

**The Opinion:** At the Gun Store - Notice your hand envelopes the grip and your thumb rests in the narrow area formed by the smooth swoop running across the top of the grip. Since it is a symmetric feature, your thumb and trigger finger have the narrowest portion of the grip which then it is fuller for the other three fingers. This constriction at the top makes for a firm gripping area, even for small hands and short fingers.

The reversible back strap allows the grip to be expanded across the pad of your thumb if you desire. Reversing the backstrap only requires pushing out a pin and pulling the back strap down. Once pushed back into position the pin can be pushed back into place. It will be held in by the friction of the rubber backstrap.

Notice the undercut of the trigger guard that allows the second finger to be ride higher on the grip. This minimizes the spread of the trigger finger away from the other supporting fingers.

The front of the trigger guard is smooth so it does not facilitate gripping the front of the trigger guard. Shooters who prefer this type of two handed grip could use a piece of skate board tape.

The SR magazine release is ambidextrous all the time. It does not have to be reversed to be used by the left hand. Since I practice using both hands I find this a desirable feature.

The distance from the notch where the web between the thumb and trigger finger to the face of the trigger is 2.75".

Combined with the narrow grip (for a double stack), this spacing should allow even short fingered people to make a "C" with their trigger finger and place the pad of the tip of the trigger finger on the trigger.

The Ruger SR trigger face has a blade that prevents the trigger from moving unless the blade is depressed. The original trigger did not have this feature and was recalled in April 2008. Ruger will replace the trigger group in the original production if you come across a used SR9 that has not had the trigger replaced. Information is available on Ruger's website.

As a matter of preference I like the nearly flat trigger face. It allows the finger to be placed lower on the trigger without it being forced to roll up because of a strong curve.

Unlike my experience with Glock triggers which also have a blade in their triggers, the Ruger does not protrude from the face when the trigger is depressed and thus does not cause a pressure point in the trigger finger.

The trigger reset is definitive at about the midway point of fully releasing the trigger. When dry firing (Ruger recommends doing this with a magazine in the gun) the trigger will not be under pressure to move toward the reset point until the slide cycles. So after every dry fire you will have to move the slide back at least an inch to reset the trigger. If you continue to hold the trigger back until after you have moved the slide then you can get the feel for the reset point as you let the trigger back out.

There is an active thumb safety that is also ambidextrous and similar in function to a 1911 pattern pistol. It can only be engaged when the gun is cocked.

The take down pin is flush and unobtrusive and easy to remove when it's time to clean the gun. Locking the slide back, removing the magazine, pushing the ejector down, pushing then pulling the take down pin out, and then releasing the slide (hold on, it's still under spring tension) is all that is required to get the slide off. It is not required to pull the trigger in the takedown process.

This will help avoid a negligent discharge (but really, when you locked the slide back, did you not notice there was a round in the chamber, oh did you not bother to check the chamber, come on people, use safe handling

practices.) The act of pulling the slide back to lock it open should remove a round that was left in the chamber anyway.

The sights are drift adjustable front and rear and the rear is adjustable for elevation. They are a traditional 3 white dot arrangement.

There is a Loaded Chamber Indicator on the top of the slide which is both visual and tactile when a round is chambered. I find the "observation ports" less useful and prefer an indicator that is tactile.

The slide serrations are angled with the line of texturing on the grip and run from the ejection port back to the safety. You do lose some of the effect of the serrations on the right side because the extractor is smooth and runs almost the entire length of the serrations. One of the three enhancements I would make on the design of the SR series would be to shorten the extractor or cut matching serrations.

The slide release is only on the left side. It is in a good position to be thumb operated. One of the three enhancements I would make on the design of the SR series would be to have an ambidextrous slide release similar to the S&W M&P 9 pistol.

Ruger does not use the term Picatinny when referring to the accessory rail that is on the SR. The bottom is curved and I had to flatten out the curve in order to mount a rail laser. That probably depends on the accessory being mounted but it is something to be aware of.

The last of the three enhancements I would make on the design of the SR series would be to make the accessory rail a Picatinny rail.

The front of the slide and dustcover are rounded to aid in re-holstering. The front sight is also curved and raked back to avoid snags.

The SR9 and SR40 are made on the same frame so their controls are the same. The Compact versions of the SR9 and SR40 also share the same controls. While the SR45 is a bit larger than the SR9, it also has the same control configuration.

The Ruger SR series enables you to have the same manual of arms in three different calibers.

This ability is not unique to Ruger, but I think it is an advantage for home defense where there is more than one armed defender. Being able to operate any available firearm in a stressful situation could be the difference between survival and defeat.

**On the Range:** The SR9 is a solid performer that doesn't demonstrate an affinity for any particular ammunition. It handles the available target rounds from Remington, Winchester, Federal and even Tulaammo without complaint.

If you decide to use the SR9 for personal or home defense then you will want to test several brands of self-defense ammunition to be assured of reliable function. But you should do that with any gun. This advice is not unique for Ruger.

Accuracy and precision are on par with other handguns of this size. It can get you through the Winchester/NRA pistol qualifications and can handle the Bullseye course of fire if you are up to it.

The MSRP on all of the center fire SR pistols in August 2014 was **\$529**. In store pricing in the Tampa Florida market was around \$430. That lands the Ruger between the lower priced Smith & Wesson SD9VE and the more expensive M&P 9 or Glock 17 (as well as others).

The package includes two 17 round magazines (or 10 rounds in restricted states), a magazine loading tool, Instruction Manual, and a plastic storage box. This is a good value considering Ruger's reputation for reliable products and its ability to perform. - Greg Poole, August 27, 2014