

PRODUCT REVIEW

GLOCK 26

BY RICHARD LUTZ

APRIL 2024

SUBCOMPACT SELF-LOADING PISTOL (9X19MM)



This Gen5 version of the G26 is fitted with a Pearce Grips PG-G526 magazine baseplate grip extension.

Gaston Glock's Model 26 (c. 1995) is a subcompact variant of the original Model 17 service pistol (c. 1982).

Glocks come in a variety of sizes and calibers, but the most popular with individuals has been the Model 19 (15 round magazine) as it is big enough to use as a service pistol but readily concealable, but for dedicated concealed carry the G26 (10 round magazine) is markedly better due to the substantially shorter grip while still being readily controllable, all the more so with a magazine baseplate grip extension like Glock's +2 baseplate.

The G26 can use the higher capacity magazines used in the larger G19 and G17 but has a shorter sight radius due to its shorter barrel/slide, and lacks a dedicated mount on the frame like the larger Glocks to mount a light/laser, though some can be bolted to the pistol's trigger guard (e.g., Streamlight TLR-6).

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.

It has a 3.5" barrel, though a longer 4" G19 barrel can be fitted if you want better ballistics (the S&W Shield Plus has a 3.1" barrel).

Glocks like this have proven to be reliable and durable, in large part due to their simplicity, tough corrosion resistant finish, and shock absorbing polymer frame.

If it is not carried in a holster it is best to leave the chamber unloaded if not fitted with a heavier NY 1 or

NY 2 trigger spring 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 pocket (and reholstering) to prevent an accidental discharge.

The lighter G43 has a thinner grip better suited to small hands but has heavier recoil, uses a lower capacity six round magazine (it won't accept G26/G19/G17 mags), and cannot be fitted with a heavier NY trigger spring.

The +P pressure civilian rounds and similar pressure mil-spec NATO rounds are best, not standard (SAAMI) pressure civilian rounds as this can result in malfunctions due to a weak grip, due to an injury, an awkward firing position, or environmental contaminants like sand or mud getting inside the pistol.

I recommend the proven CCI 124 Grain Gold Dot +P load used by the NYPD.

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

The G26 has proven to be very reliable and durable since 1995 and one of the few subcompacts with a heavier trigger pull option (along with the outstanding S&W M&P9 Shield Plus).

RECOMMENDED ACCESSORIES

Handbook

Glock Handbook.
[Blackheart International]

Log Book

Firearm Usage & Maintenance Log Book.
[Blackheart International]

Cleaning Kit

BoreSnake Soft Sided Cleaning Kit (34002 for .357/38/9mm handguns).
[Hoppe's]

Dry Fire Rounds

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

High Visibility Sights

DXW2 Big Dot Yellow—Glock.
[XS Sight Systems]

Holster

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

Tactical Light

E2T-MV Tactician.
[Streamlight]

HOT TIP 1

As they do not have a thumb safety some carry them empty chamber (Israeli style) if the heavier NY 1 or NY 2 trigger spring is not fitted.

HOT TIP 2

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