

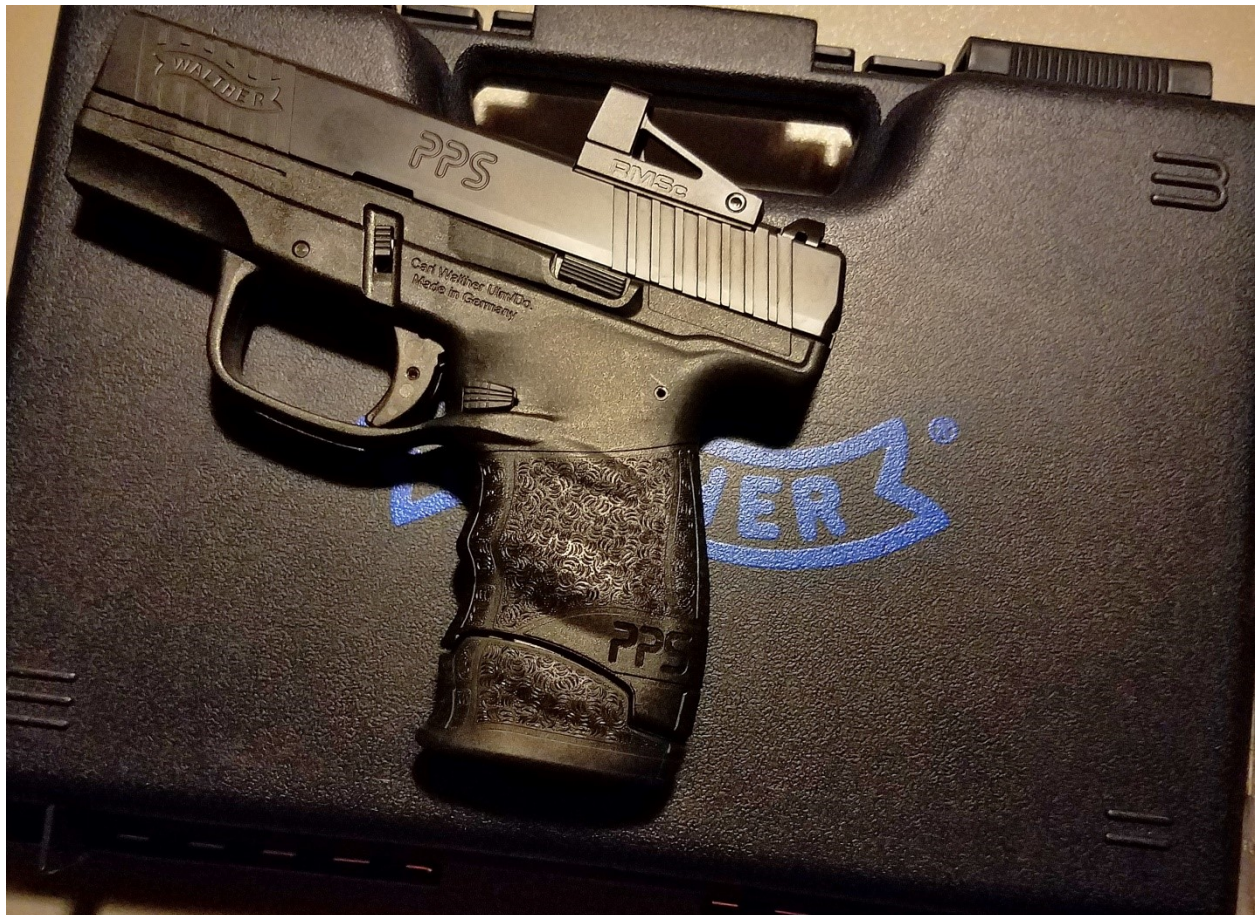


# FOG HORN

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## WALTHER ARMS PPS M2 RMSc

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By: Sal Palma



There's no shortage of conceal carry pistols on the market, but as things sit today the lion's share of the market goes to the Smith & Wesson Shield and Glock 43. Walther Arms aims to change that with the introduction of the PPS (Police Pistol Slim) M2 in 9x19mm. Walther introduced three versions of their new pistol: PPS M2, PPS M2 LE and the PPS M2 RMSc the subject of my review.

The PPS M2 ships with three dot iron sights, one six round magazine and one seven round magazine. The PPS M2 LE ships with phosphoric three dot sights, one six round magazine, one seven round magazine and one eight round magazine. The PPS M2 RMSc, a limited production PPS M2, ships with three dot iron sights, a machined slide and Shield RMSc (compact) red dot sight, adjustable for wind and elevation.

Starting with a visual inspection, the PPS M2 RMSc is to be envied by its competition. When

you fieldstrip the pistol, you see a clean polished feed ramp and very clean chamber, both attributes that account for the PPS M2's excellent accuracy.



Equally impressive is the very clean polygonal rifling bore. After two hundred rounds at the range there were no visible signs of copper fouling.

The slide can only be described as a work of art; forward slide serrations are clean and crisp as are the rear serrations, and the relief at the top of the slide machined to fit the RMSc sight is precise eliminating the need to shim the Shield sight in order to co-witness with the pistol's iron sights.



Unlike, its major competitor the PPS M2 slide to frame contact is far superior.



The slide rail cuts ride on longer frame rails increasing slide to frame contact providing superior stability; again contributing to the pistol's excellent accuracy.

Staying on the slide a little longer, Walther decided to machine a man-sized ejection port. It is highly unlikely that you'll experience a stove pipe or failure to eject. They also included a loaded chamber view port, which provides visual confirmation of a loaded chamber.



On the rear of the slide you'll find a cocked indicator that provides both tactile and visual indication that the pistol is in a cocked

condition. Walther advertises the indicator as being red but I guess this one gave them the slip.



Sitting at the top of the slide and just forward of the rear sight is Shield's RMSc (Reflex Mini Sight Compact).



The sight features a 4 MOA dot adjustable for windage and elevation in  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch increments at 20 yards. The RMSc is powered by a 3V lithium CR2032 battery with an advertised battery life of 22,000 hours, or 2 to 3 years, it also adjusts dot intensity to ambient light automatically.

I tested the sight in bright sunlight and found it to be bright and very visible, but in near total darkness the dot became so dim as to render it



ineffectual. If I were in marketing, I would call the dim dot night vision compatible, but this is a conceal carry subcompact and you may not be sporting your NODs

when you need to use it. The story changes somewhat when it is used in conjunction with a light, either handheld or weapon mounted.



Aside from the tactical advantage, the Shield sight also makes one handed racking of the slide much easier. You

can use the sight's body against your belt, or a barrier surface, to rack the slide in the event you lose use of a hand or arm.

Changing the battery requires removing the sight from the slide.

Other than pistol recoil, I did not stress test the Shield RMSc, or subject it to water, as my focus is on the overall system and not just the sight.

All things considered, I have to admit that the RMSc sight has changed my mind on the utility of pistol mounted red dot sights. Target acquisition was significantly faster, but I still have reservations about being distracted by a red dot at the expense of not using the pistol's fixed sights, zero retention and durability. Time will tell I suppose? However, I'll give it partial thumbs up as the pluses exceed potential minuses.



The PPS M2 RMSc faces third party support challenges, I'll explain.

I wanted to see what the holster availability looked like and could only find one supplier,

[Clinger Holsters](#). Since the Shield sight is mounted forward of the rear sight but does not replace it, the standard PPS M2 holster will not fit it. This was a typical response from the holster manufacturers I contacted...

*"Hi Sal,*

*Thank you for your support. We would love to accommodate all gun types. Unfortunately, it does take time to create the proper mold for each gun. At this time we do not have a time frame as to when or if we will have your set up option available..."*

Should that dissuade you from adding a PPS M2 RMSc to your collection? Absolutely not, you'll just need someone to custom build a Kydex holster for you or just be a little patient.

The Walther grip is ergonomically superb, grip angle, beavertail, finger loops, palm swell and texturing all work to fit the hand like a glove. I've often credited Walther for having mastered hand anatomy; that same expertise is at play in the PPS M2 RMSc.

The large beavertail keeps the web of the strong hand out of the slide's way allowing the shooter to move the hand high on the grip reducing bore centerline to hand distance.



Except for the LE edition, Walther ships the gun with two magazines; a six and seven round magazine. Walther describes the magazines as small, medium and

large for the six, seven and eight round versions respectively.

The six round magazine is the most discrete configuration, but I found my pinky finger hanging off the end of the grip. The seven

round magazine worked best in my hand but it does print a bit more.



The PPS M2 RMSc is slim trim and racy; “*au nature!*” it comes in at a mere 543 grams with the Shield sight installed. With a loaded 7

round magazine, the made to carry pistol, weighs in at 688 grams. You won’t find yourself weighed down carrying for an 8 hour day.



Field stripping the PPS M2 is “Glock like.” After clearing the pistol, decock the striker by pulling the trigger. Now bring the slide back about an eighth of an inch and press down on the slide catch to release the slide, you can now remove the captive recoil spring assembly which allows you to remove the barrel.



The PPS M2 has an excellent trigger with a relatively short trigger reset. Trigger pull weight as published by Walther is 6.1 lbs., but my gauge was reading closer to 6.8 lbs., so I’ll call it 7 lbs.

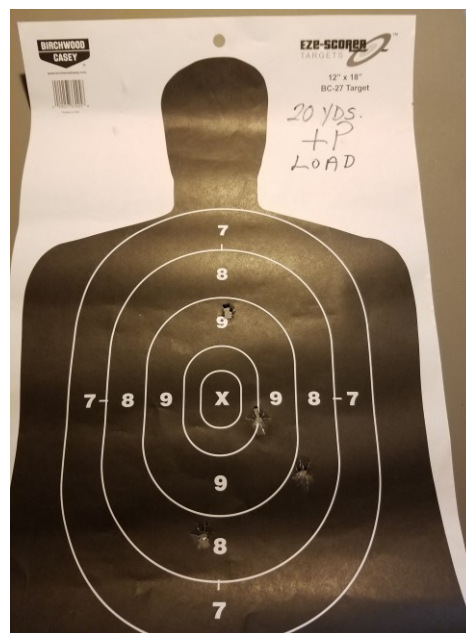
The pistol has both a trigger safety and internal striker safety (sometimes referred to as a drop

safety) making the PPS M2 safe to carry responsibly.

It’s now range time so I’ll begin by identifying my test ammunition. My objective was to assess the PPS M2’s ability to digest a variety of loads and bullet geometries. To that end I used:

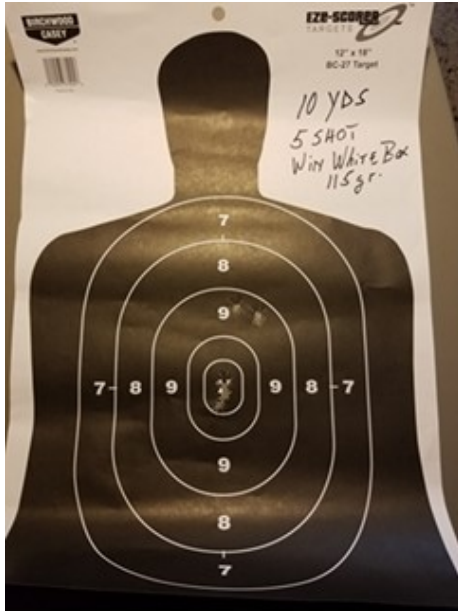
1. Creedmoor 9mm 124gr XTP+P<sup>i</sup>
2. Winchester White Box 9mm 115gr
3. Winchester USA Forged 9mm 115gr steel cased.<sup>ii</sup>

I fired a total of 200 rounds starting with the +P loads from Creedmoor. At 20 yards it produced about a three inch group.



The PPS M2 felt punchy, but candidly terminal performance is influenced to a higher degree by bullet geometry than by muzzle velocity, so I would accept Walther’s recommendation on avoiding use of +P loads. You’ll experience less wear and tear plus mitigate the risk of possibly damaging the polymer frame.

Winchester's white box 115gr. 9mm performed flawlessly producing a tighter group at 20 yards and an even better group at 10 yds.



Winchester's USA Forged, steel cased 9mm 115gr ammunition resulted in a number of stuck cases and vertical stringing. It may be fine for your 9mm AR, but I can't recommend its use in a pistol; it's not even a good practice round.

Walther's PPS M2 digested everything I used and my testing included hollow point as well as ball ammunition - all performed flawlessly.

I did experience a small concern you need to be aware of when shooting the PPS M2. The frame size requires placement of the slide stop lever much closer to the grip; therefore, it's easy to let your thumb ride the slide stop lever preventing the slide from locking back on an empty magazine. There's a limit to what can be done with subcompact frames so it's on the shooter to be cognizant of the issue and adjust his or her grip accordingly.

I opened my review by describing the PPS M2 RMSc as the envy of its competitors, an opinion

that was reinforced during my range session. The machined slide serrations made weapon manipulation much more controlled and efficient. Even with a six round magazine in place, the Walther grip provided a comfortable hand filling purchase with plenty of control even under the snappy +P recoil; its slightly longer sight radius and excellent 3 dot steel sights enhanced the pistol's organic accuracy.

I can't say enough about the PPS M2 RMSc as a very competent conceal carry platform. However, its value proposition is the icing on the cake.

When Walther combined the Shield RMSc sight with the PPS M2, they created an offering of impressive value. The PPS M2 RMSc carries an M.S.R.P. of \$699; not inexpensive, until you consider that the Shield RMSc sight retails for \$395; furthermore, you don't have to go through the expense of having your slide machined to retrofit a micro red dot sight. What you end up with is one hell of a deal!

**-SP**

<sup>i</sup> Walther does not recommend the use of +P loads in any of its firearms.

<sup>ii</sup> With all due respect to the fine folks at Winchester, I've found myself in cat houses with cleaner rest rooms than their USA Forged 9mm. Behold (new box)

