

## PRODUCT REVIEW

# GLOCK 19

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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 calibers, 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 noticeably 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 thumb operated safety catch, while users need to ensure their finger is outside the trigger guard when drawing it from a holster or reholstering it to prevent an accidental discharge.

Replacing the standard trigger spring with the NY1 trigger spring assembly will help prevent accidental discharges in high stress situations. It produces a 9-lb trigger pull with the standard connector (the trigger pull is 5.5-lbs with the standard trigger spring).

Glocks have strong actions that are designed for high pressure 9mm rounds, so use +P and +P+ pressure civilian rounds or mil-spec NATO 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 sand or mud.

### WHY GEN3 IS BEST

The Gen1 had a smooth grip, while Gen2 added finger grooves with a chequered/roughened surface to improve the grip, and Gen3 added an accessory rail.

The Gen4 version has a slightly narrower grip that accepts backstrap extensions that are of little practical use (the cut out weakens the frame), a more aggressive gripping surface, a double recoil spring to make the

light recoil slightly lighter at the cost of increased complexity and increasing the incidence of stoppages if contaminants like dust, sand or mud get inside the pistol, and a larger magazine release that can be reversed but increases the incidence of accidental magazine releases.

Gen5 adds an unnecessary ambidextrous slide stop and a beveled/relieved magazine well, has no finger grooves, has the front of the slide beveled (largely

pointless), can be difficult to reassemble, while its nDLC finish is less durable than the earlier Tenifer finish.

Gen4/5 Glocks do not have full parts interchangeability with Gen3 and earlier variants (slide, recoil spring, etc.), and cannot use magazines made for earlier variants unless the magazine release is configured for right handed users.

Thus the Gen3 variant is simpler, more robust and less stoppage prone than later variants.

### 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 (can be used as a pancake style holster). [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.