

*The L.W. Seecamp
LWS380 pistol.*



L.W. SEE

A long time ago, in 1974, I was a senior in an upstate New York college, living off campus.

[BY BRUCE N. EIMER, Ph.D]

My roommate owned an old Colt Model 1908 .25 ACP vest pocket pistol that had once belonged to his grandfather. Created by famed firearms designer John Moses Browning, this diminutive pocket gun was a hammerless, striker fired, single action pistol equipped with a slide locking safety catch and a grip safety. At the time, fear of violent crime on and around the campus was virtually non-existent. One night, someone broke into our neighbor's house and stole some valuable personal items while the student occupants were asleep. The students were awakened by the burglar. This was an uncommon occurrence. It generated quite a bit of anxiety and fear. I remember sleeping better, knowing that my roommate had this gun—a good thing that came in a small package.

Now skip forward to the present. Senior citizens are targeted by opportunistic predators. Violent crimes on college campuses are commonplace. People in our nation's inner cities live in fear. Women are stalked, raped, and murdered. You go to your local mall at your own risk. We live in a crime ridden society, phobic of guns. The possession, purchase, transfer, and transportation of firearms are controlled by a complex, bewildering, and giant patchwork of federal and state laws. In most big cities in the United States, especially on the west coast, in many states on the east coast, and in a number of mid-western states, especially Illinois and Wisconsin, the right to go armed is severely restricted or totally prohibited. Even where it is legal to carry a firearm with a concealed firearm permit, in many places you can

get into heaps of trouble if your carry gun is not totally concealed. Discreet concealed carry is a necessity.

A GREAT PISTOL THAT COMES IN A SMALL PACKAGE

Imagine a handgun that you can fit in the palm of your hand (and deep in almost any pocket) that packs the power of either the .32 ACP or .380 ACP cartridge. This handgun is double action only, and has a trigger that is smooth and even, with a clean break and no over travel. The gun is an aesthetic and mechanical work of art, made of high quality stainless steel, and all of its internal components are hand fitted. Although it's manufactured in a state-of-the-art machine shop, every copy spends more time during the manufacturing process in the hands of a highly trained, and



A Del Fatti Leather pocket holster protects the Seecamp in style.



above: Author's Seecamp .380 nestled into a Meco rear pocket holster.



left: Seecamp LWS380 superimposed over a Ruger LCP .380 ACP. Photo courtesy of David Atkinson.

CAMP:

GOOD THINGS COME IN SMALL PACKAGES

dedicated gunsmith than it does on an automated assembly line. Each pistol is tested rigorously at every phase in the manufacturing process and finally, is exhaustively fired and tested for function and reliability.

This entire manufacturing process is directed by a living legend; a master gunsmith who, along with his late father, created this pistol design. He hand tests every copy exhaustively during its production before it is deemed ready to be shipped. This master gunsmith lives and breathes his creation. Every pistol has a lifetime warranty that is honored personally by the master gunsmith. He inspects and repairs every gun that comes back to his factory—although not many do. This handgun manufacturer is actively involved with his customers: he runs a comprehensive, and

highly informative website, as well as a very active forum about his handguns, and he actually takes phone calls, and will respond to every legitimate question. It seems too good to be true, but the handgun I am describing actually exists: I am talking about L.W. Seecamp Company's famous .25 ACP (no longer in production, but still serviced by the company), .32 ACP, and .380 ACP pocket pistols designed by the company's co-founder and president, Larry Seecamp, who is a senior citizen.

The Seecamp Company, a family business since 1973, is going stronger today than ever in their brand new manufacturing facility in Milford, Connecticut. The current demand for their personal defense pistols is greater than it's ever been. L.W. Seecamp has built its reputation as the manufacturer of the original,

quality pocket semi-automatic, with excellent customer service.

SIZE MATTERS!

For discreet day and night concealed carry, size matters. Seecamp's pistols, in all three calibers (.25 ACP, .32 ACP, and .380 ACP), are the same size! At 11.5 ounces empty, the Seecamp pistols are more compact than any other semi-automatic pocket pistol on the market. They are great pistols to always carry.

RELIABILITY AND SHOOTABILITY

These beautiful guns are as reliable as a quality Swiss watch. Surprisingly for such small pistols, they are actually fun to shoot! This means you are more likely to practice with your personal defense tool. Also surprisingly, the LWS380 has

right: Del Fatti Magazine/Flashlight carrier and front pocket holster.

inset: A true "handgun."



only marginally more felt recoil than the LWS32. Both are highly controllable and accurate, and for the tiny guns that they are, they fit most willing hands quite well. The pistols have no sights that can snag, because they are designed to point shoot at “bad breath” distances for self defense.

DESIGN AND SPECIFICATIONS

Seecamp pistols are double action only, flush hammer fired, fixed barrel, retarded blowback semi-automatic, stainless steel pistols, manufactured without sights. Except for the California Edition, the Seecamp has no manual safeties. Like a revolver, it requires a long trigger pull for every shot. According to the manual, “The gun is safe before you pull the trigger and safe after you pull the trigger – the length of trigger pull securing the gun against accidental firing.” The gun also has a passive magazine safety: the gun cannot be fired by pulling the trigger and the slide cannot be retracted far enough for a feed cycle unless the magazine is in place. Magazine capacity is six rounds in both the LWS32 and LWS380, with seven rounds in the LWS25 (which is no longer manufactured). Total weight of each of these pistols loaded is approximately 13.5 ounces. Pistol length is 4.25 inches, height is 3.25 inches, and slide width is .725 inches. Disassembly for cleaning is easy, and is clearly de-

scribed in the owner’s manual, a copy of which can be downloaded from the Seecamp website.

The LWS25 will feed full metal jacket, lead tipped, and hollowpoint ammunition. Both the LWS32 and the LWS380 are designed around hollowpoint ammunition. My favorite ammunition for my Seecamp .32 pistols (also recommended by Larry Seecamp) is Speer Gold Dot, Federal Hydra Shok, Winchester Silvertip, and Hornady 60 grain XTP. For my Seecamp .380, (also recommended by Larry Seecamp) it’s Speer Gold Dot, Remington Golden Saber, and Winchester Silvertip.

RANGE TIME

Although every member of my Seecamp family has performed faithfully in each of their many past trips to the range, for this article, I packed my three LWS32s and my one LWS380 for another test session at the range using Birchwood Casey 8 inch Bull’s-Eye Shoot N C paster targets.

With my LWS380, I went through a box of fifty, 85-grain Winchester Silvertips. My gun fired every round flawlessly. Shooting with a two handed grip, and aiming for the bull’s-eye, I



ran three magazines through the little LWS380 at 10 yards. I was able to put all 18 rounds onto the target, six of them landing within the 8 and 9 rings and three landing on the bullseye. Recoil was noticeable, but very manageable. Also, shooting with a two handed grip, I ran two magazines at 7 yards and one magazine at 5 yards and produced tighter groups. With 14 rounds left, I did the remainder of my shooting with my LWS380 at 3 yards and in (6 feet and 4 feet) using one hand. Rapid fire one handed point shooting sent all rounds onto the target. My trigger finger was just fine after shooting.

With 60 rounds of .32 ACP 60-grain Speer Gold Dot hollowpoints, I ran 20 rounds through each of my LWS32s and experienced flawless performance. Recoil was noticeably less than with the LWS380. Consequently, I felt

bolder and shot faster and my groupings were about the same as with the .380 on the Shoot N C targets. An additional 20 rounds of FIOCCHI 60 grain lead-tipped hollowpoints also performed flawlessly. Accuracy was about the same. All three LWS32s were easy and pleasant to shoot.

The LWS380 is unarguably the smallest .380 on the market. The LWS32 is also one of the smallest .32 ACPs on the market. Despite this, all of my Seecamps are natural pointers and fit my medium-sized hand just fine, making them an excellent choice for pocket carry.

POCKET HOLSTERS

Robert Locke of San Antonio, Texas, owns Meco Pocket Holsters. Robert makes some of the nicest, most functional, quality leather, hand molded pocket holsters available at a reasonable price. All of his pocket holster designs are original works of art, hand crafted by Robert—and they work! A Robert Locke Meco Pocket Holster will

keep your Seecamp straight up in your pocket and discreetly concealed. These holsters do not print, and perhaps most important, they remain in your pocket when you draw your gun.

Matt Del Fatti has been building fine leather holsters since 1978. Retired from law enforcement since 2002, Matt has a well earned reputation for making some of the nicest holster designs obtainable, in a wide variety of styles. Matt built left and right pocket holsters for my Seecamps; they are jewels that will last a lifetime.

Seecamp LWS32s and LWS25s actually have a track record of having saved their owners' lives. For self defense, they are meant to be used up close and personal, which is where the majority of close encounters of the worst kind occur. Nevertheless, Seecamps in all three calibers produce respectable groups at up to seven yards, which is way beyond the distance at which the majority of deadly attacks occur. They are truly great pistols that come in a small package. ■

[Bruce N. Eimer, Ph.D. is a board certified clinical and forensic psychologist and NRA Certified Firearms Instructor in Philadelphia, PA. Bruce teaches concealed carry classes that satisfy the training requirements for the Florida, Virginia, and Utah multi-state carry permits. He also provides private firearm instruction. Bruce is the co-author of the *Essential Guide to Handguns*. For more information, to contact Bruce, or to sign up for FREE access to Dr. Eimer's Arsenal for the CCW Permit Holder, go to: www.PersonalDefenseSolutions.net.]

CONTACTS:

Del Fatti Leather
<http://DelFatti.com>
(715) 267-6420

L.W. Seecamp Company
<http://Seecamp.com>
(203) 877-7926

Meco Pocket Holsters
<http://MecoPocketHolsters.com>
(210) 626-2370

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