

MAGPUL® AFG™ (Angled Fore Grip) Theory

While most firearm accessories can enhance the performance and usability of a weapon, they generally maintain the same basic form and function of the component that they replaced. A certain stock or grip may be more comfortable, or magazine more reliable, but these upgraded parts change very little about the way a weapon is employed. Some equipment, however, is specifically designed to change the manual of arms or modify a shooter's technique to increase speed and efficiency. Because simple plug and play does not apply, these are considered "Theory Based Products."

As tactics and techniques evolve to address the demands of a dynamic battlefield, so too must the weapons and equipment employed by the shooter. Recent years have seen a trend toward shorter, more compact rifles for urban and close quarters combat, along with a dramatic increase in weapon-mounted accessories. Rail systems, tactical lights, optics, lasers, sound suppressors, and of course, vertical fore grips have become commonplace on the battlefield, and are intended to increase efficiency and lethality. Of these accessories, only the vertical fore grip (VFG) attempts to improve weapon control and ergonomics. Unfortunately, depending on technique, the use of a VFG may actually decrease shooter lethality as measured by hit percentage, accuracy, and time to engage targets. This inefficiency can be explained by a number of factors, but the two primary reasons are the poor ergonomics of the vertical "broom handle" grip, and the placement of the weapon's mass on top of the shooter's fist, which decreases weapon point control. In an effort to avoid these VFG pitfalls, many shooters have adopted a "thumb break" grip that utilizes the VFG primarily as a reference point, rather than an actual grip. This technique places the non-dominant hand in front of the VFG, gripping the weapon hand guard. Although the thumb break grip can be effective, its ergonomics leave something to be desired. Unlike conventional vertical fore-grips, the AFG (Angled Fore-Grip) takes into account natural body mechanics and provides a comfortable and stable user interface that reduces fatigue and allows for more precise weapon control. By positioning the shooter's hand high on the centerline of the bore, the AFG helps mitigate recoil and control the weapon, facilitating faster, more accurate follow-up shots.