



KAHR CM9

“SLIM-NINES,” wafer-thin 9mm pistols small enough to carry in a pocket, are hot this year. There are more new introductions of them than anything else in the defensive handgun world except 1911 variations, and the latter is only so because it’s the Centennial year of that pistol.

I’ve tested most every new “thin is in” 9mm pocket auto. *This* one feeds with total reliability and *that* one is more than a little finicky about what ammo will jam it and what won’t. *This* one has a sweet trigger, but *that* one’s pull is horrible, and *this other one* is somewhere in between. There are good sights, and bad sights, and “good enough for a pocket pistol sights,” whatever the heck that means. Some shoot to the sights, and some have so much difference between point of aim and point of impact that if you lined up a head shot on a ransom rest at 25 yards, you’d still miss. Some group well and some don’t.

Based on my test sample, the Slim-nine from the 2011 crop that gets my vote as pick of the litter is the Kahr CM9. Where much of its competition is new, sometimes even radical, and therefore yet not tested by time, the CM9 is simply an economy rendition of a platform already proven to be reliable and functional, the Kahr PM9. However, production economies make the CM9 some \$220 less than its predecessor, throwing it right into the middle zone of the price range represented by the newest batch of 9mm pocket autos.

My sample CM9 shot to the sights, even at 25 yards. It planted five out of five 124-grain Black Hills hollow points in under two inches at that distance, fired from a Matrix rest on

a concrete bench. Trigger pull weighed out in the six-pound range, and was smooth and sweet as the more expensive Kahr pistols are famous for. Recoil was mild and controllable.

Kahr was the first auto-pistol maker to honestly say what all of them should: that any such gun needs a couple hundred break-in rounds before you trust it. That said, though, my sample CM9 worked 100% out of the box, and in several hundred rounds from various positions among shooters from petite females to monster males, never hiccupped once.

Weighing only 14 oz., flat enough for easy pocket concealment, and dust-resistant enough for reliable ankle holster carry, and carrying an MSRP of only \$565, the Kahr CM9 gets my Editor’s Choice Award for its class amid the wide field of new subcompact single-stack 9mms. See

it at your firearms dealer, or contact **KAHR ARMS**, Dept. OT; Tel.: (508) 795-3919; Web: www.kahr.com —*Massad Ayoob*



The CM9 ships with one flush-fit 6-round magazine, but a 7-round extended magazine is also available.



Left: Mas found the CM9 very controllable firing one-handed. Here, the camera has the muzzle flash and “ghost image” of the pistol at the height of recoil.



Right: For a pistol of this size, accuracy was exceptional with Black Hills’ 124-gr. JHP. Other ammo did nearly as well.