



Violence Policy Center

1730 Rhode Island Avenue, NW
Suite 1014
Washington, DC 20036

202.822.8200 voice
202.822.8205 fax
www.vpc.org web

Backgrounder on Pistols Used in Virginia Tech Shooting

"[C]omparable in size and weight to the small .38 revolvers it has replaced, the... Glock 19 is significantly more powerful with greater firepower, and is much easier to shoot fast and true."

- Glock Catalog

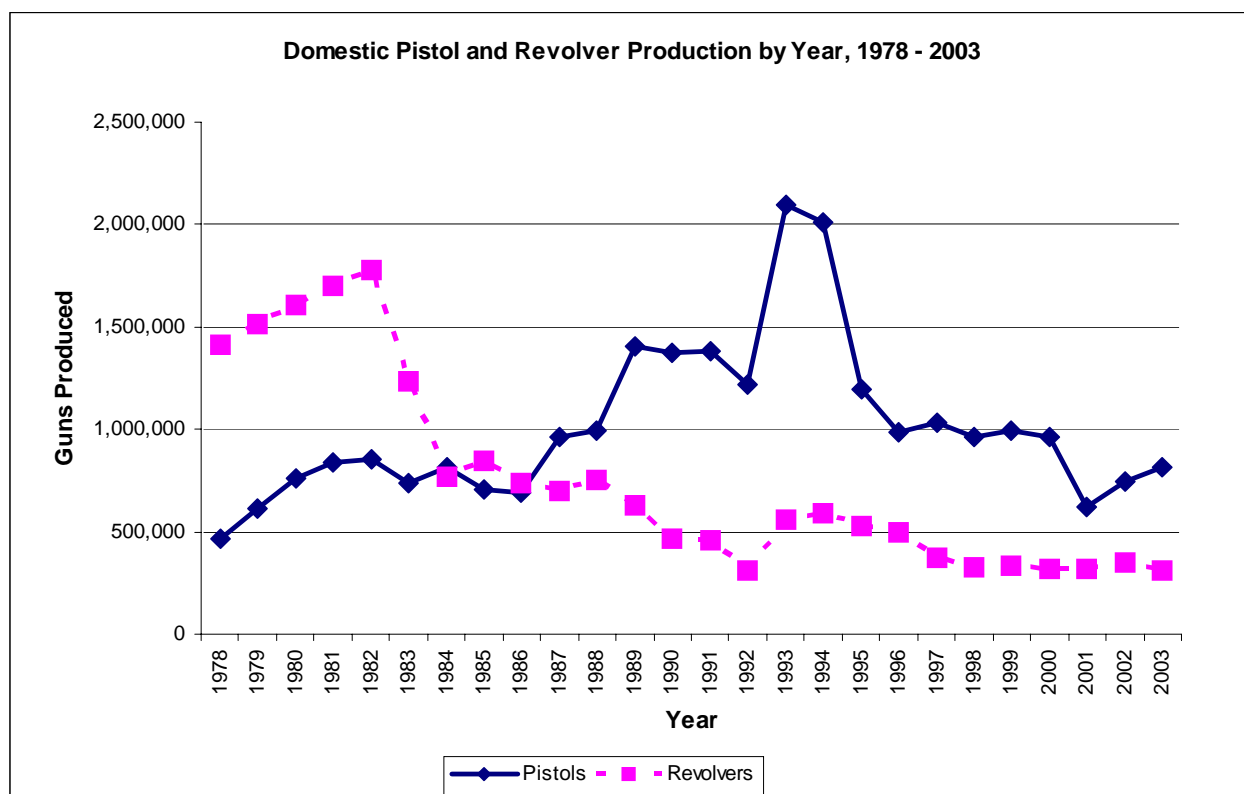
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Introduction

The two handguns used in the Virginia Tech shooting—a 9mm Glock 19 pistol, and a 22 caliber Walther P22 pistol—stand as stark examples of the trend toward increased lethality that defines today’s gun industry. Since the mid-1980s, the gun industry has embraced increased firepower and capacity to resell the shrinking base of gun buyers in America.¹ In the 1980s, a very significant shift in gun design and marketing occurred: high-capacity semiautomatic pistols became the dominant product line. Formerly, the most popular handgun design was the revolver, most often containing six shots. In 1980, semiautomatic pistols accounted for only 32 percent of the 2.3 million handguns produced in America. The majority were revolvers. By 1991 this number had reversed itself with semiautomatic pistols accounting for 74 percent of the 1.8 million handguns produced that year.



¹ According to data from the National Opinion Research Center (NORC) at the University of Chicago, during the period 1972 to 2006 the percentage of American households that reported having any guns in the home has dropped nearly 20 percentage points: from a high of 54 percent in 1977 to 34.5 percent in 2006. The NORC data also shows that during the period 1980 to 2006, the percentage of Americans who reported personally owning a gun dropped more than nine percentage points: from a high of 30.7 percent in 1985 to a low during the survey period of 21.6 percent in 2006. For more information, see the Violence Policy Center analysis *A Shrinking Minority: The Continuing Decline of Gun Ownership in America* (<http://www.vpc.org/studies/gunownership.pdf>).

Domestic Pistol and Revolver Production by Year, 1978 to 2003

Year	Pistols	Revolvers
1978	463,426	1,413,651
1979	609,635	1,514,645
1980	764,451	1,605,192
1981	835,167	1,702,062
1982	853,444	1,775,179
1983	733,814	1,233,022
1984	814,234	766,317
1985	706,542	843,529
1986	692,977	734,650
1987	963,562	695,270
1988	991,011	754,711
1989	1,402,660	628,765
1990	1,376,399	462,496
1991	1,381,325	456,941
1992	1,216,174	309,044
1993	2,093,186	562,292
1994	2,014,336	586,450
1995	1,195,266	527,664
1996	985,533	498,944
1997	1,036,077	370,428
1998	960,365	324,390
1999	995,446	335,784
2000	962,901	318,960
2001	623,070	320,143
2002	741,514	347,070
2003	811,660	309,364
Total	26,224,175	19,396,963

Semiautomatic pistols fire one round of ammunition for each trigger pull. (Highly regulated fully automatic machine guns that fire continuously with one trigger pull are generally unavailable to the general public.)

The dominance of the semiautomatic pistol greatly increased the firepower in civilian hands. Not only are semiautomatic pistols capable of rapid fire, they utilize high-capacity magazines and can be quickly reloaded. The combination of these features makes semiautomatic pistols efficient killing machines. As catalog copy for the Glock 19 states, "comparable in size and weight to the small .38 revolvers it has replaced, the...Glock 19 is significantly more powerful with greater firepower, and is much easier to shoot fast and true."

Armed with the Glock 19 and the Walther P22, *The Washington Post* reports that in the attack at Virginia Tech the shooter used 15-round ammunition magazines for the Glock, and 10-round ammunition magazines for the Walther. Since 1979, 7,031,596 .22 caliber pistols have been produced in the United States, making the .22 the most popular pistol caliber produced in America during this period.

Since 1979, 6,453,930 9mm pistols have been produced in the United States, making the 9mm the second most popular pistol caliber produced in America during this period.

Pistol Production By Caliber, 1979 to 2005

Year	To .22	To .25	To .32	To .380	To 9mm	To .50	Total
1979	191,925	179,668	2,283	48,518	63,353	123,888	609,635
1980	252,711	283,380	5,550	58,518	71,764	92,528	764,451
1981	259,794	317,251	5,006	83,782	76,836	92,498	835,167
1982	232,016	340,263	6,403	73,597	85,743	115,422	853,444
1983	262,152	286,129	6,757	55,039	65,167	58,570	733,814
1984	258,987	280,271	71,983	69,375	58,224	75,394	814,234
1985	284,072	198,719	22,527	61,660	55,252	84,312	706,542
1986	278,611	167,314	28,670	62,338	64,361	91,683	692,977
1987	353,257	228,834	88,549	57,198	108,238	127,486	963,562
1988	308,072	219,155	67,354	74,300	183,459	138,671	991,011
1989	396,478	260,222	67,775	106,620	407,873	163,692	1,402,660
1990	357,711	238,062	56,297	172,051	348,679	203,599	1,376,399
1991	306,092	252,314	55,043	213,599	361,455	192,822	1,381,325
1992	269,299	253,730	50,220	341,485	229,157	72,283	1,216,174
1993	452,509	277,306	52,268	508,469	586,039	216,595	2,093,186
1994	449,237	110,732	25,972	313,915	750,698	344,957	1,995,511
1995	260,059	51,025	19,220	182,802	398,467	283,693	1,195,266
1996	204,819	41,156	20,709	165,789	319,696	233,364	985,533
1997	250,983	43,103	43,623	154,046	303,212	241,110	1,036,077
1998	184,836	50,936	62,338	98,266	284,374	279,615	960,365
1999	229,852	24,393	52,632	81,881	270,298	336,390	995,446
2000	184,577	23,198	60,527	108,523	277,176	308,900	962,901
2001	123,374	5,697	57,823	41,634	213,378	181,164	623,070
2002	144,722	10,009	53,999	59,476	205,197	268,111	741,514
2003	189,785	10,987	43,471	79,788	219,668	267,961	811,660
2004	211,473	10,140	32,435	68,291	182,493	223,679	728,511
2005	134,193	7,460	28,711	87,115	263,673	294,323	815,475
Total:	7,031,596	4,171,454	1,088,145	3,428,075	6,453,930	5,112,710	27,285,910

Attachments

Attachment One: Catalog Copy for the Glock 19 and Walther P22

Glock 19

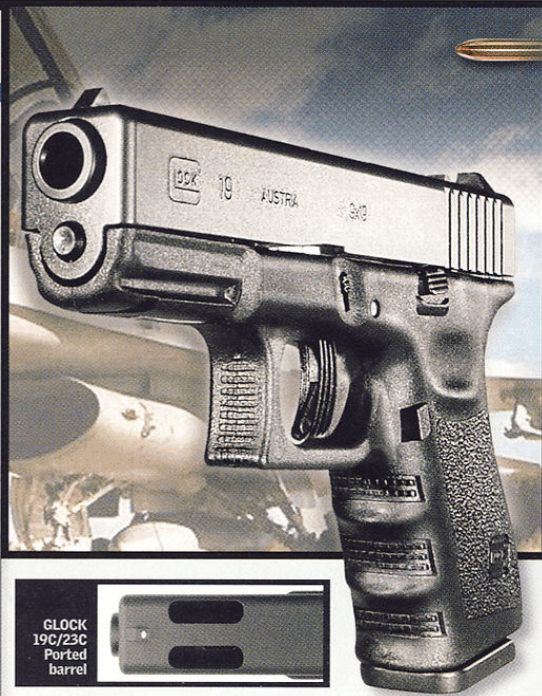
GLOCK's BUYER'S GUIDE

The GLOCK 19 & 23

SEMI-AUTOMATIC PISTOLS GLOCK 19 & 23 SPECIFICATIONS

	19/19C	23/23C
Action: Safe Action (constant double action mode)		
Caliber	9x19	.40
Overall length (slide)	6.85 in. 174 mm	6.85 in. 174 mm
Height including magazine	5.00 in. 127 mm	5.00 in. 127 mm
Width	1.18 in. 30 mm	1.18 in. 30 mm
Length between sights (standard)		
19: 6.02 in. 153 mm		23: 6.02 in. 153 mm
19C: 6.26 in. 159 mm		23C: 6.26 in. 159 mm
Barrel length	4.02 in. 102 mm	4.02 in. 102 mm
Barrel rifling: Hexagonal profile with right hand twist		Hexagonal profile with right hand twist
Length of twist	9.84 in. 250 mm	9.84 in. 250 mm
Magazine capacity	10/15/17	10/13/15
Mass (weight): Empty without magazine		
19: 20.99 oz. 595 g		23: 21.16 oz. 600 g
19C: 20.67 oz. 586 g		23C: 20.92 oz. 593 g
Empty magazine	2.46 oz. 70 g	2.46 oz. 70 g
Full magazine	~8.99 oz. ~255 g	~9.87 oz. ~280 g
Trigger pull (standard)	~5.5 lbs. ~2.5 kg	~5.5 lbs. ~2.5 kg
Trigger travel for discharge	0.5 in. 12.5 mm	0.5 in. 12.5 mm
Number of safeties	3	3

Technical specs may be altered without notice.
GLOCK 19 NATO Stock No. 1005/66/132/7731



GLOCK
19C/23C
Ported
barrel

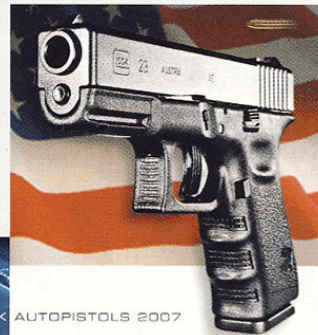
Available with internal
locking system



AVAILABLE IN OD
GREEN IN THE
U.S. ONLY

GLOCK 19: THE 9x19 WORKHORSE

The compact version of the GLOCK 17, this is the preferred pistol of NYPD's 40,000 officers, and the standard weapon of United Nations Security personnel. Used by Executive Protection professionals worldwide, comparable in size and weight to the small .38 revolvers it has replaced, the 9x19 GLOCK 19 is significantly more powerful with greater firepower, and is much easier to shoot fast and true.



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GLOCK 23: VERSATILE FIREPOWER .40

GLOCK's compact .40, in the same "envelope" as the GLOCK 19, puts controllable big-bore power into an ideally sized package—substantial enough for police patrol, small enough for discreet and comfortable all-day concealed carry. A top choice of professionals for undercover work.

Available with internal
locking system

Walther P22



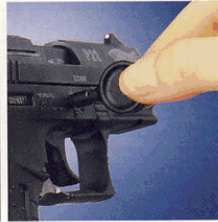
Loaded Chamber Indicator
The notch on the top of the barrel shows whether a cartridge is in the chamber.



Magazine Release
Molded to the same contour as the trigger guard, prevents the magazine from being unintentionally released from the weapon. The ambidextrous magazine release can be operated equally well by either right or left-handed shooters.



Back strap and Magazine Butt Plates
Two interchangeable grip back straps, and two different magazine butt plates, allow for customizing based on the shooter's hand size.



Integrated Lock with Key
A specially designed key locks the trigger in the P22 and thus prevents use by unauthorized persons.

ACTION & FUN

Whether you are looking for a pistol for affordable training or simply the excitement of shooting, the P22 is the pistol for you. The Walther P22 is fascinating in its compact size, while still maintaining all of the features of a full-size pistol. Constructed using a modular manufacturing concept, the P22 offers several different equipment configurations. The barrel can be changed out or a red dot sight can be mounted – almost instantly.

FEATURES OF THE P22

- Interchangeable frame back straps create an ideal fit to the shooter's hand.
- Compact design and light-weight are achieved by a modern polymer frame (just 480 g, including the magazine).
- Traditional double-action operation.
- Ambidextrous controls for both left and right hand shooters.
- Integrated trigger lock, loaded chamber indicator.
- Magazine disconnect, hammer safety and firing pin safety for safe and reliable operation.
- Modern, eye catching high tech design.
- A fixed barrel for incredible accuracy.
- Windage adjustable rear sight and elevation adjustment with interchangeable front sights for variations in shooter operation.
- Interchangeable barrel (sold separately) can convert the P22 from the standard configuration to the target version in minutes.

TECHNICAL DATA - P22

Caliber	.22 LR
Barrel Length	3.4"
Dimensions, L/H/W	6.3"/4.5"/1.1"
Weight (without magazine)	15.1 oz.
Sights	3-Dot Adjustable
Magazine Capacity	10
Trigger	DA/SA
Trigger Weight	11 lbs./4 lbs.

Walther P22 Barrel Conversion Units - void where prohibited or restricted by law.

www.waltheramerica.com • 1-800-372-6454



P22

WAP22003 - .22LR

CAP22003 - .22LR - CA Compliant



P22 NICKEL

WAP22004 - .22LR

CAP22004 - .22LR - CA Compliant



P22 MILITARY

WAP22007 - .22LR

CAP22007 - .22LR - CA Compliant

Attachment Two: Background on Glock's History from *Making a Killing: The Business of Guns in America*

Gaston Glock never made a gun before the mid-1980s. He began his career as an engineer, and in 1963 formed the company of Glock Ges.m.b.H in his hometown of Deutch-Wagram, near Vienna. The company started out making doorknobs and hinges, then moved into military and police hardware (grenades, entrenching tools, etc.), combining high quality synthetic materials and special steels. In 1980, the Austrian Army announced a competition for a new standard sidearm. Gaston Glock assembled a panel of experts and produced a prototype Glock Model 17 9-mm pistol, a distinctive combination of “polymers” (also known to most of us as “plastic”) and steel. That pistol won the Austrian Army competition in 1982, and Glock was airborne on the wings of the ensuing contract.²⁸

Gaston Glock soon turned his eyes to the United States, opened Glock, Inc., “the company’s United States beachhead” in the Atlanta, Georgia, suburb of Smyrna, and went after the American law enforcement market.²⁹

Glock’s pursuit of U.S. law enforcement agencies was central to its deliberate strategy first to gain the prestige of such sales, and then to use them in its marketing campaign to sell to civilians. “It was a conscious decision to go after the law enforcement market first,” Gaston Glock said. “In marketing terms, we assumed that, by pursuing the law enforcement market, we would then receive the benefit of ‘after sales’ in the commercial market.”³⁰

The strategy worked so well that by 1995 the company was downplaying advertising and was chronically back-ordered.³¹ According to the company, in that year there were half a million Glock pistols in use throughout North America (meaning mostly in the United States). Twenty thousand of these were issued by law enforcement agencies—eighty percent of Glock, Inc.’s production was going to civilians and twenty percent to law enforcement.³¹

Glock's rise to a commanding position in the foreign handgun import market can be seen clearly in the Austrian handgun import data, starting in 1983, two years before Glock established its "beach-head" in the United States. (See Table 11).

Table 11.

Handgun Imports from Austria to the U.S., 1983 - 1996

<i>Year</i>	<i>Handguns From Austria</i>	<i>Austrian Share of Handgun Imports</i>
1983	668	1%
1984	2,291	1%
1985	3,769	1%
1986	21,118	4%
1987	13,500	3%
1988	37,750	6%
1989	96,621	15%
1990	120,277	18%
1991	115,430	18%
1992	164,034	16%
1993	184,283	16%
1994	209,820	15%
1995	202,259	23%
1996	213,837	30%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Foreign Trade Division

As will be seen, Glock's rise has been accompanied by controversy, including allegations that its guns are unsafe and its marketing practices to law enforcement too aggressive.

* * *

For more information contact VPC Legislative Director Kristen Rand at (202) 822-8200 x102, or krand@vpc.org.