

# Higher-Capacity Glock Magazines

By Duane Thomas

The 10-year Dark Age of the Assault Weapons Ban, and its prohibition on domestic manufacture or importation of over-10-round detachable box magazines was a hideous insult to firearms freedom. During that time frame, prices on high capacity magazines, especially (for some reason) Glock mags, soared. Well (for the time being, anyway) the AWB is a fading, unhallowed memory and we've got our high-cap Glock mags back. Actually there exist several options for even higher than factory standard Glock magazine capacities (hah! take *that*, anti-gunners), two of which are available through *The Blue Press*.

First up is the Arredondo extension that replaces the standard floorplate on Glock mags. Dillon Precision sells two versions of this device. The "Small Frame Glock" extension fits the models 17/17L/34 (9mm), 22/24/35 (.40 S&W) and 31 (.357 SIG). It adds six rounds to a 9mm Glock mag, upping round count from 17 to 23, and five in .40/.357, bumping capacity from 15 to 20. In addition to the extension *per se*, every unit comes with a longer than factory standard mag spring to work with the extended tube.

After installing the Arredondo extension on a G34 mag, the first time I loaded it I could only insert 21 rounds before I ran out of slack. I then stripped the ammo out and started over again. Second time around (the spring now compressed a bit from the first time) I could load 22 rounds easily, and the full 23 with a bit of thumb pressure. (Arredondo Accessories markets this extension as adding "five or six" rounds in 9mm. They know it can really add six, but just in case someone out there has weaker hands – the so-called "light thumb" – and can't shoehorn in the full additional six, they don't want that person calling them up to complain about it.)

Even when stuffed with the full 23 rounds, the Arredondo-equipped mag snaps easily into place in my G34, and feeds flawlessly when actually shooting, even the top cartridge in the mag after firing the chambered round – which is the one that'll give you trouble if anything will in an extra-capacity magazine.

The Arredondo Small Frame Glock extension adds about an inch and a half of mag length. The extra rounds come in very handy when shooting matches that allow extended magazines. I'm

thinking specifically of USPSA Limited division. Also, the resulting magazine's overall length is not so objectionable that a sufficiently motivated person couldn't carry one or several concealed in a well-designed mag pouch. So let's see: 18 rounds in the gun, two 23-round spares in a double mag pouch, that's – carry the one – 64 rounds on your body.

The "Large Frame Glock" extension adds four rounds to the capacity of a Glock 21 .45, upping mag capacity from 13 to 17, and five rounds in the 10mm

Glock 20, increasing capacity from 15 to 20.

The method by which Arredondo extensions install brings to mind the old adage "genius is the ability make the complicated simple." As Ralph Arredondo, who designed these things, put it, "It was really difficult trying to get things really simple." The extension installs by first removing the standard floorplate, then a "collar" slips down over the top of the magazine to butt up against the bottom flange; the baseplate then comes in from underneath and snaps into the collar. It's much easier to do than to describe. Removal for cleaning does require a small tool, included with every extension.

Of course, the big daddy of all Glock high-cap mags is the ultra-long 33-round 9mm originally designed for the Glock 18 machine pistol. This magazine will fit – and work – in any 9mm Glock, from the service-sized Glock 17, compact Glock 19, semi-longslide Glock 34, even the sub-compact "baby Glock" 26. In the 33-rounder we're into something (unlike the Arredondo-equipped mags) so long there's no way you're carrying it concealed in a mag pouch. However it wouldn't be the worst thing in the world to have in, say, a bedroom next to a Glock 9mm.

I once knew a woman who had very intense dreams. She was worried about possibly grabbing her gun in the middle of a dream if she kept it right by her bed. Thus she put her carry/home-defense piece – a Glock 17 – on top of her dresser, across the room from her bed, figuring that by the time she'd gotten out of bed, walked around it and across the room to the dresser and her gun, there was no way on God's green earth she wouldn't be fully awake. Right next to the fully loaded G17 was a loaded 33-round mag. Now that's one bedroom I'd say might be hard to invade!

