



# ZEV TECHNOLOGIES

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Featuring the GlockWorx  
G35 Featherlight



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# SUPERMODEL LOOKS, SUPREME PERFORMANCE

||||||| ZEV TECHNOLOGIES FEATHERWEIGHT G35

BY DENNIS IDEUE AND RECOIL STAFF  
PHOTOS BY LES BIDRAWN



The slide features weight reducing cuts.

Glock is a dependable manufacturer of fine handguns from 9mms to .45

ACPs. Known for absolute reliability and durability, Glocks have become a staple of the handgun industry and are popular throughout law-enforcement. But just as Saleen redefined the Mustang and AMG made over the Mercedes, ZEV Technologies has restyled the Glock, transforming it from an over-the-counter product to a precision pistol worthy of any prized collection.

Based in Ventura, California, ZEV Technologies specializes in the manufacture of precision components for the Glock series of pistols. Known for its precision-trigger kits, ZEV also manufactures premium parts for just about every replaceable Glock component, including complete, ready-to-go slide assemblies. Through its Glockworx division, ZEV also offers complete gunsmithing services. You can have your own Glock customized to your purest dreams, or have one custom-built for you.

"As a family run business, we manufacture our products using the best materials and processes available."

ZEV Technologies operations manager Ray Wong said, "All ZEV products are proudly made in America by Americans. ZEV Technologies strives to grow shooting sports and be a model of what is right in the firearms industry."

"We are not third-generation gunsmiths born into this trade. We are competitive shooters who found a sport that has given us direction to create this company. Our goal is to manufacture high-end performance-firearm parts and to manufacture those parts in America. We are also in California and it is not easy to have a firearms business in this state. We like to think we are fighting the good fight."

## A CUT ABOVE

You really have to handle a Glockworx handgun in order to feel the difference. Every control, from the magazine release to the trigger, performs with exceptional precision. Each component is so well engineered to fit the hand that the pistol seems to naturally rests at an optimum grip.

Assembled by Glockworx gunsmiths, the fully customized Featherweight Glock 35 is something akin to a supermodel among pistols; for us, it was quite a first

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The TiN coated barrel enhances performance while making the pistol a real head turner.

The silicon carbide grip texture makes the gun grippier than a custom stipple job.

date. The first thing you notice when you pick up the .40-caliber masterwork is the reduction and feel of the silicon carbide grip. The armorers remove finger grooves and shave down the hump on the back strap that is found on third-generation Glock grips. This slightly flattens out the notoriously high grip angle and makes the G35 feel more ergonomic than the stock version's 'bar of soap' grip feel. The silicon carbide treatment is far more attractive than a standard stippling job. The pistol actually "grips" the skin, making it feel as though it's an integral part of your hand. The process used to apply the silicon-carbide coating is proprietary; a call to ZEV's technical-service department revealed that the company performs numerous repairs on failed applications by other vendors. Under a USB Microscope, the silicon carbide particles actually appear to be fused to the frame. How they do that is a mystery.

ZEV Technologies promises vastly improved tolerances over the Glock factory slide that translate to increased performance without sacrificing reliability. The Featherweight slide features overall-weight reduction, as well as lightening-window cuts throughout. A detail we especially liked were the optional, miniscule serrations that are on the front of the slide just under the side window cuts. The lighter slide promotes faster cycling and reduces muzzle flip. The additional front serrations allow for easy press checks.

The contrast between the gold, match-grade, TiN barrel and the black slide gives the pistol an air of quality that one rarely sees in a handgun, especially a Glock. Glocks are supposed to be utilitarian in appearance, like commonplace, everyday objects. The G35 Featherweight looks like it belongs in a glass case. The gold, TiN-coated barrel is truly beautiful; everyone who

sees it wants a closer look. Titanium nitrate is a material often used in tools and critical aerospace applications for its hardness and resistance to corrosion. Its gold-like appearance is simply an added bonus that adds to the attractiveness of this masterpiece.

While the G35 Featherweight was optimized for competition (it qualifies in the Limited class at IPSC and USPDA events), the same attributes that a competitor would want are the same that any gun owner would desire: accuracy, repeatability, and absolute control. Any handgun will fire a round downrange, but don't we all desire the quality and craftsmanship that comes from a first-rate product? Just as one may shell out for a BMW, Rolex, or Montblanc pen, so ZEV Technology provides for Glock enthusiasts. For competition, shooting, home-defense, or collecting, it is simply a joy to own a ZEV handgun.



#### A NEW SPRING

ZEV ships its G35 slides with two, color-coded, recoil springs: a red unit rated at 14 pounds, and a green unit rated at 16 pounds. The red spring is more suited to hotter handloads. To insure that the slide operates properly, most over-the-counter ammunition will require the green spring. If you find that the slide is not completely chambering the round, switching over to the heavier spring should do the job. We found this out the hard way. Our test model came installed with the red spring, which did not agree with the PMC Bronze .40 S&W, 165-grain, FMJ nor the Independence .40 S&W, 180-grain, FMJ that we were shooting. When we experienced more than a few failures to feed on the first magazine alone, we realized

we had a problem. After a call to ZEV, we were armed with the proper green spring; the .40 caliber fired like a champ after that.

The pistol was brilliant to shoot. The more we fired it, the more we liked it. The action is more solid than a standard Glock's, and the handgun itself is much more suitably weighted. Just don't expect too great of a difference, more like that between a Swatch and a Rolex.

The real star component here is the trigger. The spring on the trigger safety is lighter than the factory Glock's, providing a much more favorable feel as you begin to fire. The trigger itself has a very short pull; when we switched back to the factory Glock for comparison, it actually felt strange—as if we were searching for the breaking point—whereas the Featherweight's

Thanks to its balanced weight, the G35 Featherweight was a wonder at quick follow up shots.

"Replacing a clogged air filter...can improve acceleration time by around 6 to 11 percent."

- fueleconomy.gov



## THE 5 MINUTE PERFORMANCE UPGRADE

Does your car feel a little less peppy now than the day you bought it? It may not be just your perception — your car's engine may actually be delivering less power. According to a recent EPA study, a clogged air filter can rob your car of as much as 6-11% of its horsepower. At K&N, we have developed a High-Flow Air Filter™ that can get back the horsepower you have lost along the way, and in some cases, it adds a few extra horses compared with a new disposable paper air filter. Best of all, unlike disposable air filters, once a K&N O/E Replacement Air Filter gets dirty, it can simply be cleaned and reinstalled, so it is the last air filter your car will ever need.



See the complete government study at <http://www.fueleconomy.gov/feg/maintain.shtml>

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# ZEV TECHNOLOGIES G19 A45 CLASSIC SLIDE

MAKE: ZEV TECHNOLOGIES  
MODEL: A45 CLASSIC SLIDE (G19)  
BARREL LENGTH: 4.02 INCHES  
WEIGHT UNLOADED: 1 POUND  
MSRP: \$325 (STRIPPED, NO OPTIONS)  
URL: WWW.GLOCKWORX.COM



While mostly associated with the shooting-sports world, ZEV Technologies also produces Glock replacement slides that are practical for carry or defensive pistols. We got an up close look at ZEV's G19 outfitted with the company's A45 Classic complete slide. The compact G19 frame supplied to us has a stippled texture, an internal ramp modification, and ZEV's fulcrum trigger ultimate kit installed. With pretravel and overtravel adjustments, this trigger can make a significant difference when firing the weapon. Coupled with the A45 Classic slide, the weapon was a wonder to operate.

The ZEV slide features tighter tolerances than the factory Glock's, providing greater performance. When assembled with it on, the

weapon has an air of quality about it that a standard Glock just can't duplicate. The slide features heat-treated, 1704 billet stainless steel, an EDM wire-cut breechface, and a lower ejection port than that of the factory Glock for improved ejection angle. It also features 45-degree serrations on both the front and rear, which we like over the stock slide's smooth front. The DLC (diamond-like carbon) finish rates a "90" on the Rockwell scale, making it a durable finish indeed!

ZEV's machining is excellent, and one option our test slide had that we really liked was a red dot-optic relief cut. Unlike red dot adapters that mount the red dot on top of your slide, the relief cut allows the optic to sit as low as possible in the slide, where you

would expect it to—nearly in line with the iron sights. To install a mini red dot sight like a DOCTER or a Leupold DeltaPoint, all you need to do is simply bolt it on; there's no further machining or additional adapter required. This is a crucial benefit to anyone who has ever tried to retrofit a red dot sight on a handgun that's not designed for it. It took us hours to mount a DeltaPoint on a Springfield XD9, so we saw the advantage immediately. When you're not utilizing it, the relief cut can be capped with an adapter plate that is outfitted with a rear-iron sight.

At the firing range, we shot the ZEV G19 alongside a factory Glock 19. While the recoil and overall shooting feel of the modified G19 felt similar to the factory's, the

noticeable difference, aside from the crisp, short trigger, was the tighter tolerances of the slide. For both guns, we shot American Eagle 9mm, 115-grain, FMJ at seven and 15 yards. We were able to consistently shoot more effective groupings with the ZEV G19 over the stock 19. We also liked how the front serrations on the A45 slide allowed for easier press checks.

ZEV Technologies has taken the Glock 19 and refined it with the addition of the A45 Classic slide. Its increased accuracy through tighter tolerances and added features help make a good defensive gun even better. Those looking for an understated improvement to a proven workhorse will want to take a good look at this upgrade. **R**



Front and rear 45-degree cocking serrations.



The optional red dot optic relief cut can be capped when not in use (right).



A DLC (Diamond Like Carbon) finish coats the A45 classic slide.



ZEV's enhancements turn a simple Glock into a work of art in terms of both form and function (above).

The ZEV Fulcrum Trigger is completely adjustable for pretravel and reset (below).



trigger had a light, clean, repeatable, and crisp breaking point. The ZEV trigger also didn't jar the gun when the shot broke; this together with a thin, Dawson Precision, fiber-optic front sight, made engaging eight-inch steel targets from 25 and 35 yards an easy affair.

Knowing that Glock designed its G35 for competitive shooting, we were thoroughly impressed with how the ZEV/Glockworx enhancements improved the speed and accuracy that are key in action-shooting events. The ZEV brass, speed-feed magwell and enlarged magazine release made changing magazines fast and effortless. The weighty magwell added to the overall balance of the gun even while ammunition was being depleted. Muzzle flip was similar to some full-sized, 9mm pistols we shoot on a regular basis. That's saying a lot about a gun chambered in .40 S&W, a cartridge that is loaded hot from the get go. Be-

cause muzzle flip is kept to a minimum, we experienced much faster follow-up shots and tighter groupings at speed than other handguns we've shot.

## CONCLUSION

While we think the ZEV Technologies G35 Featherweight is a beautiful piece with incredible performance, others might find its posh appearance over the top. Priced at \$2,253, the fully customized gun is clearly befitting of a select few. Cost considerations aside, the Featherweight G35 (a 9mm G34 model is also available) does prove that you can have it all: superb performance and supermodel looks. Whether you send your own Glock to Glockworx for an upgrade, install ZEV's Glock components yourself, or have the company's armorers custom build you one from scratch, you will be making a substantial upgrade to an already respected firearm. **R**