

Tombstone Gun Grips

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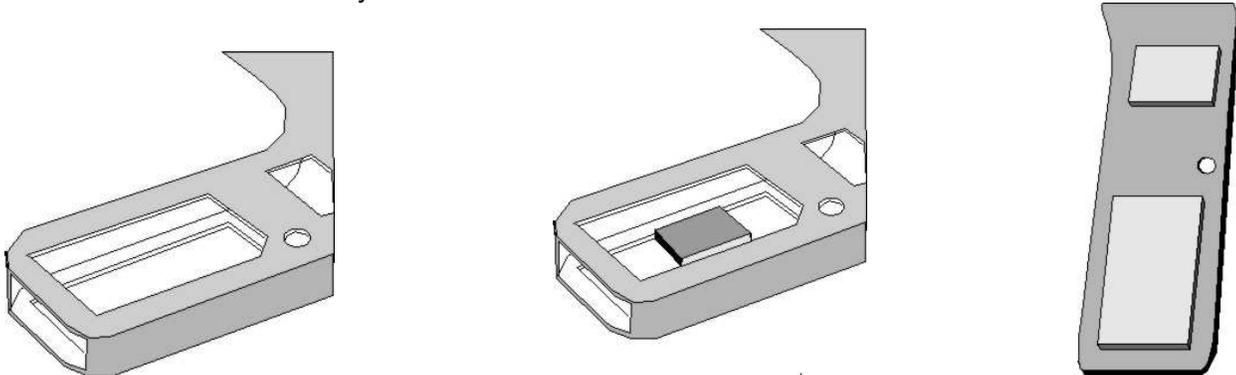
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Fitting raised-back grips or grips requiring routing on the flat backs:

Grips which have a small block or raised area that fits into a relief or cut-out in the grip frame are aligned and held from turning by this block. Since the grips are cast in an open back mold, the raised block needs to be attached separately with 5-minute epoxy (a thin film only, pressed firmly and held a few minutes, then allowed to cure for at least an hour before using the grips).

The alignment of the grips is done by carefully sanding the alignment block so it just fits between the vertical spaces in the grip opening. This can be done with a fingernail sanding stick. The block may be too thick and rub on the magazine, but this will be corrected later after the block has been attached to the grip back and the epoxy has cured.

First sand the grip as usual to make the back flat and to the thickness you desired. If you want both grips the same thickness, sand the thicker one to match the other. Some people like the left grip thinner, some like the right grip thinner, for a better fit to your palm or fingers. Attach a piece of sand paper (120 grit is good) to a flat piece of board using contact cement. Move the grip evenly over this sandpaper to create the flat back and the thickness you desire.



Use a medium grit fingernail file or sanding stick to shape and clean up the edges of the grip, and to make the grip outline fit on your gun as you wish. Once you have the grip itself shaped and sanded, you can then examine the gun frame to see how to best align the grip and attach the alignment block. With some guns you can simply wipe a film of Vaseline grease on the grips to prevent epoxy from sticking, attach the grips, turn them into alignment, and slip the block with a bit of epoxy wiped on the grip side through the magazine well opening and onto the back of the grip. Hold it in place until it sets well enough to remove your finger, and do the same to the other side.

If you can't maneuver the block into position that way, you can remove the magazine and perhaps draw lines on the back of one grip panel through both magazine openings, using masking tape to hold the one grip in perfect alignment while you mark the spot for the block to go. Do the same with the other panel. then attach the blocks with the grips outside of the gun. If the blocks are a little too large, that's ok. Once the epoxy is well cured, you can sand both the thickness and the edges of the blocks so they drop snugly into the frame with light force, for perfect alignment.

If you get the block too small or mount it off slightly, you can fix it by adding a little epoxy gel to one edge and then sand it square again. Note that some grips come with very elaborate backs and generally only two points are needed to contact the frame inside so the grip panel won't turn. Some commercial grips such as J.Scott Grips actually had flat backs with one or two small pins driven into the back so they contacted the frame, and had no blocks at all! They worked just fine.