

# 64 Arredondo Accessories: The I

By Duane Thomas

I've been carrying a Glock 17 for the past year or so. This is not the first time my carry gun has been a Glock 17, it's a design I've come back to again and again over the years, its only downfall to my mind being its skimpy magazine capacity.

JOKING! The 17-round magazine capacity of the 9mm Glock 17 was extraordinary at the time of its introduction when most "wondernine" mags held 15 rounds. Even today when several other guns have equalled that amount, still it provides all the rounds in-gun that anyone could want in a concealed-carry piece. Actually it's arguable you wouldn't want more rounds in a carry gun because that would entail making the magazine so long it would severely and negatively impact concealability. No, the mag in the carry/concealment Glock 17 should always be fitted with the stock flat baseplate. But what of the spare mag(s) in the mag pouch? Ah, that's where things get interesting. Enter Arredondo Accessories' extended baseplates for Glocks.

The reason the company is called Arredondo Accessories is because it's owned, and the products it sells designed, by Ralph Arredondo. In my experience the Arredondo baseplate sold through Dillon's *Blue Press* adds five rounds to the capacity of a 9mm Glock 17/34/17L mag. That's 22 rounds of 9mm – and that's NOT pushing the spring so hard you can barely load the last cartridge, and have to stand on the mag to snap it into the gun. That 22nd cartridge loads easily, and there's still about half a cartridge diameter of compression "slack" left over, so the mag snaps easily into place even with the slide forward. Ralph Arredondo does report that some people have been able to fit in an extra six rounds of 9mm with this extension.

Since Glock 9mm and .40 S&W/.357 SIG/.45 GAP mags are all dimensionally identical, the

exact same baseplate adds either four or five rounds to a .40 caliber Model 22/24/35 mag or .357 SIG Model 31 mag, and I would expect three or four rounds to a .45 GAP Model 37 mag. That can all vary a bit from mag to mag. Also available through the *Blue Press* are Arredondo extensions

for the Springfield XD and Smith & Wesson M&P 9mms and .40s. These extensions, according to Ralph Arredondo, add four rounds in 9mm, three in .40. Also the *Blue Press* carries a "+3" extension for the XD .45.

The baseplate is a two-piece unit. The method by which it installs, and then the two pieces are held together, is ingenious. Remove the stock baseplate, sub-floorplate and magazine spring/follower. Pull the follower off the stock

spring. Fit the stock follower to the elongated spring supplied by Arredondo with their baseplate. (Other than the tube, the follower is the only stock part you're going to be retaining – everything else gets replaced.) Insert the follower and spring into the mag tube. The major portion of the extension slides over the top of the magazine and along the tube until it snugs down around the bottom. Then the bottom of the extension come up from underneath, capturing, containing and compressing the spring in the process, and two large rectangular lugs, one on each side, snap out into corresponding cutouts in the body of the extension. This is an extraordinarily secure system; I literally can't imagine a properly assembled Arredondo extension ever coming off accidentally. Disassembly requires using a special tool (also supplied with every extension) that depresses both lugs simultaneously.

The reason the Arredondo extension is the length it is (I knew you wanted to know) is that in IPSC and

USPSA (the United States Practical Shooting Association is the active body of the International Practical Shooting Confederation in the U.S.) there is a magazine length limit of 140mm (that's complete



**Left Photo: The Arredondo Glock magazine extension adds approximately half an inch to the length of a stock Glock mag, and five rounds of capacity in 9mm.**

**Right Photo: A Glock 17/34 magazine fitted with an Arredondo extension holds 22 rounds of 9mm.**



**The Arredondo extension consists of an upper sleeve that fits over the top the magazine tube, the baseplate per se which comes in from the bottom and snaps into the upper, a spring of the appropriate length, and every baseplate also comes with a disassembly tool.**