

PRODUCT REVIEW

GLOCK G19

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APRIL 2021

GLOCK G19: SERVICE PISTOL (9x19MM)



Glock G19 (Gen3)

If it is not carried in a holster it is best to leave the chamber unloaded as it is not fitted with a manual safety catch, while users need to ensure their trigger finger is outside the triggerguard when drawing it from a holster or reholstering it to prevent an accidental discharge. The NY-1 trigger spring is best as it helps prevent accidental discharges in high stress situations. It produces an 8-lb pull with the standard connector.

Gaston Glock's G 19 (c. 1988) is a compact variant of the original Glock service pistol, the full size G17 (c. 1982).

There are a wide range of Glocks in a variety of sizes and calibres, but the G19 as it has the ideal blend of compactness and firepower in a 9mm pistol. It is smaller than the G17 but its 15 round magazine holds only two less rounds than the G17 and five rounds more than the subcompact G26 (c. 1996).

The smaller G26 can be fitted with the higher capacity magazines used in the larger Glocks but has a shorter sight radius, more muzzle blast/flash, does not have an accessory mount on the frame, and is poorly suited to pocket carry (a small revolver like the 9mm Ruger LCR is far better suited to such use).

The US Navy SEALs adopted the G19 (Gen3) over the G17 as it's better suited to covert duty use and off-duty concealed carry.

The Browning type short recoil operating system and single-action (SA) firing mechanism used in striker fired Glocks provides a short trigger pull for every shot, much like the heavier steel frame Browning Hi-Power, but without the need for an external hammer. The striker (firing pin) is partially cocked when the slide is moved fully rearwards, as occurs when chambering a round, while pulling the trigger completes the cocking process and releases the striker to fire the chambered round.

The G19 has a great reputation for reliability and durability, in large part due to its simplicity, corrosion resistant finish, and shock absorbing polymer frame.

It is a strong pistol designed for high pressure rounds, so use +P and +P+ civilian rounds or mil-spec rounds, not standard pressure civilian rounds intended for use in older pistols as this can result in 'limp wrist' malfunctions due to a weak grip as a result of an injury or awkward firing position.

I recommend the Gen3 variant as later variants add unnecessary features (violating the KIS principle), lack full parts compatibility with Gen3 and earlier variants, and feature an unnecessary double recoil spring which is more likely to cause stoppages than the earlier single recoil spring if dust, sand, dirt or mud get inside the pistol.

The G19 is large enough for use as a service pistol but small enough for concealed carry, thus ideal for general purpose use.

HISTORY & FEATURES

Glocks are essentially John Browning type recoil operated locked breech pistols like the Colt M1911 and Browning Hi-Power.

That said, they are simplified with substantially fewer parts, with a striker ignition system with no hammer, and have a light but very durable polymer frame that reduces the overall weight but also makes it soft shooting,

making it easy to shoot fast as well as reducing stress on components.

They are inexpensive to produce which allows the manufacturer to undercut the price of many other pistols, which facilitated the adoption of Glocks by many law-enforcement agencies and armed forces, whose logistics officers also appreciate their high level of reliability and durability.

The four key features to Glock reliability are: 1) fewer parts than other pistols (34 in the original G17) so there is less to go wrong; 2) loose tolerances so they can still operate when dirty due to a lack of cleaning or environmental contaminates like sand and mud; 3) a shock absorbing polymer frame; 4) a highly rust resistant finish on metal components.



RECOMMENDED ACCESSORIES

Handbook

Glock Handbook. [Blackheart International]

Log Book

Firearm Usage & Maintenance Log Book. [Blackheart International]

Field Bore Brush

Hoppe's BoreSnake. [Hoppe's]

Cleaner/Lubricant

Slip 2000 725 / Slip 2000 EWL. [Slip 2000]

Dry Fire Rounds

A-Zoom 9mm Luger Snap Caps. [Lyman Products Corporation]

Ear Plugs

EarPro or EP3 or EP4. [SureFire]

High Visibility Sights

XS 24/7 Standard Dot Tritium Front and Tritium White Stripe Rear. [XS Sight Systems]

Tactical Light

XC1-B LED Handgun WeaponLight. [SureFire]

Holster

BHYCS-TB Inside the Waist Scabbard with Thumb Break. [Black Hills Leather Store]

Lanyard

Blackhawk Tactical Pistol Lanyard. [Blackhawk]

HOT TIP

Training magazines can suffer metal fatigue to their springs so don't use them for combat.