

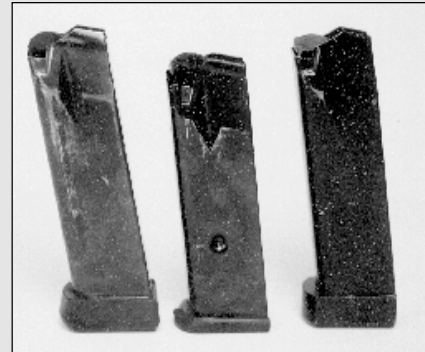
THE LEGALITY OF HIGH-CAPACITY MAGAZINES

Despite magazine-capacity restrictions in new-gun sales, high-capacity magazines can still be purchased or constructed legally. Various suppliers such as R GUNS, which advertises in the NRA member magazine *American Rifleman*, evidently stocked up before mag-cap legislation passed. R GUNS advertises factory drop-free full-capacity mags for all Glocks. The Para-Ordnance company builds wide-bodies exclusively and sells its guns with two 10-round mags and one coupon good for two full-capacity mags direct from its factory in Canada. Para-Ordnance mags may also be used for the Springfield without modification.

Numerous sources, such as Brownells catalog, sell replacement tubes or mag bodies for Para-Ordnance guns. You will find the springs, base pads, and followers necessary to help you build high-capacity mags. If that isn't enough to satisfy your desire to walk a legal tight-rope, you may also purchase a hollow base pad to extend a high-cap mag's capacity an additional three rounds. Manufacturers of these products include Arredondo Accessories and Grams Engineering.

All of these accessories take advantage of a seeming gray area in magazine-capacity legislation, we believe. Recent interviews with BATF representatives suggest that modifying an existing 10-round mag is illegal, but buying a hi-cap mag produced before the ban or building a 10-plus-round mag from replacement parts has not resulted in legal problems for their owners.

Unquestionably, many IPSC shooters use high-capacity guns, but is this simply a matter of civil disobedience? The best answer we've been able to get is a firm maybe. Currently, neither IPSC nor the United States Practical Shooting Association (USPSA) plan to mount legal challenges that clarify the status of high-cap aftermarket mags because they are nonprofit organizations and might imperil their tax-free status. At this juncture, the risk of prosecution and penalty relies strictly on the tolerance of the BATF. Might this situation change? Of course, but for the moment, it seems agents are more concerned with persons stockpiling fertilizer and fuel oil than handgunners in baseball cleats shooting 20 or more rounds without reloads.



Above: Mags we used included a 10-round unit with hollow base (13 rounds, left), a Glock wide-body that's been blocked (center) to 10 rounds, and a 16-round pre-ban mag (right)