

PRODUCT REVIEW

GLOCK

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SELF-LOADING PISTOL (9X19MM)



Glock M19 Gen3

Gaston Glock's Model 19 (c. 1988) is a compact variant of the original Glock, the full size Model 17 (c. 1982).

There are a wide range of Glocks in a variety of sizes and calibres, but the most popular with individuals is the 9mm M19 as it has the ideal blend of compactness and firepower. It is markedly smaller than the M17 but its 15-round magazine holds only two less rounds than the M17 and five rounds more than the subcompact Model 26.

The smaller M26 can be used with the longer, higher capacity magazines used in the larger M19, M17 and M18 (up to 33-rounds) but has a shorter sight radius due to its shorter barrel/slide, thus less muzzle velocity/energy, more muzzle blast/flash, and

cannot readily be fitted with tactical lights or lasers as it does not have a dedicated mount on the frame like the larger Glocks, thus is not as well suited to militia use even though it is easier to conceal.

The single-action (SA) type mechanism used in striker fired Glocks provides a short trigger pull for every shot, much like conventional SA pistols like the Colt 1911 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.

No other pistols have proven to be as reliable and durable

as 9mm Glocks, in large part due to their simplicity, the tough corrosion resistant Tenifer finish on metal parts, and their polymer frame which absorbs much of the shock caused by firing rounds.

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.

Replace the standard trigger spring with the heavier NY-1 trigger spring in order to help prevent accidental discharges in high stress situations. It produces an 8-lb trigger pull with the standard connector (std. trigger pull is 5.5-lbs).

Glocks are tough handguns designed for high pressure 9mm rounds, so use +P and +P+ pressure civilian rounds or NATO specification military rounds, not standard (SAAMI) pressure civilian rounds intended for use in older pistols as this can result in malfunctions due to a weak grip as a result of an injury or awkward firing position, or environmental contaminants such as mud and sand.

GEN3 VS GEN4/5

The Gen4 version has a slightly narrower grip that accepts backstrap extensions, a more aggressive gripping surface, a double recoil spring, and a larger magazine release that can be reversed, while the Gen5 variant adds an ambidextrous slide stop, a

bevelled magazine well and deletes the finger grooves, but are not recommended.

The 9mm round does not need a double recoil spring, while the Gen4 and Gen5 variants do not have full parts interchangeability with the Gen3 and earlier variants (incompatible recoil spring,

slide and magazine release), cannot use magazines made for the earlier pistols unless the magazine release is configured for right handed users, while the backstrap extensions are of little benefit.

The more complex Gen4 and Gen5 variants violate the KIS principle.

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

The lightweight M19 is reliable, durable, robust, simple, easy to use, compact, and uses high capacity magazines, thus ideal for militia use.

RECOMMENDED ACCESSORIES

Handbook/Log Book

Glock Handbook/Firearm Usage & Maintenance Log Book. [Blackheart International]

Maintenance Video

Glock Pistols. [AGI]

Field Bore Brush

Hoppe's BoreSnake. [Hoppe's]

Cleaner/Lubricant

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

Dry Fire Rounds

A-Zoom Snap Caps. [Lyman Products Corporation]

Ear Plugs

EarPro EP3 or EP4 Sonic Defenders. [SureFire]

Illuminated Sights

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

Holster

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

Lanyard

Blackhawk Tactical Pistol Lanyard. [Blackhawk]

HOT TIP

Download magazines by two rounds to help prevent metal fatigue to their springs.