

Obviously, the possibility of the thumb engaging the trigger is a real danger and the index finger is extremely close to the muzzle of the often loaded gun. The idea is when the slide is slightly retracted the extractor pulls the loaded round sufficiently from the chamber so that a visual inspection will reveal its presence. It even works in the dark because the trigger finger can be used to "feel" if the extractor is empty or occupied, but it is a practice full of potential for disaster.

The problem of determining whether or not the chamber is loaded is always there, and there are no easy solutions for those new to handguns.

I still use the "Press-Check" when I'm not teaching, but I have to admit its safe use requires a heightened sense of awareness, and many beginners simply don't have the skills necessary to use it safely, so I can see where its use is universally condemned.

There is now a solution from JPFO, an organization dedicated to maintaining our Second Amendment Rights. Jews for the Preservation of Firearms Ownership is headed by Aaron Zelman, and he is offering a Loaded Chamber Indicator (LCI) that really works. It requires the services of a gunsmith for proper installation, but it is so simple and so reliable it is easy to recommend this genuine safety device. Although I had the sample device installed on a personal Springfield Armory 1911A1 pistol, this device can also be installed on those Sig 226 and 229 pistols that are made with the machined steel slides. (Sorry, there isn't enough material for those equipped with the stamped steel slides for proper installation.) It can also be installed on some Smith & Wesson semi-auto pistols, but it requires a slide with sufficient material for the installation.



Once the chamber is loaded on a pistol equipped with the JPFO LCI, the device stands quite proudly and is in some reminiscent of the extractor/loaded chamber indicator first seen on the German Luger.

The device is incredibly simple, and in many ways it reminded me of the combination extractor/loaded chamber indicator first seen on the German Luger. Although to be fair and accurate, the JPFO LCI does not work in any way like an extractor, nor does it inhibit or interfere with an extractor's function. But once the chamber on the pistol is loaded, the JPFO LCI does stand up quite proudly just like the Luger extractor. As opposed to the Luger extractor/LCI, the JPFO unit stands at its rear and slopes toward the chamber end of the barrel.

It is easy to use and understand. If the chamber is empty, the JPFO LCI lies flat within the contours of the slide profile and is virtually unnoticeable in terms of machined profile. You can see it, but that has more to do with the difference in surface finish than anything else.