MAGAZINE RELEASE BUTTON

There have been many complaints over the years about the typical Glock’s small, short magazine release button. Also on Gens 1-3 the mag button was not reversible for left-handed shooters. The Gen-4 mag release button is three times larger than Gens 1-3, mostly through extending backward into the grip much more, and is reversible for lefties.

With the reversible mag button system, obviously magazines for Gen-4 must feature an “extra” mag catch cutout on the other side of the tube to engage the button once it’s switched over. Actually, when combined with the cutout on the front of the mag that was added a few years ago for Glock’s ambidextrous magazine release, there are now three mag catch cutouts on a Gen-4 magazine.

SF & RTF-4

Small-handed shooters have found Gen 1-3 Glock grips too large for their hands; large hand shooters find them too small. The Gen-4 grip incorporates Glock’s SF (Short Frame) treatment making its front-to-rear dimensions two millimeters shorter. However Gen-4 also has an interchangeable backstrap system. The Medium backstrap overlay increases trigger reach by approximately two millimeters, i.e. takes grip size and shape back to Gen-3. The Large backstrap increases trigger reach by another two millimeters. The rule of thumb is: no backstrap decreases trigger reach versus Gen-3, Medium backstrap means the same trigger reach, Large backstrap increases trigger reach.

Some people find the Glock’s polymer grip frame somewhat slippery. Gen-4 adds an RTF (Rough Texture Frame) treatment to the side panels, backstrap, and frontstrap in-between the finger grooves. Called by Glock the RTF-4, this consists of a series of raised, flat-sided cubes allowing a considerably more solid purchase on the gun.

SUMMARY

Gen-4 is not an instant, across-the-board change to the entire Glock line but is rather being phased in piecemeal, the G22 coming first, followed shortly by the G17, then other models. Eventually the plan is to replace all Gen-3 Glocks with Gen-4, though we will see both Gen-3 and Gen-4 being produced by Glock concurrently for at least the next two years.

The Gen-4 Model 22 will still fit into a holster for a Gen-3 Model 22. Given the G22’s popularity as a police gun, there will be many departments wanting to upgrade from Gen-3 to Gen-4, and the fact they can do so without needing to invest in new holsters will be a major selling point.

You can visit Duane’s website at self-defense-handgun.com