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Why I Love My Glock 17...

By Duane Thomas

Recently I was asked by an online friend, "Why do you like the Glock 17 so much?" By the time I was done answering that question, I had basically written this article. My reply went something like this:

I like that the Glock 17 has an extremely high size/weight-to-firepower ratio. Lots of ammo in a light gun that – in the overall scheme of things – is not a terribly large gun. The Glock 17 is overall the same size as a Commander (albeit a bit thicker), which is generally considered a fairly compact, easily concealable gun. Because of its size and weight, the Glock 17, though it's considered by modern standards a full service-sized auto pistol, is an easy, comfortable gun to carry and conceal.

Some might point to the Glock 19 as being even easier to conceal. In my experience – and I speak as someone who carried and competed with a Glock 19 for years – the Glock 17 is considerably easier to shoot fast and well than the Glock 19, and almost as easy to conceal. I truly can't imagine a situation where I could conceal a Glock 19 where I couldn't do the same thing with a Glock 17.

I like that I can load my Glock 9mm with Winchester 127-grain SXT +P+ and be carrying, in essence, a fast-firing, quick-reloading, 17-shot (I don't top off after inserting the mag and racking a round into the chamber.) .357 Magnum. I like that when carrying this gun and two spare magazines, I have more than a full box of ammo on my body. Will I ever need that much ammo for self-defense? HIGHLY unlikely; but if I *can* carry that much ammo, comfortably concealed...why not? I view that as more of a luxury than a necessity.

I like that the various Glcks, including the G17, all have extremely low bore axes. For such a light gun, a G17 has much less perceived recoil and muzzle flip than you'd think, simply because the barrel rides so low in relation to the web of the shooter's hand that the gun doesn't have a lot of leverage to flip its muzzle on you. Even when firing hot +P+ ammo, this is not a hard gun to control.

I like the trigger system, and the short, consistent trigger pulls it gives me. I like that performing a trigger job on a Glock is so simple that even I can do it without screwing it up. I like that creating lighter or heavier trigger pulls in a Glock is (largely) simply a matter of replacing drop-in parts with other drop-in parts. I like that I can replace

the stock trigger spring with a "New York Trigger" module and wind up with a gun on which I don't have to worry about the trigger return spring breaking, which can (and occasionally does) happen on most other auto pistol designs.

I like that the basic Glock design is, literally, the easiest handgun in the world to detail strip and reassemble. I like that this is a modular handgun, that replacing worn or broken parts is simply a matter of swapping out drop-in parts with other drop-in parts, and that this can be done by an end user who has no advanced pistolsmithing or metalworking skills – also no need to turn the gun

over to, and wait for its return from, someone who does have those skills.

I like this gun's reliability level, and that it works even when filthy. I'm coming up on 20,000 rounds through my Glock 17, I think I've cleaned it once, and it still works flawlessly.

I like that this is a very self-contained

design with no major openings into the gun for crud to work its way inside the action in a harsh environment. I like that the entire gun is out-of-the-box rustproof. I like that the magazines are covered with a thick coat of polymer that makes them damn near indestructible.

I like it that the combination of the Glock's modular nature and ease of switching parts has combined to create an extremely large array of aftermarket parts that may be user installed if you want to upgrade the gun.

I like that there are no sharp edges anywhere on this thing, a very important consideration once you start manipulating a gun fast. I have cut myself on a number of gun designs over the years – but never on a Glock.

I like that the Glock 17 is extraordinarily popular, almost, one is tempted to say, the least common denominator handgun. I've run into the "you can tell a lot about a man by the gun he carries" attitude from numerous folks over the years, usually from someone just itching to show you their custom 1911. Don't get me wrong – I love the 1911 – but what MY gun says is, "I don't care what you think about me or my gun." Go out and win a match with a Glock 17 and no one can say you "bought the win" with a super-expensive, esoteric gun that most people couldn't get.

There is no other handgun on Earth about which you can say all these things. For all those reasons, I love my Glock 17.

