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XS Sights Expands Magazine Capacity with +3 and +5 Magazine Extensions

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Photo: 18 round magazine with +3 extension installed

XS Sights is a Fort Worth, Texas-based manufacturer known for firearm sighting solutions, including tritium night sights, express sights, fiber-optic sights, optic plates, and related shooting accessories. The company has built its reputation around fast sight acquisition, low-light visibility, and practical upgrades for defensive, hunting, and competition firearms, making its move into magazine extensions a natural expansion of its performance-focused product line.

XS Sights offers its magazine extensions in more than one configuration, including a +3 version for the Walther PDP 18 round

magazine and a +5 for the Walther 15 round magazine, as well as a +5 version for the Smith & Wesson M&P. In this review I will be discussing the +3 Extension for the 18 round magazine.

The XS Sights +3 Magazine Extension reviewed here is a practical capacity upgrade designed for shooters who want three additional rounds on board without dramatically changing the way their compatible pistol magazines handle. Rather than feeling like a cosmetic add-on, this extension serves a clear functional purpose: it increases magazine capacity, improves purchase during reloads, and adds a durable baseplate built for regular range use, competition, training, or other lawful applications.



Photo: The XS Sights +3 magazine extension.

In terms of capacity and practical value, the primary appeal of the XS Sights +3 Magazine Extension is straightforward: it adds three rounds of capacity. That extra capacity can

make a noticeable difference during longer training strings, competition stages, or range sessions where fewer interruptions for reloads help maintain rhythm and focus. For shooters who already rely on compatible magazines, the added capacity offers a meaningful benefit while keeping the magazine familiar in basic operation.

Installation and compatibility are also part of the extension's appeal. The design is intended to work with factory magazine springs on compatible magazines, which helps limit the number of parts being changed and makes the upgrade more approachable for users who prefer a simple setup. As with any magazine-related component, installation should be followed by function testing with the specific firearm, magazine, and ammunition combination the shooter intends to use.



Photo: Walther PDP grip with XS Sights +3 Magazine Extension installed

Beyond added capacity, the extension improves how the magazine feels during handling and reloads. The added length provides a more substantial surface for

seating the magazine decisively, especially during faster reloads or practice sessions where consistency matters. It can also make the magazine easier to grasp during administrative handling or clearance drills, contributing to a more confident and controlled user experience.



Photo: Unloading the expanded Walther magazine

From a build-quality and durability standpoint, the aluminum construction and black nitride finish give the XS Sights +3 Magazine Extension a durable, professional feel. Magazine extensions are exposed to frequent contact with benches, pouches, range bags, and the ground during reload practice, so material quality matters. The metal construction gives the extension a more substantial feel than a basic polymer

baseplate, while the finish helps resist normal wear from handling and training use.



Maintenance and reliability are important considerations with any magazine extension, and this product's simple installation supports practical upkeep. Magazines collect lint, carbon, dust, and unburned powder over time, particularly when used heavily in training. Being able to inspect the spring, follower, magazine body, and extension is important for long-term reliability. Even with a quality extension, users should verify dependable feeding, lock-back behavior, and magazine seating before relying on it for serious use.

For best use, this extension is suited to shooters who prioritize capacity and handling over minimum magazine length. It is especially useful for range training, high-volume practice, and competition environments where added capacity and easier reloads can improve efficiency. It may also appeal to users who want additional reserve capacity in compatible magazines, provided the setup is lawful in their

jurisdiction and thoroughly tested in their own firearm.

As for potential drawbacks, the same added length that makes the extension easier to handle can also work against some users. It may affect concealment, change how a spare magazine fits in a carrier, or alter how the pistol balances with a loaded magazine inserted. Capacity restrictions also vary by location, so buyers should confirm that the extension complies with applicable laws before purchasing or using it.

During evaluation, the extension should be judged by three practical measures: how securely it installs, whether it seats positively with a loaded magazine, and whether feeding and lock-back remain consistent across repeated use. Those checks matter because added capacity is only useful if the magazine continues to function predictably.

Overall, the final verdict is that the XS Sights +3 Magazine Extension is a well-rounded upgrade for compatible magazines, offering added capacity, improved handling, durable construction, and straightforward maintenance. Its greatest value is for shooters who train regularly or compete and want a more capable magazine setup without unnecessary complexity. As with any magazine extension, the final test is performance: load it, shoot it, reload with it, inspect it, and confirm that it runs reliably in your firearm.

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Manufacturer specifications and compatibility notes

- +5 Capacity Increase - Adds significant round count without sacrificing reliability.
- Tool-Free Installation - Fast, frustration-free install. No tools required.
- Aircraft-Grade Aluminum - Lightweight, extremely durable, and built for heavy use.
- Black Nitride Finish – Great wear resistance, corrosion protection, and clean look
- Factory Spring Compatible - Designed to perform without changing components.
- Precision-Machined Fit - Seamless integration with OEM magazines
- Enhanced Grip Surface - Added length provides additional control.

Compatibility:

- Walther PDP (15-round and 18-round magazines)
- Smith & Wesson M&P 2.0 (15-round and 18-round magazines)