

WEAPON GUIDE

GLOCK 43

SMALL ARMS REVIEW TEAM

SUBCOMPACT SELF-LOADING PISTOL (9X19MM)



The magazine of this G43 is fitted with the standard flush fitting magazine base plate. Some users prefer the aftermarket GeePlate base plate which extends forward to provide a more secure grip, while people with larger hands may prefer the Glock finger extension base plate or the Plus One Extension base plate from Pearce Grip.

Gaston Glock's Model 43 (c. 2015) 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 have been the 9mm chambered variants like the G43 and the larger G43X, G26, G19, G17 and G34.

After market magazines have design issues, so if you want magazines to hold more rounds fit the PG-43+1 magazine extension and/or MagGuts +1 magazine conversion. If you want more rounds get the thicker G26 or taller G43X which use 10 round magazines.

The G43 lacks a dedicated mount on the frame to mount a light/laser, though some can be bolted to the pistol's trigger guard, notably the 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 3.41" barrel, though a longer 4.17" G48 barrel can be fitted if you want better ballistics (and a G48 slide for a longer sight radius).

Glocks like this have proven to be very reliable and durable, in large part due to their simplicity, 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 the heavier NY 1 Slim trigger spring (best fitted by a gunsmith as doing so is not easy) as it is not fitted with a thumb operated safety catch, while users need to ensure their finger is outside the trigger guard when removing it from a holster or pocket and returning it there.

The Slim Frame version of the LTT Striker Control Device is desirable as it makes holstering safer.

The G43 has a thinner grip that is much better suited to small hands than the larger G26 but has more recoil, so is best used with standard pressure 9mm loads, not higher pressure +P loads.

We recommend the Hornady 9mm Luger 100 gr FTX Critical Defense Lite load.

SUMMARY

The G43 has proven to be very reliable and durable and is of the few subcompacts with a heavier trigger pull option (along with the outstanding S&W M&P9 Shield series pistols).

ACCESSORIES

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]

Ear Plugs

EarPro EP3 or EP4. [SureFire]

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 Flashlight

E1B Backup MaxVision. [SureFire]

HOT TIP 1

As the G43 does not have a thumb safety some carry them empty chamber (Israeli style) if the heavier NY 1 Slim trigger spring is not fitted.

HOT TIP 2

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