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How To: Buy a Gun

Former IDF agent and detective Moti Shapira shared his method for buying a gun with us. We weren't about to challenge it.

By: Moti Shapira



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I began my career as a detective for the Central Unit of Investigation in the Israeli Police Force and I still serve with a special anti-terror unit on the IDF Reserve Forces. In the last two decades, I have completed criminal investigations and intelligence missions for many well-known and powerful lawyers, celebrities, major corporations, businessmen, and politicians. I am also an expert in the fields of espionage and technology, and I have trained police and military intelligence units throughout the world.

Throughout my career, I have understandably met a vast number of men and women from all walks of life, and when the conversation turns to guns, there is often one reoccurring and surprising question that many people will inevitably ask:

“Based on your expertise, what type of gun do you recommend for me to purchase?”

The answer, of course, is as individual as the person who is asking.

How to buy a gun: What to consider

Having spent numerous years training and applying many types of shooting techniques to a wide variety of weapons, my curiosity led me to begin researching the answers.

I started by visiting a large gun store in Los Angeles, California. I spent hours closely examining the variety of guns they sold while recalling my training on the advantages and disadvantages of each one of these weapons.

At the same time, I observed the people who entered the large store. They were shopping for a gun or looking to gain more knowledge on the different models and their capabilities. Most of these people had very little knowledge, if any at all, about guns and other weapons.

I was shocked to see a small, elderly lady leaving the store with a gun more suitable for an actor in the *Terminator* movies. Many of these people settled on purchasing a gun based solely on the weapon's price and appearance. Instead of educating the clients on the functionality of the weapon, the smooth-talking sales representative took advantage of the clients' lack of knowledge.

Know before you go:

If you are thinking about buying a gun, there are three main factors by which to choose the most suitable model:

1. The gender and hand size of the person holding the gun.

One size definitely does not fit all when it is time to buying a gun. Men and women have different needs and it is very important to measure the size of your hand before considering the type of gun that will best fit within your grip.

2. The type of gun.

There are plenty of guns within the \$300 to \$1,850 (£182 to £1,127) range that will fit the bill for most people. From the automatic firing capability and the ambidextrous safety-catch de-cocking lever of a Beretta 92FS/96 to the Baby Eagle Polymer -- one of the most popular pop-culture guns -- there are a large variety of distinct guns available.

3. The person's profession or intended use for the gun.

A person's profession is typically a reflection of their entire lifestyle and everyone who buys a gun will have an individual purpose for ownership.

A farmer, for example, spends a lot of time outdoors with constant exposure to changing climate conditions and corrosive substances. Farmers could also encounter dangerous wildlife. They could do well with a large-caliber, high-powered gun.

A taxi driver, on the other hand, needs a compact gun that can be easily operated with either hand since a dangerous situation is most likely to occur while the driver is sitting in the car. For maximum safety, the driver should hide an additional gun, such as a revolver or a double-action gun, in a secret but accessible place in the car.

Buying a gun: safety first

As the owner of a gun, it is your responsibility to understand and comply with all federal, state and local laws regarding firearms ownership. Many of the laws pertain to the possession, use and storage of firearms in the home and merit careful review.

Finally, if you have specific questions regarding the laws for carrying or owning a firearm, seek legal advice from an attorney, or consult your local law enforcement agency, local prosecutor, law library or the internet.

Moti Shapira began his career as a detective for the Central Unit of Investigation in the Israeli Police Force. He continues to serve with a special anti-terror unit on the IDF Reserve Forces. Over the past two decades Moti has conducted criminal investigations and intelligence gatherings for his clients worldwide. Moti is also the author of [A Gun for Every Hand](#) and [Angel in a Foreign City](#).

For more information: www.shapirabook.com