



## Some Quick Recommendations

### Gun



- Any mainstream defensive semi-automatic handgun, smaller isn't always the best, especially for learning to shoot. Smaller guns tend to have stiffer slide springs, smaller controls, smaller surfaces to grab to manipulate the gun and can be "snappier" in the hands for recoil. I'm personally a Glock fan with the models 17 and 19 being my favorite. I every day carry a Glock 43.
- For a main handgun/carry handgun my preference is 9mm. Bigger isn't always better, being able to accurately shoot the round is better. I wouldn't do anything smaller than a 380 but my general preference would be nothing smaller than 9mm
- .22lr handguns may be a good option as a secondary gun to train with, these can be finicky with ammo so do your research. Ruger Mark series is the Gold standard for a reliable semi-auto .22lr handgun. The Glock 44 is newer, I've heard some good and some bad. The S&W M&P 22c and Taurus TX22 may be decent options. Few others that may be decent options, but I stress do your homework
- I like to have no less than 3 magazines (capacity of 10 or more I'd say if not add more mags)
- If you attend classes or plan to, have enough magazines to load one day's worth of ammo plus a few extra magazines (not needed, but polite and helpful)
- Label your magazines with a paint pen (no stickers/labels as they can get caught in the gun) Labeling allows you to find your mags amongst many others in classes, ranges or

shooting with friends. Numbering them helps you single out magazines that may be malfunctioning



- Extended magazine/grips may not be a bad idea for practice on smaller guns



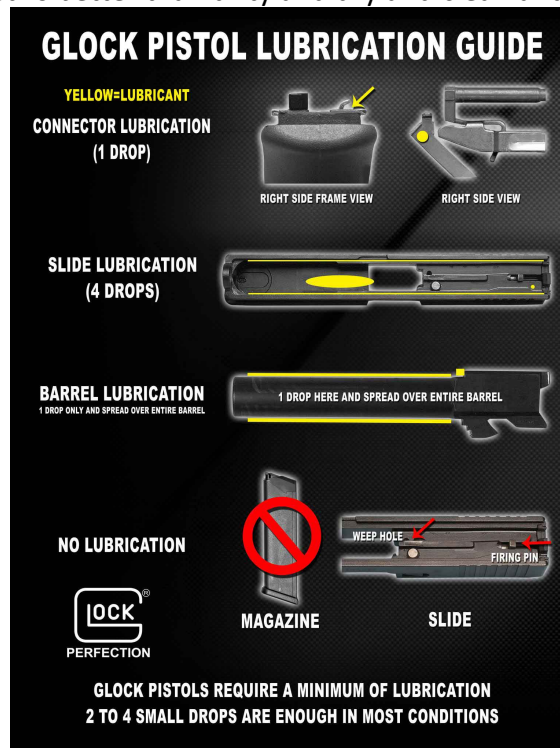
- Accessory rails on the gun is helpful so you can attach a weapon mounted light
- Weapon Mounted Lights I'd recommend
  - Streamlight TLR-1HL
  - Surefire X300 Ultra
  - Some of the other Streamlight and Surefire compact lights
- If you don't want a weapon mounted light it's not a bad idea to add a quality handheld flashlight, if not for carry then for home defense. I prefer rechargeable 18650 battery Streamlights but there are plenty of good options
- I don't recommend lasers on handgun, waste of money in my opinion for most applications
- Quality steel sights of your preference. My preference is plain black front and rear or a black rear and night sight front
- I now use a miniature red dot sight on my handguns, this could be something to get into if you want but it is added cost and training to be proficient in.

### Quick Ideas on Carry Method

- I prefer a thick and stiff belt; I feel this is important as it's the base to a stable carry setup and a good draw. I currently use a NEXTBELT EDC Belt but lots of good options
- I carry with a GCode Holsters INCOG – inside-the-waistband at about the 2:30-3 O'clock position. I like a hard kydex IWB holster with minimal amounts of bends/curves in the holster or part up against the body
- Research holsters, lots of good options but just as many bad ones, spend the money up front and skip out on buying cheap big box store holsters

## Cleaning Kit

- A standard store-bought kit may not be a bad start, but you'll get a lot of stuff you don't need
- I personally like to buy these simple items:
  - Q-tips
  - Rags
  - Paper towels
  - Nylon bristle brush (no metal bristle brushes) <https://www.brownells.com/gun-cleaning-chemicals/brushes-amp-bore-snakes/gun-cleaning-brushes/gun-parts-cleaning-brush-prod9706.aspx>
  - Either a bore brush or a boresnake (use according to directions or you can damage the barrel over time) <https://www.brownells.com/gun-cleaning-chemicals/brushes-amp-bore-snakes/bore-snakes/boresnake-prod9687.aspx>
  - Slip 2000 cleaning products and lubricant is what I use
  - Cherrybalmz Grease is something I'm currently testing for lube and seems okay
  - Be careful with lubricants, all kinds of "snake oil" out there. Also, some lubricants actually do more harm than good, some will cause metal to become brittle because the chemicals change the properties of the metal. Froglobe is a no go as it freezes in the winter (I wasted \$40 on it so you don't need to)
- In regard to shooting, remember that lubricant is pretty much a necessary, lube the gun up according to what your manual says. Around the barrel end where it meets the end of the slide, the top of the barrel where it locks up with the slide and then on the slide rails. Keep in mind, lubricating inside of holes on many of the guns isn't recommended as the lubricant may actually gum up springs, plungers and firing pins causing the gun to stop firing. (Don't over lubricate)
- Dirty and lubricated is better than dirty and dry and clean and dry



## Range Bag

- Good small bag to hold everything, one with pockets for guns is nice or just get bags to hold the gun. Not too big of a deal.
- Howard Leight Impac Sports electronic hearing protection about \$38-45 on Amazon [https://www.amazon.com/Howard-Leight-Honeywell-Amplification-Electronic/dp/B001T7QJ9O/ref=sr\\_1\\_5?dchild=1&keywords=howard%2Bleight&qid=1599605780&sr=8-5&th=1](https://www.amazon.com/Howard-Leight-Honeywell-Amplification-Electronic/dp/B001T7QJ9O/ref=sr_1_5?dchild=1&keywords=howard%2Bleight&qid=1599605780&sr=8-5&th=1)



- Other hearing protection depending on what you want to spend, you can spend upwards of \$300 on these. I just wouldn't spend less than what these Howard Leights Cost Walker Game Ears I've heard are good as well. Basically, any Peltor/3M/Honeywell product will likely work well
- Simple safety glasses that are ANSI rated (impact rated) or similar sunglasses
- Staple gun, Spray adhesive, tacks and large binder clips to hold targets depending on the range you use.



- White spray paint if you shoot at a range with steel targets, spray the steel and you can see your impacts
- Dummy rounds, avoid plastic (plastic tip is okay just the casing should be metal like below)



## Targets

- Paper targets that are free are awesome! Print on a heavier paper for better results
- <https://www.trex-arms.com/training-aids/>
  - Lucas Botkin at Trex is kind of odd, no LE or Military so keep that in mind. He does train a lot and presents info well, just keep in mind he may not always be the best source and I'm not a fan of his holsters, I sure do like the free targets though and they're at the bottom of that link!
- <https://www.ronintactics.com/events--training.html>
- <https://www.bigtexoutdoors.com/tap-rack-tactical-bill-blowers-b-8-target/>
  - I like the B8, lots of sources for them but this is free. Its easy to track progress by firing 10 rounds on a b8 and scoring it. I run the officers through this every shoot to warm up and track progress or regression in skill. Big Tex Outdoors has some good sales and is a good guy, very fast shipping. He also has a really nice handgun bag that he includes a lot for free or \$1.99 on purchases. Bill Blowers is an amazing source for the technicalities of shooting, he has some good Youtube videos through his company Tap Rack Tactical
- <https://www.luckygunner.com/lounge/start-shooting-better-dot-torture-drill/>
  - This is one of my favorites, Dot Torture covers pretty much all the essential skills. This may look easy, but it's no joke. 3 yards is tough, 7 yards is wheels fall off for almost everyone. This link has a good video explaining it along with the target
- Simple paper plates work well and are cheap
- [Shop.actiontarget.com](http://Shop.actiontarget.com)
  - They have a large amount of targets and shooting supplies
  - They're based in MN off of 35W by Circle Pines if you want to save on shipping

## Ammo

- I use <https://www.targetsportsusa.com/>
- Buy by the case for free shipping
- Plenty of options, just buy reputable ammo at a good price
- I Stick to factory loaded and don't do factory reloaded ammo

- For my carry round I use Federal HST 147grain in 9mm
- During times of panic or other ammo shortages buy ammo when you can get it, you may have to visit many stores. Its best to have ammo saved up so you have some if it gets scarce
- I like the MTM cases for ammo storage, the one I have I got on Amazon for \$29.99
  - [https://www.amazon.com/dp/B01MU6ZAPG/ref=cm\\_sw\\_em\\_r\\_mt\\_dp\\_ERcwFbP66RW2E](https://www.amazon.com/dp/B01MU6ZAPG/ref=cm_sw_em_r_mt_dp_ERcwFbP66RW2E)

## Buying Guns

- Try guns before you buy if you can, shoot with friends or go to a gun range that you can rent guns at
- Find a gun and don't let a Sales Associate try to sway you into something different that you haven't researched or tried
- I've used the following sites to buy, you just need to have it shipped to an FFL (keep in mind you will have to pay transfer fee generally between \$15-50 depending on the shop)
  - <https://grabagun.com/>
  - <https://www.budsgunshop.com/>
- I'm not very loyal to a specific shop, I have a home FFL I do transfers through and I buy guns wherever I can get the specific gun I want for a good price

## Sites I Buy Gun Accessories and Gear From (Not endorsing and Incomplete)

<https://www.brownells.com/>

<https://www.targetsportsusa.com/>

<https://grabagun.com/>

<https://www.budsgunshop.com/>

<https://www.primaryarms.com/>

<https://gunmagwarehouse.com/>

<https://actiontarget.com/>

<https://www.bigtexoutdoors.com/>

<https://dsgarms.com/>

<https://gun.deals/> (If I can't find something I need I try here for ideas and pricing)

Amazon or Ebay – I use for specific items I want, if you use these be aware of fake products

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Force Options Inc.

<http://www.force-options.com/>