

WEAPON GUIDE

GLOCK 19

SMALL ARMS REVIEW TEAM

SELF-LOADING SERVICE PISTOL (9x19MM)



Glock 19 (Gen3)

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

There are a wide range of 9x19mm Glocks, but the G19 has the ideal blend of compactness and firepower. It holds only two less rounds than the full size G17 and five rounds more than the subcompact Model 26 (c. 1996).

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.

The heavier 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 (the

standard trigger pull is 5.5-lbs).

This service pistol is designed for NATO pressure rounds, so use +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.

The Gen3 variant is best 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 sand or mud get inside the pistol.

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 contaminants like sand and mud; 3) a shock absorbing polymer frame; 4) a highly rust resistant finish on metal components.

RECOMMENDED ACCESSORIES

Log Book

Firearm Usage & Maintenance Log Book. [Blackheart International]

Handbook

Glock Handbook. [Blackheart International]

Field Bore Brush

Hoppe's BoreSnake. [Hoppe's]

Firearm CLP

Beak Free CLP. [Safariland]

Dry Fire Rounds

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

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]

Ear Plugs

EarPro or EP3 or EP4. [SureFire]

SPECIFICATIONS

Weight: 0.67 kg (1.5 lb)
Length: 187 mm (7.36 in)
Barrel Length: 102 mm (4 in)
Action: short recoil
Magazine capacity: 15 rounds

HOT TIP

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