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The Smith & Wesson Bodyguard 2.0



Good things do come in small packages.

The Smith & Wesson Bodyguard 2.0 – good things do come in small packages.

By: Sal Palma



Smith & Wesson's Bodyguard 2.0 is a micro-compact pistol introduced in August 2024 as an update to the original Bodyguard 380. The Bodyguard 2.0 was designed to address the shortcomings of the original model and to provide concealed carry gun owners with a more ergonomic, modern, reliable, and effective self-defense option. They succeeded!

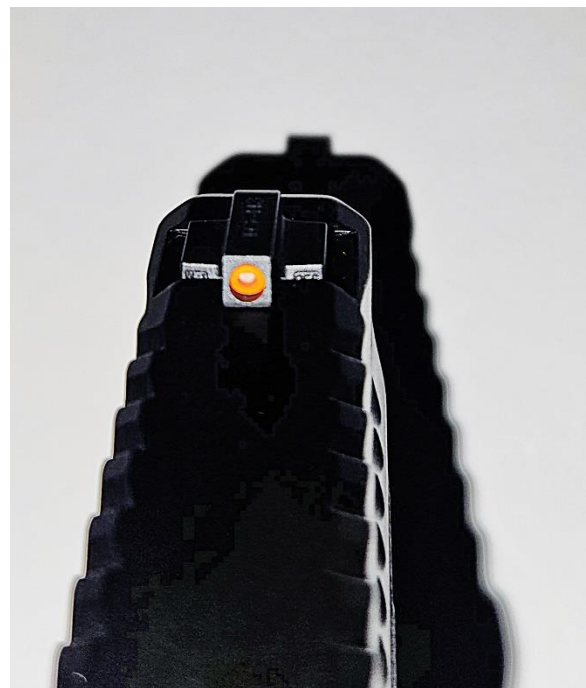
There's no shortage of micro-compact pistols on the market. Among the most well-known are the Ruger LCP, Glock 42, SIG P238, and the now discontinued Keltec P3AT. All chambered in .380 ACP, a popular choice for deep concealment, and each having their own strengths and weaknesses, but none offer the ergonomics, reliability and magazine capacity of Smith & Wesson's Bodyguard 2.0.

Smith & Wesson has done an excellent job on ergonomics. The Bodyguard 2.0 slide has full-

length slide serrations that provide an excellent gripping surface, making it easier for women, older shooters, or those with limited hand strength to manipulate the slide overcoming what is a common concern when using semiautomatic pistols.



The Bodyguard 2.0 features a wide, comfortable grip with excellent texturing, including the grip panels. Smith & Wesson expertly balanced grip texture, ensuring it's not too aggressive or too limited. The textured grip panels enhance grip security, even when wearing gloves. The grip's profile provides a better fit and feel, improving control and reducing felt recoil, important benefits in a pistol this size.



The Bodyguard 2.0 also features a phospholuminescent orange dot front sight and a blacked-out rear sight. This combination enhances target acquisition in both daylight and under low-light conditions. The bright orange dot is easily visible in daylight, allowing for rapid target acquisition and engagement. At night, the phospholuminescent material in the front sight glows, providing a clear aiming point."



A common concern with concealed-carry pistols is weight. The Bodyguard 2.0 addresses this issue with its lightweight design. Loaded with twelve rounds of 70-grain Powe'R Ball ammunition, the pistol weighs in at a mere 15.1 ounces. During my testing period, I carried the Bodyguard 2.0 in a pocket holster and often forgot it was there, highlighting its concealability and comfort.



Smith & Wesson's Bodyguard 2.0 comes equipped with two magazines: a compact 10-round magazine for maximum concealment and a slightly longer 12-round magazine offering

increased capacity. While the additional rounds and extended grip provide an advantage, loading these magazines can be challenging due to the stiff springs. Unfortunately, Smith & Wesson doesn't include a loading tool in the package, which is an oversight that could easily be remedied.



The Bodyguard 2.0 performed flawlessly at the range, firing a variety of ammunition without any issues. This made for an enjoyable shooting experience overall. The trigger has a smooth and light pull of

approximately 3.5 pounds, with a crisp break after a short take-up. Although the trigger reset might be considered a bit long, it's important to keep in mind that the Bodyguard 2.0 isn't designed for firefights, it is a defensive short range pistol with the ability to incapacitate any imminent threat.



It was shooting a little left, but for a pistol of its size, the Bodyguard did extremely well at 7 yards.



As previously noted, the Bodyguard 2.0 is a compact pocket pistol; therefore, shooters with larger hands, or longer fingers, should be mindful of their support hand placement. Smith & Wesson addresses this concern with an ambidextrous, textured thumb rest.



External safety model shown with safety engaged

The Bodyguard 2.0 comes in two versions with and without an external safety. I favor and recommend the external safety model, especially in a pistol of this size. Operating the external safety is a bit stiff, but you will never experience an accidental disengagement of the safety while the pistol is in your purse or pocket.



In closing, the Smith & Wesson Bodyguard 2.0 is a home run in the world of micro-compact pistols. Its standout feature is the full-sized grip, offering exceptional control and purchase. The trigger is another highlight, providing a smooth and consistent pull. Retailers I spoke with confirmed the overwhelming demand, noting that the Bodyguard 2.0 sells out as soon as it arrives in stock. If you're seeking a compact yet powerful self-defense weapon, the Bodyguard 2.0 is where your dollar should go.

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Manufacturer Specification

- Width: 0.88 in
- Length: 5.5 in
- Height: 4 in
- Weight: 9.8 oz
- CALIBER: 380 AUTO
- SIZE: MICRO
- CAPACITY: 10,12
- ACTION: STRIKER FIRED
- BARREL LENGTH: 2.75
- GRIP: POLYMER
- SIGHTS: BLACK
- OPTIC READY: NO
- SAFETY: MANUAL THUMB SAFETY
- COLOR/FINISH: BLACK
- STATE COMPLIANCE: CO, DE, IL, VT
- THREADED BARREL: NO
- BARREL MATERIAL: STAINLESS STEEL
- FRAME: POLYMER
- LASER: NO
- NUMBER OF MAGAZINES: 2