



Pink is the new tactical black. Having a layered self-defense strategy is a wise idea. Clockwise from top: Charter Arms Pink Lady Off Duty, Rat Cutlery Izula and sheath, Streetwise Security Products Hottie Small Fry rechargeable mini stun gun, and Kimber Guardian Angel PepperBlaster (formerly known as LifeAct) OC device.

coil and muzzle flash and is consequently easier on the gun.

The downside to wadcutters is that, due to their flat noses, they are more difficult to load into the cylinder, especially under stress. My general practice is to carry wadcutters in the gun and "pointy" bullets for a reload.

During the evaluation, it was observed that the Ultra Lite Black and the Goldfinger would not fully eject at least one—sometimes two—cases, as the standard grips would not allow the cases to clear. There was no problem encountered with the Pink Lady, which has smaller combat grips.

Similarly I found that while the PL would accept a cylindrical speed loader (the HKS model 36 works just fine in

Charter revolvers), neither of the other two would, requiring the use of a strip loader or loading rounds singly.

If the revolver is carried as a backup gun, I place less value on carrying a reload than if it is carried as the primary. With that said, I will probably replace the standard size stocks on both the ULB and the GF with the smaller combat stocks, both to aid in reloads as well as for the smaller footprint the combat stocks provide.

Accuracy is relative. You may be able to fire tighter groups than I can one day, and the reverse may be true the next. Suffice to say that it was no problem to keep ten rounds, fired double-action from 30 feet, easily within an eight-inch circle, center mass of the target. All of the duty loads from Black Hills proved to be every bit as accurate as the target wadcutters.

I used a Bianchi pocket holster while evaluating the Charter revolvers. Chris and Ashleigh used Galco Holster Handbags and a fanny pack.

On a side note, there is an old saying that goes, "When all you have is a hammer, everything looks like a nail." Analogous to that is that if all you have is a gun, everything becomes a shooting. Arming yourself with only a handgun and going gleefully on your way is not a particularly good idea. A better plan for anyone who carries a firearm is to have a layered defense strategy that includes unarmed techniques and less-than-lethal options. In addition to a SureFire handheld light, Chris and Ashleigh each carry a Kimber Guardian Angel PepperBlaster (formerly known as LifeAct) OC device in their purses. Ashleigh now carries her Hottie Small Fry stun gun from Streetwise Security Products as well. I carry a PepperBlaster in my vest pocket.

Among the three of us, we fired just over 1,000 rounds of .38 Special ammunition, the majority of it with 148-gr. wadcutters loads, over the course of four outings. Does the round count mean anything? Nope. This was not a "torture" test, and revolvers are known to be reliable almost to the point of boredom.

What it *did* do was give some quality trigger time with a weapon system that is frankly harder to shoot well than the handguns carried regularly by the Hansen crew.

It has been said that the Snubby is a gun that will be carried a lot but seldom fired. If that's true—and I believe it is—the Charter revolvers were probably fired more in the initial test than they will be for the remainder of the year.

As tight after the evaluation as they were fresh out of the box, and costing considerably less than \$500 each, Charter Arms revolvers represent very good "bang for the buck." ●

SOURCES:

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