

# The Glock in Competition: <sup>69</sup>

**A Shooter's How To Guide by Robin Taylor, with Bobby Carver and Mark Passamanck (Second Edition)**

## Book Review by Gary Kieft

Seven years after the first edition of this book, the acceptance of the Glock "plastic gun" concept into most handgun shooting disciplines, with the resultant modifications, new aftermarket parts, and increased shooter recognition of the out-of-the-box functionality have led to the publication of a second, greatly expanded edition.

This book covers a wide variety of Glock-related topics, starting with action work, and finishing up with biographies of several of the top Glock champion shooters.

As far as I'm concerned, the chapter on Glock blowups alone is worth the price of the book.

Blowups, also known as Kabooms, KB malfunctions, etc., are analyzed in a methodical, easy-to-comprehend way. The short answer is: Don't double charge, beware of out-of-battery firing and the resultant need to use correctly dimensioned ammunition, and NEVER NEVER NEVER use lead bullets in a factory Glock barrel.

Mark Passamanck goes to great detail into the design of Glock polygonal rifling. A design meant to optimize accuracy with jacketed bullets; the polygonal rifling swages the bullet into essentially an octagon shape. Copper withstands this swaging quite well, so that even jacketed bullets with inconsistencies perform very well. However, lead tends to tear away and is left as deposits in the barrel; therefore, firing as few as five rounds of lead ammunition will cause significant pressure increases in polygonal-rifled barrels. Mark

describes a Glock 19 barrel that KB'd after firing approximately 1500 rounds of commercial lead ammo. Because of excessive lead residue, the bore diameter at the front of the chamber was .323," causing pressures of more than 60,000 PSI. The end result was a cracked frame and a split barrel.

Besides the KB information, a lot of owner-usable information is packed into this book. The beginning chapters cover trigger jobs, frame and grip alteration, sight changes, all from the "you-can-do-all-of-this-yourself" viewpoint. The Glock pistol has less than 30 parts, and, once explained, the average shooter readily understands their fit and function.

There's a section on reloading for all the cartridges Glocks are chambered for, and a discussion of power factors for the most popular action-shooting sports.

A separate chapter is devoted to Glock magazines and their changes throughout the years. Robin shows how to easily tell drop-free from non-drop-free magazines, and what internal changes Glock has made to the magazines over time.

Although Glock pistols have proven to be low-maintenance firearms, their heavy use in the shooting sports has revealed some weaknesses. Preventive maintenance is recommended, with specifics on what few things to watch for, and their effects if they should happen to occur while shooting.

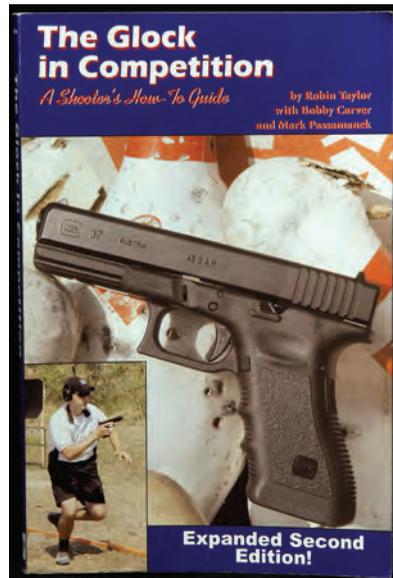
A small but invaluable chapter on where NOT to lubricate is also necessary reading. A Glock handgun is designed to thrive on very limited lubrication, and it is possible to kill one, albeit temporarily, with kindness. A chart on the various models of Glock pistols, and the serial number letter prefixes shows used-Glock purchasers what to look for as far as design updates that should be made.

The second part of this book is devoted to the specifics of the Glock pistol in the various shooting events. There is a specific sport just for Glocks, the Glock Shooting Sports Federation, usually abbreviated as GSSF. Depending upon the division, some modifications are allowed, others are not. GSSF is meant to be the everyman

sport for all Glock owners. Pistols start in the hand, not holstered, reloads are not necessary (unless you miss a lot), and accuracy is a bit more important than speed.

Other shooting sports where Glocks are popular are IDPA and USPSA/IPSC. There are significant differences among the sports, in both division requirements and appropriate support equipment (holsters, magazine pouch position, etc) and allowable modifications for specific sports.

Overall, *The Glock in Competition* is a book I'd consider required reading for anyone either reloading for a Glock pistol or using one in any of the competition-shooting sports.



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