



WALTHER ARMS PPQ SC

WALTHER's PPQ SC

By: Sal Palma



Walther Arms was a late entry into to the striker fired concealed market, a direction the company corrected in 2018 with the introduction of three outstanding CCW offerings: Walther PPC M2, CCP M2 and PPQ SC; each and every one, a superb offering. But, for this reviewer the PPQ SC was icing on the cake or as our French brothers and sisters would say "*le pièce de résistance.*" I recently had the opportunity to review Walther's PPQ SC in the LE package and walked away mightily impressed.

I've heard a number of comments suggesting that the Walther's PPQ SC is a Glock 43 killer. Although Walther may wish the statement be true, it honestly is an apple to oranges comparison. With the release of the PPQ SC, Walther packaged all of the features that made the full-sized PPQ such as success in a very neat and compact package.

I'll start with the trigger. If you've ever fired the PPQ, in any caliber, you discovered that the PPQ pistols have the best trigger of any striker fired

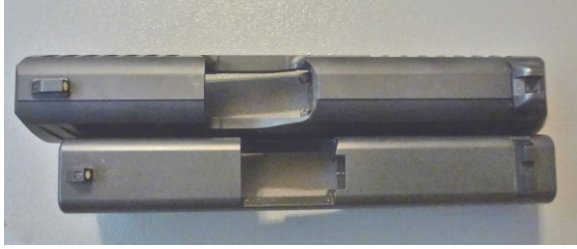
pistol on the market. That performance is continued in the PPQ SC. I measured it at a very clean breaking 5.3 lbs. The trigger reset is about 1/16 of an inch. Follow-up shots are clean and quick producing consistently tight groups.

The classic Walther Arms ergonomics continues in the PPQ SC.



I wanted to see how the pistol's grip size compared with the Glock 43 and as you can see the grip sizes are nearly identical. Having said that, since the PPQ SC uses a double stack magazine, the grip is therefore thicker filling the hand extremely well; furthermore, when you add the interchangeable backstrap, traditional Walther palm swells and texturing, the PPQ SC offers a significantly better shooter interface.

Grip design is not the only thing to crow about. The PPQ SC's controls are extremely well laid out featuring a fully ambidextrous slide lock. I found the button magazine release very accessible. Walther ships the PPQ with the reversible magazine release configured for a right-handed shooter, but they also include the appropriate button for our southpaw counterparts. The PPQs are unique in how forcefully they eject a magazine; depress the magazine release and it launches the spent magazine. You've got to love that!



The PPQ SC is only slightly longer than the G43 at 6.6 inches vs. Glock's 6.26 inches. The SC is 1.3 inches wide compared to the G43's 1.02 inches, but that is the price we pay for a 10 round double stack magazine.



Empty weight, measured with an empty 10 round magazine is 614 grams or 1.354 lbs.



Carried with a full 15 round magazine, the PPQ SC will add 643 grams or 1.42 lbs. to your waist

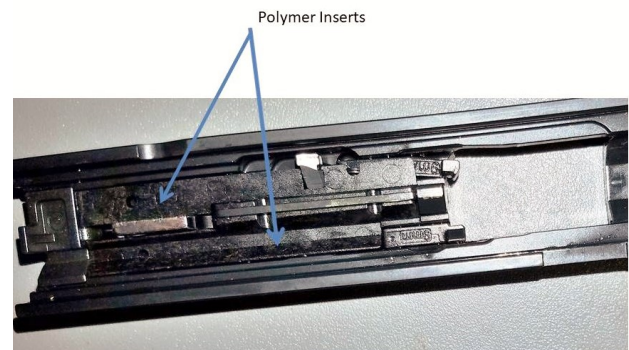
line. I've been wearing this pistol for quite some time now and it is as comfortable as anything I've had the opportunity to evaluate. With a competent holster design it sits close to your body with minimal printing; that is slightly more noticeable with a 15 round extended magazine.

The PPQ SC has excellent sights polymer and steel. The LE version, subject of my review, ships with a steel 3 dot sight that is also phospholuminescent. I found the luminescence to be inadequate for low light conditions. The better choice is tritium night sights, and as of this writing, Walther Arms is selling a version of the PPQ SC with night sights.

As is characteristic of the PPQ line of Walther pistols, the front sight post is very fast and easy to pick up.

The PPQ SC has a superb trigger; I cannot overemphasize that. As with all of the PPQ pistols 9mm or .45 ACP the trigger breaks cleanly at around 5.25 lbs. \pm .3 lbs. with a very short trigger reset. This is the best trigger of ANY polymer striker fired pistol on the market - period.

Shooting the PPQ SC is a delight. Recoil is only slightly punchier than the full-sized PPQ 9mm. Why?



The picture above may hold the answer. The slide appears to be hogged out and metal was replaced with polymer inserts, port and

starboard. You'll also note that the extractors are labeled 9mm. My notion: perhaps, Walther plans a 40 S&W and/or .45 ACP offerings in the future, and the inserts offer a degree of manufacturing efficiency. How's that for a theory? However, having advanced that bit of speculation, one thing is certain, the slide is lighter; therefore, the recoil impulse seems heavier, especially when using a ten round magazine.

One of the challenges facing Walther Arms, at least in the United States, is third party support, and exceptional concealed carry pistols should be carried in exceptional holsters, but there is limited availability of quality holsters for Walther pistols.

There are more holster manufacturers coming on line for Walther pistols, but take heart, the PPQ SC geometry happens to be similar to the Glock 19 your Glock 19 holster should work just fine as long as the area around the trigger guard is able to expand to accept a slightly wider Walther trigger guard.

The Black Point IWB holsters are a good example of a G19 holster that works extremely well with the PPQ SC.



The PPQ SC has a two slot accessory rail but you'll be challenged finding a light or light/laser that fits it, the problem being the distance from the slot to the front of the trigger guard.



Streamlight's compact TLR-7

Assuming you find a suitable accessory, it's likely you'll need to have a custom holster made for your weapon.

At the range, the PPQ SC performed flawlessly with all of the ammunition tested: Winchester 115 ball, ZQ 123 grain ball and the excellent SIG SAUER Elite Performance Ammunition.

As shipped, the pistol was shooting left of center so I needed to drift the rear sight a bit to correct the point of impact. The polymer rear sight that ships with the basic PPQ SC can be adjusted using a set screw accessible from the right side; however, the LE version ships with metal sights and must be drifted to adjust windage.

Live fire performance of this pistol is excellent in all respects, but Mesdames et Messieurs the trigger stands above all other attributes.

I also ran a few basic drills: failure to eject, double feed and failure of the slide to lock on the last round. Walther's front and rear slide

serrations contributed significantly to the proficient and safe execution of those drills.

Taking down the PPQ SC for cleaning and lubrication is uncomplicated and exactly the same as the full sized PPQs.



Some of you may be thinking AHA! I can use my full size PPQ 15 round magazines, nothing doing; you need to use Walther magazines marked with "SC" on the floor plate. Although all of the scuttlebutt suggests that people are doing just that, I would not because you run the risk of damaging the extractors.



Ergonomics alone merits the acquisition of your own SC, but when you add a superb trigger, very nice tenifer finish and reliability to this package, Walther's PPQ SC is a must have CCW pistol. Most conceal carry pistols don't make

regular trips to the range they're just not fun to shoot; however, Walther's PPQ SC is unique to the conceal carry genera because it's also a platform that you'll enjoy shooting regularly and that leads to greater proficiency.

You'll also like Walther's lifetime warranty and their commitment for a 48 hr. turnaround.

If you're looking to add to your CCW collection or just getting into conceal carry, the Walther Arms PPQ SC deserves your serious consideration.

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Manufacturer Specifications:

- MODEL: 2829789
- CALIBER: 9MM
- BARREL LENGTH: 3.5"
- TRIGGER PULL: 5.6 LBS
- TRIGGER TRAVEL: 0.4"
- CAPACITY: 10 RDS/15 RDS
- OVERALL LENGTH: 6.6"
- HEIGHT: 4.4"
- SAFETY: 3 AUTO
- WIDTH: 1.3"
- WEIGHT EMPTY: 21.2 OZ
- M.S.R.P. \$649
- Warranty: Lifetime Walther Arms