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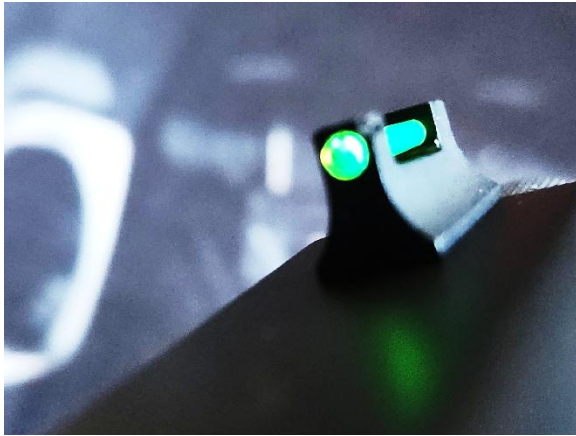
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XS Sights Fiber Optic Series for Glock - *a dedicated daylight performance upgrade for the modern shooter.*

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By: Sal Palma



XS Sights is a brand historically synonymous with defensive tritium "express" sights (the famous Big Dot), but their entry into the pure Fiber Optic market marks a significant shift. For years, shooters had to choose between the bombproof, low-light utility of XS's tritium offerings and the high-speed, daylight brightness of competitors' fiber optics. With the release of their specific Fiber Optic Series (distinct from the R3D or F8 night sights), XS has applied their legendary durability standards to a sight designed purely for speed and precision in lit environments.

This review focuses on the XS Fiber Optic sights for Glock pistols, analyzing their build, performance, and where they fit in a shooter's toolkit.

The XS Fiber Optic sights are a departure from the "combat express" V-notch style XS is famous for. These are traditional Patridge-style (Notch and Post) sights, which instantly makes them more familiar to a wider range of shooters, particularly those with a background in target shooting or competition.

The most significant "Pro" of this set is the material. Unlike factory Glock sights, which are polymer and prone to deformation, the XS sights are CNC-machined from solid steel. The housing for the fiber optic rod is robust, featuring an open-top design that maximizes light intake while protecting the rod from impact.

The front blade is 0.125" wide. This is a "Goldilocks" width—narrow enough to allow for daylight on either side of the target at 25 yards, but wide enough to be picked up instantly during a draw improving the engagement speed. The fiber optic insert is 0.060" in diameter, which is on the larger, brighter side of the spectrum, favoring rapid acquisition over pinpoint bullseye work.



XS designed the front sight post so that it is angled front to back, this approach enhances light transmission ensuring an exceptionally bright front sight picture.



The rear sight is blacked out and serrated. This is a critical feature for a performance sight. The serrations cut down glare from the sun, ensuring

the rear notch remains a dark, neutral frame that forces your eye to focus entirely on the glowing front dot. The rear notch width is 0.145", providing a generous light gap around the front post for faster tracking during recoil.

Performance on the Glock Platform. Glock pistols are known for their reliability but notorious for their plastic factory sights. Replacing them with the XS Fiber Optic set transforms the shooting experience.

In outdoor range conditions, the performance is stellar. The light-gathering capabilities of the fiber rod are aggressive. The "bulb" of the fiber glows with an intensity that tritium simply cannot match during the day. This leverages the "Phototaxis" effect, where the human eye is naturally drawn to the brightest point in the field of view. On a Glock, this translates to a faster first shot from the holster.

Tracking the front sight through recoil becomes intuitive because the rear sight is blacked out. As the slide cycles, the bright green or red dot creates a streak that is easy to follow, allowing the shooter to prep the trigger for the follow-up shot before the gun has fully settled.

XS made sure the sight has a degree of customizability and the sights ship with green installed but include red inserts. This is vital because human color perception varies; some eyes pick up green faster, while others find red contrasts better against green berms or foliage.

While the Glock lineup, Gen 1-5 and MOS models, is the original distribution for the Fiber Optic series, XS Sights has aggressively expanded this specific line to other popular striker-fired platforms.

For the Smith & Wesson, XS has released these sights for the M&P and Shield series (including the M2.0 and Plus. This is a massive upgrade for the Shield, where the short sight radius benefits from the high-visibility front sight.

For Walther pistols, the PDP and PPQ platforms, the Fiber Optic sight is available, catering to the growing number of users who prefer Walther's superior factory trigger but want better iron sights.

Sig Sauer offerings include sights for the P320 and P365 series.

Optic-ready compatibility is a major feature of this expansion. XS now offers these sights in three configurations, with the optic height version being the focus of this review. These sit taller than standard sights but remain lower than suppressor-height options. This design is inherently well-suited for optic-ready platforms like the Glock MOS. While they may not provide a co-witness through

the window of taller, high-deck optics, they offer an excellent low-profile backup solution. This is especially true for direct-mount optics like the Holosun SCS, where they provide a sighting reference without cluttering the viewing window."

To get the most out of these sights, one must understand they are a specialized tool. They are not do-it-all night sights; they are high-performance day sights.

Competition (USPSA / IDPA) is the home turf for XS Fiber Optics. In competitions like USPSA Carry Optics or Production, matches are shot during the day. You need a sight that screams for attention against brown cardboard targets. The 0.145" rear notch allows for the slight angular error acceptable in high-speed shooting.

Outdoor Duty/Training for law enforcement or security personnel working primarily day shifts or outdoor details, these sights reduce eye fatigue. The contrast is sharp, making qualification courses significantly easier compared to standard three-dot plastic white sights.



Although I subscribe to the theory that "old guys rule," the aging eye shooter benefits greatly from these sights. As we age, our eyes struggle to shift focus between the target, front sight, and rear sight. The sharp contrast of a fiber optic front against a black rear simplifies the focal plane. It essentially tells the brain: "Put the bright glowing thing on the target and squeeze the trigger."

It is equally important to discuss where these sights fail, as this prevents buyer's remorse.

The Low-Light Reality. These sights contain zero tritium, and in a pitch-black room, they are invisible.

Although many defensive shooting experts argue that if it is dark enough to need tritium, you should be using a weapon-mounted light to identify your target.

If you use a weapon mounted light, the splash of light will lightly illuminate the fiber optic. However, in twilight transitions—where it is too dark for the fiber to glow but too bright to use a flashlight without giving away your position—fiber optics are at their weakest. They become black-on-black silhouette sights.

One final consideration rest with durability. Note that XS Sights builds one of the toughest steel housings in the industry. However, the fiber rod itself is plastic. Operations like racking the slide off a barrier using the front sight, a common one-handed

manipulation drill, risks cracking the acrylic rod.

Fear not, The XS's sights are designed so that even if the fiber rod breaks or falls out, you still have a usable steel front post. XS also includes spare rods, which are easy to replace with a lighter and clippers.

Precision at Distance: The 0.060" rod is large. At 25 or 50 yards, that glowing dot covers a sizable portion of the target (6-7 MOA). If your goal is shooting 2-inch groups at 25 yards, a thinner fiber optic (like a 0.040" Dawson Precision) or a target blade might be preferable. These are "combat accuracy" sights, not "bullseye" sights.

Conclusion:

The XS Sights Fiber Optic series for Glock is a masterclass in focused design. They do not try to be everything to everyone. Instead, they offer a rugged, affordable (MSRP ~\$60), and high-visibility solution for the 90% of shooting that happens under lighting conditions. If you carry a Glock 19 with a weapon-mounted light, or if you run a Glock 34 in weekend matches, these sights are unquestionably the best value for the money upgrade you can make.

XS Sight Fiber Optic Sights for your GLOCK is an unsurpassed choice for competition shooting, range training and daylight carry. However, if you are building a bedside home defense gun with no flashlight, stick to the XS Big Dot, R3D or F8 Tritium series.

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