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HORNADY CRITICAL DUTY AMMO

WIN A KAHR CM40!



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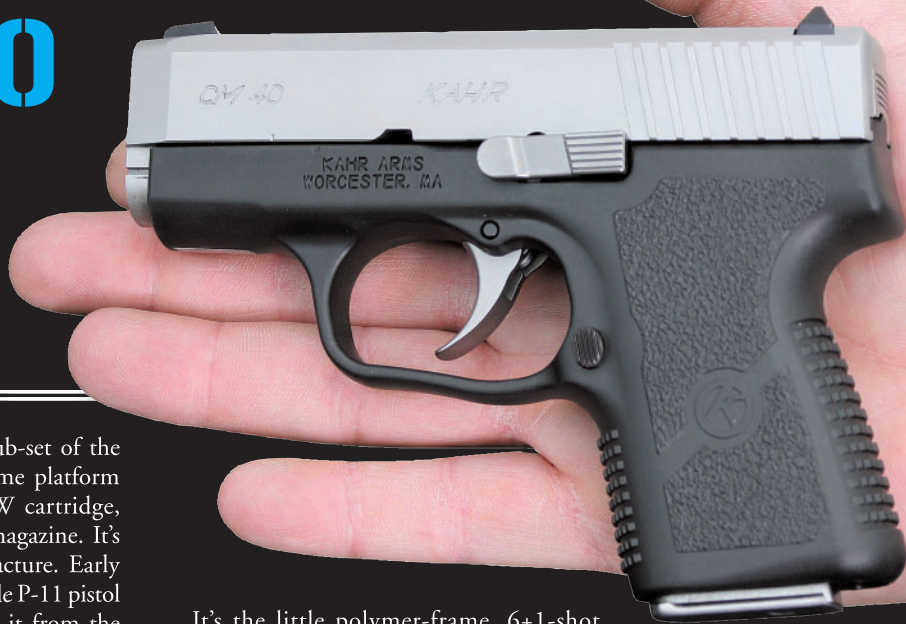
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Kahr Arms
CM40

by On Target Staff

Kahr Arms

CM40



A relatively small sub-set of the “slim-nine” market is the same platform chambered for the .40 S&W cartridge, with one less round in the magazine. It’s not an easy thing to manufacture. Early on, Kel-Tec produced their little P-11 pistol in .40 caliber, and withdrew it from the market after reports of breakage. The .40 S&W is a much more violent cartridge than the 9mm, with a high slide velocity that really batters the gun. And the smaller the pistol, the tougher the beating it takes. Kahr Arms had a similar experience with the early iterations of their little polymer PM40 in that caliber.

I’ve stayed in touch with the Kahr folks since their CEO, Justine Moon, showed up all those years ago at the SHOT Show with his K9 all-steel 9mm in a tiny booth. If I’ve learned anything about Kahr Arms in the years since, it’s that they listen to their customers. More engineering has gone into the subcompact .40-caliber, polymer-frame concealment gun that began as the PM40, with a view toward making it more rugged without compromising the slim profile and light weight.

Not long ago, Kahr came out with a pistol I considered a “best buy,” the CM9.

It’s the little polymer-frame, 6+1-shot 9mm, weighing just under a pound unloaded, rendered as an economy version of the PM9. CM9’s slide is not so gracefully sculpted as that of the PM9, and the front sight doesn’t have a dovetail for easy adjustment or replacement. In return for these production economies, the CM9 retails for \$269 less than the PM9 (\$517 vs. \$786). And now comes the CM40 in .40 S&W, which is to the PM40 what the CM9 is to the PM9.

Accuracy

I RECENTLY TESTED another maker’s small pocket auto with polymer frame, which literally would not keep all its shots on a silhouette target at 25 yards. One of the old canards in this business is that with a pocket gun, you’re probably not going to fire if the opponent is more than seven steps away from you. I guess I missed the memo on the treaty the bad guys signed

with the good guys not to shoot at cops or law-abiding citizens who were more than seven paces distant. My old friend and colleague, Clint Smith, wisely said, “The fight will be what it is, not what you want it to be.” That’s why I still test even pocket guns at the standard defensive handgun testing distance of 25 yards. Conventional wisdom holds that four inches at 25 yards is acceptable accuracy for a full-size service pistol. Amazingly, the little CM40 handily beat that standard across the board.

The original .40 S&W cartridge was a 180-grain subsonic hollow point, and that remains the single most popular format for the .40. My 180-grain subsonic test load was a training round, Federal’s American Eagle flat-nose FMJ. The little CM40 put five of them into 2.85” from 25 yards, with the best three of those hits in a hair under an inch.



The CM series uses the same polymer frame as Kahr’s PM series. Also consistent is the excellent double-action trigger.

The CM 40 ships with one 5-round, flush-fit magazine. Extended 6-and 7-round magazines are also available.





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Not yet "field tested," as it were, but very promising from the "laboratory" side is the 140-grain, all-copper Barnes hollow point bullet, loaded by Wilson Combat to 1,200 foot-seconds velocity out of a full-size service pistol, and obviously destined to run slower out of a short barrel like the CM40's. It was the most accurate load for all five shots with a 2.40" cluster, and the second most accurate for "best three," with a 1.15" measurement.

The trigger pull on this particular gun ran heavy for a Kahr in my experience, at 8 lbs. 7.6 oz. The pistol shot a couple of inches to the right with each load (the rear-sight is drift-adjustable to compensate for this). Recoil was sharp, certainly sharper than anything that I shot in the CM40's sister gun in 9mm, the CM9. At close range, firing at maximum speed, groups are roughly the same. Start getting out to 7 or 10 yards or more, though, and there's going to be a slightly longer recovery time shot-to-shot to deliver the same level of accuracy with the larger caliber. How much different that interval will be

will depend on the shooter, but by the time you start hitting at 7 yards you will likely see a difference.

Reliability

WE DIDN'T GET TO torture test this gun with an unlimited round count. We did deliberately shoot it with weak grasp and the dreaded "limp wrist," and in three magazines could not induce a malfunction. One hand or two, with ball and with hollow points, the CM40 ran perfectly through the On Target test, with no malfs whatsoever.

Now that Kahr has brought out the CM40 to complement the CM9, the shooter has the choice 5+1 of .40 S&W or 6+1 of 9mm in a small, flat, value-priced, pocket-pistol format. See the CM40 at your local firearms retailer (\$517), or for more information contact **Kahr Arms**, Tel.: (508) 795-3919; Website: www.kahr.com

Even though muzzle jump was more pronounced than the 9mm CM9, controlled one-handed fire is still feasible with the CM40.

