

Belt

As discussed in class, the belt is even more important than your holster. I strongly recommend the Galco Sport Belt, the Akers Gun Belt, or the Uncle Mike's Gun Belt, all of which are available at Streicher's.

Fanny Pack

There are many good fanny packs out there, and there's no need to restrict yourself to specific models; it's a personal thing. I strongly recommend one with a wide belt and with zipper closures, rather than Velcro ones.

Carry Ammunition

The B2C class specifies .38 Special loadings, even for those handguns that chamber .357 magnums. Any good personal protection ammunition will do, these among them.

Federal Hydra-Shok P38H51 or C38E, or the "Personal Protection" line.

Winchester Supreme XST 538SP, Super-X Silvertip X3858HP, 158Gr. Lead Semi-Wadcutter X825PD.

Practice Ammunition

While it's important to put at least one cylinder per month of your actual carry ammunition through your revolver, it's far more economical to use the less expensive practice ammunition for most practice. PMC is the big brand name, and it's available at Burnsville Pistol Range for below what most people can buy it for at wholesale.

Lock Box

Sentry 1100 Fire-Safe Security Chest, available at any Officemax for around \$30. This is for keyed storage, not rapid access.

Gun Box

Any gun box with a Simplex lock, or the Gun Vault brand of electronic gun boxes. These are for storage for rapid access. There is a wide selection at Streicher's, and Burnsville Pistol Range carries the Gun Vault brand at less than you'll find anywhere else.

Attorney

As discussed in the carry class, having the name and number of a competent attorney, familiar with criminal law, is essential. While there are many fine attorneys, I strongly recommend David M. Gross of St. Louis Park. His phone number is 952.545.1091.



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Beginner-to-Carry Course



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3925 fifteenth avenue south
minneapolis mn 55407
phone: 612-824-3150
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Homework

Your homework for tonight is to read the Introduction, and Chapters 1-4 of *Everything You Need to Know About (Legally) Carrying a Handgun in Minnesota*. You can still take the carry portion of the class without doing that, but you'll find that you'll be able to ask better questions if you do.

Going Shopping

BUYING A DAO REVOLVER

There are quite a few gun shops in the Minneapolis metro area. Most of them, alas, are very limited in accessories such as belts and holsters. These are the ones I recommend, in no particular order

Frontiersman

6925 Wayzata Blvd
Minneapolis, MN 55426-1717
Phone: (952) 544-3775

Frontiersman is a small shop, but with a rather good stock. Prices are not as low as some other places, but much better than Bill's. Marv, the manager-- he's an older man with a full white beard-- is particularly friendly, but everybody there is knowledgeable.

Metro Pawn and Gun

8820 Lyndale Ave S
Minneapolis, MN 55420-2740
Phone: (952) 884-1234

Metro Pawn and Gun is a combination pawnshop and gun store. The problem with dealing with pawnbrokers is that they're used to dealing with desperate people. Talk to Steve there, and mention my name; you'll usually get a better price.

Gander Mountain and Galyans are the big name outfitters locally. Prices at both tend to be on the high side, but they frequently run promotions where you can get 10% off your purchase if you apply for a credit card at the same time. That may make them competitive.

Streicher's Police Equipment

10911 Highway 55 Ste B
Minneapolis, MN 55441-6129 Phone: (763) 546-1155 Streicher's is the single best place to go for

belts. Streicher's is also a very good place to buy your carry ammunition. Any of the Federal .38 special rounds will be just fine.

Koscielski's Guns and Ammo

2926 Chicago Ave. S.
Minneapolis MN 55407
(612) 827-3832

Mark Koscielski (pronounced "Ko-shell-ski") and Barb Bergstrom own and run this shop. Their stock of snubby revolvers is sporadic, but they can get orders in quickly, and Mark will sell students of mine new guns for \$35 over his cost. You do have to mention my name to get that price. Mark also has good prices on carry ammunition, and you can rely on either his or Barb's advice as to brand. You can park behind the shop and knock on the back door, if you don't want to pay the parking meter.

WHAT TO BUY

At a minimum, you'll need the following:

Revolver

The Beginner-to-Carry course specifies a "Double-Action-Only" short-barreled revolver chambered in .38 Special. This is not only the ideal choice for new permit holders, but is perfectly suitable for even the most experienced. Some of these recommended models are actually chambered for the more powerful .357 Magnum round, but can be safely loaded with .38 Special rounds, as discussed in class.

The following models are recommended:

Smith & Wesson: 640, 642, 340, 340PD

Taurus: 85CH[xxx], 617CH[xxx], 650[xxx], 850[xxx]. The additional letters, represented here by [xxx], specify the weight of the gun or the metal used in the frame and barrel.

Colt: Detective Special, Cobra, Magnum Carry. These need

to be modified to DAO by a competent gunsmith.

Holster

As discussed in the Twin Cities Carry Course portion of the class, holster selection is both a very personal and annoying thing. You probably will have to shop around to find one that works well for you. Realistically, these will have to be bought either over the internet, or via mail order.

The following are recommended:

Pocket Holsters

Galco "Pocket holster"
(www.usgalco.com/800.874.2526)

KD Holsters "Pocket Defender"
(www.kdholsters.com)

Milt Sparks "Pocket Holster for Revolvers"
(<http://www.miltsparks.com/208.377.5577>)

Mitch Rosen "Pocket Safety"
(www.mitchrosen.com/603.647.2971)

Uncle Mike's "Pocket Holster"
(www.unclemikes.com) — generally available for around \$12-15

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