



GunDigest

GLOCK PRICES: A BUYER'S GUIDE



**Tips for buying
new and used
Glocks**

Buying a Used Glock

Not everyone buys new guns. A used firearm can have a great deal of useful life left in it, provided it had a decent amount of care from previous owners. Glocks are not different in that regard. A horribly abused Glock may not be worth much even as a parts gun. (Unless, of course, that horribly abused Glock is the only firearm you can lay hands on in the city of

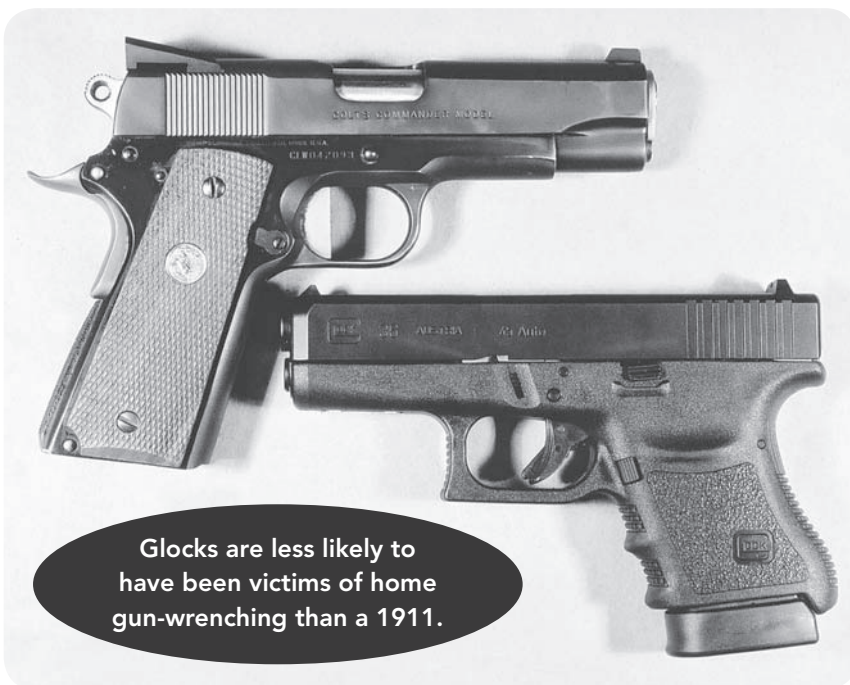
Dirt, Carjackistan, when the terrorists are trying to kick down your hotel room door. Then it may be literally worth its weight in gold or more.) A like-new-in-the-box used Glock may not cost much less than a brand-new Glock.

However, the durability of Glocks, and the lower percentage of their owners who experiment with them, tends to mean more Glocks survive in good shape than other firearms. Should you be

offered a used Glock for sale, the main dance is settling on a price. There is hardly anything on a Glock that can't be repaired, replaced or factory upgraded, and many of the factory upgrades are free. As a result, advice on buying used Glocks tends to be a lot less involved than that of buying other firearms.

What you are looking for are bargaining points. The small ones are things that are wrong or need upgrading, things that the factory will take care of free or at little cost. A G-17 with the old trigger parts can be fixed for free by Glock, but the same repair with new parts that have been experimented on will cost you should you send them back to Smyrna.

First, give the used Glock a good visual external inspection. Look to see if there are any signs of abuse, neglect and/or experimentation. External abuse would be things like the corners of the slide being chewed up and or dented from being dropped. Dropping the slide when it is off the frame can bend the



If you drop your Glock slide, it can bend if it lands on the muzzle end extension for the recoil spring. Check this area before buying a used Glock.



recoil spring retaining tab or the relatively fragile (for a Glock) back ends of the rails in the slide. Neglect would be indicated by rust (rare) or a cracked slide from too many hot reloads (even rarer). Experimentation would be something like the slide being machined to take some other sight system than the factory one or milled for ports other than factory.

The good news is that the cracked slide might well be replaced by the factory for free or at little cost. The others? You're on your own. Glock isn't going to help you with a dropped slide, and the one that was machined will have a voided warranty. Don't worry about the factory sights; Glock sights are cheap and easily replaced. At the current pricing, an armorer's

cost for a new set of sights is only \$3!

A scarred and chewed-up frame can be cleaned up but Glock won't replace it just because it got scraped along a curb during a fight. It will replace it, regardless of condition, if it is one of the E-series Glocks that were made from September 2001 through May 2002.

With the permission of the owner, cycle the slide and dry fire it. Try firing it without depressing the trigger safety. It should not fire. Try pulling the trigger normally and then hold it back and cycle the slide. Does the trigger return when you subsequently release it? If not, it may be due to a broken/bent trigger spring or a "trigger job" gone awry. The parts don't cost much, so bargain the price

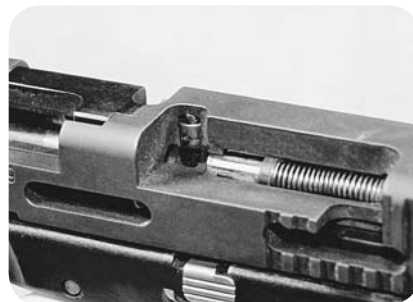
down as much as you can but don't expect the owner to budge much.

Disassemble and inspect the slide and barrel. Is the barrel clean? Unmarred? Look down the bore. Do you see dark rings? Those are bulges in the barrel from lodged bullets being shot free. A new barrel costs money. At the armorer's cost, a Glock barrel runs \$95 to \$125, with compensated barrels running up to \$140. Aftermarket Match barrels can run up to \$200. If the barrel is bulged, bargain hard, for a replacement won't be cheap.

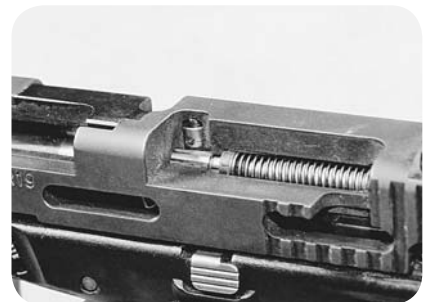
Look at the slide, in the breech face area. Inspect the area around the firing pin slot. In a very high-mileage 9mm, fed many rounds of +P or +P+ ammo (as some police departments use), you may find the area around the firing pin slot eroded or even peened back. The erosion comes from pierced or blown primers jetting hot gases back at and through the firing pin slot. If you find those signs you should remove and check the firing pin to make sure it is in good shape. The peening comes from the high pressure setback of the primer. The wall



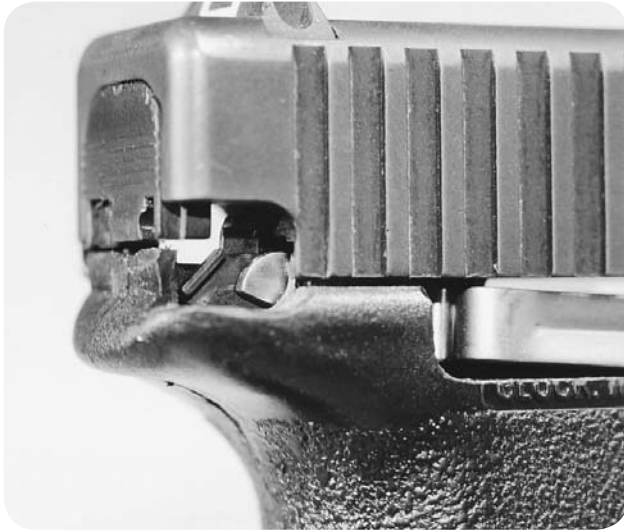
Checking the Glock action. The safety plunger is blocking the firing pin.



The firing pin being cocked.



The firing pin fully forward.

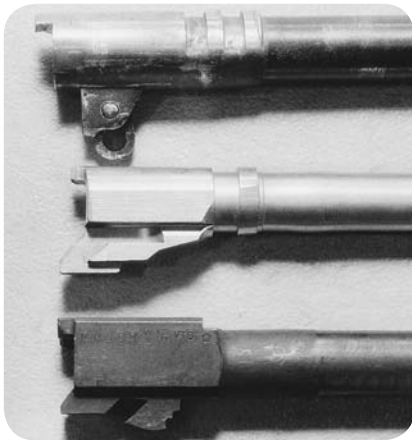


Too bad you can't look inside a Glock this easily. Check inside by going through the safety check drill.



Check for a bulged barrel. Your Glock will probably still work (unlike this unfortunate SIG) but a replacement can be expensive, so check and bargain down if you find one.

between the breechface and the firing pin tunnel isn't thick (it can't be) and the repeated hammering from a steady diet of P or +P+ loads canpeen it back. Yes, the Tenifer makes the slide hard, but the substrate isn't hard or thick. If the area is made too hard by Glock, it may break. If it is too soft, it may peen. It must



The design of the Glock barrel (bottom) eliminates the need for a barrel link as found on the 1911 barrel (top). It's also simpler to machine than the S&W barrel (middle).

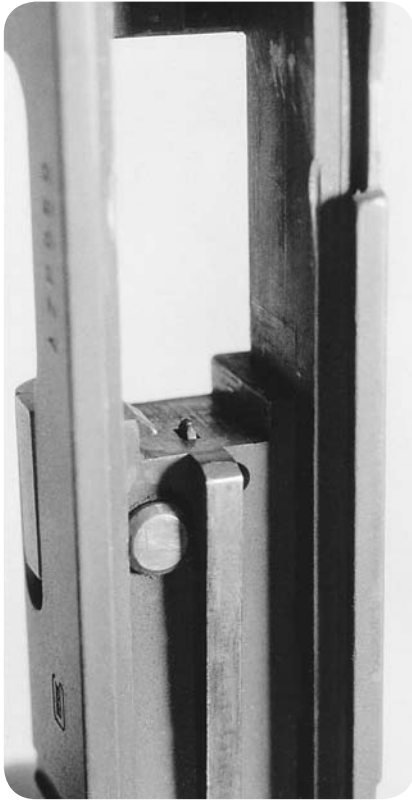
keep Glock engineers awake at night, worrying about it.

If a Glock with a peened or eroded breechface still works fine (you won't know until you test-fire it) then you can use it. But the drag on the empty case from the primer expanding into the bulge or erosion can create malfunctions. Glock may or may not replace the slide. If they do, and they charge you, it can get expensive. The old armorer's manual listed slides and frames as parts that could be ordered. The new manual does not. Aftermarket slides can cost as much as the barrels do, up to \$200.

Check the underside of the slide for peening from impacts with the locking block. A small amount is OK, but very heavy peening indicates something is wrong. Perhaps the previous owner fired a great many hot loads through it or experimented with recoil springs, using lighter-than-normal

springs for some perceived advantage. As a result of those changes, other parts of the Glock may have been stressed. Look at the front of the slide. The excessive recoil may have stressed the front of the slide where the recoil spring assembly bears on it. A crack there is very bad and cannot be repaired. The slide must be replaced. Bargain the price down. Also, the slide is thin on the ejection port side, and a steady diet of +P or +P+ loads may have cracked it there.

If you have a cracked-slide Glock, I'd suggest a letter and some photos first. If Glock is willing to replace the slide for free, ship it. If they want to charge you for it, find out how much. A replacement Caspian slide can be had for \$140 for a G-17, and you may want to go that route if Glock will charge you more. But if they already have your pistol and won't ship it back without repairing



Look at the breechface for erosion or damage.

it, you won't be able to exercise the Caspian option.

Check the firing pin safety for function with the slide off the frame. Press the striker back, then try to push it forward. If it goes forward

past the firing pin safety the firing pin and its safety need inspection and replacement.

The extractor merits a look. A chipped extractor may not function 100 percent, but a replacement isn't very much, \$10 at armorer's cost. What you may need is the armorer to replace it, as Glock needs to know serial number and caliber to use the correct one. Extractors have changed a bit through the years, and one size does not fit all.

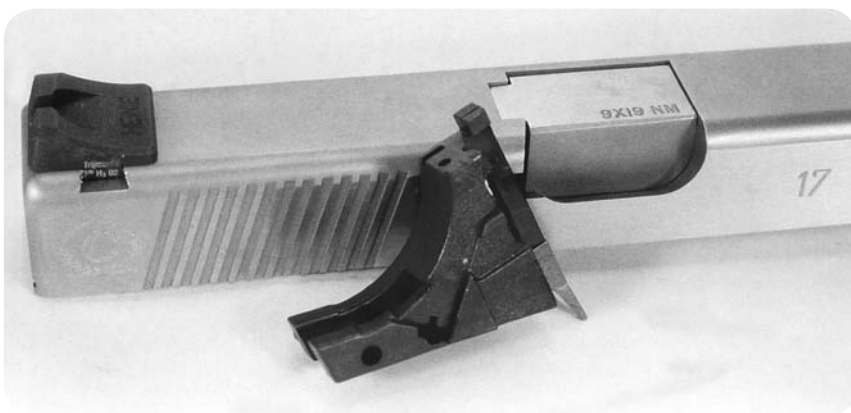
Look at the trigger parts. Black? Silver? Black means old, and a black trigger must be replaced, but Glock will do it for free. Check the trigger safety engagement. Press the trigger bar forward and listen for the safety clicking in place. While still pressing forward, pull the trigger and ease the bar back. If there is a problem, it may be very dirty. Then again, it may have been polished, ground, filed or otherwise experimented on.

Inspect the frame forward of the locking block. Gently flex the recoil spring housing



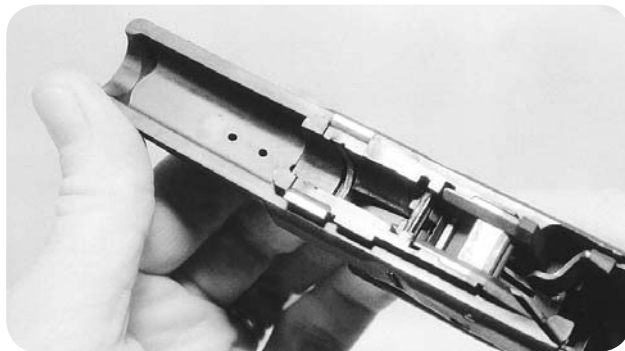
Older Glocks may need the trigger upgrade or other upgrades. Check for them and bargain down if you find one in need.

right and left, up and down. Some guns, especially the major-caliber compacts and subcompacts, have been known to crack near where the serial number plate is inserted. A cracked frame will be replaced by Glock, but this gives you an opportunity to bargain the price down. It also gives you an opportunity to create a collector's piece. If Glock returns the gun with a new serial number on the frame, but uses your old slide, barrel and other parts, keep the paperwork. You have a factory mis-match, and it may bring a bit of a premium at some future time – but only if you have the paperwork to prove it. Without the

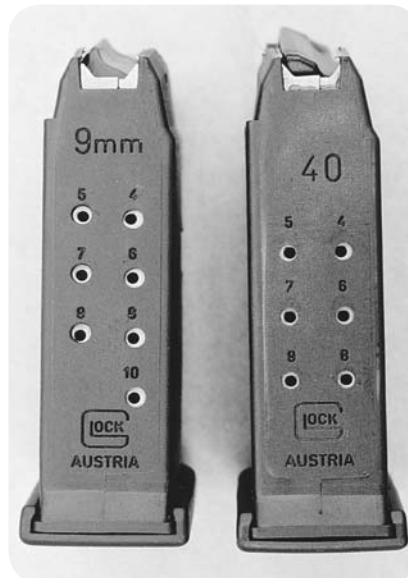


If you have a Caspian slide with barrel, recoil spring and a 9mm ejector, you can turn your .40 into a 9mm. This one, with the Heinie Straight Eight sights, is marvelous.

Flex the frame to check for cracks.



Magazines can get dinged up. If it still works, Glock won't replace it. (This one did.)



Make sure you get the correct magazines for the Glock you buy. Sometimes they get mixed up, and your .40 won't work with 9mm mags.

paperwork, what you have is a "parts gun" that no one will pay a premium for.

Recoil springs on Glocks don't give up the ghost very



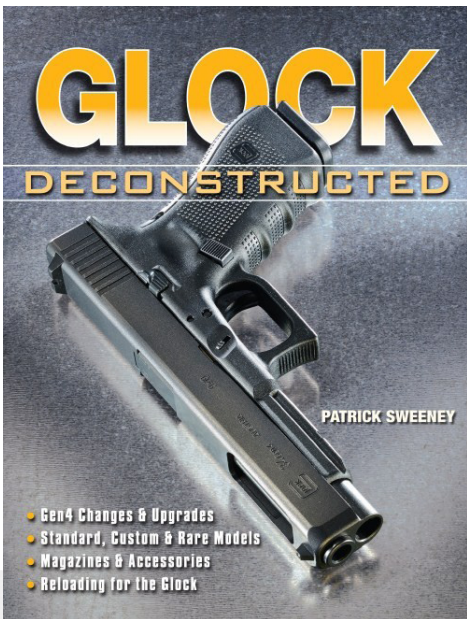
Check the magazine for abuse. This one has the aftermarket mag extension assembled incorrectly.

easily, so looking at the spring won't tell you much unless you have a Glock so old that it pre-dates the switch to the captured recoil spring assembly. (It probably has the old trigger parts, too.) A new recoil spring assembly is inexpensive, so don't worry about it. Keep bargaining.

One way to have fun and get your used and abused Glock upgraded is to go to a GSSF match. There, the factory armorer will as a matter of routine upgrade all the free stuff, and repair at low cost the mangled and abused stuff. He can also tell you what the other repairs will cost (if any) and can tell you how long it will take to get such a repair turned around. And you can shoot the match, have fun, and maybe even win another Glock.

Magazines are almost always part of a handgun purchase. Pistols don't work very well without magazines. Inspect the magazines to make sure they are as stated. Old style or drop-free? If they are drop-free, do they drop? Insert them in the Glock in question and see. Make sure they are Glock, especially if you are paying a premium for honest to goodness Glock mags. Check the feed lips to see if the polymer is still attached. (Glock won't replace them if they're ugly but still work.)

The magazine's internals and baseplates can easily be replaced, so your main concern is the tube itself. If it is in good shape and correct for the pistol you're buying, then shake over a price and have fun with your new toy. ♦



NEED MORE GLOCK STUFF?

This download is an excerpt from the *Gun Digest Book of the Glock*, now out of print but available for [Kindle](#) or [Nook](#).

We also recommend you check out the new Gun Digest book, [Glock Deconstructed](#).

[Click here for additional resources for Glock lovers.](#)

GunDigestStore
THE WORLD'S FOREMOST GUN AUTHORITY

GLOCK
DECONSTRUCTED

FOLLOW US

