

Purses Designed For Concealment

Until a few years ago, if a woman wanted to carry a concealed handgun, she had only 2 choices: A police woman's purse or have something custom made. The purse designed for police use was strictly for just that — no room for all the other items that our better-halves choose to carry.

For better concealment, a purse should appear the same as any other utility purse. It should have numerous zippered pockets. Above all, the gun pocket should be dedicated only for that purpose. Don't draw your pistol and come out with a handful of scarves, comb and hair brush!

To obtain a purse for some "hands-on," we ordered the one shown in the photos at the right. I let my wife look over what was available on Ebay and choose what appealed to her. Upon arrival, it met her every expectation — except for the smell of having made a boat trip from China.

The materials and workmanship were exceptionally good — with high quality zippers and great sewing detail.

The gun pocket had a strip of Velcro on both sides to hold the fit's-all holster, which has an adjustable Velcro strap to hold the pistol. The holster, then, attaches via the Velcro straps to hold the pistol ready to be drawn and presented.

The exact arrangement of the holster is up to the owner's discretion. The photo to the right shows the pistol is correctly held, ready to be drawn. The zipper on this purse was unusual in that it had a lock with 2 small keys. This was the only negative thing I could find on this, otherwise, very nice carry purse.

I suppose this design was to provide a way of locking the gun pocket to prevent a child from unzipping it and getting mommy's gun. A better thing to do



would have been to simply place the purse in a secure place. To lock this zipper would be extremely unwise, for this reason: You're in a hurry and forget to unlock it. This just happens to be the time you are accosted and have need of protection. Your normal move would have been to unzip the gun pocket and grab your pistol. At this stage you could just remain like this until trouble went away. But, having forgotten to unlock this stupid little lock puts an end to being able to protect yourself and could have resulted in the loss of your life!

Make sure the zipper is unlocked and stash those little keys where you'll never use them.

Above, your revolver is ready to be grabbed and can be drawn and presented if needed.



Amusingly, this neat little purse is called, "Gun Toten' Mama's Shoulder Pouch." Well organized, it features a cell phone pocket, keeping your phone handy.

This black purse places the gun pocket more forward and has accessibility from either right or left — something to consider if you or a south-paw!

With the exception of the shoulder pouch shown above, most other purses, while featuring internal holsters to fit a typical "snubbie," will easily conceal a full size, large bore, semi-auto such as the 1911 Gov. Model .45.

One consideration you should put first is: Are you right or left handed? It seems that because the majority of people are right-handed, likewise, most available purses are designed for right handed use. If you are left handed, you will be restricted to those models that have an entrance to the gun pocket from both sides as we didn't find any left handed only models.

Another area that needs addressed and a solution is a provision for carrying extra ammunition. With a semi-auto pistol, one or two extra, loaded magazines could be carried, with nothing else, in one of the other pockets.

In the case of revolvers, you have the choice of carrying extra ammunition loose, in a small container or, best, in a speedloader designed for your particular revolver.



Above is a photo of a typical speedloader made by HKS. They are available in several calibers and configurations.

The illustration shows how, once the fired cases have been dumped, an entire cylinder load can be quickly-inserted. Once in place, a turn of the knob releases the cartridges at one time.

While belt pouches are available to carry these speedloaders, some thought might be needed to have them readily available in your purse.



I should make the suggestion that even if you don't plan to carry a concealed firearm at this time, you might still consider a purchase of one of these purses, just in case you do so at a future time.

The gun pocket can be used for other secure storage to fit your particular needs. The purses are available in several colors of leather and provide almost the same selection as when shopping for a regular purse. The prices are, also, competitive — something to consider.

We found shopping on Ebay auction to provide a good selection without having to search elsewhere. But, should you wish to look beyond Ebay, we have

added a supplier to the links page.

The guns used to display these purses are fake and made of plastic. Such guns are used for safely showing accessories. They are, also, used to mold and fit holsters, etc. Some gun and martial arts training use them. So don't write and ask where you can get a pretty, blue gun!

While I would like to see all women armed, as are these women, I don't want anyone to start carrying a gun without proper instruction, both as to the proper handling of the gun, but, also, the applicable self-defense laws in their location.

— Jordan Wells

In the photo above, the young lady is drawing her pistol from a top opening gun pocket. This particular model has long straps and hangs low for accessibility.

In this article I wanted to make you aware of some of the stylish purses that are now available to, not only serve your needs for what you normally use a purse, but, at the same time, provide a clever, secure way to have self-protection readily available.

As positive legislation makes concealed carry a reality in more states, the availability of these purses will increase, adding even more choices.

If you plan a purchase now or in the future, you have several decisions to make, the first being a right or left access to the gun pocket. From there on, it is basically a matter of appearance and function.



On the small frame lady, this giant purse looks a bit oversized! While filling the purpose of carrying an immense load, it's gun pocket is accessible from either left or right.