

Tuesday, July 22, 2014

## A Year and a Half with Talon Grips



Recently I purchased a new Glock 9mm. When I placed the order for that, I ordered two sets of Talon brand grips. Not because I was expecting to screw up the installation, I figured would redo the grips on my EDC while I was at it. Timed it when Talon was running an Independence Day sale, so why not.

When I first started hearing people talk about Talons grips I didn't pay much attention about it. But the more I heard about them, the more curious I got. So I finally decided to give them a shot. They cost under \$20 and if I didn't like them, they'd peel right off, so there wasn't much risk involved.

Once I installed them on my EDC, I immediately ordered a set for my full size pistol that I occasionally carry. It's easy to say I instantly became a fan of the product.

It's not that I ever had a problem with the grip texture of my Gen 2 or Gen 3 Glocks. In fact, I liked them. But the Talon grips just made the purchase of the grip that much better. The sidearm felt more like an extension of my hand that a blocky hunk of plastic and metal. Now those to blocky hunks feel almost identical in the hand which is important for me. Maybe more important than is really is, but that's a different topic altogether. I'm a bit fanatical about handguns I may carry for defense having the same feel, sight picture and operation.

I use the skateboard style ones and really like the way they feel. One concern I had when I put them one was what I heard over and over again on forums. That the rough texture of the tape will rip up my clothes. After over a year and a half of continuous use, that never happened. No noticeable wear on any of my shirts from the grip tape.



1.5 year old grips on the left brand new on the right.

The other concerns were they would wear out quickly. Either the texture would wear down to be relatively smooth, or the adhesive would not hold them in place and they'd slip. The texture over time did wear down a bit, but after a year and a half it is still decent. In all honesty I probably should have replaced them by now. But it is fair to say that I did get a solid year's use out of them before they noticeably wore down.

The adhesive on the other hand had some minor issues, but that was my fault. After about a year, the three thin pieces that went around the finger grooves of the grip came loose and I had to trim them off. Not a huge deal and again, I take the blame for it because I did not follow the directions exactly for installing the grip tape. I didn't properly heat the grip of the gun. Other than that, the tape stayed put after a year and a half of use.



After 1.5 years of use, the grips cam off the finger grooves and slip a little on one side

Talon makes grips for a wide variety of firearms in both the skateboard tape style and a rubberized version that is less abrasive. They are a great option if you are looking to improve your grip simply and affordably. Unlike other options of for add on grip, the Talon Grips are very thin and do not increase the size of your gun's grip much at all.

While they provide enhance grip without much change dimensionally, such as stippling. The grip tape is very affordable and removable if you decide you don't like it. With stippling, either you pay a pro to do it or you take your chances doing it yourself with a soldering iron or some similar tool while hoping for good results. Regardless of how good it turns out, with stippling, there is no going back.