



# First Shots - XD 45 ACP

**By Mike Johnson, "Behind the Gun Counter"**

Just before Christmas 2005, I got a call from our Springfield Armory Representative.

"Hi Mike, I've got some XD's in .45 ACP. Would you like one?"

"How many can I have?" I replied.

"Only one for now."

"O.K., I'll take two."

Of course, she only shipped one. Thankfully, Kris Kindschuh, the owner of our store, decided that the first gun was going to be his. Everyone can look at it and play with it, but it's not for sale. He graciously allowed me to shoot it and give you these first impressions.

### Externals

Externally, the most visibly striking feature is the length of the grip. It appears long, which is rather deceptive. For average hands, there's only a little grip extending below the hand when holding the gun. Usually, as soon as customers pick it up, their first question is, "What's the capacity on this?" When I say "thirteen plus one," they're surprised and usually turn the gun upside down and begin examining the grip frame. The trigger reach is, likewise, excellent. In my opinion, Springfield Armory hit the jackpot on this grip.

We have three other high-capacity .45 autos in the shop, so I took a tape measure to measure grip circumference near the bottom of the grip frame, and the circumference of the grip from the web around the trigger and back on a Glock 21, a full-size HK USP and a Springfield Armory

GI .45 High Capacity. Of the guns measured, the XD had the smallest grip circumference and tied for the shortest trigger reach. While the numerical difference in these measurements may appear trivial, the practical difference is substantial. This is a high-capacity .45 for the rest of us. It's easy for someone with average or slightly smaller-than-average hands to acquire a proper shooting grip on the gun.

Shortly after we got our first XD 45 ACP, a customer was handling it and asked, "Do you have any holsters for it?" Wondering if anything we had in stock would fit, I walked across the shop and grabbed Ross Leather's 5NS, a lined leather pancake style holster. The gun fit perfectly. Surprised, I walked to another display and grabbed a Blade Tech hand-molded Kydex holster for the 4" XD-9. Shockingly, that fit too. The beauty of Kydex is that a properly molded holster fits perfectly. We never sell a holster molded for a one type of gun to someone who has a different model. You can have problems with the holster failing to secure the firearm properly. This fit EXACTLY right. That really surprised me. The XD 45 ACP magazines fit perfectly in mag pouches designed for the full-size HK USP 9/40. Since the gun comes from Springfield Armory with a holster, double mag pouch and speed loader, buying a holster isn't necessary. It is however, nice to know that this gun will probably fit in all of your other XD holsters.

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### Comparative Trigger Reach/ Grip Circumference Specs.

	cm	in
<b>XD 45 ACP</b>		
• Trigger Reach	17	6.7
• Grip Circumference	14.5	5.7
<b>Glock 21</b>		
• Trigger Reach	18	7.1
• Grip Circumference	16	6.3
<b>HK USP 45</b>		
• DA Trigger Reach	18.5	7.3
• SA Trigger Reach	17	6.7
• Grip Circumference	15	5.9
<b>Springfield GI Hi Cap</b>		
• Trigger Reach	18.25	7.2
• Grip Circumference	15	5.9