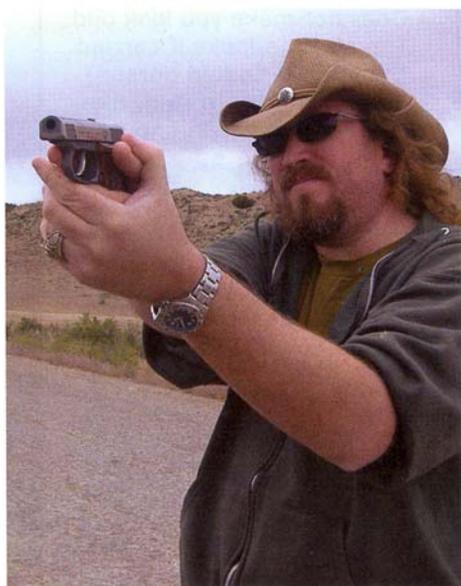


SEARCHING FOR THE ULTIMATE CONCEALED CARRY PISTOL PART THREE: NORTH AMERICAN ARMS GUARDIAN .380 CONCEALED CARRY MAGAZINE EDITION

NAA GUARDIAN .380
CCM EDITION SPECS

Caliber	.380 ACP
Overall Length	4.75 in.
Barrel Length	2.49 in.
Height	3.53 in.
Width	0.93 in.
Action	DAO
Material	17-4 pH Stainless Steel
Unloaded Weight	18.8 oz.
Magazine Capacity	6+1
M.S.R.P.	TBD



I left off this series discussing the good characteristics of the NAA Guardian. Everything I said about it still applies. The stats and basic measurements of Guardian CCM are unchanged. This is the same pistol as the normal Guardian, but it is totally different. Essentially this is the Guardian's hot evil twin sister.

Let me get into the differences. Right off the bat, you notice the gorgeous wood grips. They attract the eye and instantly make you want to reach out and hold the Guardian. In the hand, you then notice the grips make the gun a little thicker. Some guys might not want that, but the grips make the gun look great and they make the gun feel good in the hand. If you chose an IWB (inside-the-waistband) or ankle method of carry, the grip thickness really won't make a difference. You might want to get an extra set of standard grips, if you elect to carry in a pocket holster or similar. If you want to order one of these guns, get both.

The sights are the second feature that you notice of the Guardian CCM. NAA calls them the "Guttersnipe" system. The Guttersnipe goes back to the 70's when I first checked the concept out on a customized S&W 9MM auto. The idea is that the shape of the channel forces the eye to line up the sights on the target in a fast, express-type way. NAA



improves the Guttersnipe system with the addition of tritium inserts. They drill out the rear of the frame for the night sights, and the front of the gutter for the front sight. The result is better than the original guttersnipe that I was familiar with. The no profile, snag free, three dot sights line up fast and easy without having

to figure out a new sight system. It just works, 24/7/365.

While shooting the Guttersnipe, I found that it is not a precise aiming system. I would not want this system on my full-sized carry guns like my CZ P-01 or my Kimber Tactical Custom II. Yet on the Guardian, this system is brilliant. It does exactly what you want without putting on airs of over-achievement, like adjustable sights on snub nosed revolvers do. At distances in which the Guardians generally operate, you can easily keep all your shots inside your target's 10 ring at 10 feet. Pocket pistols are not long range weapons, and I've yet to see NAA offer any long barreled versions of the Guardian. These are up close and personal weapons. You don't wait to see the whites of the enemy's eyes; you're using the Guardian while you can smell their breath. I'm not going to say you don't even need sights, but their use is going to be limited. Crimson Trace has even come out with a new set of laser grips for the Guardian. You might want to place your order with that option. Night sights and lasers are like a pair of aces up your sleeve-or in this case, down your trousers. I'm up for anything that helps one get on target faster. When it comes to pocket pistols, anything that might increase the intimidation factor is also a huge plus in my book. It could mean the difference in actually having to fire your weapon or holding an adversary until the cavalry arrives. I think all CCM readers agree it is better to have the suspect arrested by the police rather than having to articulate your reason eighteen thousand times - for shooting to police, legal eagles, and possibly a jury. Besides, as any hunter knows, you don't want to risk letting a wounded animal escape into the wild. Poor thing could catch an infection and die of a fever. That would be a shame.

The edges have had a subtle carry bevel treatment to make the gun smoother in the hand and in the holster. Biggest advantage will be for guys packing in the pocket. There is nothing to snag or otherwise impede your draw. There is nothing that will abrade or cut your Haggard slacks. I've become quite smitten with the results of the bevel work and the wood grips. The Guardian CCM Edition is addicting to hold on to.

Showing this to other shooters, the most common response is "wow". The gun radiates style and quality in exactly the same way polymer framed handguns cannot. The Guardian .380 has only one real competitor, and that is the Kel-Tec P3AT. I'm not saying that the P3AT is a bad gun. I like it and the company... but you put one in the hand next to the Guardian and most shooters are going to say that they like the Guardian better. There is an almost primal reaction that causes this. Some might say the P3AT is the better choice for every day carry because of the lighter weight and slimmer profile. You could say the same thing about Paris Hilton making for a better date than Scarlett Johansson. The P3AT has

the same plastic personality as Paris, might be skinnier... but all eyes are on Scarlett. The Guardian CCM is like Scarlett. Solid, curvier, more reliable, and you won't be embarrassed to have been seen with it the next day. I'm not saying the P3AT is second rate as a concealed weapon, it's just that they are about as inspiring as a bowl of Quaker Instant. Sure, it's full of fiberish goodness, but it's not likely something you are going to order when you eat out, "No, I'm not feeling the prime rib tonight, but I do fancy some oatmeal"

In automotive terms, the Guardian is like the Mini Cooper of firearms. Small, fun, but well built. The Guardian CCM Edition is like the Cooper S version, essentially the same car but with all the handling and performance improvements you could want. For the guys that know the differences, they can tell you, they are worth every penny. I drove an S not too long ago. Great fun and ludicrously spry. You can go from Zero to Ticket in about 6.5 seconds. Yeah, they are that wicked. Condense all that into a firearm and you have this Guardian.

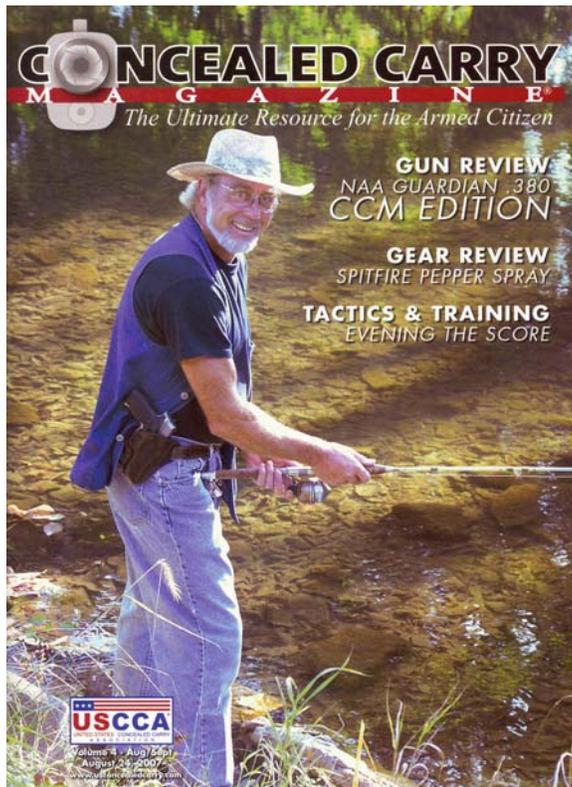
So let me recap as to why we feel the Guardian CCM is the ultimate concealed carry gun. It packs an acceptable amount of punch. It is small enough that you can always have it with you regardless of what you are wearing... if you are wearing more than a Brazilian bikini, you can conceal the Guardian. The price should be well within reach of just about any CCM reader. Lastly, the gun looks, feels, and shoots fantastic.

I think Will Smith summed up the Guardian CCM Edition the best:

"I've got to get me one of these!"

For more information: www.naaminis.com

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