

Black Star Defense Indy Holster Selection.

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Every Sword Needs a Sheath - Holster Your Weapon!

- As important as the handgun you decide to purchase, is the holster you carry it in. It really doesn't matter what kind of pistol it is or what you intend to use it for, almost EVERY pistol needs a holster of some kind.
- Holsters perform a myriad of important functions. Holsters are more than convenient way to safely carry your firearm. It also protects the firearm from the elements and wear. A holster also protects the person wearing the holstered gun from an accidental discharge or losing of control of the sidearm)
- As a responsible gun owner, there are certain tools that are must-have items in your everyday carry (EDC). Aside from the firearm itself, the holster is the second most important element. When it comes to the importance of holsters, many people think it is just about having a place to house your weapon. The need for the right holster becomes clear when you understand the many benefits holsters offer.

The Three Important Qualities for a Gun Holster

Three criterion when deciding on a holster for your firearm:

- **A holster must cover the trigger guard completely.**
- **A holster must hold and retain your firearm securely.**
- **A holster must allow access to the firearm reliably.**

Other factors to consider are concealment, convenience of access, and of course comfort.

There are many different holster types to accommodate various ways to carry a firearm on your person. This includes IWB, OWB, AIWB, pocket carry, belly band etc. This all comes down to personal preference and/or situation. But the above criteria listed must apply to ALL instances.

Holster - Covers the Trigger Guard Completely.

- This is the primary reason for using a holster. Firearms don't just "go off" by themselves. A round is discharged because the trigger moves backward.
- NOTE: A quality holster will cover the trigger and protect it from hands, fingers and foreign objects.
- A good concealed carry holster will keep that trigger covered and protected while you get a "permanent" firing grip. This is important! Your holster, in its correct position on the body, should allow you to obtain a proper firing grip that you won't have to adjust before firing.
- Pocket carry - Pocket holsters are designed to allow for the firearm to be drawn efficiently and the holster itself remain in the pocket when doing so. If you're going to carry a firearm in your pocket, you really should have it inside a holster and designate a single pocket for the purpose of carry. Do not intermingle other items or objects with your firearm!

Holster – Hold and Retain the Firearm Securely

Holsters are typically rated by retention level. A higher level means it's harder for someone to grab your weapon from the holster without your cooperation. The right level for you will depend on why you're carrying :

- **Level 1** - Level 1 relies on friction to hold the weapon in place. A well-fitted Level 1 holster, especially if it has a retention screw, is secure enough to keep your gun in place through most activity - but it does nothing to stop someone else taking it. Most concealed carry holsters are Level 1.
- **Level 2** - Level 2 has a second retention method as well as friction. A strap is the most common option here, but trigger guard locks are gaining popularity'
- **Level 3** - Level 3 has two additional retention methods on top of friction. Generally this is a strap and a trigger guard lock. Many police departments specify Level 3 for duty holsters.
- **Level 4** - Level 4 has three retention methods, plus friction. Level 4 holsters are extremely secure; it's almost impossible for anyone else to get the gun out if you don't cooperate.

Holster – Must Allow Reliable Access to the Firearm.

- The holster also must keep the gun ready for quick access. In order to maintain ready access to a firearm secured by a high-level retention holster, the shooter must spend hours repeating thousands of practice draws until it becomes second nature.
- The firearm must fit the holster correctly. Not ***just about*** right but ***exactly*** right! Firearms flopping around in loose fitting holsters are dangerous. Equally firearms that may actually be stuck in holsters that are too small for the firearm create dangerous situations.
- The holster needs to carry and support your gun in the desired orientation — and keep it that way. Whether you're sitting, standing, walking or running, you need to be able to reach for your firearm and know precisely how it will be positioned. In other words, you should be able to draw your gun smoothly without looking.
- An expensive gun, training classes and hundreds of hours of range time are all for naught IF your holster doesn't help you get your gun into action as quickly, safely and intuitively as possible.

Holster – Reliable Access Discussion Continued.

- The ‘retention scale’ was presented to demonstrate firearm security at each level. Also consider the level of difficulty one would have in removing your gun from your body.
- Think about firearm security and retention for “off body” carry options (i.e. purse carry, fanny packs, etc.). You really want to think about preventing someone from taking your firearm from you as you decide on what carry options will work best for your unique situation.
- It is imperative that you practice your draw stroke to develop muscle memory! This is the **ONLY** way your draw will be fast and consistent! Add this into your dry fire practice. Also, be sure to attend the club hosted “defensive Pistol” events that are held monthly for training and feedback, as well as live fire exercises.
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A Quality Gun Belt is Needed for Your Holsters

- The holster is only one half of the carry system. The gun belt is the other half.
- The kind of belts needed to be worn in conjunction with a firearm are much thicker and sturdier than traditional belts.
- One of the most common problems to occur with belts not made for carrying a firearm is for a twisting motion to occur during a draw stroke. When you attempt to draw your firearm from the holster, a standard belt doesn't have the rigidity needed to prevent the upward pull on the firearm from twisting the belt and creates a pinching motion between the holster and your side making it difficult to cleanly free the firearm from the holster.
- Belts designed for use with holsters are very difficult to twist and allow for a much easier and smooth draw. The two most common are Leather and Nylon Belts and should always be considered in conjunction with a holster.
- Among other things, the width of the belt should match the belt slots of the holster. A holster worn outside the waistband will require a more substantial belt than one worn inside the waistband.
- NOTE: Open discussion of carry options for those who don't wear belts, or outfit does not allow use of belts. Also, "Grey Man" vs. "Tactical Hobo".



Questions