

Handgun Selection

One of the most common questions I get is which handgun to buy. I will try and simplify my response in this note.

Size

Size and caliber are neck in neck importance. I will go with size first. I would either go with a mid-size or compact. Why? You can conceal both and apply it to personal protection. Reference size, how the gun fits your hand is critical.

I routinely tell students that if you fight your grip with each shot, you are putting a great deal of extra focus into each shot that could be directed somewhere else. The Gen 4 Glock has an interchangeable back strap system and you can find one that fits your hand.

Next, the most common cause of rounds going left on a right handed shooter is not your sights, but over-gripping your pistol with your right hand. If the gun does not fit correctly, you might tend to over-grip and as a consequence, you may push the rounds left.

I am not selling or pushing Glocks, but I will push the advantages here as I have learned to keep my equipment simple and reliable. As for Glocks, you can stipple or sand a bit here and there on the guns to help them fit your hands even better.

Would you rather survive an uncomfortable ride in a car for 8 hours or enjoy the ride in comfort. We all know the answer.

Caliber

Caliber is probably the most often asked question, but if you cannot drive the caliber in comfort and with accuracy, it is moot point. My answer for caliber comes in several parts.

First, I want a bullet that will reach and exit the spine from any angle I engage the threat. If the spine is gone, people cannot stand up. Hydraulics are nice, the brain and spine will give you instant feedback about your shot.

Next, the bullet should be able to penetrate the auto glass front, right, left and rear and still be lethal to the occupant.

Finally, if you are going to practice a lot, go with a larger caliber. If you are not, go with a lower caliber. Alignment and fundamentals are key when shooting multiple shots accurately. If you don't shoot a great deal, adding excessive recoil can hinder your performance and accuracy.

Maintenance and Cleaning



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Unless you are going to take your handgun to someone to clean and maintain, the process needs to be simple.

In a one day Glock Armorer's Course, you can fix everything on your gun. This is a plus. Parts are relatively cheap as well.

Holsters

Holsters and aftermarket parts are common and easy to get. If you get too specialized in your weapon selection, it will transfer over to your gear.

Aftermarket Products

Before you start changing parts on your pistol before your first range session, take a class and figure out what you really need. Otherwise, you are wasting time and money. Also, I have witnessed people trick their guns out to a point where they were unreliable or did not function. Engineers have spent thousands of hours putting your weapon together to make it function reliably every time. The internet commando that you may be communicating with has not.

Revolvers

I grew up shooting revolvers and they are still great tools. They have a place. If had to give someone a weapon who was not going to practice and it needed to work on demand, it would be a revolver. You do not have to work the slide to load it and if you have a bad round, you simply pull the trigger again. This keeps it very simple.

Conclusion

I have been shooting Glocks of many calibers since they came out. I have no regrets. Also, I am not sponsored by Glock. They just work for me. My only issue with them is I never see their field reps anymore. They are like a Maytag repairman.

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