

Newbie Primer 2

In the last article we dealt with the options that exist for new shooters in the 22lr format. After you have become a proficient shooter with the different 22lr weapons available, you will inevitably want to move up to something in the major calibers. A great transition caliber is the 9mm. This round is great in so many ways. As a matter of fact the military currently uses this round in their handguns (Beretta 92).

The 9mm has been around a long time, but it really began to see increased U.S. sales as more and more companies began manufacturing high-capacity pistols. Most handguns were capable of holding anywhere from 7-10 cartridges in the magazine. A great example of these guns is the famous Colt model 1911 which held 7 rounds in its magazine. In the mid 1980's handguns could now hold anywhere from 12-17 rounds in the magazine. What resulted was a great debate over the increased capacity versus the smaller cartridges. We won't digress into this debate, but suffice it to say that it continues today. With guns like the Glock 17 and the Beretta 92 being used widely in Law Enforcement, it was inevitable that the 9mm would end up a popular favorite among civilians as well.

There are several reasons that the 9mm is an attractive option to many new shooters. First is the economic factor involved. It remains the cartridge that gives shooters the most bang for their buck. It is still possible to find 100 rounds of 9mm for less than \$20. This is a great bargain compared to the 45ACP which might cost as much as \$30 per 100 rounds.

Second, 9mm ammunition is readily available. 9mm is the most popular ammo in the world for handgun cartridges. Most shops should carry a large variety of 9mm ammo and gun choices.

Third, the 9mm has a relatively mild recoil. This is important for new shooters who will have a tendency to flinch before the shot, causing them to be inaccurate. By practicing the shooting fundamentals with the 9mm the novice has a better than average chance of improving with every range session.

Fourth, the 9mm is considered a qualifying cartridge for the shooting sports. For instance, it provides quite a competitive advantage in Stock Service Pistol in the IDPA over the other calibers allowed.

Finally, the 9mm manufactures have improved its performance in defensive situations. While it might be desirable to have a large caliber in a defensive pistol, technology has made the 9mm a consistent performer on the defensive stage. NYPD still uses a Glock 19 in 9mm.

A word of caution; resist the urge to buy a pocket rocket that you will never shoot. Small pistols have their place, but as a new shooter you need to grasp all of the fundamentals before you jump into too deep. Stick with something full size or at least mid size. The larger your hands, the larger your first gun should be. It will simply help you become a better shooter.

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