

Holsters

Here are some holster ideas and comments for your consideration. When shopping for holsters it is best to bring your unloaded pistol along in order to try it on (if possible). I prefer kydex material for my holsters over nylon or leather. Most catalog-type police supply businesses may have a better assortment of holsters for sale than small or local gun shops. I have had super service from Tac-Tec-Cal Holsters (custom work with a 1-week delivery). Plan on owning more than one holster for your personal defense handgun. Seasons and clothing changes require holsters that are compatible.

Type	Information
	<p>Belt-slide, hip holster (right-hand) This is the Blackhawk brand Serpa holster made of kydex materials. The lever on the side must be released by the shooter's right index finger in order to release the pistol from the holster. The holster usually comes with both the belt-slide plate and the paddle plate. Easy access. Requires training in order to hit the lever under stress.</p>
	<p>Small-of-the-Back (or SOB) holster (right-hand) Best when standing and concealed. Difficult to access when sitting or driving a motor vehicle. Difficult to retain during a struggle. Friction fit.</p>
	<p>Fobus Paddle Holster (right-hand) This model is easy to remove from the hip/belt by rotating the holster's paddle and pulling away from the belt. Reasonably priced. Friction fit.</p> <p>Very early models tend to 'shrink' in very cold weather which makes them difficult to remove from the holster. New models (with red liner on the back of the paddle) are good.</p>
	<p>Fobus Shoulder Holster (left-hand) Pistol is balanced in this rig by two magazines.</p> <p>These types of holsters are difficult to balance the weight of the pistol. If the wearer is active, the pistol might bang against the rib cage in a specific spot repeatedly and cause a bruise/soreness. Most holster instructions advise to place the pistol into the holster when the holster is not being worn!</p>

	<p>Fanny Pack (right-hand)</p> <p>This type can be worn with any type of clothing. Can be easily accessed while driving, standing, kneeling or sitting. Best to disguise the pack by using some sort of sewn patch on the front, or other marking that would not indicate that a firearm was inside.</p>
	<p>MIC Holster</p> <p>For Glock pistols only (at this time). Friction fit, designed to allow pistol to be worn inside the pants with the cord attached to the belt. I have not used this type, but it looks interesting.</p>
	<p>Tac-Tec-Cal Holster & Magazine Pouch (right-hand)</p> <p>Custom made kydex holsters and pouches. Various colors, patterns, belt widths, pistol angle, etc. Friction fit. I like this stuff a lot.</p>
	<p>Ankle Holster (right-hand)</p> <p>For small pistols only. Shooter must kneel in order to pull up pant leg and grip the pistol. Shooter also needs to have pants with wide-bottom leg openings. Right-hand shooter may wish to place the holster on their left ankle if they plan to draw with their right hand. Some ankle holsters may be attached to boot tops.</p>
	<p>Inside-the-Waistband</p> <p>This is a right-side leather holster. The pants material must go between the leather holster and the metal tab. The metal tab must go between the belt and the pants. Other types of attachments are available, but all of these types have the holster portion placed inside of the waistband.</p>

	<p>Inside-the-Pocket</p> <p>These are simple pouches that hold a pistol with the butt upward so that they do not turn when being carried inside of the pocket. They should not ‘print’ the outline of the pistol through the pants pocket cloth. There is material usually on the outside of the holster that would cause it to cling to the inside of the pocket as the pistol is drawn out. Due to the size of most front pockets, these are usually designed for smaller pistols. Difficult to draw when sitting or kneeling.</p>
	<p>Groin Holster</p> <p>Positioned inside the front of the shooter’s pants. May be uncomfortable when bending forward. Small pistols are better suited for this holster type.</p>
	<p>Pancake Holster</p> <p>This is a belt-slide nylon holster with a thumb break strap. There are slots that allow for a two angle cant positions. This is an Uncle Mike product, and the straps can be switched for either left or right-hand carry.</p> <p>These holsters are usually moderately priced. They collapse flat when the pistol is removed – making re-holstering difficult.</p>
	<p>Safariland ALS</p> <p>This kydex holster has a thumb-activated release lever. I prefer thump release type over the Blackhawk Serpa’s index finger release button as I feel that the thumb manipulation is more of a gross motor motion rather than a fine motor motion.</p>
	<p>Shoulder bag</p> <p>This type of bag is very versatile. I can also be a ‘go bag’ as it can hold other gear: flashlight, spare magazines, ammo, writing materials, business cards, wallet & ID, water bottle, snacks, etc. This type of bag can be slung forward while seated and when operation a motor vehicle.</p>

