

# "What's tiny but potent, hides in your pants, and makes women laugh?"

## The North American Arms .22 Magnum Pug

### By Peter Caroline

I first spotted the new NAA .22 Magnum Pug revolver at the 2008 SHOT Show. It's a tiny little gun with a major attitude. The Pug has a 1" bull barrel equipped with a shallow V rear sight, a big Tritium front sight and a grooved rib that looks wide enough to land a jet fighter on. The grips are pebbled black rubber, larger than NAA's standard wood grips, offering more control but still quite appropriate for deep-concealment carry.

My first reaction was, "It's cute, but does it shoot?" The sighting equipment looked like serious overkill for a little spur-trigger, five-shot revolver that you could lose in a large pocket, but you never know until you try it out. So I arranged to have a Pug sent to me for testing. When it arrived, my wife Sally asked, "What's in the box?" I opened the case, and Sally started laughing. "Is it real?" I assured her that it was. I got the same reaction from one of Sally's friends who stopped by later that afternoon.

What really impressed me about the Pug, upon close examination, was the quality of the workmanship. At first glance, the gun resembles some of the old "suicide special" revolvers of the late 19th century, with names like "Defender" and "Blue Jacket" and "Tramp's Terror." Appearances can be deceiving, however; the Pug is a modern, top-quality firearm, made of stainless steel, machined to close tolerances and impeccably finished.

At an improvised range in the desert several days later, I got a chance to put the Pug through its paces. As with other NAA mini-revolvers, you load and unload the Pug by first placing the hammer in half-cock position, withdrawing the cylinder pin and removing the cylinder. It's not the speediest procedure in the world, but this gun is not intended for IPse competition. The cylinder has hammer safety slots in between the individual chambers.

When the hammer blade is resting in a safety slot, you can safely carry the Pug with all five chambers loaded, with no risk of accidental discharge. It couldn't be simpler, but it works well.

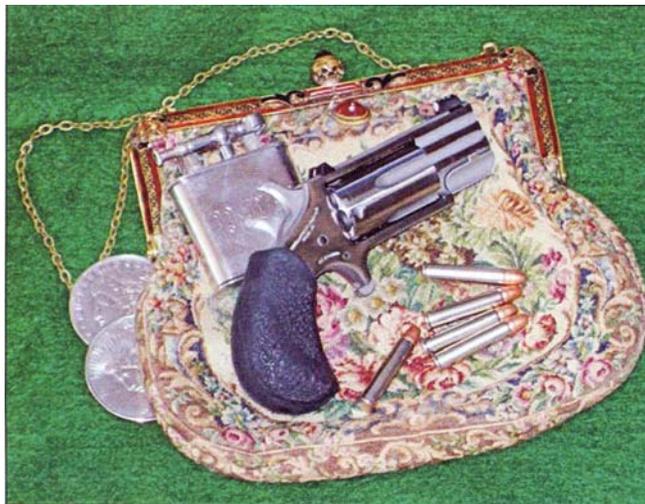
Shooting the Pug is great, noisy fun. I set up some 5-1/2" Shoot•N•C® targets at seven yards, an appropriately challenging distance for an up-close-and-personal revolver, and fired from an offhand position. The gun weighs only 7.2 ounces loaded, so I expected a snappy recoil.

Not so. The Hogue rubber grips do an excellent job of absorbing what recoil there is, and the gun is eminently controllable. The sighting system, which had initially impressed me as overkill for a pocket revolver, is first-rate; I actually scored a bunch of fiveshot groups measuring from 1-1/2" to 2-1/4".

North American Arms packs the Pug in a neat, black lockable hardcase, along with the obligatory padlock, a brief but clear owner's manual, a \$10 discount certificate toward

NRA membership, and a firearms safety brochure. MSRP is \$312 with the Tritium sight, \$292 with a large white dot sight.

If you have advance notice that you are to be involved in a gunfight, it would be prudent to have a large-bore, large capacity shotgun with you. But life is full of surprises. It makes good sense that, in dire circumstances, a small gun that you always have in your pocket is far preferable to a large gun that you left at home. The NAA Pug is the quintessential small gun. It's a cinch to carry and conceal, even when three-digit temperatures dictate shorts and a T-shirt.



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