

The P99 Walther was first introduced in 1996 and has been the basis for the P99QA and this again has been a major contributor to many of the design elements in the current PPQ pistols.



MAIN: The PPQ M2 comes with two 10-shot magazines, a magazine loader and two alternative back strap replacement units.

BELOW: The test group was not a fluke. The pistol better than reproduced this accuracy with selected ammunition.

Walther's PPQ – M2 Series

The Peak Performer

The main difference with the PPQ compared to its predecessors is the firing system. The PPQ has what Walther calls a 'Quick Defence' trigger system that I think is unique to Walther at this stage. The striker on the PPQ is always in the pre-set condition, other than when it has been fired on an empty chamber and is in the fully un-cocked mode. At other times, the striker is ready to go, awaiting instructions from the trigger.

Unlike the Glock system, the PPQ trigger does not have to completely cycle the striker mechanism and work against the striker spring. The trigger system sounds fairly complex, as when the trigger is pulled, it actuates

a disconnecter bar that releases the sear and drops the striker. This means that the trigger only has to look after itself, allowing for a relatively short (9mm) and light 25 Newton (about 5 1/2 lb) constant release weight. This means that after initially cycling the slide, the Walther PPQ is constantly in a cocked state. The Walther PPQ specifications state that the trigger is only required to move forward about 2.5mm to reset the striker connection.

The PPQ is polymer framed with its stressed and wear components being steel. The Walther uses a modified Browning-type recoil operated locking system, where cam surfaces in the frame and under the barrel, move the locking lug on the barrel out of engagement with the slide as the slide and barrel recoil.

The slide and other metal parts are listed as being 'Tenifer' coated. This is proprietary nitriding process that imparts a hard and corrosion resistant coating to the surface of the steel. The 'Tenifer' coating is reported to have a Rockwell C hardness of 64.

The PPQ M comes with two additional back straps that can be fitted through the removal of a cross pin in the grip. The grip is ambidextrous in that it fits quite well for either right or left-handed shooters.

The front of the frame also has a Picatinny rail moulded integral with its underside at the front to accommodate aiming devices or lighting equipment.

The PPQ M2 is not just a PPQ with a longer barrel and slide. It has a number of its

SPECS

WALTHER PPQ M2

Model: Walther PPQ M2

Calibre: 9mm

Barrel length: 127mm

Weight: 740g

Dimensions (L-W-H): 206mm x 135mm x 34mm.

Frame:

Polymer with interchangeable back straps and MIL-STD 1913 Picatinny rail

Barrel and slide:

Tenifer anti-corrosion coated.

Magazines: 2x10 shot anti-friction coated with magazine loader.

Sights: 3-dot non adjustable

Magazine release: Right or left side reversible.

Trigger: Pre-loaded striker fired with 2500g release weight.

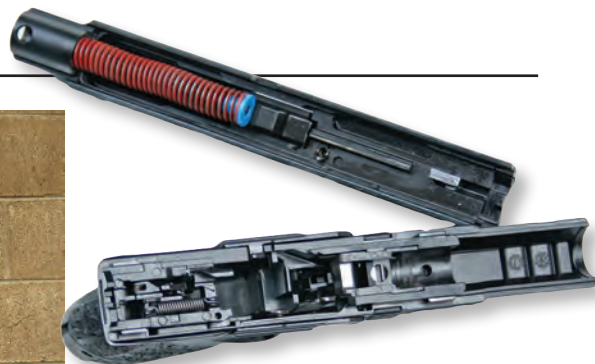
RRP: App. \$1350 – shop around

Distributor: Frontier Arms Company (www.frontierarms.com.au)





JR rapid firing the PPQ. Recoil movement was not excessive although the pistol is fairly light.



ABOVE: The internals – the recoil spring is a flattened coil. The wear points in the polymer frame have hardened steel inserts.

BELOW FROM LEFT TO RIGHT: The Walther PPQ M2 has a longer barrel and slide than the PPQ and is more competition oriented.

Some of the ammunition used in the tests. The Walther did not like the lead bullet loads.

own features that in my opinion, are improvements over the original PPQ.

The main change is the magazine release arrangement. The PPQ M2 has a more conventional magazine release in the form of a push button at the root of the trigger guard, that can be reversed.

The M2 series pistol also comes with two additional grip attachments that clip into the rear of the grip to custom fit the pistol to individual hands. The as-fitted grip worked fine for me, as it did for several of my pistol club associates who handled the pistol.

The Walther PPQ M2 comes in a plastic case with two magazines, a magazine loader and a test target. The magazine loader is a particularly useful accessory and a double-stack magazine can be an effort to load with relatively little 9mm cartridges, particularly as the magazine starts to fill and the spring tension goes up.

The magazine loader allows a firm grip on each side of the magazine and pushing it down depresses the magazine follower or the top cartridge far enough down to easily push another cartridge into the magazine.

The test target that came with the PPQ M had a pretty impressive 5-shot group shot at 15m. I am always a bit skeptical about test targets as they are often difficult to reproduce in practice.

To give the PPQ M a fair go, I rounded up

a fair variety of factory ammo and some of my 9mm handloads.

Both Magtech and Sellier and Bellot make 125gn lead round nose loads are quite popular with 9mm handgunners who do not want to reload and need to satisfy their pistol club's requirements if there is a restriction on using jacketed projectiles. Unfortunately, I have never had much accuracy joy with these lead loads in a number of 9mm handguns. Some jacketed loads from Winchester, Federal, Magtech and Sellier and Bellot were added to the batch of test ammo.

The first groups were shot with the lead factory loads at 25m from a two-handed rest. The non-adjustable (apart from windage) sights were reasonably close to point of aim at 25m for elevation, but the group formed about 75mm to the right of centre. I did not drift the rear sight to adjust the windage, as I was more interested in the accuracy of the pistol. The instruction manual indicates that if elevation adjustment is required, replacement front sights are available as accessories for the PPQ M.

A magazine full of both the Magtech and S&B loads produced 10-shot groups that could only be described as unacceptable, each grouping around 150mm. I think that the reason for this relatively consistent poor performance with these 125gn lead bullet 9mm loads is that the bullets are shaped like the 9mm full metal jacketed projectiles. They are going nearly as hard as the jacketed factory loads, Handloaded lead 9mm loads work OK with most 125gn cone pointed cast bullets that have a fairly short nose and reasonable parallel bearing areas at the rear of

the projectile.

They were retired from the test, and the jacketed loads were put through their paces and the difference was quite dramatic. One of the groups shot with the Federal Premium loads grouped well inside the 50mm 10 Ring of the ISSF target.

I recruited Frank Linsley, who shoots a lot of IPSC competition, and we both did some offhand freestyle shooting at around 20 metres. In this mode, the trigger system on the Walther came into its own. The pre-cocked striker system delivers a very smooth and relatively light trigger release, and its recovery performance was surprisingly good.

Each of the other types of jacketed ammunition shot quite well.

I am not sure where the Walther PPQ M will fit in the IPSC classes, as it is kind of double action but only when it is cocked??. Once the striker is fired on an empty chamber, the pistol cannot be fired unless the slide is cycled. On the other hand, the pistol can be cocked all the time as the Walther cannot be fired unless the trigger is deliberately fully pulled to the rear.

While my personal preference in an autoloader is towards a heavier pistol, the Walther PPQ M2 proved surprising good to handle and its accuracy frankly exceeded my expectations for a pistol of this type. There are not many polymer-frames 9mm autoloaders that are accurate enough (with selected ammunition) to be considered for use in Service Match or the other action matches that place a high priority on accuracy out top 50 yards. For more information on Walther pistols, have a look at the Frontier Arms web site at : www.frontierarms.com.au. 