grip extension.

It lacks an accessory rail on the frame but a light/laser can be bolted to the trigger guard (e.g., Streamlight TLR-6).

A ported variant reduces muzzle flip, but the ported barrel can eject muzzle blast towards the firer's head if the pistol is fired when held close to the body, deposits more firing residue inside the pistol, and reduces bullet velocity and energy slightly.

An unported barrel can be fitted (3.1" or 4").

The single-action (SA) type mechanism used in striker fired pistols like this provides a short trigger pull for every shot. The striker (firing pin) is partially cocked when the slide is moved fully rearwards, as occurs when chambering a round, while pulling the trigger completes the cocking process and releases the striker to fire a round.

It has been proven to be very reliable and durable, in large part due to their simplicity, tough corrosion resistant finish, and shock absorbing polymer frame.

If it is not carried in a holster it is best to leave the chamber unloaded if not fitted with a heavier 10 pound trigger if you have the version without a safety catch (too small for easy activation and not ambidextrous), while users need to ensure their finger is outside the trigger



Shield Plus vs. Shield

guard when removing it from a holster or pocket and returning it there.

This Shield is best used with standard pressure 9mm loads with light bullets that have markedly less recoil than the higher pressure +P loads with standard 124 grain bullets.

We recommend the Hornady 9mm Luger 100 gr FTX Critical Defense Lite load.

### SUMMARY

The Shield has proven to be very reliable and durable and one of the few subcompacts with a heavier trigger pull option (along with the G43 and G26 Glocks).

### ACCESSORIES

#### Log Book

Firearm Usage & Maintenance Log Book. [Blackheart International]

#### Cleaning Kit

BoreSnake Soft Sided Cleaning Kit (34002 for .357/38/9mm handguns). [Hoppe's]

#### Dry Fire Rounds

A-Zoom Snap Caps. [Lyman Products Corporation]

#### Ear Plugs

EarPro EP3 or EP4. [SureFire]

#### High Visibility Sights

DXW2 Big Dot Yellow—S&W. [XS Sight Systems]

#### Holster

BHYCS-TB Inside the Waist Scabbard with Thumb Break. [Black Hills Leather Store]

#### Tactical Flashlight

E1B Backup MaxVision. [SureFire]

### HOT TIP 1

Some people who have the version without the safety catch carry it empty chamber (Israeli style) if the heavier 10-lb trigger is not fitted.

### HOT TIP 2

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