
ASTRA

Astra-Unceta y Cía SA, Spain

Model A-60

Caliber:	.380in Auto, .32in ACP
Length:	17cm
Weight:	0.8kg
Magazine:	13 (.380), 12 (.32)



The Astra A-60 is a small, lightweight pistol chambered for either the .380in Auto or .32in ACP round. It has a simple double-action mechanism and operates by blowback. There are safety levers on either side, and the decocking lever can be moved from one side to the other when the weapon is stripped, so it presents no penalty to left-handed firers.

Model A-80

also A-90, A-100

Caliber:	9mm Para, .45in ACP
Length:	18cm
Weight:	1.1kg
Magazine:	15 (9 P), 8 (.45)



The Astra A-80, A-90, and A-100 pistols are virtually identical to one another, the difference lying only in a few features. All are double-action weapons, recoil-operated, and all were designed with safe use in mind. The A-80 features a decocking lever, manual safety, loaded chamber indicator, and an internal safety that keeps the firing pin out of the hammer's path until the trigger is almost completely pulled. The A-90 is identical, differing only in some mechanical improvements to the trigger mechanism. The A-100 has no manual safety, relying entirely on the decocking lever and internal safety. As with the A-60, above, the A-80 and A-90 have ambidextrous manual safeties, and all three have movable decocking levers.

The A-80 was introduced in 1980, with the others following over the next decade. All have had good police and military sales.

Sample file

BERETTA

Armi Beretta SpA, Italy

In 1976, Beretta introduced three new models, numbered 81, 84, and 92, and chambered for the .32in ACP, .380in Auto, and 9mm Parabellum rounds, respectively. All three of the weapons were modern, double-action pistols featuring Beretta's trademark open slide. The model 81 is a blowback-operated pistol, with ambidextrous manual safety and magazine release button. The 81BB added an internal safety. The 82BB features a narrower grip, giving it a smaller magazine capacity, but making it easier and more comfortable to conceal. All of the models are coated in Beretta's "Bruniton," a Teflon derivative that protects and lubricates the parts. The original Model 81 is no longer in production, but the two variant models are, and all three are in use with police forces worldwide, especially in Europe.

The 81-series pistols look very much like the 84F pictured below.

The Model 84 was introduced in 1976, along with the 81 and 92 models. It is a double-action autoloader chambered for the .380in Auto round. The basic model is essentially the same in terms of features as the basic Model 81 (above), and, like the 81, was superseded by a BB model with an internal safety. An even later version, the 84F, added a decocking feature to the manual safety. The 85BB and 85F are slimmed-down versions of the 84BB and 84F. All are coated with "Bruniton," a Teflon-based protective bluing. The basic 84 model is no longer made, but all four variants are, and are used by law-enforcement organizations around the world. All have had very strong commercial sales as well.

The Beretta 92 was the third of three models introduced in 1976, and it evolved through several variants to become the most popular. The 92 is a double-action weapon firing the popular 9mm Parabellum cartridge. Although it looks similar, if larger, than the 81 and 84 models, it's actually somewhat different in design, featuring a short recoil action rather than simple blowback.

In the United States, 92-series pistols are used by more law enforcement agencies than any other autoloader. Two early versions, the Model 92 and 92S, were adopted by the Italian and other militaries, but have since been discontinued. In 1980, Beretta submitted the 92SB to the U.S. army, which was looking for a service pistol to replace

Model 81BB

also 81, 82BB

Caliber:	.32in ACP
Length:	17cm
Weight:	0.9kg, 0.7 (82)
Magazine:	12, 9 (82)

Model 84F

also 84, 84BB, 85BB, 85F

Caliber:	.380in Auto
Length:	17cm
Weight:	0.8kg, 0.7 (85)
Magazine:	13, 8 (85)



Model 92FS

also 92, 92S, 92SB, 92F

Caliber:	9mm Parabellum
Length:	22cm
Weight:	1.3kg
Magazine:	15



the aging M1911A1. Beretta beat out several competitors and won the contract, but some further modifications were required, resulting in the 92F. The first variant, the 92S, differed from the original in the placement and design of the safety. The 92SB was the next evolution, incorporating an ambidextrous safety and moving the magazine release to a more ergonomic position. The 92F version, accepted by the army, changed the shape of the grip and trigger-guard to more easily accommodate two-handed firing. An even later version, the 92FS, added a slide over-travel stop. Several other variants have been developed, with minor mechanical differences. All (except a stainless-steel version of the 92F) are coated with “Bruniton,” a Teflon-based protective coating, and all except the 92 and 92S are in production.

The 92-series pistols have done very well in commercial sales, in addition to heavy military and police orders. They are frequently seen in movies and TV shows, as well.

Model 92FS Compact

*also 92F Compact,
92F-M*

Caliber:	9mm Parabellum
Length:	20cm
Weight:	1.0kg
Magazine:	13, 8 (92F-M)

The 92F Compact and 92FS Compact are essentially the same as their full-sized namesakes, above. Their dimensions are reduced slightly in overall length, and by the length of the grip, which in turn reduces magazine capacity. On the 92F-M, the grip is also thinner, narrowing the weapon for purposes of concealability and further reducing magazine size.

Model 950

Caliber:	.25in ACP
Length:	11cm
Weight:	0.3kg
Magazine:	8



The Beretta Model 950 is a blowback-operated autoloader firing the .25in ACP cartridge. It is very small, by far the smallest and lightest weapon covered in this book. It features a tip-up barrel, that allows the user to pop it open to inspect the chamber, or load a single round. The pistol is available with the Beretta “Bruniton” coating or a nickel finish.

BERNARDELLI

Bernardelli SpA, Italy

This pistol was specifically designed with military and police applications in mind. It is a recoil-operated double-action weapon of rugged design, with a recurved grip and trigger-guard for two-handed use and a reputation for low recoil, good balance, and accuracy.

P-018

Caliber:	9mm Parabellum
Length:	21cm
Weight:	1.1kg
Magazine:	16



BROWNING

Browning SA, Belgium

The Browning High-Power Mark 3S is a version of the FN Herstal High-Power Mark 3 designed specifically for police use (Browning is a subsidiary of FN Herstal, which makes only military weapons). Both weapons were introduced in 1989, and are single-action (requiring the hammer to be cocked before the first shot can be fired) and recoil operated. The Mark 3S is essentially the same as the Mark 3 (covered below), although most of the parts are not interchangeable. The only functional difference between the two weapons is an internal safety in the 3S not available in the Mark 3. The High-Power series is very popular worldwide, and the 3S has seen good sales to European police forces in particular.

High-Power Mark 3S

Caliber:	9mm Parabellum
Length:	20cm
Weight:	1.0kg
Magazine:	13



Sample file

CALICO

Calico, USA

Model 950

Caliber:	9mm Parabellum
Length:	36cm
Weight:	1.5kg
Magazine:	50 (100 available)



The Calico 950 is a unique pistol in almost every regard. The weapon operates with a two-part, roller-locking bolt similar to that of the CETME and Heckler & Koch rifles (see the introduction to the Assault Rifles section for an explanation of the mechanical operation). The magazine is cylindrical, and sits above the weapon. The pistol is made of lightweight, modern materials, including cast aluminum and glass-fibre reinforced polymers.

All of these unique features are used to advantage in the design. The magazine, for example, holds fifty rounds (a much longer 100-round magazine is also available) in a helical pattern. Its position above the weapon actually aids in balance and reduces muzzle climb. In fact, despite its appearance, the 950 is quite easy to handle. Its functions are totally ambidextrous, and the ejection of shell-casings through the bottom of the weapon make the use of a brass-catcher practical. Despite these advantages, however, the 950 has not seen widespread adoption, probably due to its bulk.

CESKÁ ZBROJKA

Ceská Zbrojka, Czechoslovakia

CZ 75

also CZ 85

Caliber:	9mm Parabellum
Length:	20cm
Weight:	1.1kg
Magazine:	15



The CZ 75 was introduced in 1975, and since then has gained a reputation as one of the finest combat handguns available. Obviously intended for export rather than home use (the 9mm Parabellum round is not used in Czechoslovakia), the 75 and 85 models are double-action, recoil-operated pistols. They feature internal as well as manual safeties, and are safe with a round in the chamber.

The CZ 75 has the safety, slide catch, and magazine release on the left side, making it inconvenient for left-handers to use. The CZ 85 made these devices ambidextrous, improved the internal mechanism slightly, and added ribbing to the top of the slide, to reduce glare. Both weapons have done well on the export market, but have not been picked up in numbers by any major police or military organization.

Sample file

COLT

Colt Industries, USA

First produced in the 1960s, the Colt Agent is one of the smallest revolvers firing the .38in Special round. It is a double-action pistol with small, rounded features for easy draw and concealability. It can be a little uncomfortable to shoot, especially for large-handed firers, but it is reliable and rugged.

Agent

Caliber:	.38in Special
Length:	17cm
Weight:	0.5kg
Magazine:	6



The Delta Elite is a single-action 10mm autoloader based closely on the design of the M1911, below. Combining a tried and true design with a successful new round, it has essentially the same frame and features as its predecessor, including a grip safety and left side manual safety and slide lock. It adds rubber combat grips. Because of its similarity to the M1911 in design and feel, firers used to the older weapon will be comfortable shooting the Delta Elite.

Delta Elite

Caliber:	10mm
Length:	22cm
Weight:	1.2kg
Magazine:	7

