



BLUF: RECOMMEND

Format

9 hours | \$250 (includes lunch, work mat, rubber parts tray, Glock armorer tool, Glock pen, Armorer's Manual, and two sizes of inspection slide covers) | Miramar Police Department classroom (large, comfortable, with modern A/V)

Instructor to Student Ratio

1:28 | 20 students were Law Enforcement, 6 were stocking dealers, 2 were civilian GSSF members

Personal Kit

Per the recommended gear list: small flashlight, pen and notebook, clear safety glasses, and magnified reader glasses. Note each student would be assigned their own serialized Gen5 firearm and Gen4 frame for practice.

Training Day

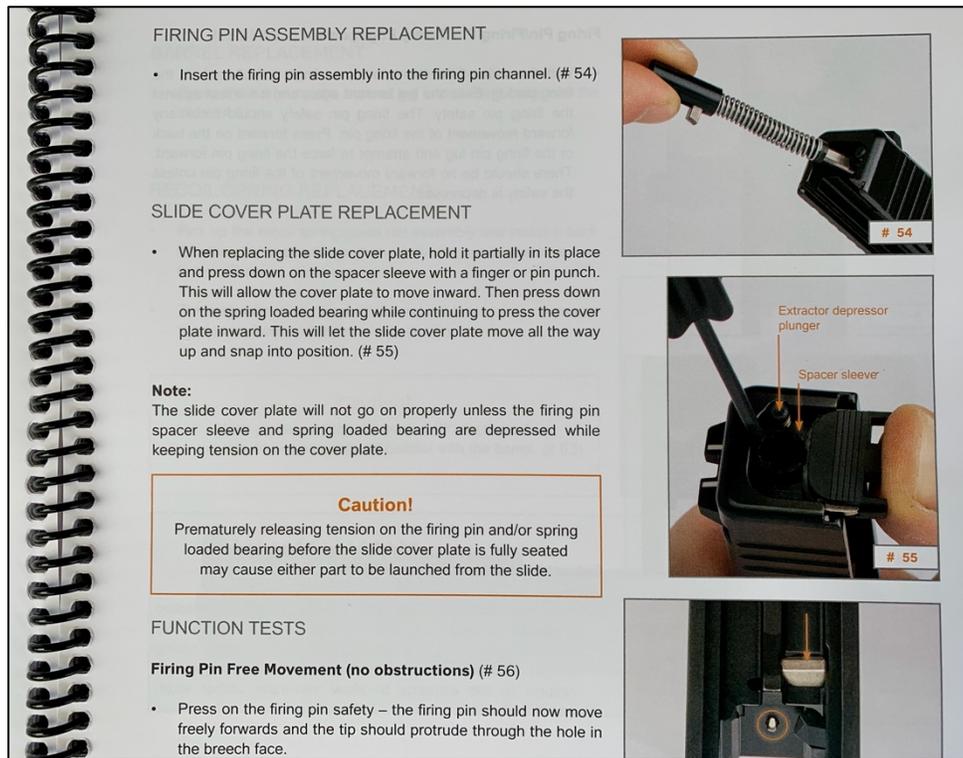
The following is a high level overview, absent of content detail, to give readers a feel for the course.

Instructor "Cazz" set the tone for the class with just how serious an Armorer's mission is. He pointed out that the gun owner is putting his or her life in our hands, and that it's our duty to perform our due diligence and make sure we return a working gun. While this may sound a bit dramatic, the room full of LEO's appreciated his point . . . so did I.

Along the same thought process, he then did an extensive review of safety including no live ammunition or personal/duty guns in the classroom (similar to Force on Force), and proper etiquette to avoid muzzling in such a setting with so many students and practice guns. Once completed, he had us use the buddy system to inspect and verify the condition of every gun.

Cazz was candid that he has only been with Glock for 5 months, and that his background was on the "operator" side with an emphasis on firearms training. Throughout the day, Cazz would interject his personal experiences both with Glock pistols in the field (e.g. Iraq), as well as weaving together shooting with certain aspects of the Glock pistol. Many of the students including myself found this an added value over just sitting and watching the 327 PowerPoint slides (literally) that Glock had planned for us.

The academic curriculum began with an overview of how the Glock works, its one external and two internal safeties, and review of the five generations. 90% of this course focused solely on the Gen5 platform, which it turns out has many differences from prior generations, all of which are actual improvements based on experience. These differences and their benefits were discussed in detail.



Next was the practical portion. Cazz demonstrated four different ways to field strip the Glock, one of which was with one hand. Once we tried all four methods several times to learn which one we preferred, we then began slide disassembly and reassembly. After several runs, we repeated the process with the frame. What I really appreciated was we actually stripped these down to the bare bones, including the slide lock (not to be confused with the slide stop), trigger spring assembly, and magazine catch. During assembly we delved into topics ranging from calibrating the extractor depressor plunger's spring loaded bearing, to how to properly install the trigger pin since it has shallower grooves in the Gen5. The holy grail though was Cazz showed how easy it is with the Glock tool and your two hands to remove magazine base plates!

After disassembling and assembling the gun at least 4 times at our own pace, we then learned about Function Testing. There's roughly a dozen different function tests that need to be performed to ensure 100% reliability, and Cazz made sure we did them all; again, going back to the serious nature of what we were doing.

Some really valuable time was then spent on diagnosing stoppages, their causes, and remedies. As a firearms and Force on Force instructor, I found it validating

how often Grip was one of the possibilities to induce a stoppage, and how critical proper Grip is when working with a polymer frame that flexes. Correct lubricating procedures were also covered during this time.

We concluded with two 10 minute exams we had to pass in order to earn our Glock Armorer Certificate, valid for three years. The first exam was a 25 question multiple choice closed book test, followed by a practical exam where we had to disassemble the firearm, have Cazz inspect to see if we removed all of the parts, then assemble the firearm and have Cazz perform all the Function Tests. While we were given an opportunity to correct any errors on the practical exam, everything had to be completed and proper in that 10 minute window. Indeed, two students failed the practical because they did not assemble the trigger bar into the trigger spring assembly properly.



Reflections

“Simplicity is the ultimate form of sophistication.” I kept thinking of this Steve Jobs quote throughout the day, in terms of what Gaston Glock accomplished. We have a pistol with very simple operation and controls, comprised of a mere 35

parts, that can be disassembled with one tool by anyone who passes a one day course! The upshot is I can't think of any other pistol in history with the track record of the Glock in terms of the sheer number of units in global service for roughly 40 years among military, law enforcement, civilian, and gaming communities. Cazz himself said he's a 1911 guy, but having used Glock since 2004 in many extreme conditions, it's the gun he trusts above all others with his life.

Aside from this amazement, however, is the fact that as a Glock owner who teaches students with Glocks, and whose instructors use Glocks, taking this course was a no-brainer and long overdue. If you are a Glock owner and truly want to understand and properly maintain your gun for the long term, this is a course I highly recommend.