

Machine Gun News

The OSS 9mm Grease Gun

**Focus On:
The M60 (Part 2)**

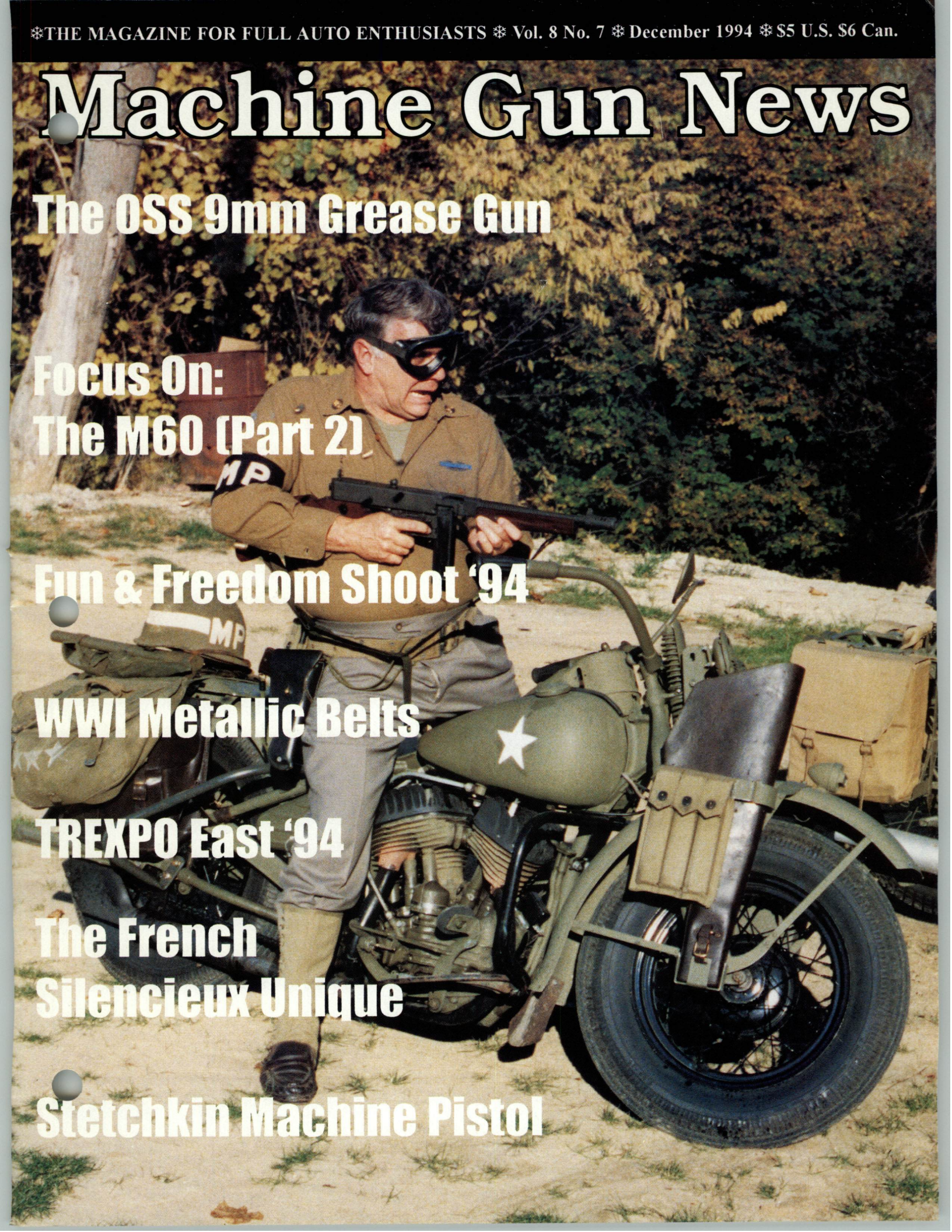
Fun & Freedom Shoot '94

WWI Metallic Belts

TREXPO East '94

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STYLE
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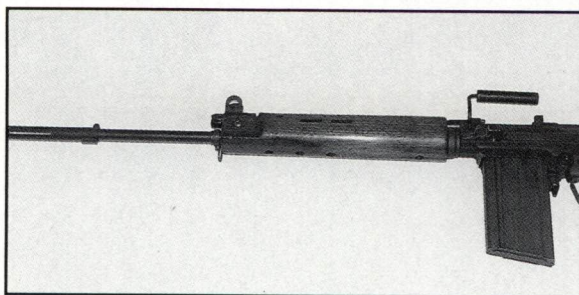
*When in doubt empty your magazine
Murphy's Law*

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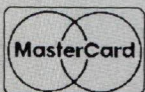
T-48

Those familiar with the search for a new individual rifle by the U.S. military know about the T-48. Harrington and Richardson manufactured these FN-FAL machine guns, .308 caliber (7.62x51 NATO) in **VERY** small quantities. It is rare when one of these original, transferable registered machine guns comes on the market. LMO has been asked to sell this fine piece that went from H&R to the Bob Miller Collection, then to the current owner.

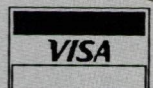


The T-48 is considered to be on the Curios and Relics list, transferable on a C&R FFL or the normal procedures. Photos are available to serious buyers. Condition is a solid 92-95%.

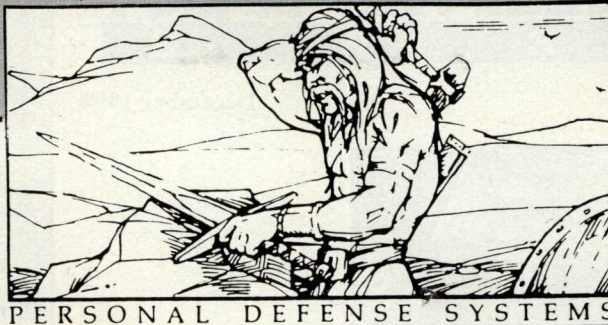
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MG064. Soviet PPSH41 w/orig. drum
MG581. WWII German DeWat MP-42
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MG067. M78 Valmet like new Qualified
MG069. Beretta 38/42 reparked
MG071. FN Model D real nice Pre-86 DS
MG072. Johnson 1941 exc. .30-06
MG073. Savage .30-06 Model 1918 Pre-86
MG084. S&H Arms Ingram 6 in 9mm
MG089. Schnellfeur Mauser 1932 Pre-86
MG091. Celco 7.62 AK-47 orig. Chinese
MG582. WWII Jap 99 Dewat 99% finish
MG583. 1921 Colt 45 Dewat
MG107. S&W Model 76 like new
MG111. Rock IS. M-60 Post-86
MG584. WWII German MG42 Dewat
MG123. RPB Mfg. 9mm Mac 10 NIB
MG126. RPB Mfg. M11 in .380 cal. NIB
MG173. H&R M16A1 reweld U.S. markings
MG203. Micro UZI bolt gun like new
MG209. Belgium FN-30 is a C&R gun
MG588. Ramo 1919A4 w/accessories
MG589. Reising Model 50, real good
MG243. FN FAL .308 vg. Pre-86 DS
MG244. FN .308 G1 NIB Pre-86 DS
MG251. I.O.G. 9mm MP-2 mint cond.
MG252. Interarms 9mm UZI Pre-86 DS
MG258. Sendra XM15E2 heavy barrel

MG265. Thompson M1 mint piece
MG277. Armalite AR-180, exc. reg. rec.
MG278. Valmet M78 exc. + w/bipod
MG594. Ruger AC556 vg. to exc. cond.
MG303. S&W 76 W/MK bbl. & grips
MG315. H&R M50 Reising 85% cond.
MG322. Colt 1919A4 95% Prototype
MG430. Steyr MPI-81 exc. Post-86
MG457. Colt AR-15 reg. rec. as new
MG460. HK33E in .223 Pre-86 DS
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MG602. HK 33 w/folding or full stk.
MG605. MP5K SD by Fleming vg. cond.
MG606. HK G3 reg. rec. exc. +
MG610. Qualified Steyr Aug 20" green

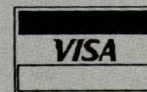
MG613. AOW Hurley M1A1 exc. cond.
MG616. IMI 9mm UZI Pre-86 DS
MG622. Walther MPL vg+ Pre-86
MG619. MP5A3 sear gun w/extras new
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MG555. Galil ARM 372 Good reg. rec.
MG561. Pre-86 DS good MPI-69
MG361. MKA 76 consec. numbered pair
MG363. Colt Thompson .45 1928n
MG365. Gustav M45 Wilson as new
MG364. French MAS 1938 Sub 7.65 long
MG366. MAC 10 RPB 9mm orig. spr. as new
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MG368. Erma EMP 9mm exc. orig. sling
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MG579. Colt Thompson 1921/28 95%
MG580. H&R Pistol 12 ga. New RR 9" bbl.
SBS09. Cruso W/12 ga. by Charlie Erb
MG602. HK 33 w/folding or full stk.
MG605. MP5K SD by Fleming vg. cond.
MG606. HK G3 reg. rec. exc. +
MG609. HK MP5 sear, 3 lug, SEF lower
MG610. Qualified Steyr Aug 20" green
MG613. AOW Hurley M1A1 exc. cond.
MG622. Walther MPL vg+ Pre-86
MG619. MP5A3 new Sear gun w/extras
MG627. DLO 1919A4, only 2000 rds. fired
MG629. Cobray M11 NIB
MG630. M16/AR15 reg. Colt Upper (HTA)
MG631. Thompson 1921, neat shape
MG632. UZI 9mm Group Inds. NIB
MG633. Madsen M-50, transferable

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Class 10



MACHINE GUN NEWS

THE MAGAZINE FOR FULL-AUTO ENTHUSIASTS

Volume 8 Number 7

December 1994



Page 22

Features

Colt Emerges From Bankruptcy Protection	10
By Robert Hausman	
The OSS 9mm Grease Gun	18
By Frank Iannamico	
The Elusive Stechkin Machine Pistol (APS)	22
By Dan Shea	
Notes On WWI Metallic Belts	26
By T.E. Bradstreet	
TREXPO East '94 Showcases Gun Developments, Trends	32
By Robert Hausman	
Design and Performance of the French Silencieux Unique	36
By Al Paulson	
Fun & Freedom Shoot 1994	42
By Walter B. Kamp II	

Departments

Incoming	6
Raffica	12
Focus On:	48
The Ammo Bunker	52
The Forms	54
Archive Photo of the Month	58
Classifieds	60

On the Cover: The ultimate in military collecting—NRA board member Richard E. Rench firing a Thompson astride his 1942 Harley Davidson WLA. Photo by Tom Rench

Machine Gun News is published monthly to serve as a forum for Class 3 dealers and machine gun enthusiasts. We feel it is important that dealers and collectors have a source for new products, news and information involving Title II firearms.

Advertising rates

If you'd like to advertise in *Machine Gun News*, contact us for specifications and display advertising rates.

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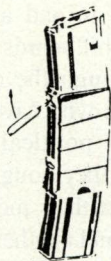
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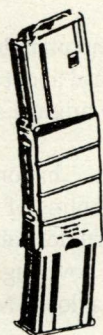
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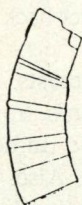


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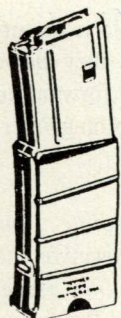
ULTRACOMPACT

37mm AMMO

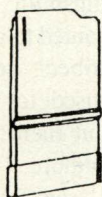
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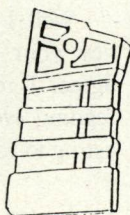
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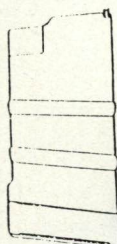
AR-15
STD. 30 RND



AR-15
STD. 20 RND



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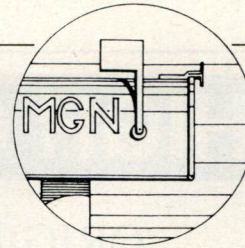
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Incoming



PS—THE PREVENTIVE MAINTENANCE MONTHLY

In Carl Silver's article on the M60 in the August 94 issue, he mentions that the Army used to publish a magazine called "PS—The Preventive Maintenance Monthly." In fact, this little publication is still being printed and is available for public purchase. While most of the articles in it will not be of general interest, it recurrently has extremely good articles on all Army weapons systems, including the M60, M16 series, M249, M9, etc. It's a good basic resource for anyone interested in prolonging the life of his military-type firearms. Subscription information is available from the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington D.C.

Sincerely,

COL. David M. Lam

GARISH BILLBOARDS

The enclosed black and white photos illustrate the sarcastic, but highly effective, manner in which the pro-gun group ARIZONANS FOR SELF-DEFENSE are grabbing the attention of both pro and anti-

gun passers-by who cannot avoid these garish billboards in and around Tucson. Eight of these billboards have already been erected through the efforts of concerned Tucsonans who have been so frustrated by elitist political rhetoric and media hype that they sought an inexpensive means to get their message out to a largely ignorant and apathetic public.

Co-chairmen Bernie Oliver and Phil Murphy of ARIZONANS FOR SELF-DEFENSE successfully presented the idea of raising money for the boards to their 250 compatriots in FACT (Firearms Action Committee, Tucson), resulting in televised media coverage and attendant political outcry. The effort has been so well received that area gun dealers are offering items for a raffle to support even more billboards through the general elections.

ARIZONANS FOR SELF-DEFENSE hope to see a grass-roots campaign similar to ours across the nation, and the first step in achieving this modest goal is national magazine coverage of our high-profile billboard campaign. We thank you for

your cooperation and kind attention.

Yours in Liberty,

B.E. "Bernie" Oliver, Jr.

Phillip W. Murphy

ARIZONANS FOR SELF-DEFENSE,
2610 South Portia Ave., Tucson, AZ
85730. Phone (602) 296-5337

DISAPPOINTMENT IN MGN

I was very disappointed in the last couple of issues of MGN. Your magazine is getting off the subject. I want to read about Machine Guns! Not political rallies, not suppressors, not interviews. Your October issue had "one" machine gun article and no Raffica department.

I realize all this info is important but I do not pay \$29.00 a year to read about that stuff. Please get back on the original subject!

What interests me is, historical machine gun info, trouble shooting of certain guns and in-depth articles about machine guns. Also, you're covering too many shoots. I've been to a lot of M.G. shoots; they're all the same.

One machine gun article which ran recently was the Reising. I have one question. Why would anyone who dislikes a weapon so much continue to own one—let alone write an article about it? A very bias article to boot; how about a rebuttal article? I own several Reising's and I like them. I think the gentleman who wrote that article needs a gunsmith.

Well, I just wanted to say it! Please survey your subscribers; see if they don't agree. I really used to look forward to reading MGN, but there is nothing interesting to read anymore.

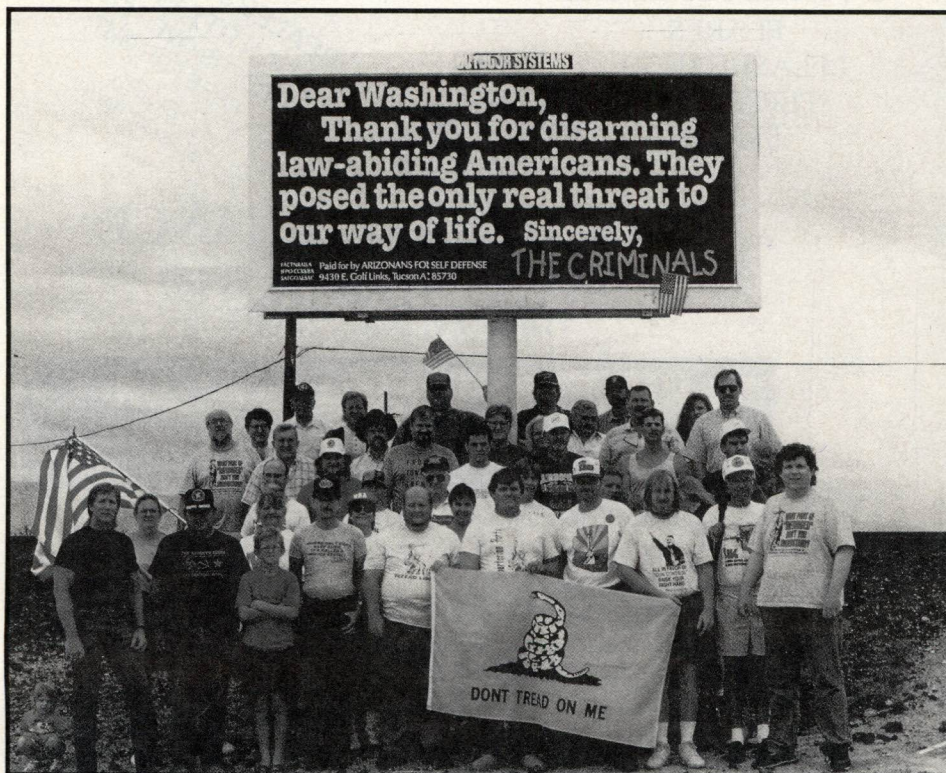
J.W. from PA

Editor's Note: We appreciate your input and have put a reader survey on the inside protective cover of this issue. Readers, tell us what you want! Producing a magazine that contains articles that everybody likes is very difficult, and we need to hear from you.

P.S. We must have read your mind—rebuttal Reising article appeared in November issue.

NULL AND VOID

Correct me if I'm wrong (if I remem-



ber my high school government class correctly), but if the President doesn't sign a bill within ten working days, it's called a pocket veto.

Congress passed the Crime Bill on Aug. 26th, and ten working days, excluding Labor Day, would be Sept. 12th.

So, the President had to sign the Crime Bill by Sept 12th, Monday midnight, for it to be valid, but he signed it publicly on Sept. 13th. (Was that the real signing or strictly a media event?) If it was the real signing of the Crime Bill, then Clinton was a day late and the Crime Bill is null and void. Intent has nothing to do with the law. If he didn't sign it in time, the bill is vetoed. Shouldn't somebody be looking into this?

Marty G.

Marty, the President has ten days to sign a bill from when the bill is presented to him, not from when the bill was passed. The Crime Bill was presented to the President on September 12th.

WHAT HAPPENED TO FIREPOWER?

A while back I was going through some old magazines to cull them and ran across an issue of *Firepower* from Sept. '88. It was billed as the "official publication" of the American Firepower Association" and featured articles about Bill Fleming, S&H Arms (original), and a couple written by none other than Chris Choat. What became of *Firepower* and the AFA? It seems like it was a forerunner of *MGN* and the NFA in some ways. What can you tell me about it? Does it still exist? (I doubt it.) Anyway, it was interesting to read those articles about some of the "founding fathers" of machine gun conversations and reminisce about the "good ole days." Boy, that seems strange doesn't it, to talk about the mid-eighties as the "good ole days!"

I, like nearly every subscriber to *MGN*, eagerly await each issue and really enjoy the entire mag. Keep it up.

Sincerely,

Bill M.

Editor's Note: Firepower magazine went out of business in late 1989 because of problems with their distributor.

Send your comments to:

MGN c/o Incoming

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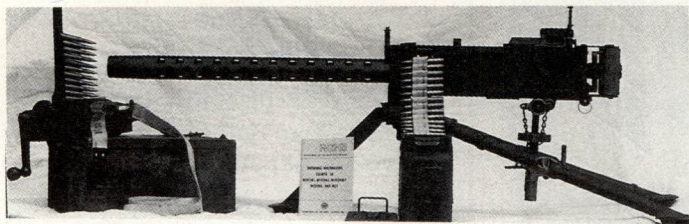
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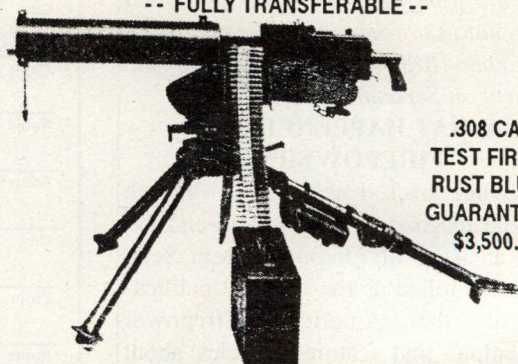
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1918A2 BAR New in Wrap	\$ 10
Swedish K/Port Said 30 rd.	\$ 55
Madsen 30-06 30 rd. Mag 5-each in original carrying can	\$ 75
FND BAR 30-06	\$ 15
L2A1 30 rd. Unissued Cond	\$ 75
MP41 32 rd. Mint Cond	\$ 55
MP38/40 Flat Side Mag	\$ 55
Bren 8mm 20 rd. Mag	\$ 65
PPS43 Mags 30 rd.	(ea) \$ 35
PPSh41 Mags 30 rd.	\$ 35
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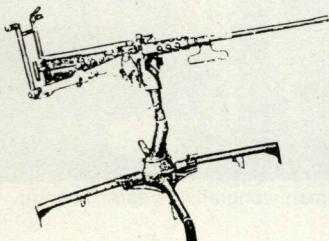
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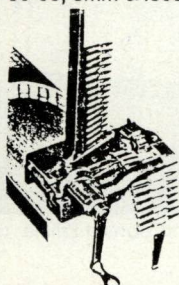
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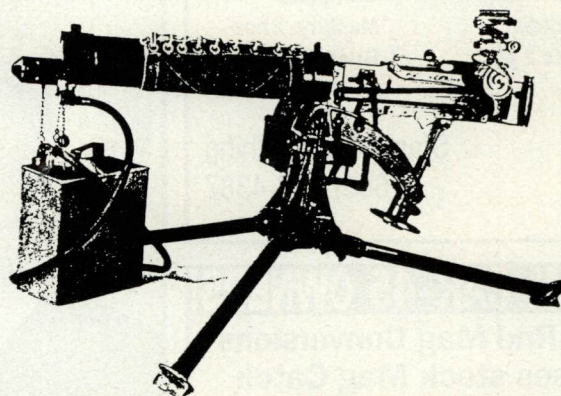
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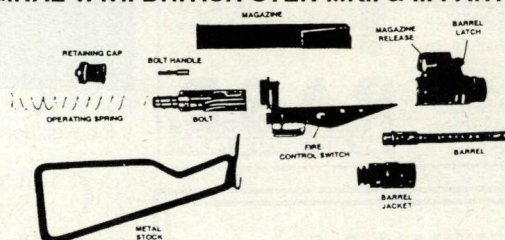
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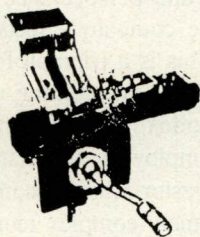
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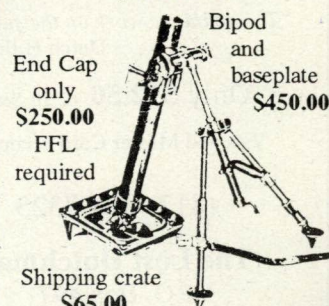
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Colt Emerges From Bankruptcy Protection

Text & photo by ROBERT HAUSMAN



Ron Whitaker, Colt's CEO (left) and Donald Zilkha, the new chairman, congratulate each other on a job well done.

Colt's Manufacturing Co., Inc., (CMCI) which for the past 2 1/2 years has been operating under bankruptcy protection, emerged from Chapter 11 in late September. A limited partnership organized by Zilkha & Co., a New York investment firm, is now the principal owner of the reorganized Colt after making an approximately \$32 million investment in the firm.

Donald Zilkha, who becomes Colt's new chairman, said it took eight months of negotiations with the company's labor union (the UAW), the state of Connecticut and the gunmaker's unsecured creditors to reach an agreement that allowed for the reorganization. Under terms of the agreement, the limited partnership will retain slightly more than 80 percent of the equity in the reorganized company, while an ownership position of more than 10 percent will be held by the UAW and the remainder to be held by members of management.

"We have been able to emerge as a vibrant company with a new sense of direction and focus," Zilkha added. "We are aggressively evaluating new technology and will continue to supply military, law enforcement and the public with the quality, dependable product that they have

come to expect from CMCI."

According to Ron Whitaker, Colt's CEO, team work and perseverance were instrumental in the company's successful reorganization. "This is a triumph for the team members at Colt overcoming nearly insurmountable odds. The teamwork exhibited by the employees, the State, the union and the investor was phenomenal. This was an extremely complex reorganization requiring patience and perseverance from all parties. Our customers, on the consumer, law enforcement and military sides, supported us the entire time."

CMCI, manufacturer of the M16 family of full auto firearms, entered Chapter 11 in March 1992. Connecticut Governor Lowell Weicker was called "instrumental" by Colt in helping the firm overcome its business difficulties. Weicker, who was present at a ribbon cutting ceremony held in early October to celebrate the revitalization of the old-line manufacturer, said: "This is an indication of the lengths to which the State will go to protect high quality manufacturing jobs. It is a wonderful day for the employees, the State and this Governor." Colt employs about 1,000 people in its West Hartford facility.

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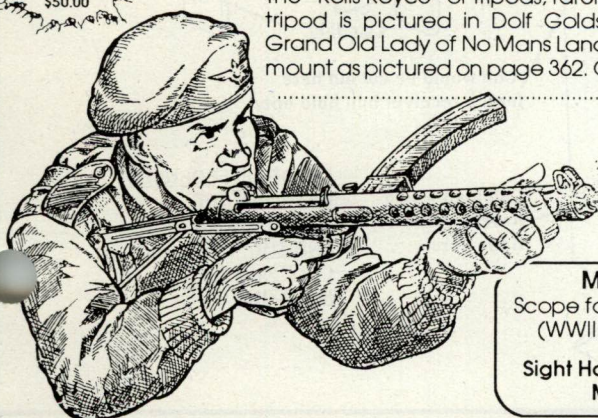
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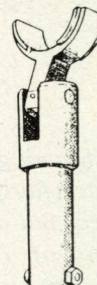
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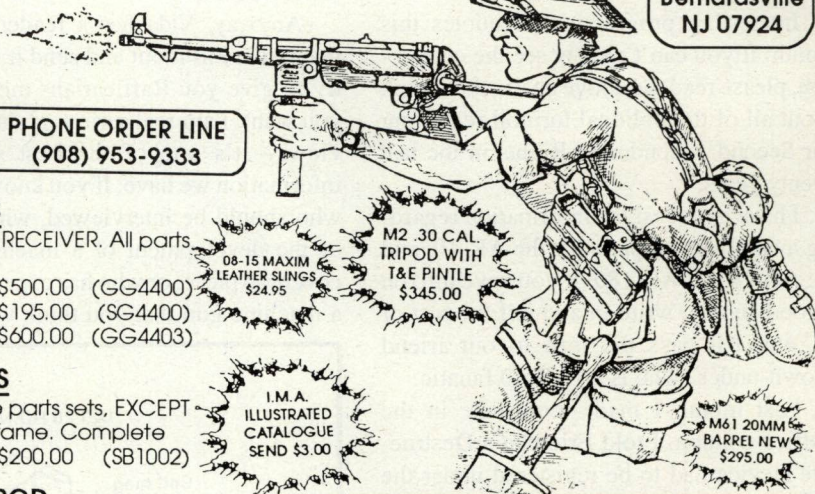
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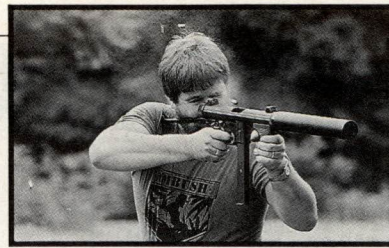
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by DAN SHEA



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—President Bill Clinton, Quoted by the Arizona Republic, Tuesday, August 2nd, 1994.

"There is danger from all men. The only maxim of a free government ought to be to trust no man living with power to endanger the public liberty"— John Adams, 1772

"Every Communist must grasp the truth: Political power grows out of the barrel of a gun"— Mao Tse-tung

Interesting progression of quotes this month. If you can't clearly see the connection, please read the above again, then think about all of the political turmoil regarding our Second Amendment Rights in the last twenty years.

I have a request for information regarding availability of parts for the AR-10, and the AR-18 and AR-180. If you have info on a good supply, write in and tell the rest of us, and I'll pass the info to our friend "down-under" who is an AR-10 fanatic.

Last month I made a mistake in the Raffica column. I told Eric that a Destructive Device had to be registered under the NFA-34. I meant under Title II of the GCA-68. The NFA-34 did not tax the Destructive Devices.

Since the last issue got out late, which I have to take some credit for—interviewing Peter G. and getting it to print from SOF on Sept. 19th to Knob Creek on Oct. 8th was a real piece of work. On the interviews coming up—next month I hope to have the president of Saco Defense (manufacturer of the M-60, M2-HB, and MK-19), then Carlos Hathcock (of "Marine Sniper" fame—he started out as a machine gunner in 'Nam), then Wayne Daniels of RPB/SWD renown. I'm hoping to visit the

Royal Patent Room in London and tell you about their records on machine guns. Aberdeen Proving Grounds Museum is on the agenda. I want to know who you Rafficarians want me to interview. Fax (501) 525-7519 or write MGN, and they will get the info to me. There have been a couple of people who wrote in and said that they didn't want to read interviews of people, they wanted more historical machine gun features. I wonder if some interviews with inventors of those historical machine guns would interest them....

Anyway, Vida has a reader survey in this issue. Fill it out and send it in. We will try to give you Rafficarians more of what you want. I am real serious about the interviews—it's one of the best sources of information we have. If you know someone who should be interviewed, who was part of the development of a machine gun or covert op piece, or who has experience with a machine gun that you think would be of

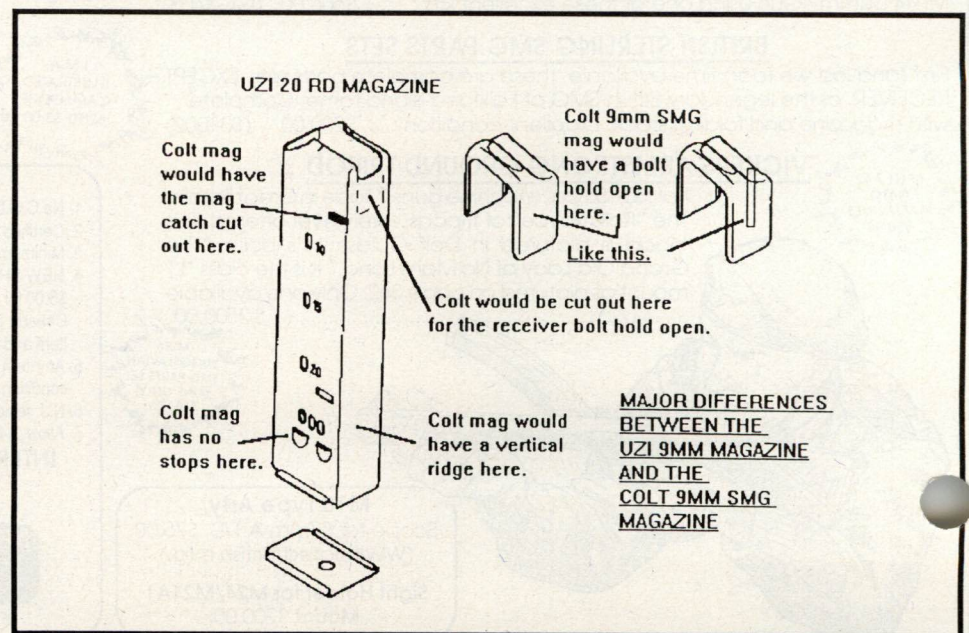


Mystery Photo.

interest—let me know. Vida said she might loosen up the old purse strings so I can get out more.... I feel like a kept man....

There haven't been any responses to the November Mystery Photo because of late the issue went out to mail. We all know that it's a .50 caliber Browning MG bolt. What will win you an "Attaboy" or maybe even an "RKI," is telling us the odd things about that bolt. In the meantime—here is your next "Mystery."

A hint on writing in to Raffica—I will chase info on fixing machine guns and other NFA firearms, look for parts, hints on



use of the firearms, historical notes, and some general Class 3 business BS. *MGN* has an editorial policy against showing how to make conversion devices that are considered against the law, nor will we knowingly give information regarding illegal activities. If you write in about such things, we will correct you if it appears to be out of ignorance, in the hopes of saving readers from making mistakes. If it's apparent that you are knowingly involved in an illegal procedure, we will ignore your letter. Some letters haven't been answered because they repeated a previous letter, or I am waiting on more information to complete your answer.

Q I wrote to the original address for the Tippman Arms Co. for parts. But forwarding mail has expired. Do you know who or where parts can be bought for this little .22 belt-feed? Your articles are great!

Thanks,
Reinhold S.

A Fred Vollmer bought out the last of the Tippman Arms .22 project. These pint-sized .22 belt-feds have always been a fun shooter—for those of you unfamiliar with them, Tippman made a small quantity of miniaturized 1919A4, 1917A1, and M2HB machine guns. They had mini tripods and ammo cans, and used mini cloth belts to feed .22LR in the 1919 and 1917 models, .22 mag in the M2HB version. There were some feeding problems with some of the later production guns. When Vollmer took over the project, he worked on the last 20-30 1919's until the feed problem was solved and he still, to my knowledge, works on the Tippmans. He is the only person who has parts. If there is any other source—please write it in to Raffica. (F.J. Vollmer and Co. (309) 663-9494.)

Q Can Uzi SMG magazines be modified successfully to work in the Colt AR-15 9mm carbine? They are basically similar.

Yours truly,
J.R.

A A Colt 9mm magazine is essentially an Uzi magazine with three modifications. The first is a bolt-hold open on the follower that necessitates the second modification; a channel that runs down the back of the magazine. The hold-open "nub" rides in that channel. The channel makes the Colt 9mm magazine a few centimeters "deeper" from front to rear—a Colt 9mm magazine cannot fit in the magazine well of an Uzi, while the Uzi mag does fit into the Colt, with some slop front to rear. The feedlips are the same. The follower has the same

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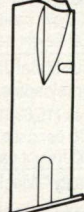

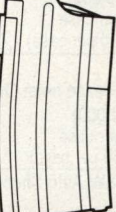

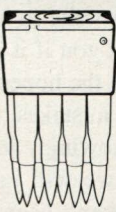
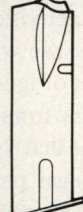

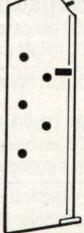


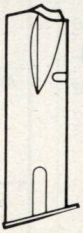
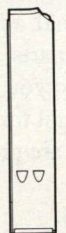

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presentation. At the rear of the feeding presentation, the bolt channel has been cut lower to facilitate the hold-open mechanism on the Colt lower receiver. The third difference is the slot on the left side of the magazine, towards the top, for the magazine catch.

In other words, it's very possible, depending on what you want. If you can live without the bolt hold-open on the last shot, all that would be necessary would be to cut the magazine catch slot in the side, relieve the rear of the top for the receiver bolt catch, and shim the inside of the mag well to get rid of the slop, if necessary. Getting the bolt hold-open to operate is much more complex, and I am not sure it is really feasible.

Q Regarding the September Raffica column, J.H.M. asked about 40mm case types. The M195 and M118 contain the same type and amount of propellant: 330 MG of M9 powder with an M42 primer. The M195 case is merely shorter in length to accommodate the longer, flat-bottomed projectiles of the flares and smokes. Flares such as the M583 have always been assembled using the M195 (or earlier XM195) cartridge case. The only time a flare will be encountered loaded in an M118 case will be someones reload or a dummy

reassembled from fired components.

On to the Mystery Photo—illustrated were the left and right covers for the AAI 40mm DBCATA grenade launcher attachment for the M16 rifle, also known as the XM204. Now for the blatant pitch. As you can tell from my card, I collect 40mm items and have been looking for these handguards for some time. Would the pair photographed for *MGN* be available for sale or trade? I can really use them! I've enclosed an SASE for your reply.

Finally, a few words about *MGN*. As a Class 2 for five years and a collector of militaria, ordnance, and U.S. military firearms and MGs for 25 years, I have a nearly insatiable appetite for information on Class 3 stuff. The arrival of *MGN* is a high point each month and I especially enjoy your contributions. Thanks for your efforts in getting out the historic and technical info we need to enjoy our hobby and still stay out of jail. Take care and keep the magazine coming.

Rick Larson
 17375 SE 232 Dr
 Boring, OR 97009

A I left Rick's address in here so that the other 40mm collectors may contact him by mail. I also passed on his request to the owner of the parts he lusts for.

Q Requesting assistance in securing the briefcase for the MAC-10. As per Jim Cobray/MAC-technical staff...there was an article in the October issue of *Guns* magazine on the briefcase for a MAC-11.

Andrew G.

A You mean you want the "Operational Briefcase." You and five hundred other collectors. When they show up on the market, they move quick. I suggest that you scour the shows and advertisements, and be prepared to pay for it. You might try an ad in the back of *MGN*.

Don't make the mistake of having one of these and having a semi-auto M10 or M11 in your possession. That constitutes possession of an untaxed, unregistered Any Other Weapon. If you possess the briefcase and the machine gun, there is no problem.

Q I want to know more about the drum-powered STEN on page 33 of September *MGN*. Could you write about it or have the owner contact me?

Thanks.
 David L

A That is either a Swedish K or a Port Said that has been altered. The first model of M/45 (Swedish K) was made with a magazine "track," not a well. This allowed the use of Suomi 50-rd, 4 column stick magazines. The second or "B" model of the

Swedish K had a removable magazine well in its initial version. In the early 1950's (I think 1951-52) the M/45-B had the magazine well permanently installed and could no longer use the Suomi mag. The Port Said, which is virtually identical to the M/45, had the permanent magazine well in most cases. These were all in 9x19mm (9mm parabellum). The drum appears to be a PPSH-41 9mm drum, with slight adjustment to make it fit the M/45 mag well. I would say that the gun is either one of the original M/45's or an original M/45 mounted on one of the aftermarket receivers. It is, in all probability, a tack driver. I pity Dennis Todd, whose girlfriend has the SMG in hand in the photo you are referring to, if he cannot adequately explain exactly who "that blonde" is. She seems so concerned about her.

Q A "Parts is Parts" question for you. I am having trouble locating .223 AK bolt parts. Since these bans have gone into effect, no more will be imported, and I know sooner or later I will probably need a .223 firing pin or an extractor. Everyone I call says they don't have these parts, and few have seen them sold. Do you have a source for these parts, or can 7.62x39 bolt parts be modified to work in a .223 bolt? Also, what is this

about restricting ammo cans?

C.K.

A The bolt, firing pin and extractor are unique to the .223 AK and you cannot substitute unless you are very well informed about gunsmithing. I would go to Shooter's Equipment Co. (803) 647-4668; he used to have them. If he doesn't now, and gets some calls, he'll find them. In the meantime, any of you Rafficarians who have a good source should write or fax in. I could use a couple of spares myself.

Q Can you recommend a gunsmith who specializes in work on the Ruger MKII pistol? I have one that has been modified somewhat for adaptation of a suppressor so I cannot send it back to Ruger for checkout. It has a problem with misfires (maybe light firing pin hits) and I would like to have someone who knows these pistols give it a thorough checkout.

SRB

A Not really. There are so many out there. In the Class 3 world, trigger jobs on MKII Rugers are usually confined to a suppressor job. You might try AWC Systems Technology (602) 780-1050, or Gemini Technology (509) 697-3315. Stan Andrews (603) 746-4387 might do it. Remember that any gunsmith can take your NFA firearms in on

a Form 5 for repair, he doesn't have to be a Class 2 or 3. So, if you see a gunsmith advertise special work on these pistols, you can send it to him.

Q You keep talking about preservatives. Where can I get some good old cosmoline? Name and Address withheld

A Try B.W. Trading Co. at (614) 344-2772. They advertise cosmoline at about a buck a pound in 10 pound blocks. They also have military dessicant and rifle grease, U.S. Army. If you are looking for long term storage, these are your staples, and Den's Gun Shop in Massachusetts (508) 947-2891 has long term storage bags that are treated for storage. Good stuff. Tell them that you saw it in *MGN*.

Q Love *MGN*! The only other mags that tell it like it is are *SOF* and *American Firearms Industry*. Do you ever talk to those other two? Just a thought.

I need a favor. I'm attempting to get in contact with the great small arms designers of the world i.e. Galil, Stoner, and Kalashnikov. Do you have any addresses on these three gentleman? I would appreciate any help you can give.

Keep up the fine work!

Charles H.

A If you read the Kokalis interview, then

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you should know that we are in contact with all of the other gun magazines. *MGN* stands alone, however. The owner is the publisher—there are no strings attached to other organizations. This is what allows us to be so free with what we do—there is no “hidden agenda,” like what can happen when another magazine manipulates the smaller one.

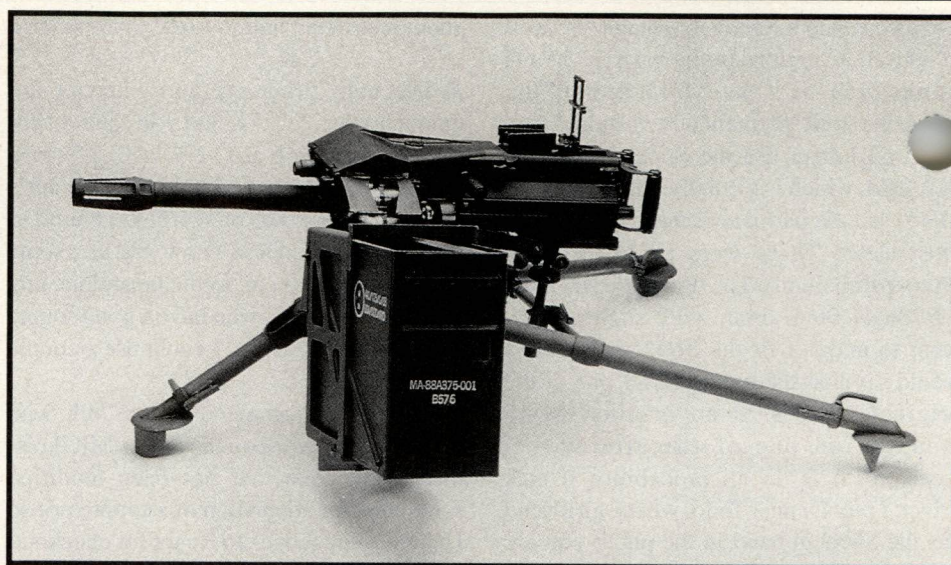
Regards to the addresses of these fine gentlemen; I do have some, and I know that they all see *MGN* fairly frequently, as well as many other small arms designers of like talent that were missing from your list.

If you send me a letter detailing what you have in mind, I will attempt to pass it along—no guarantees. I do not know them personally. I am not about to publish these men's addresses unless they request it—which is not the normal state of affairs.

Q What is this weapon? It Looks like a snub-nose M-2 HB. What is the capacity of the ammo box? Where is the gun manufactured?

Sherman

A The picture you sent in was of the MK-19 Mod 3 40mm grenade launcher, which is a machine gun. The 40mm rounds that it fires are the “high-pressure” ones, not the “low pressure” 40mm that was fired from



MK-19.

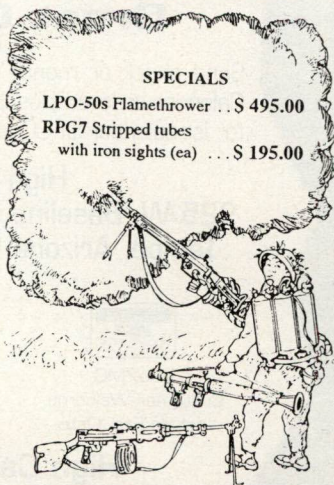
the M79 and M203. In your photo it is mounted on a U.S. Humvee. I have included a better photo showing the MK-19 mounted on an M-3 tripod. The ammo box holds 100 rounds linked with disintegrating metallic links. Ramo Manufacturing took a stab at the manufacture of it, but the general military contract went to Saco. This beast was manufactured by Saco Defense in Maine. When I go there, I am hoping to get

a chance at doing a feature on it for *MGN*. Wish me luck.

Questions to:
Dan Shea, c/o MGN,
PO Box 459
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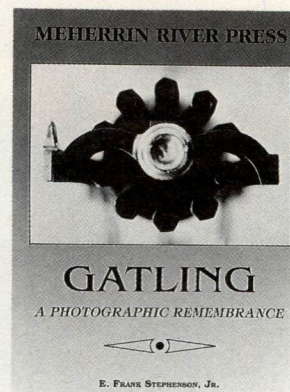
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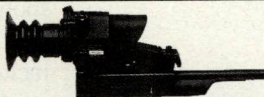
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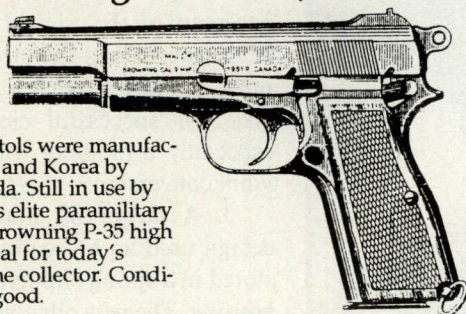
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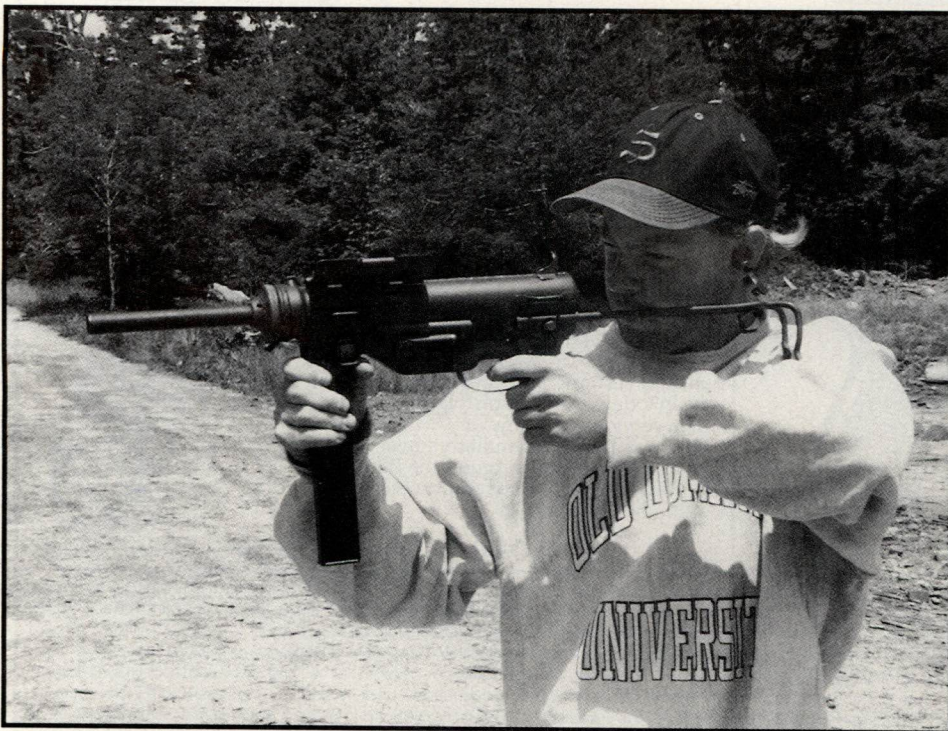
At an early point in WWII, the United States had foreseen the need for a cheaply made, quickly produced weapon to replace the Thompson submachine gun. The Thompson was originally a commercially developed firearm that, by the 1940s, was of a design that was over twenty years old, expensive, and time consuming to produce. What the U.S. was looking for was a weapon that could be manufactured utilizing the "modern" methods of the day.

During the early 1940s the Ordnance department began development of the proposed new weapon. It was designated the T15. The original specifications were soon amended to include in the design a weapon that could easily be converted from .45 caliber to 9mm by substitution of a few parts. It also had to utilize the British Sten magazines. Also included in the amendment was the decision to eliminate the selector for semi-automatic fire. The new designation for the .45/9mm full auto only weapon was now the T20. These requests were made by the Office Of Strategic Services (OSS). This agency had functions and missions similar to today's CIA. The reason behind this request was that the OSS operations in Europe would not be accessible by normal United States Army supply lines. Due to its covert missions and locations, they had to rely on other sources for ammunition and supplies. The standard cartridge in Europe was the 9mm Parabellum which was utilized by the Allies and Axis forces alike.

Inspired by both the German MP-40 and the British Sten gun, the U.S. Ordnance Department developed what was to be known as the M3.

The OSS 9mm GREASE GUN

by FRANK IANNAMICO



Nick Iannamico fires the 9mm Grease Gun.

The U.S. M3 submachine gun was adopted for use in December 1942. Guide Lamp Division of General Motors, who also aided in its development, was the prime contractor for the new weapon. Total production of the M3 by Guide Lamp was 531,000 weapons. The cost of producing the M3 was about \$20.00 as compared to the Thompsons cost of \$200.00 and required 50% less labor hours to make.

The design of the M3 is very simple. It is a straight blow back operated, open bolt design. The bolt slides on two rods held tight in the receiver by the barrel. The bolt doesn't touch the receiver, so there is very little to wear out. Whatever parts do wear are easily replaced in the field. Due to the extremely heavy bolt, the cyclic rate is very slow—350 to 450 rounds per minute. Although there is no provision for semi-automatic fire, it is easily accomplished by careful trigger manipulation. The only safety on the M3 is a tab welded on the hinged bolt cover. When closed it is inserted in one of two holes. One holds the bolt rearward off the sear in the cocked position and the other holds the bolt forward against the barrel when the bolt is not cocked. This will keep the weapon from firing if it is dropped—as long as the cover doesn't pop open.

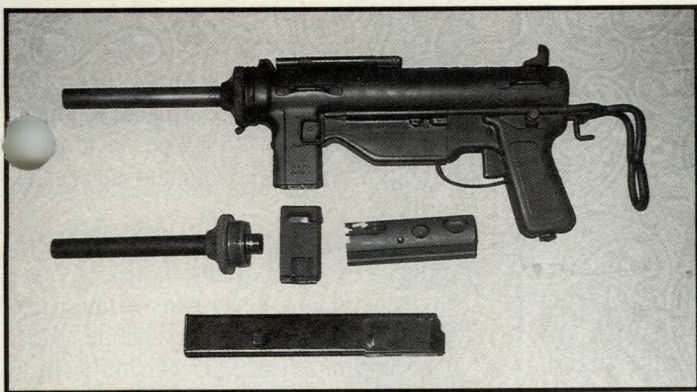
The original M3 design, after being in use by the military for several years, had shown a need for several modifications. The changes were relatively minor and included:

1. **The elimination of the cocking handle.** This was done by modifying the bolt to allow it to be cocked by the insertion of a finger into a hole drilled into the bolt. This also allowed the bolt to be modified so it could be removed without removing the ejector housing which was necessary on the original design.

2. **Increasing the size of the ejection port.** To allow expended cases more clearance for successful ejection. This was especially a problem with the use of the 9mm conversion.

3. **A larger oil bottle.** The original design used an M1 carbine oiler that was stored in a spring clip riveted to the ejector housing. The new oiler would be inside the pistol grip.

4. **Modification of the wire stock.** A magazine loading tool was to be welded to the rear of the stock. A loading tool that was previously provided was too easily lost in the field. The wire stock was also utilized as a cleaning rod when removed.



The M3A1 and the 9mm conversion parts, left to right: Barrel assembly, magazine adapter, and bolt. Bottom: Sten gun magazine.

from the weapon. One end was drilled and tapped for cleaning tools.

5. The barrel. This was redesigned to include two flat surfaces so the barrel could be removed with a wrench. In the field, the wire stock could be utilized as a wrench by sliding it around the barrel and turning. After extended firing, the M3 barrel can be very difficult to remove.

The weapon that included these modifications was designated the M3A1 and was adopted in December 1944. Only 15,500 M3A1s were produced by Guide Lamp by late 1945 when WWII production was ended. During the Korean conflict, the United States Government contracted with the Ithaca Gun Company to produce 70,000 M3A1s to meet its projected needs during that war. Only 33,200 were produced when the contract was canceled as the war wound to a close in 1954. The M3 and M3A1s were also used in the Vietnam War. Many were issued to the South Vietnamese Army, ARVN. When captured, it was a favorite weapon of the Vietcong guerrillas. They found it was ideal for their purposes, due to its small size. It was easily concealed. It is still being issued today by many U.S. Army Reserve Units. I recently met one of the reserve members of a local tanker unit (M60s). He confirmed that they did have M3 "Grease Guns" issued to them, although he had never fired one. Back during the Desert Storm War, while I was watching some of the many news reports on television. I saw some footage of some U.S. tank troops, and one had an old M3A1 slung over his shoulder. I guess this makes its longevity second only to the 1911 pistol.

The 9mm conversion units for the M3 Grease Guns are very rare. Only 25,000 were produced, and most of these were sent to Europe during WWII. Other special developments for the M3 were: a silencer of which only 1,000 units were produced.

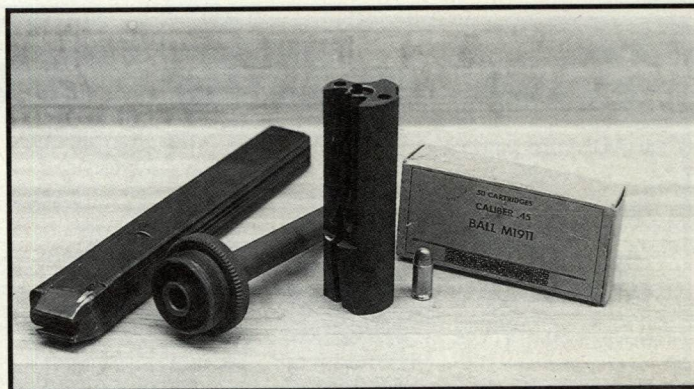
duced—all went to the OSS. An experimental curved barrel for shooting around buildings while not exposing the shooter, this idea was never put into production; and a funnel shaped flash hider (T34), similar to the M1 Garand type, was also produced for the M3.

I had searched many years for an M3 9mm conversion kit. I would carefully read all the ads in all the gun advertising papers hoping to find one hidden in an ad somewhere. Once, at a gun show in Cleveland, Ohio, I found a brand new in the original box M3 9mm bolt. I remember the box read "Bolt M3 9mm Guide Lamp Division General Motors Corporation, Anderson, Indiana." The gentleman selling it was asking \$150.00. I passed on it after he explained to me that finding the other parts was virtually impossible, and I was to find out he was right.

I think this was actually the beginning of my quest to find a complete kit, just because he told me I couldn't. It was a few years later I finally was able to purchase one. I saw it advertised in the *Shotgun News*, but it was advertised for sale with a dealer sample M3A1. I called anyway to see if I could talk the owner into selling me only the conversion kit. He of course said no. So I made him a generous offer. He said maybe and that he would call me back later that week to let me know. In a few days he called me and the deal was made. The unusual thing about this kit is that it was for a M3A1. Up until that time, I was not aware any M3A1 kits were produced. In a few days the UPS driver delivered the package to me. I was very pleased when I



9mm conversion kit parts, from left: Sten magazine, 9mm barrel, bolt, and magazine adapter.

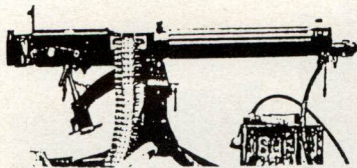


The .45 parts that are replaced when using the 9mm kit, from left: .45 magazine, barrel, and bolt.

saw that it was indeed for an M3A1. The only actual difference is that the bolt has a provision for being cocked by a finger rather than the cocking handle as on the M3 model.

The conversion kit consists of only four parts. A 9mm barrel, a 9mm bolt (that is 4.5 ounces lighter than the original .45 caliber bolt), a magazine adapter, and a Sten gun magazine. The parts are marked as follows: Bolt—C153425, 9mm RIA (Rock Island Armory). Magazine adapter—C15340. Barrel—C153435, 9mm GL SSG (Guide Lamp, Saginaw Steering Gear). The parts are installed the same as the .45 parts except, of course, for the magazine adapter which is simply pushed into the mag well where it is held in place by tabs that snap into place. The adapter is made of a spring type steel. It is easy to install, but removal requires the disassembly of the magazine release button.

Firing the 9mm Grease Gun was as expected: less recoil, a slightly faster cyclic rate, and due to the M3s fixed sights, it shoots about 6 inches high at 100 yards. I did experience some failures to feed. It was not as reliable as the .45 configuration, which is flawless. I also found it has to have full-power 9mm loads. I tried



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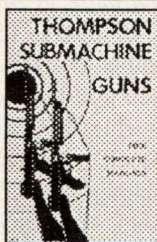
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some light loads that I shoot in my 9mm pistols with no problem, but in my grease gun, it would "run away" until the magazine was empty. (This is because the light loads do not have enough power to push the bolt rearward far enough to engage the sear.)

There are several countries that have produced copies of the Grease Gun. Nationalist China made two versions: the M36 which is .45 caliber and the M37 which is 9mm. The M37 version is very similar to the U.S. 9mm conversion in that, they both use a magazine adapter and magazines identical to that of the British Sten. Argentina's version of the Grease Gun is the P.A.M. 1. This weapon was manufactured only in a 9mm configuration. Argentina has also produced the P.A.M. 2 which has a select fire feature.

The M3 Grease Gun has been featured in several war movies such as "The Dirty Dozen," "Go Tell the Spartans," and "Battle of the Bulge." It has been depicted inaccurately in all these films, because their M3s fired at a very fast cyclic rate. I suppose it was to make it more "dramatic."

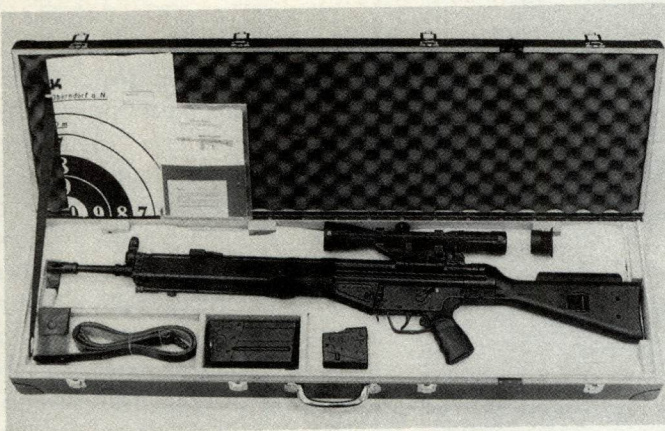
Compared to the millions of Thompsons, M1 Carbines, and M1 Garands produced, the approximate 579,700 M3s made is quite small in comparison. There are a few M3s and M3A1s available in today's Class 3 market, although a lot of them are dealer samples. Today's prices are far from the original cost of \$20.00—especially for a fully transferable M3 or the rarer M3A1. A couple of aftermarket M3A1s were made by Class II manufacturers. One version was made by The Meda Corporation in Florida. It was an excellent copy. I was told by a reputable dealer that is an RKI, that the Meda guns were made from original receiver halves that were never welded together. These were rumored to be from the canceled Ithaca contract. This very well may be true, as I once owned a Meda M3A1 and the receiver was identical to an original. Even the markings on the receiver appeared original, except there was no brand name and the serial number was hand stamped. The welds on the seams of receivers were welded manually and were not the quality of the original guns which were probably machine welded. All the other parts in my Meda M3A1 were Ithaca manufacture.

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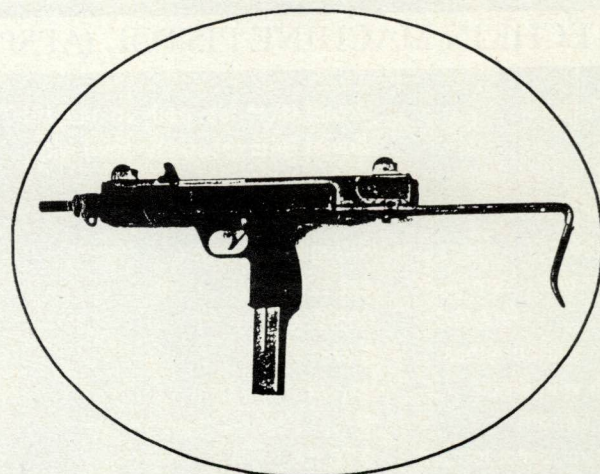
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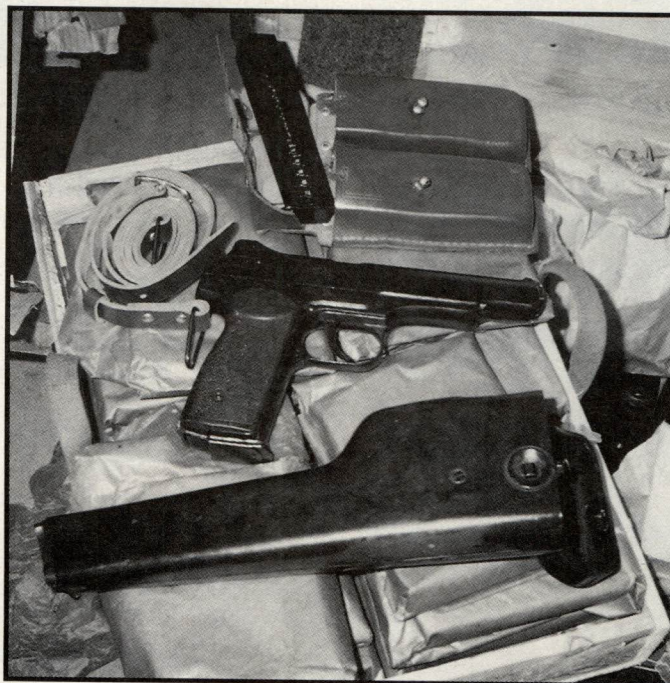
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One of the most exotic areas in the study of weapons is the machine pistol. Most weapons manufacturers have, at one time or another, tried their hand at these little "fists full of power." HK had the VP-70M—Beretta the 93R. Glock does a Glock 18 and Ruger has the MP9. The list goes on—Skorpions, MAC's, even Trejo's, Star's, and Schnellfeurs. The Soviets had several projects: the first being a "Tokarev" design, the next done by a man named Igor Stechkin in the early 1950's, using the Makarov 9x18mm cartridge. The "APS" nomenclature, that is sometimes used in reference to the Stechkin, is for "Automatic Pistol-Stechkin." I recently heard of a "mother lode" of Stechkin machine pistols in transit on the way to Europe.

The Elusive



shipped to its new owner. This could lead to an "operator malfunction"—a leading cause of "not getting another invite" when something rare is in the "zone." This condition is nearly always emotionally fatal to a "firearms enthusiast" or at least feels like it. Anyway....

After rolling it over in my hands several times, instinct took over. The trigger guard was pinned into place at the rear and there was a seam around the front, so I pulled down the front of the trigger guard like a Walther PPKS and it locked down. I then grasped the slide and pulled it to the rear. The slide went much further back than normal and wobbled, so I lifted the rear. The slide disconnected at the front and under the pressure of the recoil spring, moved forward, com-

Stechkin Machine Pistol (APS)

by DAN SHEA

Using diligence, persistence, and downright begging, I managed to get in and see them, actually getting a test fire in the process! The Stechkins were packed in their original 1954-55 crates, 25 per crate, and each pistol was clearly marked 1954 or 1955. Included were the plastic stocks, slings, one 20-round magazine in each pistol, 4 extra mags per gun, and the original leather 4-mag pouches. The original 1951 (?) Stechkins had wooden stocks. The ones I got the opportunity to look at had a

brown, molded plastic stock that the pistol fit into, similar to the Mausers.

FIELD STRIPPING

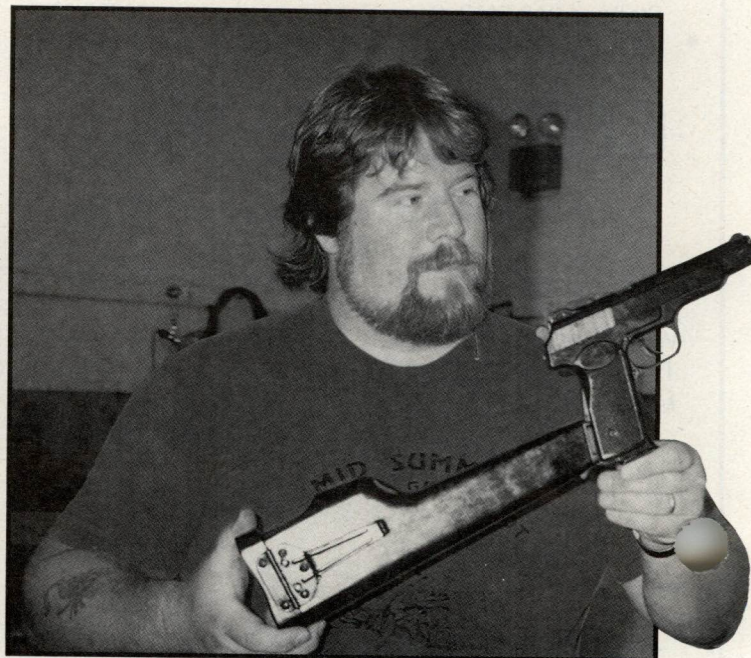
There are no instruction manuals that I have ever seen on the Stechkin. I did not want to go for a detail strip, fearing that an "inability to reassemble" might occur. While this is fine on something you own, it's not a good thing to do when you have an "invite," and the firearm is about to be

pletely removing it from the frame. A very simple and quick field strip! I actually looked like I knew what I was doing....

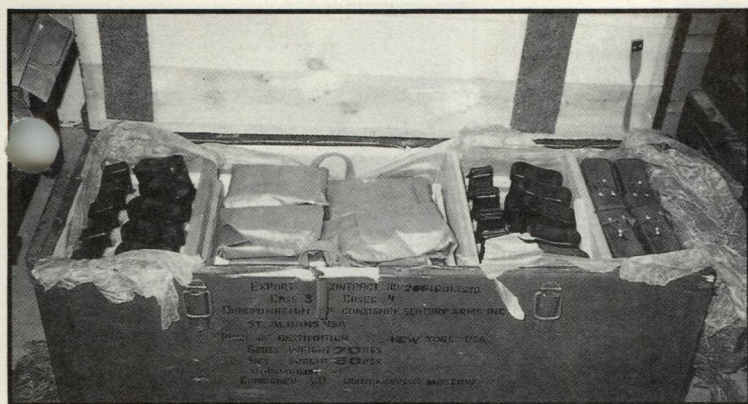
All of the internals were open for inspection, brush cleaning and lubrication. The barrel was fixed to the frame, which I found of great interest—the Stechkin is a throw-away machine pistol! Or it must be

STECHKIN MACHINE PISTOL (APS):

Manufacturer:	Soviet factories, early to mid-1950's
Users:	Soviet Bloc (obsolete now) with some individual users
Caliber:	9x18mm Makarov
Operation:	Straight Blowback
Rate of fire: <i>Semi-auto:</i>	est 120
<i>Full-Auto:</i>	635-680 rpm
Length without stock:	8 7/8"
Length with stock:	21 1/4"
Barrel Length:	5"
Weight of pistol loaded:	2.75 lbs
Magazine:	20rd double column



The Stechkin is basically a large frame pistol.



Original 25 Stechkin Armory pack.

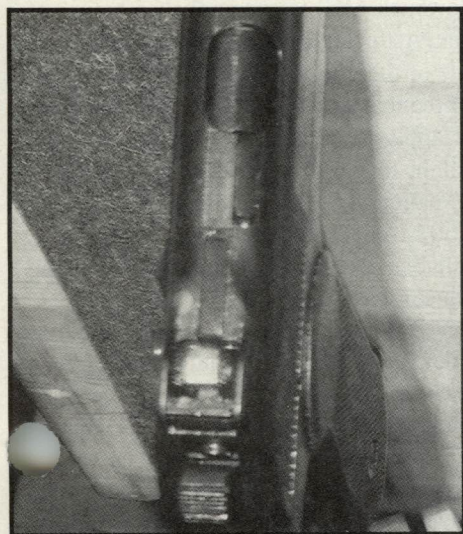
cared for at armory level. Re-assembly was the reverse of this procedure.

The Stechkin utilizes a blade type front sight and a graduated rear sight from 25 meters out to 200 meters. Wishful thinking with that 9x18 cartridge coming out of a five inch barrel—at 200 meters I'd suggest aiming high, then ducking before the enemy returned fire!

Some of the modern features I noted include: firing closed bolt with a floating firing pin, a magazine driven bolt-hold open on the last round, and the use of plastics in the stock.

My host had arranged a law enforcement demonstration for a government agency and police department. The test was done with Norinco 9x18mm Makarov ammunition, standard FMJ. We fired 200 rounds at targets out to 25 meters. Controllability with the buttstock was excellent. Three-shot bursts were achieved easily with trigger control, and the groups were about 6 inches at the longest ranges that we could fire at—indoors. The Makarov cartridge has a lot less “snap” than 9x19mm (Parabellum), and the

Stechkin is a large frame pistol. Firing semi-automatic without the stock was fine—as accurate as can be expected from the somewhat awkward - feeling Soviet pistols. My prejudice shows here, but a Sig P-226 has an entirely different feel than a Tokarev, and this is generally evident in most of the Soviet firearms. There is something “different” which I equate with cheapness, but it may just be unfamiliarity. On these examples of the Stechkin, like many ComBloc firearms, the finish millwork stops at the end of where you can see. The external finish on the Stechkin is a nice clear blue, over some nice finish milling and buffing. On disassembly, I noted that the mill marks were “roughing” except on contact sur-



Note the small ejection port—for the Makarov cartridge.



Stechkin 20-round double column magazine.



There is a bolt hold open on the last shot.

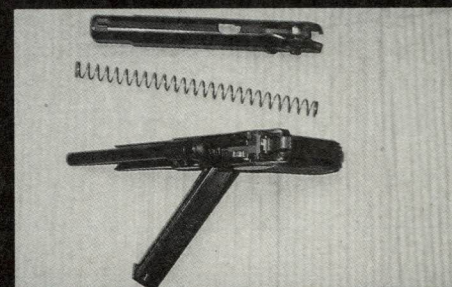
DISASSEMBLY



For disassembly: slide to the rear, pull trigger guard down.



Slide is now released for removal.



Stechkin in field strip, note internals are accessible for inspection and field level cleaning.

faces. That, combined with the fixed barrel, seems to lend an aura of “pump ‘em out, burn ‘em out, throw ‘em out” to the gun.

Full auto fire without the stock attached was a useless endeavor, as it is in most machine pistols. It was quickly decided that the rangemaster would frown on any further bullets in the roof of his range, so we went back to “proper” shooting procedure: with the buttstock.

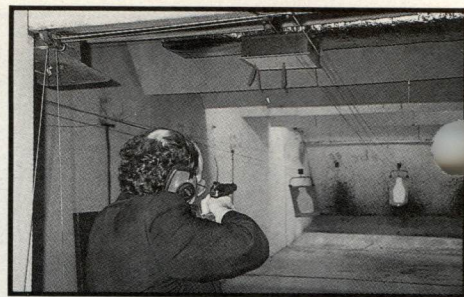
Two awkward features of the Stechkin were the magazine release and the selector. I am not fond of magazine releases that are down at the butt of the grip; they do not make for a swift magazine change in combat. It requires two motions of the loading hand to install a new magazine, losing critical seconds. The release would have been better placed on the side where the right hand thumb could release the magazine, which should be lightly stoned for a “gravity drop,” while the left hand finds a fresh magazine and inserts it in the now empty magazine well. As it is now, the left hand must release the old magazine and remove

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At range—Chief Randy Harriman shows how controllable the Stechkin is in full auto during the police demo.

it, then find and insert a fresh one. A simple design change there would do wonders for the operator speed (and probable life expectancy....). The selector is located at the top of the grip on the left side, at the rear of the slide. This is a fine place for the selector. However, the Stechkin is placed on "safe" in the forward position, requiring the operator to "pull" it to the rear (middle is "semi," to the rear is "full auto") to fire. This is not the normal impulse of a shooter—these should be reversed. It just works smoother to slide the selector forward. Every little bit counts in a combat weapon, and those are two areas that the Stechkin could have been better designed.

A very positive feature is evidenced by our rate of fire tests. I timed a number ten-round bursts, using the PACT Time with full auto feature. The average seemed to be about 650 rounds per minute (RPM), with a range of 635 to 680 RPM. It is my opinion that if you are not able to go hypercyclic (2000+ RPM) with a mechanical burst control on a machine pistol, it is more controllable to slow it down a little. The 650 RPM we fired was very comfortable shooting—very easy to control length of a burst. This slow rate of fire (for a straight blowback MG) is accomplished by use of a rate-reducing device that is located in the side of the grip. I did not disassemble this, for the reasons stated earlier, but it appears to apply a reverse spring tension and weight to the sear, slowing its release of the hammer. So, where one might expect a solid MAC-11 .380 1600 rpm; a nice, controllable 650 rpm seems the norm. The reducer was quite effective.

All in all, a most interesting firearm to shoot. Police and military applications seem to be limited to the rolls most machine pistols are relegated to: raising the firepower of a combatant who cannot carry a rifle or submachine gun because of other duties, or any police duties in a tactical situation. The desirability of the

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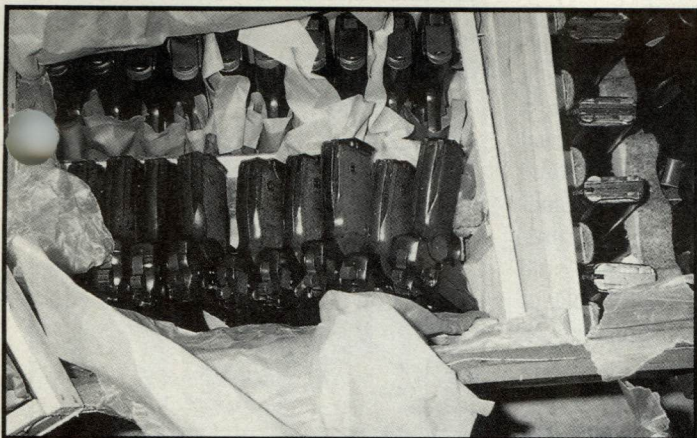


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9x18mm round, as opposed to the 9x19 most U.S. departments use, is another story. A wound ballistic comparison is important here, but not in the scope of this article. I will say that the groups that were fired were tighter than most 9x19mm machine pistols I have tried, and there did not seem to be a "wildcard" round when three shots were controlled. This could prove a desirable quality. I wouldn't hesitate to recommend that a tactical team at least give it an evaluation. The collector, of course, NEEDS one of these, but I know of none in the United States, not even in the museums. Any that are imported now

would be "law enforcement only" or "Post-86 Dealer Samples." Pity. I really enjoyed the history, mystique, and just plain shooting the Stechkin.

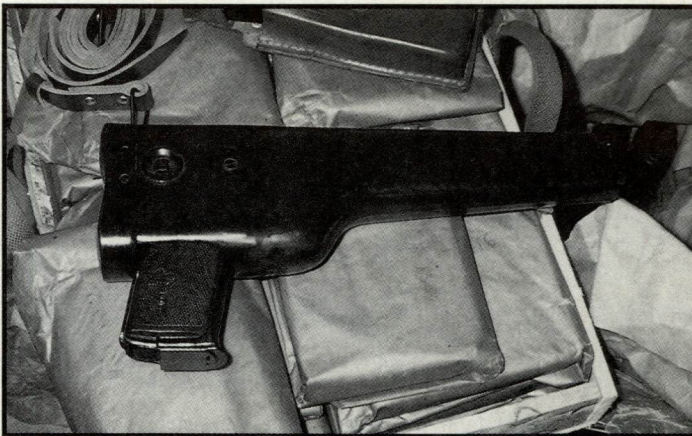
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Stechkin being removed from stock/holster.



Stechkin in stock/holster.

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INTRODUCTION

Metallic belts were being designed in the middle of the last century, but none saw extensive use. It remained for the "war to end wars" to define the machine gun's role and establish actual needs for metallic belts. A universal factor in WWI was that a mixture of earth and water was "too thick to drink and too thin to plow." It was particularly disagreeable to the innards of machine guns, and fabric belts were dimensionally unstable when damp and hard to clean.

outside the airframe, the empty belt slaps holes in the aircraft (and perhaps the gunner) and stresses the feed mechanism in new and strange ways. In a flexible gun, it entangles both gun and gunner ("manual disintegration" with a sharp knife cured this when time allowed, which it sometimes did). Stowed inside the airframe, empty belts used precious space and retained unneeded weight—not to speak of containers or take-up mechanisms. As solutions to these problems, metallic belts of various kinds were embraced, mainly by the Allies, though the Central Powers perhaps had longer experience of them.

The Pace of Change. Some of the belts below had useful lives of only months from adoption to obsolescence. It is not strictly accurate to label those types

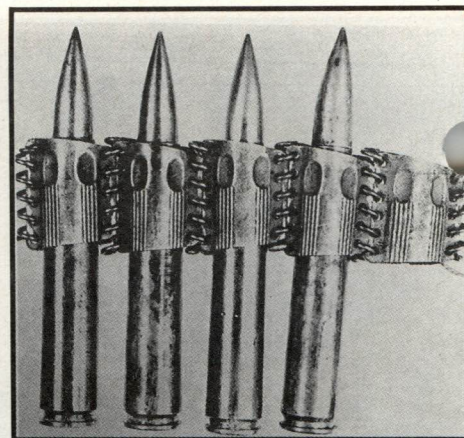


Figure 1. Unidentified WWI German belt believed to be Ruszitska for Bergmann 1910 or 1915. Note that alternating connectors are coiled in opposite directions like later Soviet belts. Philippe Regenstreif Photo.

Notes on WWI Metallic Belts

by T.E. BRADSTREET

The shell-churned, man-eating mud also encouraged movement of warfare into the skies. When a belt-fed machine gun is dragged into the air by an 80 to 120 horsepower stick-string-and-bedsheet "aeroplane," a whole new set of inconveniences is discovered, not least of which is the belt itself. Allowed to flap in the slipstream

"unsuccessful." The pace of technological change in WWI was frantic, particularly in aerial warfare. The average time that a first-line single-seat fighter stayed first-line seems to have been about four (4!) months. The Nieuport 11 *Bebe* was introduced in January 1916, obsoleted by the Nieuport 17 in May, in turn obsoleted by

the SPAD 7 in August. On the other side, the Albatros D I was introduced in September 1916 and obsoleted by the D II the same month. The Albatros D III entered service the following month but held on six whole months (too long, in fact) before the D V/Va arrived. None of these were unsuccessful, and the pace is

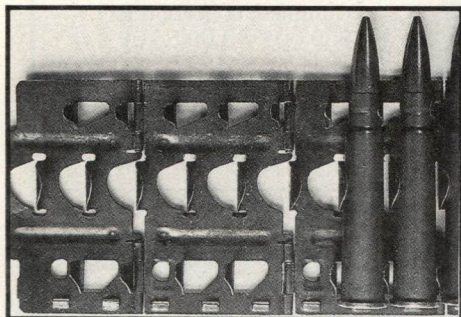


Figure 2. (A) British Hotchkiss articulated strip. Note two-round starter segment.

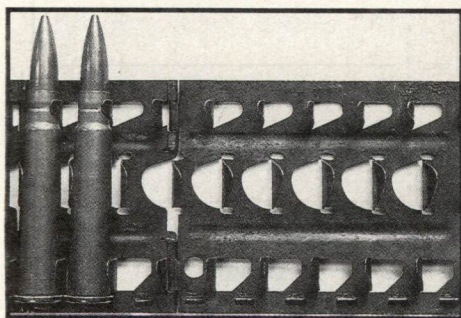


Figure 2. (B) British Hotchkiss articulated strip. Note six-round final segment.

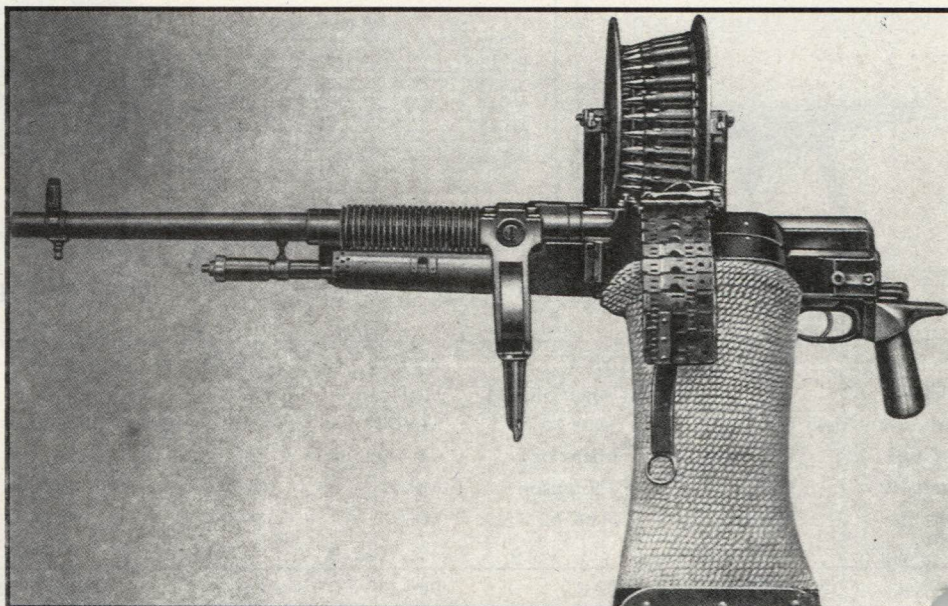
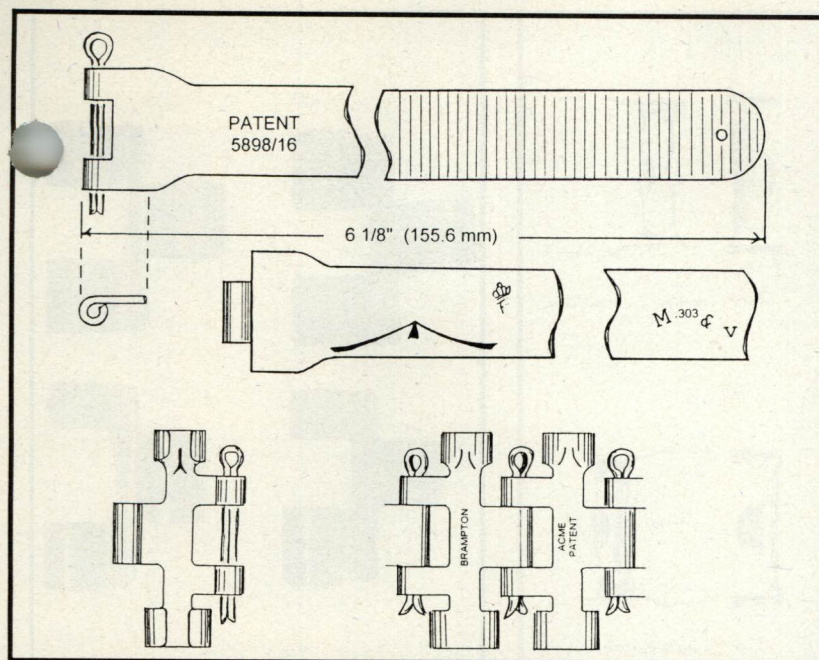


Figure 3. Hotchkiss portable set up as aircraft flexible gun. Must have been lots of fun with belt spool (*bobine*), stiff empty belt, and case-catcher bag sticking out in various directions (not to mention the "oar lock" pintle mount well forward of the center of mass). Chinn, Vol. I, Photo.



Left: Figure 4. The Sangster belt, drawings from specimens. Top: Back of female end tab, same marking on male. Center, left to right: section of hinge; markings, front of male tab; markings, front of female tab. Bottom, left to right: front of single link; back of connected links showing two maker's marks.

Bottom: Figure 5. Sangster patent drawing showing positioning of cartridges in links.

typical. A few months was several lifetimes. Remember, the average life expectancy of an RFC pilot arriving on the Western Front in Bloody April 1917 was twenty-one days.

THE RUSZITSKA BELT

Several pre-war machine guns used metallic belts reportedly designed by an Austro-Hungarian named Ruzsitska for Maxim and Company of Vienna. Ruzsitska links were available both closed (cartridge loops completely surrounding the cartridge) and open. Bergmann guns made use of both—push-through feed using open links being earliest (1902). Few of these belts seem to have been used by any nation, and little published information is available on them.

When the Model 1910 Bergmann came into German service, it used a Ruzsitska belt, and some metallic belts saw service in WWI with 1910 and 1915 Bergmanns. They were soon eliminated in favor of the readily-available and familiar Maxim belt, which the 1915 Bergmann could also use. I have not yet seen a positively identified specimen. The best candidate I know of at present is in 7.92 x 57, of bright or lightly-blued steel with ribbed two-piece links (Figure 1. A smooth-link version may also exist). It shares a number of features with post-WWI German and especially Soviet designs, particularly the alternating-twist wire-coil connectors between links.

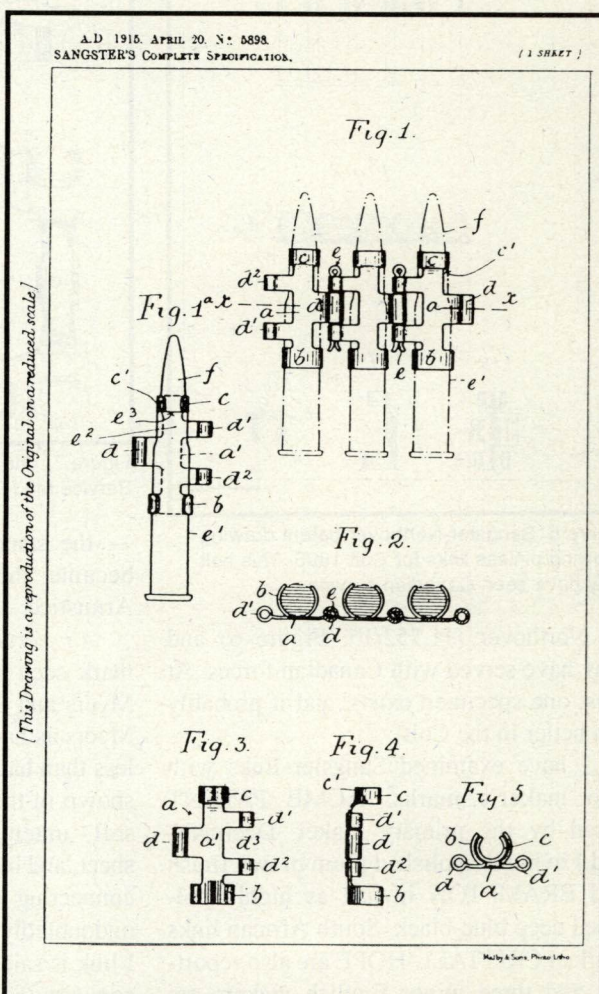
THE HOTCHKISS ARTICULATED STRIP

The Hotchkiss was perhaps less troubled by mud than by feed-system limitations. Sequential feeding of 24 to 30-round

rigid strips complicated and often interrupted the sustained fire of which the design was capable. This was especially true in an airplane (the Hotchkiss was first to score an aerial kill and first to arm a single-place fighter) or flat on one's belly in the mud.

A solution, adapted mainly to the *modele 1909* (portative), was the "articulated feed strip." This was a Hotchkiss feed strip hinged to flex backwards every three rounds so that it could be rolled on a *bobine* (spool.) Both British (.303) and French (8 x 51 R Lebel) specimens seen are flat black in finish. A 1918 British example differs very little from later British versions. It is 50 rounds in length, each segment marked HOTCHKISS, with special two-round first and six-round final segments (Figure 2) to facilitate chaining for long continuous feed. This "belt" had no lateral flex, and examples I have seen were broken by twisting.

This was further modified, perhaps first for the 11mm *Modele de Ballon*, to flex every single round. The single-round-segment belt was adapted to the air service flexible version of the *portative* (Figure 3), but probably saw very limited service since these were replaced with Lewises as fast as those became available. The original Hotchkiss was the first metallic belt to see widespread use, the first in the air, and soldiered on into WWII in British service.



THE SANGSTER BELT

The effort to find a "trench" belt, easily cleaned and immune to moisture, produced a belt (Figures 4 and 5) sometimes called the "1916 Land Service belt," for British Maxim and Vickers guns in .303.

The belt was patented (5898/15) by a Birmingham engineer, Charles T.B. Sangster. It was composed of one-piece, open single-round steel links hinged to one another by large brass split pins. The upper loop grasped the bullet so as to position it on the case mouth (Figure 5). Like the Hotchkiss, it flexed well only backward.

The Sangster proved expensive, very heavy, and prone to breaking and jamming (which led to the Prideaux patent below) and was in service only from January to October 1916. A pinless version for the Colt "potato-digger" was patented by Sangster and a Winnipeg gunsmith, Harry

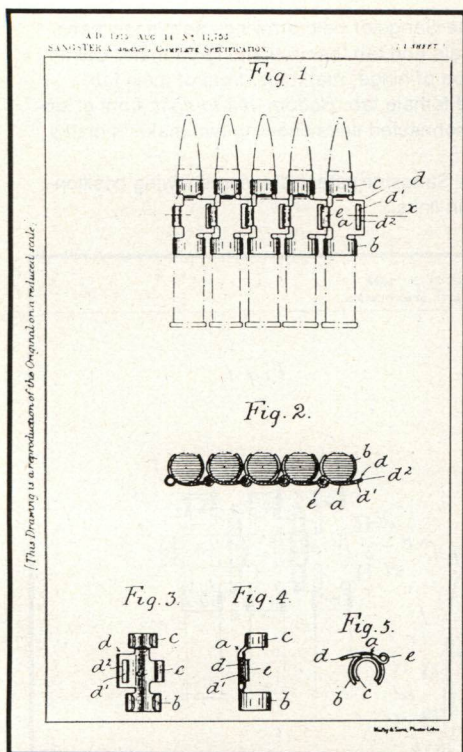


Figure 6. Sangster-Northover patent drawing showing pinless links for Colt 1895. This belt may have seen Canadian service.

R. Northover (11,752/15, Figure 6) and may have served with Canadian forces. At least one specimen exists, and it probably ran better in the Colt!

I have examined Sangster links with two maker's marks: ACME PATENT (used by the primary maker, Decimals, Ltd.) in highly polished plum brown finish and BRAMPTON in just as highly polished deep blue-black. South African links marked CRITTALL-HOPE are also reported, and three minor English makers are listed in Vickers records: Art Metal Stamping, John Mitchell, and Myers & Sons. The ACME-marked belt seen had starter tabs at both ends (the tabs vary in form, belt to belt — compare Figure 4 with Goldsmith 1994, Figure 543) and was a 25-round "shortie."

THE FIRST DISINTEGRATING BELTS

Reportedly, disintegrating Ruszitska belts were made before the war but not adopted by any service. However, in April 1916, a German aircraft fell to the French sporting a belt of one-piece sheet-metal links which disintegrated into single-round units as the cartridges were withdrawn. This belt was studied with interest by the Allies but adopted only by Britain as the Air Service Mark I (Figure 7, top) in June 1916. The Germans evidently did not adopt this or any other disintegrating belt

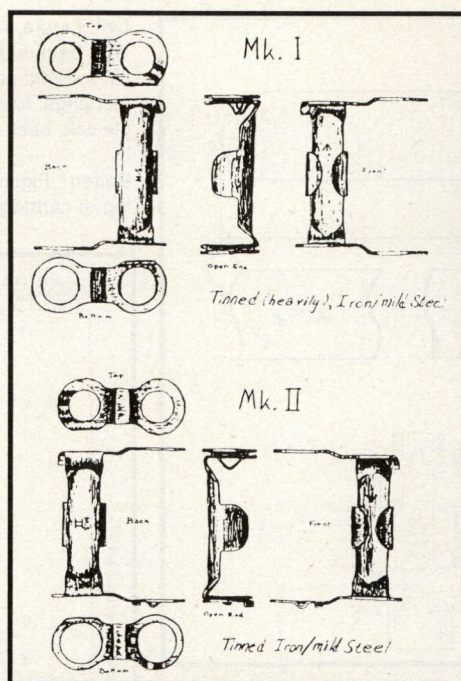


Figure 7. The first disintegrating links. Top: Air Service Mk I link. Bottom: Air Service Mk II.

— the standard German air service belt became the fabric Parabellum to the Armistice.

Air Service Mark I. The only maker's mark seen on Mk I links is the M.S. of Myers and Sons, and Vicker's records list Myers as having made only seven million, less than half the number of Sangster links shown in the same list. They are of fairly soft, untempered, tinned or galvanized sheet, and battlefield pickups show that the connecting ears were prone to bending, undoubtedly contributing to jams. The Mk I link is said to be a .303 caliber—a direct copy of the German design. This seems likely, since I have seen battlefield pickups with a contemporary tag identifying them (Broad Arrow and all) as "shell holders for German rapid firing gun."

Air Service Mark II. The Mk I was superseded in December, 1916, by the Mk II (Figure 7, bottom), a mirror image of the Mk I with some small detail changes. It has been suggested that the changes were made for "handed" Vickers guns, but this is incorrect. In 1916, twin-gun fighters were only a gleam in allied designers' eyes, let alone "handed" guns for them. The changes were made to adapt the link, originally designed for the 08/15 Maxim, to Vickers feeding habits. The Mk II remained in use until superseded by the Mk III, or Prideaux, in October 1917. Makers' marks include M.S. R&L (ROF Woolwich) and S GROVES BHAM (Samuel Groves, Birmingham). The Mk I

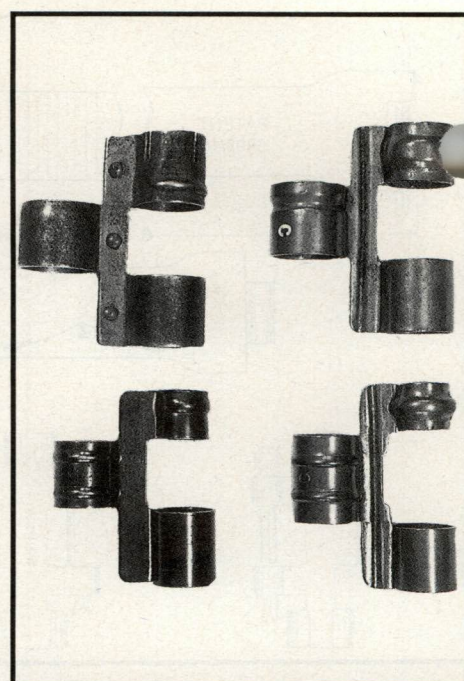


Figure 8. The Prideaux Link. Counterclockwise from bottom left: .303 Air Service Mk III; .30-06 U.S. Model 1915, copper washed, impressed C; U.S. 11 mm Vickers, copper washed, impressed C; French 11 mm Vickers, bright steel with copper rivets.

ought to be scarcer than the Mk II, and neither is common.

THE PRIDEAUX LINK

The link many recognize as "Vicker" was reportedly first offered in January 1917, and adopted into British service in October as the Air Service Link, Mark III (Figure 8, bottom left) followed by the Mk III* in December of the same year. Early (commercial?) links carry the mark PRIDEAUX and/or British patent number 125,602/16 in various arrangements. Despite his later claim to have invented the link, William de C. Prideaux's patent pertains to only a single feature of it. The patent was an attempt to cure the jamming of the Sangster belt (Prideaux, a Weymouth dental surgeon, had patented a pinless version, 15,828/15). The Sangster lacked a critical feature of the fabric belt—the cord bead along the front edge. The bead maintains alignment of the cartridge with the extractor and, most importantly, is the point of thrust for the forward feed pawl. Prideaux patented the ridge around the top loop which fills this role in Vickers links. Without it, feed is by the rear pawl only and misalignment jams occur.

The Prideaux link is a double flat link with the cartridge as pintle. When the cartridge is withdrawn, nothing connects a link to its neighbor and it falls away. The patent refers to both Prideaux's Sangster-

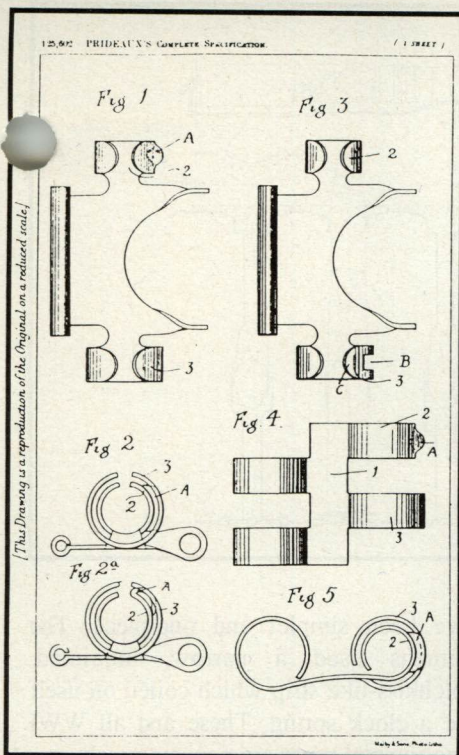


Figure 9. The Prideaux patent drawing. Note that it provides for cutting away part of the lower loop (3.B) as an alternative. This would solve the problem for the feed pawls, but not provide extractor/chamber alignment help.

type links and hinge type but does not identify the inventor of the latter or claim in (Prideaux was not bashful about claiming his inventions). It is referred to simply as "presently made." The patent drawing (Figure 9) shows a link with four loops, possibly a developmental feature (that for the experimental .600/.500 belted had five).

In WWI British service, the finish is black or deep blue-black. After WWI, such finishes as black paint, gray phosphate or tin are possible. Many maker's marks exist, as the link was in service into the Viet Nam era. PRIDEAUX-marked and Mk III links are relatively scarce, however. In WWI, it was produced in enormous quantities and adapted to U.S. Colt-Vickers guns in .30-06 and 11mm "balloon-buster" (Figure 8, bottom right, top right). U.S. links occur in several minor variations in each caliber and two finishes: copper-plated (sometimes marked C) and a "crystalline" flat black that ages gray or greenish-gray. All appear to have been made by or for Colt. French 11mm links include a bright-steel, copper-riveted, multi-part link (Figure 8, top left).

It is just barely possible that WWI Prideaux links exist in 8 x 51 R Lebel, and quite likely that French-made .303 links

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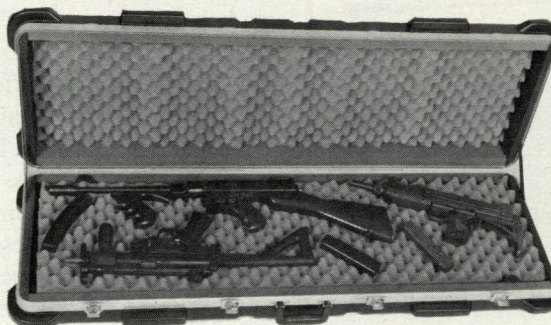
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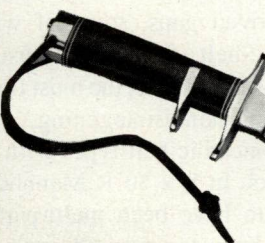
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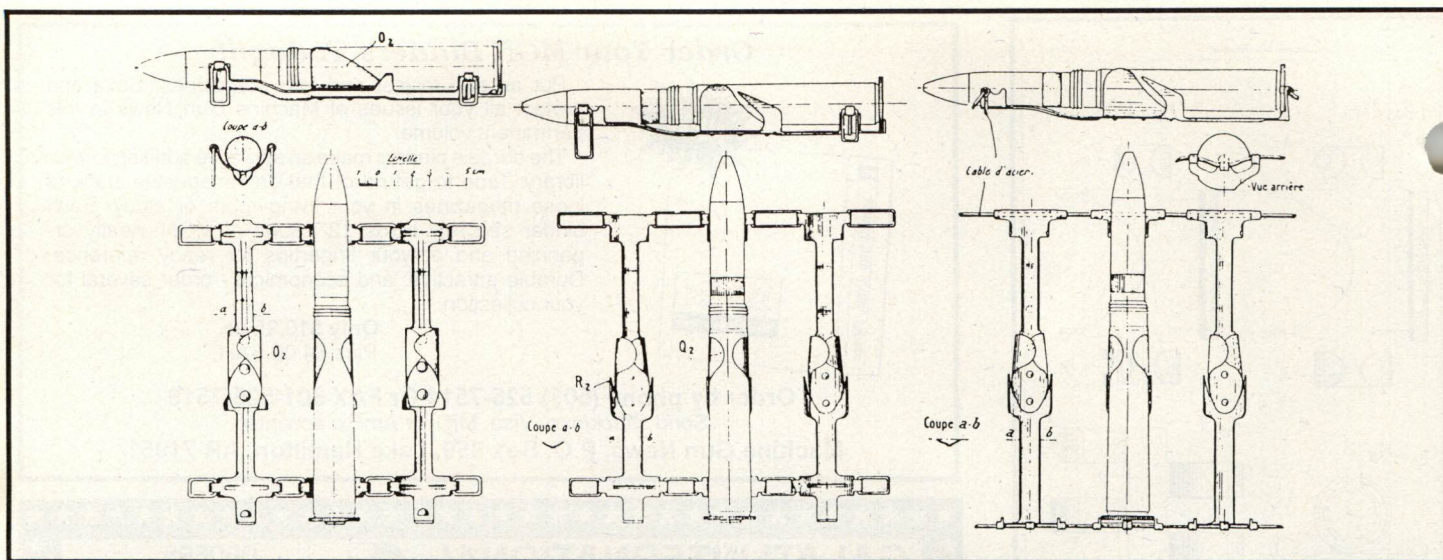


Figure 11. Szakats belts, Inter-allied Control Commission drawings. Left to right: Szakats A2, B, and C.

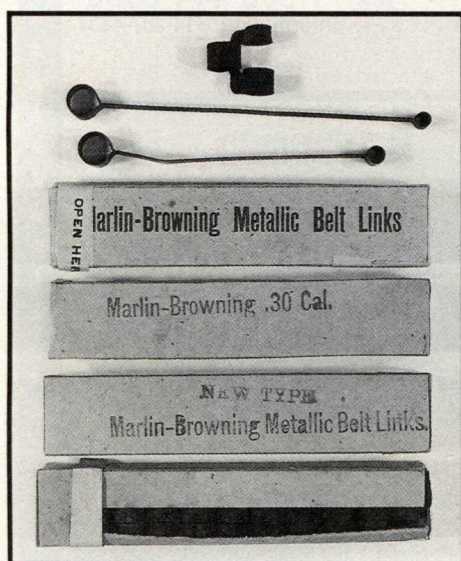


Figure 10. The Marlin-Browning link. Top to bottom: Marlin-Browning link, Marlin-Browning starter tab, .30 M1 starter tab, three different styles of box back marking, and front of ten-link box.

exist but very doubtful that any other rifle calibers saw WWI service. A few were made for the late-war experimental .303 semi-rimmed and rimless "high velocity" machine gun cartridges and for the .45 MG "flaming bullet" rounds in Gardner and Gatling, and possibly Martini-Henry, chambering. Of course, after the Great War, Prideaux links occur in just about all military and many experimental rifle calibers worldwide and larger bores to 40 mm.

THE MARLIN-BROWNING LINK

The first Prideaux descendant was in U.S. service by the end of the war—the Marlin-Browning Metallic Belt Link (Figure 10). A modification of the Prideaux by simplification and geometric adaptation to the new guns, it was designed

to run in both, unlike fabric belts for each. Being standard issue in 500-round belts for the Marlin in combat, over 59 million were made by the Armistice. Most readers will be familiar with it as the .30 Browning M1 link, and WWI links differ from later versions only in small details and the "crystalline" flat black finish. Like U.S. Vickers links, these were made by or for Colt. Copper-plated Marlin-Browning links may therefore exist, but I presently doubt it.

Starter tabs were packed in pairs in a link box and differ from later Browning starters. The loops at the ends are the same, but the body is longer and straight. The ends are tempered, but the body is not, so the armorer can bend it as needed to thread it through the cramped aircraft guns.

WARTIME EXPERIMENTALS

This discussion has covered only issue belt types. There were experiments on both sides; information on which is scarce. Only German projects active at the Armistice are well documented. The best known late WWI metallic belt-fed experimental is the Szakats 19mm cannon, recorded in detail by the Inter-Allied Control Commission. Its nondisintegrating belts (Figure 11) had variously connected and quite complex links to allow enough loop flexibility for the case rim to pass through.

The Central Powers also experimented with motor-driven guns, some of which were metallic-belt fed. The Austrian Gebauer seems to have left the most traces. It used several nondisintegrating, open, push-through metallic belt types with single-round links. In 8 x 50 R Mannlicher, these appear to have been multi-part, as push-through links for rimmed cartridges often are, but later 7.92 x 57 links seem to

have been simpler and one-piece. The Siemens used a narrow, unjointed, Hotchkiss-like strip which coiled on itself like a clock spring. These and all WWI experimental types are now extremely rare to non-existent.

CONCLUSION

Though German and Soviet developments between the wars added to the diversity of metallic belt design, WWI gave us the forms perhaps still most familiar, and still the best for a pull-out belt-feed mechanism. I hope these notes shed some light on their origins and encourage others to further research.

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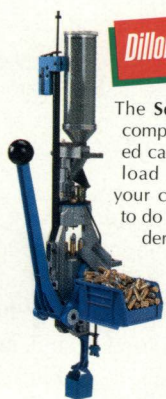
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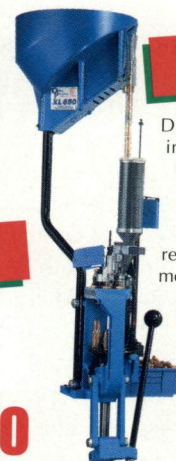
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TREXPO East '94

Showcases Gun Developments, Trends

Text & photos by ROBERT HAUSMAN

TREXPO (Tactical Response Expo), the twice yearly (on alternating coasts) conference and exhibition for those whose work involves extreme threat/high risk operations, was held recently in Washington, D.C. More than 1,000 persons whose employment cuts across the lines of law enforcement, private security, corrections, government agency and military personnel representing over 40 countries were said to have attended. TREXPO's three part program was divided into a 14-class conference, a product exhibition (both at the Sheraton Washington Hotel), and live fire and tactical equipment demonstrations held at the Metropolitan Police Department Special Operations Training Range. The program began August 9th and ran through August 12th, 1994, with admission only to qualified persons with proper credentials.

CONFERENCE PROGRAM

Among the more notable seminars was that presented by Anthony J. Scotti who taught techniques of shooting from a vehicle. This marked the first time Scotti has presented this technique outside the Scotti School. He is considered a world leader in teaching driving skills and personal security programs for police, military, chauffeurs, and heads of state. A practical lecture on the training concept of the Personal Protection Specialist, which emphasizes planning and advance work to avoid confrontation in providing advanced security for executives and dignitaries, was presented by Dr. Richard W. Kobetz, executive director of the Executive Training Institute. Phil Singleton, a former H&K trainer and now head of his

own firm (Singleton International), presented a talk on "Dynamic Clearing—Trains and Buses," which is considered one of the most challenging of tactical operations. The presentation included a hands-on demo.

Other conference program topics included: Managing Hostage, Barricade Situations; Corporate & Private Aircraft Security; Aircraft Assaults; Workplace Violence; Special Event Security; Risk Analysis and Threat Assessment; and Sniper/Counter Sniper.

THE EXHIBITION

Equipment and services on display included automatic weapons as well as assault, surveillance communications, night vision and airborne equipment, dynamic and explosive entry gear, and training systems. Details on some of the more interesting exhibits are herewith presented.

ITHACA GUN

An interesting new device for bomb disposal was demonstrated by Ithaca Acquisition Corp. Dubbed the Mark I & II Disruptor, this tripod-mounted cannon allows disposal personnel to effectively disarm a suspected bomb or other destructive device. Weighing less than 30 pounds, its solid stainless steel barrel is said to allow for pin-point accuracy, whether the goal is to destroy a suspicious object or to merely disarm to allow further investigation. It is available in .410 bore, as well as 20, 16, 12 and 10 gauges and .50 caliber. There are three styles of end caps available for electrical or Delcoid firing.

Interestingly enough, Ithaca reps say that, while the device utilizes common shotgun and rifle cartridges, it is classified by the BATF as a non-gun (it is considered to be just a tool) which means there are no federal restrictions on its sale. (Author's note: how many of you subgunners out there think of the objects of your affection as "just tools?") However, the manufacturer and marketer of this device restricts

sales to law enforcement and government agencies only. Sorry guys.

While Ithaca officials consider whether or not to acquire the Disruptor, they are also considering making a deal with Neostead, a South African producer of a high-tech-looking, bull-pup style pump action shotgun. First shown in the U.S. during the 1993 American Defense Preparedness Association's Small Arms Conference (see *MGN's* 12/93 issue for more details), an improved version of the Neostead gun generated a lot of interest at TREXPO.

A somewhat radical boltless piece, the Neostead employs top mounted twin magazine tubes permitting selective or alternate feeding of up to 13 shells. The tubes are loaded in the break barrel design, much like the manner in which a double barrel shotgun is loaded. Slots on top of the tubes allow visual monitoring of the ammunition supply. Its compact size (27.1 inches in length) and bottom hull ejection make it ideal for use in confined spaces such as vehicles.

Neostead's design team is also working on a new style of sporting shotgun as well as a new rifle, "which will address all of the problems inherent in bull-pup style rifle designs of the past," says a company spokesman. The firm is also rumored to be developing a 40mm grenade launcher.

Some interesting information on South African gun laws was provided by Heyns Stead, Neostead's director. Citizens carry a "book of life" which contains their driver's license, other essential papers and the required firearms license. All guns must be registered, and ownership of up to 12 guns is permitted. To own a greater number of arms, a special application must be made. Civilian ownership of full autos is prohibited, as are semi-autos. Silencers, however are unrestricted and there are no magazine capacity restrictions.

Stead adds that most guns used in crime in his country are full auto AK-47's

which are smuggled in from the neighboring countries of Angola and Mozambique. The guns are purchased in those countries for the equivalent of \$50 and then resold illegally in South Africa for up to \$1,500.

ROYAL ARMS INT.

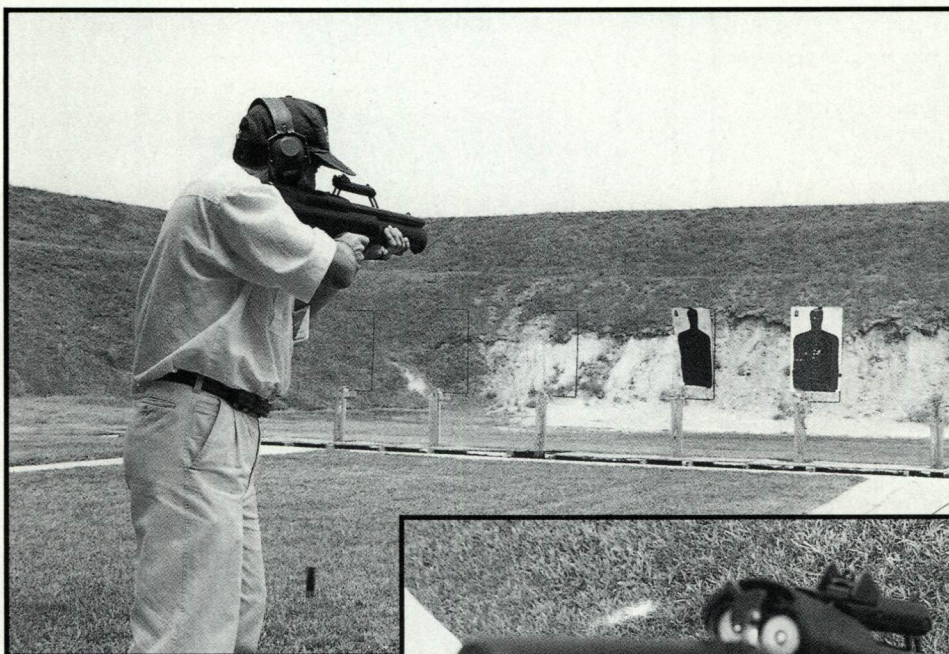
Tactical Entry Safe Avon Rounds (TESAR), for use during high-risk entries, were shown by Royal Arms International. Intended as a faster alternative to manual door breaking or ramming, the system employs a frangible round and Breacher devices to turn a 12-gauge shotgun into a tactical entry tool. Properly applied, the compressed copper powder slugs are fired point-blank directly at the lock and/or hinge mechanisms of a door. As the rounds defeat these mechanisms, they disintegrate while possibly allowing only fine copper powder to penetrate to interior of the structure.

The use of copper powder slugs eliminates the possibility of dangerous re-fusing of the slug material, says a company spokesman. Compressed zinc powder or glue lead-shot slugs may re-fuse and send shrapnel behind the door, creating a potentially injurious or lethal situation. While compressed copper will re-fuse at 2,296° Fahrenheit, compressed zinc and glued

lead shot will re-fuse at 890° and 693° respectively, according to Royal Arms. Two types of rounds are available: the first for use on solid wood and hollow-core doors and the other for metal doors and heavy hinges. The ammo is sold only to police and military buyers.

TESAR rounds should be used in conjunction with a Door Breacher to relieve muzzle gas pressure so that the shotgun's muzzle may be placed in direct contact

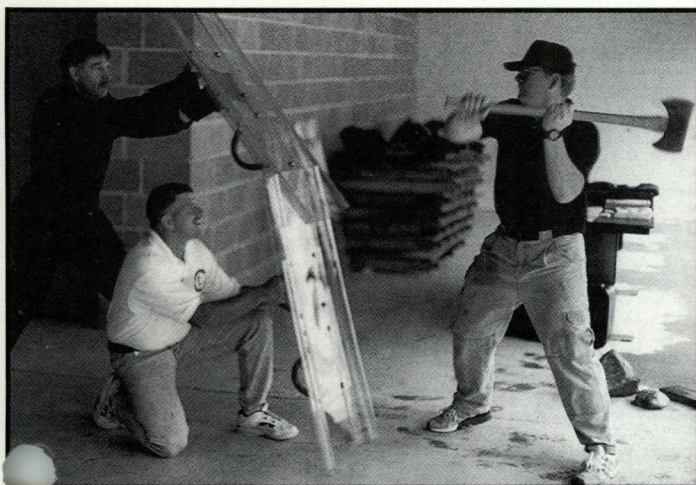
with the target without fear of barrel blow-up. Royal's Door Breachers are machined from titanium, steel or aluminum, and contain 30 3/8" diameter gas vent ports drilled at specific locations and angles around the device's circumference to relieve the high-velocity (10,000-12,000 fps) gases pro-



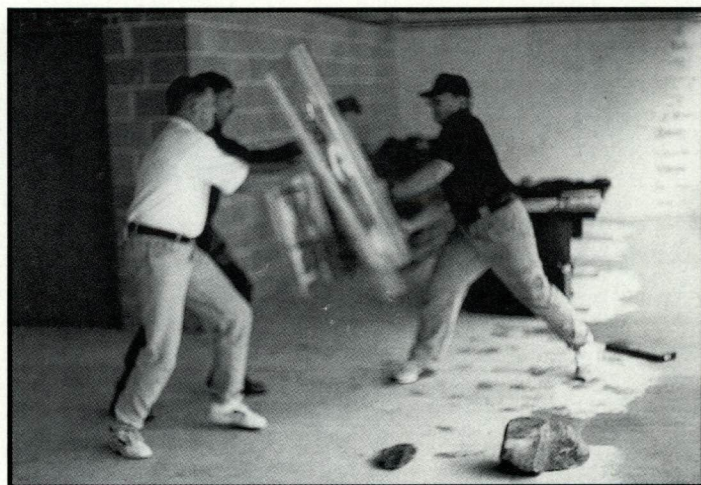
Left: The Neostead on the range, note empty hull falling straight down.



Below: Twin magazine tubes of the Neostead shotgun in loading position.



Attendees were offered all sorts of hands-on product demonstrations. At the 1993 TREXPO East show, noted firearms, tactics and equipment instructor, Mel Parry (dressed in black at far left) and an assistant demonstrate the capabilities of a protective shield versus a heavy axe wielded by a volunteer.



Luckily for Mr. Parry, the shield performed its duty and protected him from the axe's blade which did not penetrate.

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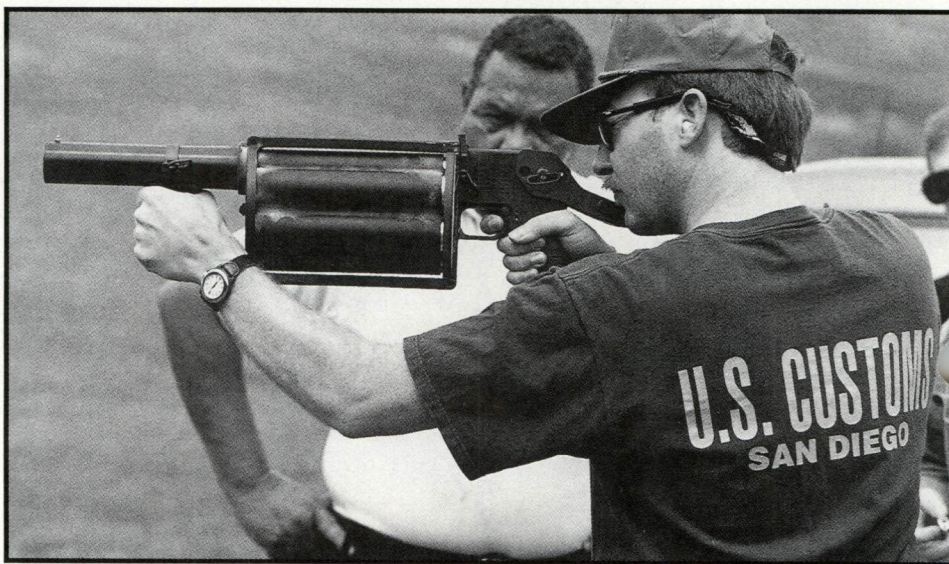


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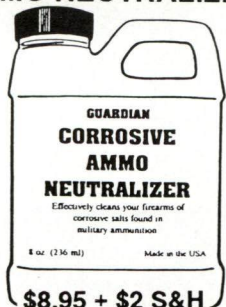
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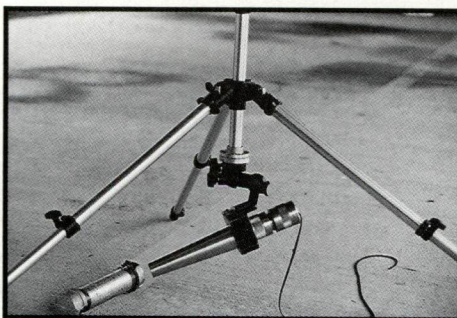
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duced during the firing of the round. The devices which provide the critical 3" stand-off from the target required to safely clear the barrel offer reduced recoil and still allow the shotgun to be used with general-purpose rounds.

PENN ARMS

Penn Arms, former manufacturer of the Striker 12 (a revolving cylinder shotgun

which many readers will remember was recently re-classified as a Destructive Device, thereby effectively ending its sale) is still producing a similar looking product which fires 37mm ammunition. Dubbed the L6-37mm Multi-Launcher, it employs a revolver type spring motor-driven magazine with mechanically operated magazine stops. Offering a 6-shot capacity, all 37mm ammunition up to 6.2 inches in length can be handled by its 9-inch smooth bore barrel. Rate of fire is stated at six shots within three seconds.

A Penn Arms rep says the firm is working on designs for more "politically correct" shotguns without the drum magazine, but prototypes and actual marketing of such designs are at least one year away.

STURM, RUGER

A new pistol cartridge-chambered carbine, which features magazine interchangeability with Ruger handguns, is said

Machine Gun News - December 1994

to be under development by Sturm, Ruger & Co., trade sources say. Prototypes have been developed in .40 cal. and 9mm with other chamberings under consideration. Featuring a black composite stock and carrying scope mounting ring bases in the receiver, the blowback operated carbine is said to be similar in profile to the popular Ruger 10/22 .22 rimfire carbine. The advantages of the small caliber design are minimum over penetration risk and reduced range for use in urban environments.

A .45 cal. double action, only version of the Ruger P90, is said to be in development. Currently the 7-shot P90 is offered in an ambidextrous Manual Safety model and a Decock-Only model, both in stainless steel. A prototype IPSC pistol is also rumored to be under development.

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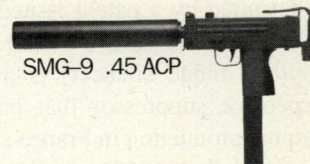


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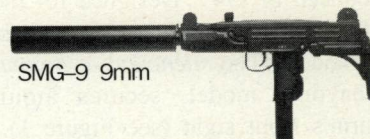
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Design and Performance of

by AL PAULSON

Inspired by a patent issued to Walter E. Westfall in 1914—the *Silencieux Unique* (Unique silencer) is a light and inexpensive suppressor that has been in continual production in France since it was introduced in 1949. Designed for the .22 rimfire, the Unique silencer is available in two models. The *silencieux a baionnette*, or bayonet model, secures around a firearm's front sight (see Figure 1). The *silencieux a embout fileté*, or screw-on model, requires a threaded barrel. The .22 caliber Unique silencer is widely encountered on French .22 rifles and pistols, but it can also be seen on .25 ACP and .32 ACP pistols thanks to the large aperture in its baffles. Several different Unique silencers were made in .380 caliber for testing and evaluation, but these variants never went into production.

One published account asserts that the Unique silencer was used by Resistance fighters during World War II for assassinating Nazi officers. This seems unlikely

since factory literature says that the silencer did not go into production until four years after the war ended.

Other myths about French silencers abound in the literature. While neither the *Silencieux Unique* nor its use of springs was patented, Sigfried Huebner asserts in his book, *Silencers for Hand Firearms*, that his Figure 4f is a patent drawing. In reality, Huebner's schematic probably came from factory literature rather than a patent. The drawing that accompanies this article was also adapted from a factory flyer. Furthermore, Huebner asserts that the French Diskreet and Still silencers employ springs between baffles. Actual disassembly of Diskreet and Still silencers, however, revealed no springs in these units contrary to Huebner's claims.

One notable French silencer using a spring did receive a patent. It was issued to Henri-Auguste-Joseph Guarnieri in 1951 based on work completed two years earlier. Guarnieri's silencer used a single

spring between the second and third baffle (see Figure 2). Expanding combustion gases pushing against the first two baffles would theoretically compress the spring, and this additional work would increase the efficiency of the silencer.

In a land where barrels are licensed but receivers and silencers are not, dealer cost for the Unique runs about \$10 and the can retails for about \$30. The total lack of regulations governing silencers has permitted their mass production at an enviably low cost which has helped make the *Silencieux Unique* quite attractive to French shooters.

Ubiquitous in France and virtually unknown in the States, the Unique silencer is usually described as "inefficient" or "disappointing" in print, when it is described at all. While the Unique is no Archangel III, I was surprised to observe that this simple French suppressor performs better than English-language accounts have suggested, especially when employed with the proper ammunition.

DESIGN

The original factory specs on the two production models of the Unique silencer are listed in Table 1. The screw-on Unique suppressor was tested for this article. Its specifications differ slightly from the original factory specs listed in Table 1. This recently-made Unique silencer features an extruded aluminum tube 6.1 inches (155 mm) long with a knurled rear end cap that adds an additional 0.16 inch (4 mm) to the overall length of the suppressor (6.3 inches, 159 mm). The suppressor consists of the tube, a rear end cap (mount), and a baffle stack composed of five alternating springs and baffles. The baffles are simple flat aluminum washers 0.81 inch (20.7 mm) in diameter and 0.16 inch (4 mm) thick with an aperture of 0.39 inch (10 mm). The suppressor tube, rear end cap and front baffle are anodized, while the remaining four baffles are left unfinished. All baffles appear black in the accompanying photographs because of carbon build up. The front 5.2 inches (131 mm) of the tube has an external diameter of 0.91 inch (23 mm), while the remaining rear portion has a diameter of 0.98 inch (25 mm). The

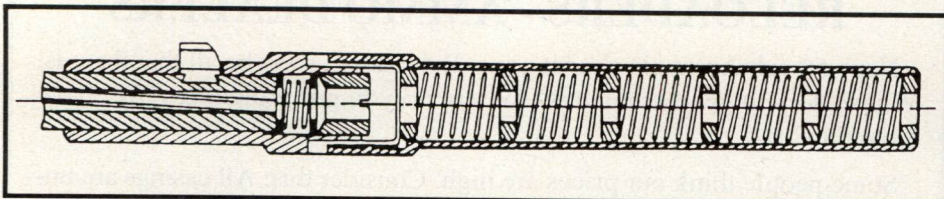


Figure 1. Schematic of the bayonet model Unique silencer.

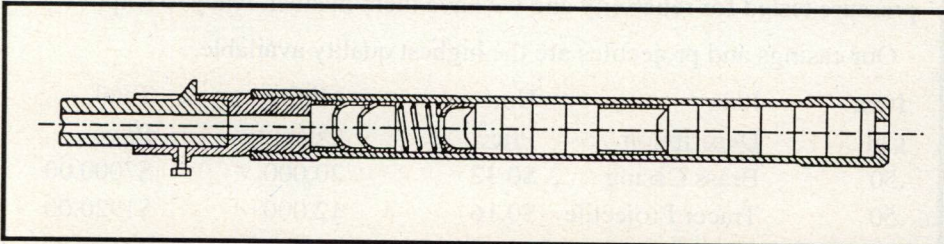


Figure 2. This patented design by Henri-Auguste-Joseph Guarnieri used a single spring in the silencer between the second and third baffle.

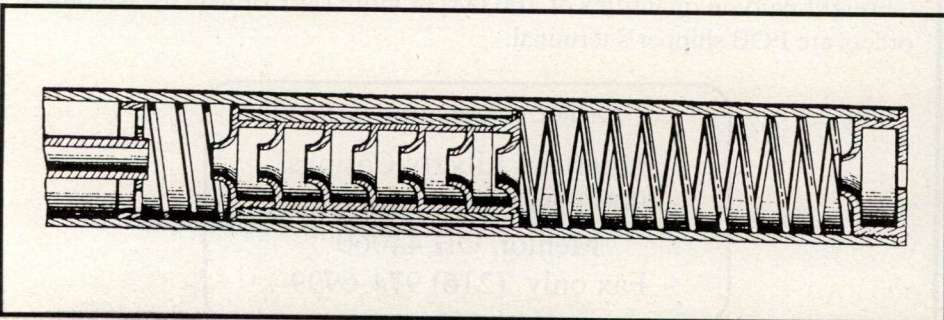


Figure 3. The Unique silencer was inspired by a 1914 patent on this design by Walter E. Westfall.

the French Silencieux Unique

Unique tested for this article weighs a mere 3.0 ounces (84 grams).

The front edge of the tube is rolled over to form a small lip that captures the front baffle. The front opening in the tube is 0.68 inch (17.3 mm) across, but the front baffle reduces this aperture to 0.39 inch (10 mm) which is an unusually large opening for a .22 caliber suppressor. Incorporating such a large opening makes sense when one examines the population of rifles in the French countryside. Many .22 rifles in France feature muzzle threads, but the threading tends to be rather crude; a suppressor will rarely line up with a rifle's bore. The 1/2x20 TPI threading in the Unique's rear end cap is also crude and will not screw more than a few turns on threading made to U.S. specs. In any event, there is no risk of a bullet striking a baffle in a Unique silencer—thanks to the very large aperture size. The trade off is reduced efficiency to ensure accuracy and safety.

It is important to note that proper alignment is frequently a problem in the States as well, especially when a suppressor must align itself using only threads. Much better alignment is produced by incorporating a shoulder on the barrel that is perpendicular and concentric to the bore. The suppressor must then feature a corresponding surface that properly aligns the suppressor with the bore when the suppressor is tightly screwed in place. The old Maxim silencers used such a system to achieve proper alignment.

The intent of the design in the *Silencieux Unique* is that each spring functions as more than a mere baffle spacer. The spring also absorbs some gas energy as combustion gases force the baffle forward. Compressing the spring robs the gases of energy that would be perceived as sound. As alluded to earlier, this concept was introduced and a patent was issued to Walter Westfall, who lived in Maryville, Missouri. Westfall's patent incorporated several interesting features. Westfall's design (Figure 3) incorporated a primary expansion chamber and baffle stack in front of the muzzle. The suppressor tube also encapsulated the entire length of the

unported barrel. A ported barrel-bushing at the muzzle vented high-pressure gas from the primary expansion chamber into the secondary expansion chamber surrounding the barrel—much like the Vaime Mk2 Silent Sniper Rifle made in Finland in the 1980s.

The baffle stack in the Westfall silencer was encapsulated in a sleeve which was suspended between two springs. A short spring separated the baffle stack from the barrel-bushing, while a long spring separated the baffle stack from the front end cap. Combustion gases would drive the

entire baffle stack forward as a unit, depressing the front return spring. A simplified variant employed flat instead of conical baffles.

While the Unique silencer uses spring power to reduce the energy content of combustion gases, it employs springs for each baffle rather than one spring for the entire baffle stack. The Unique also incorporates flat washers for baffles like the simplified Westfall silencer. The outer edge of a Unique baffle is rounded to minimize friction with the inner surface of the suppressor tube. The rear spring locks the end cap (mount) in place (unless a pencil or other implement is used to push against the rearmost baffle to depress the baffle stack) and releases the pressure of the rearmost spring against the end cap.

The relatively soft springs are 0.78 inch

Table 1. Original factory specifications for the two variants of the *Silencieux Unique*.

Bayonet Mount Unique Silencer	
Length	225 mm (8.9 inches)
Maximum diameter	25 mm (0.98 inch)
Weight	125 grams (4.4 ounces)
Number of baffles	6
Screw Mount Unique Silencer	
Length	160 mm (6.3 inches)
Maximum diameter	26 mm (1.02 inches)
Weight	100 grams (3.5 ounces)
Number of baffles	5

Table 3. Net sound reductions.

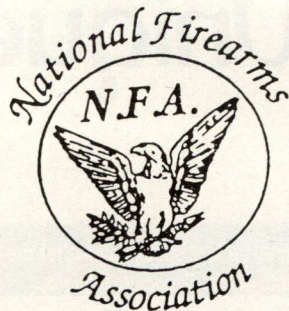
Gun	Suppressor	Federal HV LR	Hansen SV LR	Baikal SS LR	Federal CB Longs	Temperature °F (°C)
Winchester 63A	Unique	17	16	20	20	81(28)
Ruger 77/22	AWC Archangel I	21	17	24	28	82(29)
Marlin 780	Ciener	19	19	—	—	82(29)

Table 2. Sound signatures in decibels of suppressor tests.

Gun	Suppressor	Federal HV LR	Hansen SV LR	Baikal SS LR	Federal CB Longs	Temperature °F (°C)
Winchester 63A	None	141	137	137	130	81(28)
Winchester 63A	Unique	124	121	117	110	81(28)
Ruger 77/22	None	141	137	138	132	82(29)
Ruger 77/22	AWC Archangel I	120	120	114	104	82(29)
Marlin 780	None	141	138	—	—	82(29)
Marlin 780	Ciener	122	119	—	—	82(29)

(19.7 mm) in diameter and 1.9 inches (48 mm) long before assembly of the suppressor. The springs space the five baffles 0.94 inch (24 mm) apart when the suppressor is assembled. Better suppressor designers will immediately recognize that this is far from optimum spacing for a .22 rimfire suppressor. It should be possible to significantly improve the Unique's performance by using springs of different lengths to achieve optimum spacing.

Nevertheless, the real beauty of the Unique silencer is that it distills Westfall's concepts to their minimal essence, providing a uniquely light and inexpensive product. While most accounts allude to the unit's poor performance, the can seemed quiet enough for discrete target practice when using subsonic ammunition. I decided to test my subjective opinion by mea-

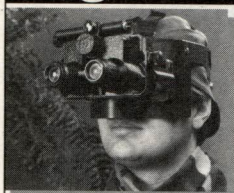


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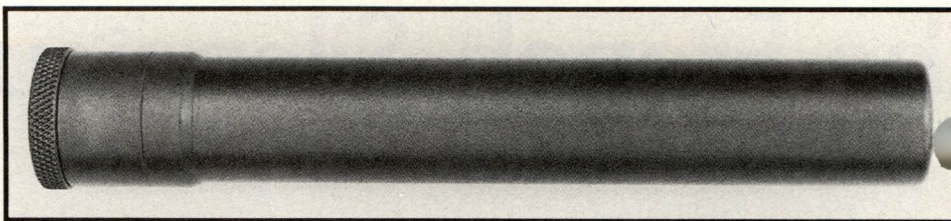


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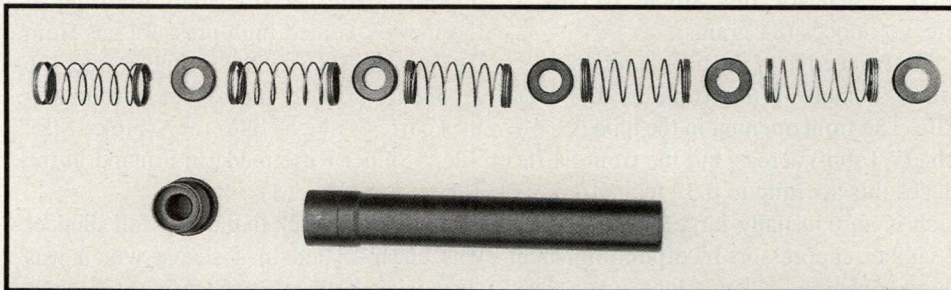
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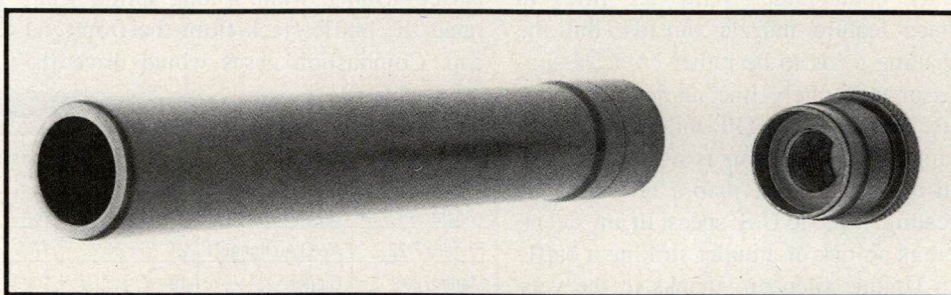
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The screw-on model of the Unique silencer.



Disassembled Unique silencer, showing springs that both position the simple flat baffles and absorb some energy from the expanding combustion gases.



This recently made Unique silencer features an extruded aluminum tube and a knurled rear end cap.

During the sound signature produced by the Unique silencer using a diverse array of ammunition.

PERFORMANCE

Sound signatures were measured using a Bruel and Kjaer Type 2209 Impulse Precision Sound Pressure Meter (set on A weighting) with a B&K Type 4136 1/4-inch condenser microphone. The microphone was placed 1.00 meter away from the front of the suppressor or muzzle at a 90 degree angle from the bullet flight path. The meter was calibrated just before and just after the tests with a B&K 4230 calibrator. No instrument drift was observed. The ambient temperature during each test is listed in the accompanying tables.

The Unique suppressor was tested on a Winchester Model 63A rifle with the following Long Rifle ammunition: Federal high velocity, Hansen standard velocity, and Baikal Junior Brass subsonic. Federal CB Longs were also tested.

The sound signatures of the suppressed and unsuppressed rifles appear in Table 2, which also includes test data on the AWC Archangel I (AWC is now building the third generation Archangel III) mounted on a Ruger 77/22 and data on a Ciener integral suppressor on the Marlin 780 rifle. Net

sound reductions are shown in Table 3.

One widely distributed book asserts that the performance of the .22 caliber Unique silencer is "not very good." The data generated for this article suggests otherwise. The Winchester rifle with the Unique silencer produced sound signatures within 2 or 3 decibels of the Marlin rifle with a Ciener integral suppressor. That's not too shabby for a simple, ultralight, \$30 suppressor.

Subjectively, the Unique does seem loud with high velocity ammunition because of the ballistic crack (sonic boom) produced by supersonic projectiles. When employed with subsonic Long Rifle ammunition, however, the *Silencieux Unique* provides a pleasing sound signature that is suitable for discrete target practice in the back yard or basement. When employed with CB Longs, the sound signature is 2 decibels quieter than the sound produced by pulling the trigger on a Ruger 77/22 with an empty chamber! One of the foremost foreign suppressor authorities tells me that his experiences with the *Silencieux Unique* parallel my own. He recalls that the Unique performed well on .22 caliber pistols as well.

Few silencers have been in continuous
 Machine Gun News - December 1994

production for as long as the Unique silencer, with the exception of the Australian Goldspot and the British Parker Hale suppressors. Like the Unique, the Goldspot .22 caliber silencer was introduced in 1949, and about 250,000 Goldspot suppressors had been manufactured by 1980. Then all Australian states banned suppressors (except by Special Permit in Tasmania and New South Wales). Loopholes in the wording of various Australian laws permitted the ownership of suppressors as long as the cans were not mounted on a firearm, but these loopholes were eventually closed. As far as I know, the only other suppressor with such a lengthy production run is the Parker Hale silencer, which is very similar to the Maxim Model 1921. These latter two suppressors will soon be evaluated in *Machine Gun News*.

How many Unique silencers have been produced since their introduction nearly a half century ago? While comprehensive production figures are not available, two production runs of 5,000 units each were produced in one year for which I have information. If that year was typical, there could be nearly a half million Unique silencers in France. That's about ten times the number of silencers registered in the United States since 1934!

CONCLUSIONS

Clearly, previously published conclusions on the importance and performance of the *Silencieux Unique* need to be revised. The Unique silencer has arguably become as much a part of French culture as the Winchester Model 94 carbine has become part of the American culture. The Unique silencer provides acceptable performance on rifles and pistols, especially considering the Unique's simple design, small volume and light weight. When employed with subsonic Long Rifle ammunition, the silencer provides enough suppression for discrete target practice almost anywhere. When employed with CB Longs in a rifle, the Unique is comparably discrete to dry firing a Ruger 77/22. The sound of bullet impact becomes the dominant event when shooting CB Longs as far as spectators or neighbors are concerned. The *Silencieux Unique* enables French shooters to discretely target practice in their garages and gardens without aggravating their neighbors. There's an old saying that asserts 10,000 Frenchmen can't be wrong.

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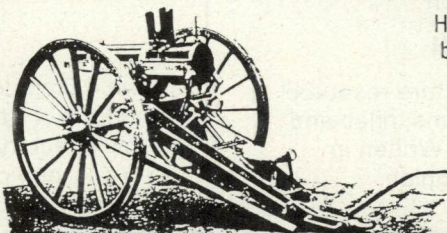
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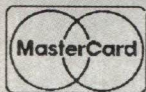
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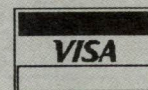
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"READY ON THE RIGHT?" Shouted Chief R.S.O. MSgt. Dennis Dop (U.S. Army, Active), into the bullhorn. Thumbs went up flashing white in the sun.

"READY ON THE LEFT?" Eager shooters thrust their hands to the sky. The air fairly bristled with excitement.

"ALL READY ON THE FIRING LINE! ONE MAD MINUTE! COMMENCE FIRE..." and so began the 1994 edition of the 9th annual Fun & Freedom Shoot, as Dennis was drowned out by the sheer cacophony of sound emanating from over 86 weapons.

This year's Fun and Freedom Shoot was simply the biggest and the best one yet, with 86 shooters and 165 spectators in attendance over the three days, from Friday August 12 to Sunday August 14, 1994. Held at Roger Wells' Rifle Club range in Kearney County, Nebraska, a native natural prairie grass area only two miles south of the old Ft. Kearney—Oregon trail. Situated smack dab in the middle of the state of Nebraska, just south of the Platte River, 4 miles south of the city of Kearney, Nebraska.

The first thing newcomers notice about the firing area is the natural beauty of the prairie. Then they become amazed at being able to shoot over range ground 800 yards in depth. This allows the emplacement of targets both near and "way the dadgum

heck out thar." Roger Wells also has a set of rifle silhouettes set up that begin at 200 meters for the chickens, with 300-meter pigs, 385 meter turkeys, and 500-meter rams. The rams are lots of fun to engage with the belt-fed arms, like Ed Boyer's or Rich Pugsley's FN-MAG 58's.

We always have the excellent JG Dapkus Exploding Bullseye targets for blasts; this year we added oxygen/acetylene bombs in plastic milk jugs. (Kids, don't try these at home.) I've been told we don't really have a shoot until we get

are just a tad leery of dynamite. (It seems those Dragon's Breath shotgun shells of Blammo Ammo are spectacularly efficient and well named.)

For 1994, our Nebraska weather was typically Nebraskan. If you don't like Nebraska weather, wait a couple of hours; it'll change. Friday dawned clear and warm; highs in the 90's and just a bit humid. The Fun & Freedom Shoot crowd is learning to arrive early to set up on Friday. They get their choice of positions on the line, set up their displays, make camp, and then get in line for free Friday night BBQ. As a former professional chef, I like to think they come for my BBQ, but this year my wife, Chris, threw me out of the cooking area because I collapsed her telescoping grill while trying to flip the pork ribs.

Early arrivals included Steve Wagner and his group of folks from Carter Lake, Iowa and Omaha, Nebraska; Rich Pugsley (R&R Guns and Thunder Valley Gatling Gun Co.) and daughter Sarah from Palmyra, Nebraska; and Chuck Eming and the 2nd Maryland Regiment Foot, from Bellevue,

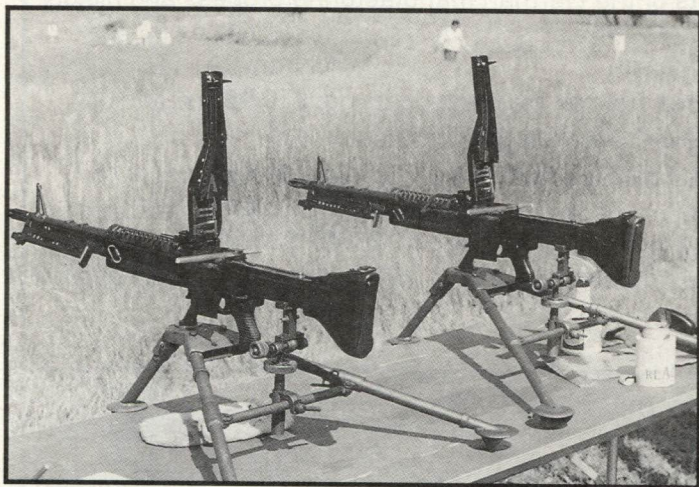
Nebraska. Chuck is the owner of "Old Fontanelle Gun Shop," a unique log cabin gunshop and smithy in Bellevue.

People just kept arriving Friday evening. Everybody was hungry and eager to warm up their guns. After a check downrange to ensure that some cattle about a mile and half away were still contained in their fenced-in area, and the admonition, "Just don't shoot the car yet. We don't have the water sprayer here," we just had

FUN & FREEDOM SHOOT 1994

BY WALTER B. KAMP II

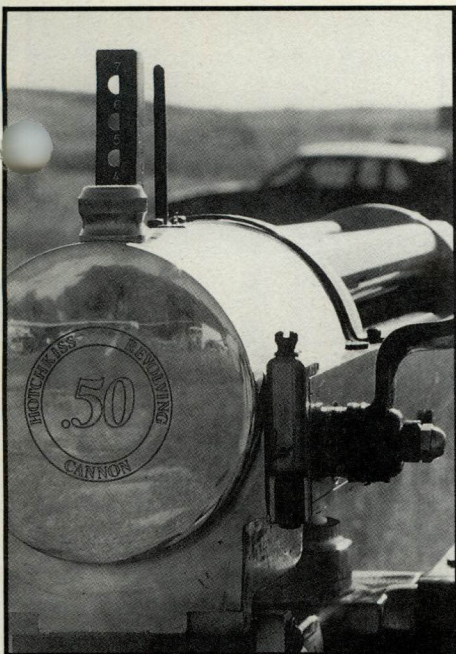
dynamite. Any Nebraska reader care to help us get dynamite for the 1995 shoot? We need someone with a Nebraska Explosives User permit, a day box, and a source for 60% nitro dynamite; and of course the money. Roger Wells and I are a little concerned that dynamite would start a grass fire. After the disastrous conflagration in May of 1992, during which over 100 acres burned, and where yours truly earned the new nickname of "Torch," we



Roger Nelson's twin M60s.



Chuck Eming and his Russian DP Degtyarev in 7.62x54 Russian.

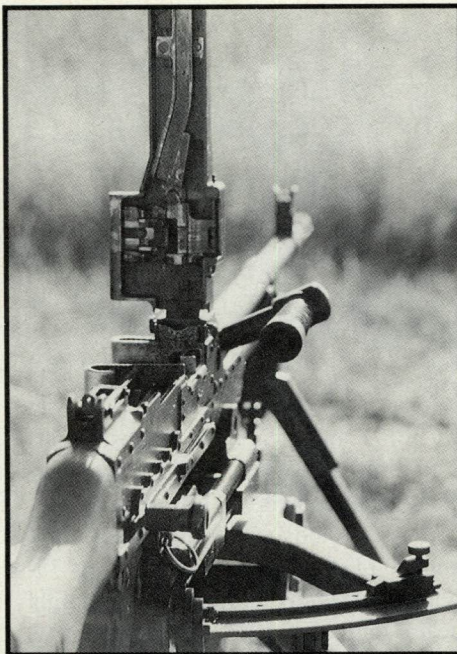


Thunder Valley Gatling Gun Company's new item, a five-barreled revolving Cannon, in .50 cal. BMG. Seven shot, gravity feed from top hopper, gorgeous.

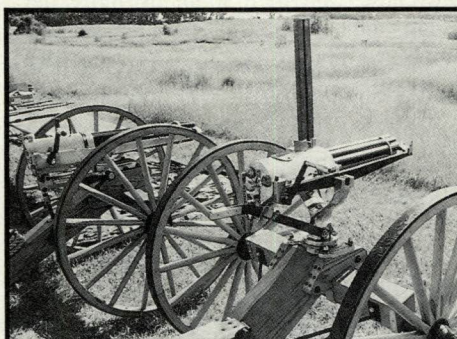
to let those die-hard shooters turn 'em loose. After about two hours it started to get dark and most everyone sorta quieted down. I later learned from the night security guards that some of the hardy shooters didn't go to bed until 3 a.m.

Saturday started out FOGGY. It was visibility to 1/4 mile, and by 8:30, with shooting supposed to start by 11:00, I was starting to get worried again. Ha! Count on Nebraska weather to change! By 10:00 it was clear and there were shooters wanting to start blasting away. Seems that they get on the firing line and can't tell time. Is it a natural human reaction when standing behind automatic weapons to lose track of time? So, Roger Wells took a pickup truck load of volunteers downrange to go check cattle. These "cowboys" had to help string 5/8's of a mile of electric fence wire and then watch while about 30 head strayed off away downrange. It was a frustrating time, because the eager shooters wanted to know why they just couldn't shoot anyway.

By the time everything got set to start, the 2nd Maryland Regiment of Foot presented the colors, and our honorary Chaplain, FFL dealer and Class 3 owner Reverend Mark Chism gave the invocation. Then the 1st MAD MINUTE got underway with a thunderous roar. Whatever Rev. Chism said must've worked, because for the next six hours it was bright sunshine, noise, high humidity, noise, and quite warm. It was noisy, too. It



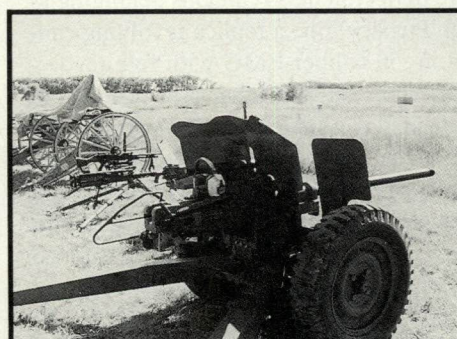
An FN-MAG 58 in search of an eager shooter.



Gatling on the right is a Camel gun Mount in 45-70. On left is the five-barrel revolving Hotchkiss Cannon. both works of art by Thunder Valley.

was soon discovered that, besides the great hamburgers, the Food Bus had ice cream and cold tea.

Pete Young and Dave Owen, both of Omaha, Nebraska, came back after a two years leave. I hope Dave's not still mad that he came up missing an HK MP-5 magazine from two years ago. Whoever took it, bring it back! Pete came driving up in his beautifully restored 1971 Chevy

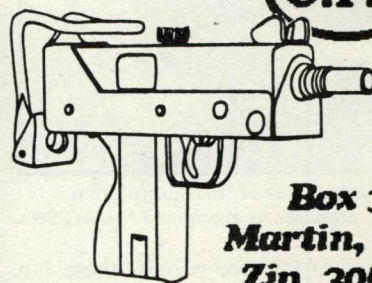


Richard Pugsley's 25mm French WWII Hotchkiss anti-tank gun. \$60 a round. \$2.50 a round using a .50 cal. BM sub-caliber device.

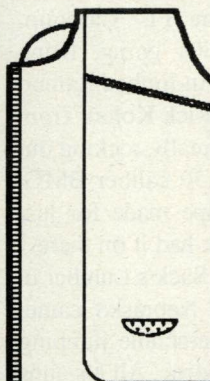
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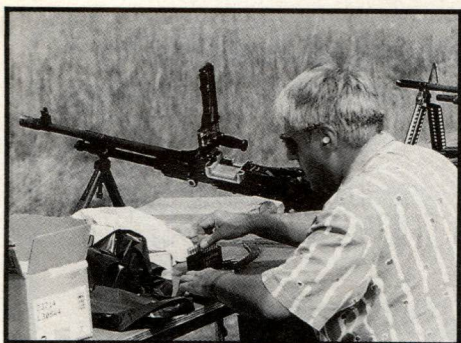
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Ed Boyer, Class 3 dealer (EHK Corp) from Omaha, NE prepares to shoot his FN-MAG 58.



Jeff Linde and his dad's M-37 BMG. His smile says it all. An RKI in training.



Brian Linde's M60.

pickup. Lots of talented people, these fun shooters.

Roger Nelson from Ft. Calhoun, Nebraska had two M-60s going, firing side-by-side. A sort of twin-limbed Rambo shoot-em up. His friend Rick Kolour from Papillion, Nebraska was really rocking out with a Barrett 82A1 in .50 caliber BMG. Leupold has a great scope made for just that caliber rifle and Rick had it on there.

Steve Sack, owner of Sack's Lumber in Central City and York, Nebraska came, being fresh back from parachute jumping with the Vietnamese Airborne. All his guns were tuned to perfection, except his MG-34, which developed a case of the runaway hiccups. Steve always brings Marine recruiter friends and good stories.

Suddenly, about 5:00 p.m., it clouded up; the wind picked up, and a typical Nebraska late afternoon thunderstorm kicked up. One inch of rain fell in less than an hour. Everybody scattered about, covering guns up and running for their vehicles. Ha! Wait a little while, it'll clear up. And it did. By 7:00 p.m. it was dry, with the range damp enough the shooters were back clamoring for Tracers for the night fire. Class 3 dealer Brian Linde from Monticello, Minnesota had several hundred rounds of tracers, and proceeded to put on a dazzling light show. Everybody who stayed got into the act. Watching the steel gongs being repeatedly hit by accurate .308 rounds from a SAR-48 H-BAR was like fireworks on the 4th of July—a glittering shower of sparks with each “twack” of the bullet.

By 9:30 p.m., with almost eleven full hours of continuous noise, we finally called the last cease fire... there were no smoldering grass fires and even the troublesome cattle seemed content to settle down.

One of the secret good things about these shoots is Saturday night. Drive into town and go to the Perkins restaurant and join the shooters who head there for late

night coffee and great belly laughs. Seems story telling and leg pulling are prerequisites for fun shooters.

Sunday. God, what a perfect day! Thank you Lord! The temperature was 75-78 degrees, sunny, and with just a slight breeze and no noticeable humidity. Everybody came back, and then some more came, and then so many more the Food bus lady ran out of burgers and I contemplated renting two more Porta-Potties. Is it a good sign when everybody is smiling? We were at less than ten minutes and counting down to our 1st MAD MINUTE of the day when the Range Master and Chief RSO noticed some cattle appear downrange, about 1,000 yards over to the right. Now I know how our shuttle astronauts must feel when they don't get to light the candle on time!

We got underway about a half-hour late, having solved for the final last time our cattle problems. No, we didn't let them shoot them.

Patty Gregoski, Dale Labenz, and Andy Olmer had made the trip down from Columbus, Nebraska for Saturday but the rain hit just as they were unloading; so Sunday was a “make-up” day for them. Showing up again this year was Randy Bonczyski of Ski's Pawn Shop, also from Columbus.

Two of the unique guns on the line were both Hotchkiss cannons belonging to Rich Pugsley: one a replica revolving cannon in .50 caliber BMG with five revolving barrels and the other a WWII 25mm Hotchkiss anti-tank gun. For anyone who has never seen one of the absolutely gorgeous Thunder Valley Gatling Gun Company's guns, I hope the photo does it justice. Polished brass, bronze, and blued steel on an oak wood carriage. Someday, in my den...

Chuck Eming and his group were having a ball shooting both their three pound bronze naval cannon and Chuck 7.62x54

Russian DP Degtyarev. Roger Schorn from Dodge, Nebraska shoots a Lewis gun. Both the Lewis and the Degtyarev have 47 round drums and they both shoot very well.

A doctor of internal medicine, Monique Kusler, and her surgeon husband Brad showed up from Council Bluffs, Iowa. They own a couple of Class 3 toys but have to store them in Nebraska—a FREE ZONE STATE. Being newlyweds, they spent about as much time hugging each other as they did shooting her Uzi and his AK-47. Ain't true love grand?

Brian Linde brought with him his M-79 blooper and some orange practice rounds. He was hitting the car and other targets out at 200 yards quite easily. His son Jeff, a of nine years of age, was a great assistant gunner for his Dad. I wonder if Jeff realizes just how special an experience this is for a young man. His engaging smile tells me he's started off on the right foot and will be a right handy RKI in a few years.

On the far left of the line, atop what I call turtle hill, sat a 3/4 scale Parrot and a full-scale Mountain Howitzer being fired from Colin Penny from North Platte, Nebraska and his brother Wayne, from Newton, Kansas. They shot 2-pound cast lead cannon balls at car hoods and refrigerators, holing them regularly even at over 300 yards. Paul Hendrickson, from Battery C, 3rd Field Artillery, a Civil War reenactor from old Ft. Kearney had cast over 200 balls just for this occasion.

Although the rain on Saturday had prevented any grass fires, by Sunday afternoon the drying conditions led to several small fires flaring up. A little excitement is good for the soul, and the grass fires are good for the prairie.

Come later Sunday afternoon, spectator folks started to overcome their shyness and began renting the guns out and shooting in earnest. Five people payed \$60 a round each to fire the “big” 25mm WWII

French Hotchkiss anti-tank gun. I later counted two hits in a red truck hood at 750 yards bigger than .50 caliber. Not bad for an open eyeball-laid and boresighted shot. Year, my wife figures, we need to raffle off tickets for a chance to shoot it at \$1 each, just to shoot it more.

There were three folks shooting Ma Duece in .50 cal. BMG, plus the lovely five barreled Hotchkiss revolving cannon also in .50 cal. BMG. It has a distinguished, rhythmic sound firing as it does once with each full crank of the handle. A steady "BOOM... BOOM... BOOM... BOOM... BOOM." It's hopper fed from the top, holding seven rounds. Pugsley says it's so that if (when) the 10-shot magazine ban goes into effect, he's not out of business.

All good things must come to an end, and so it goes for the Fun & Freedom Shoots. We called for the final cease fire at 5:30 pm, and the weather was perfect. No cattle in sight.

Rocky Stone from McCook, Nebraska was the last to leave Sunday. He was picking up brass and getting his camper rigged for the trip home when I was loading up and cleaning up at 8:30 p.m. He shoots a mean AM-180 and an Uzi, plus he films shoots with his camcorder.

"WHEN'S THE NEXT SHOOT?" hollered Rocky, balancing an armful of 9mm and 223 brass.

"SECOND WEEKEND OF AUGUST, THE 11TH, 12TH, AND 13TH, 1995. GOD WILLING."

"I'LL BE THERE."

I hope you will too.

I'd like to thank Roger Wells, MSgt. Dennis Dop (U.S. Army Active), SSgt. Terry Bennett (USMC Ret.), Cpl. Drew Runnell (former U.S. Army), Jim Haller, Matt Coleman, Bryan and Susan Slater, and Chris and Tasha Melvin for their assistance putting on this year's shoot. And mostly, I'd like to thank my wife, Chris Kamp, without whose help this year's shoot wouldn't have happened. She made most of the phone calls and arrangement for things while my employer had me traveling out of state. So I guess I'm the cosponsor of the Fun & Freedom Shoot. Until next year. MGN

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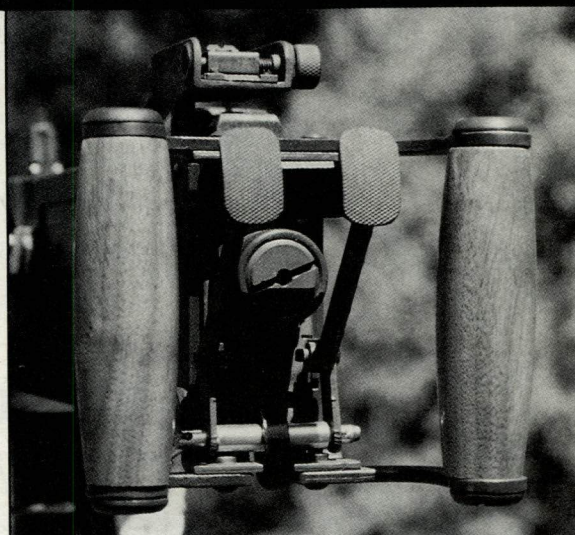
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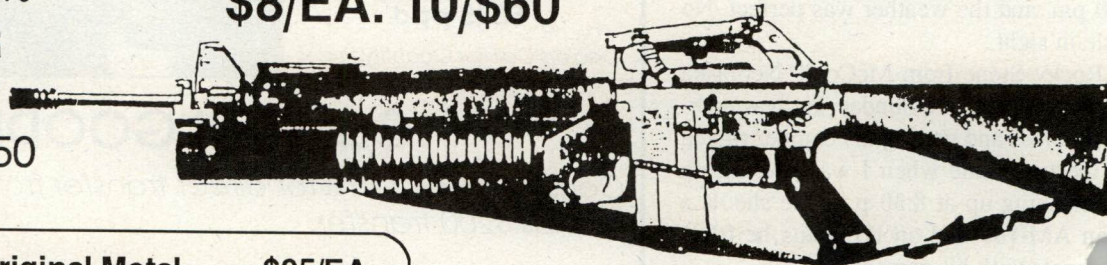
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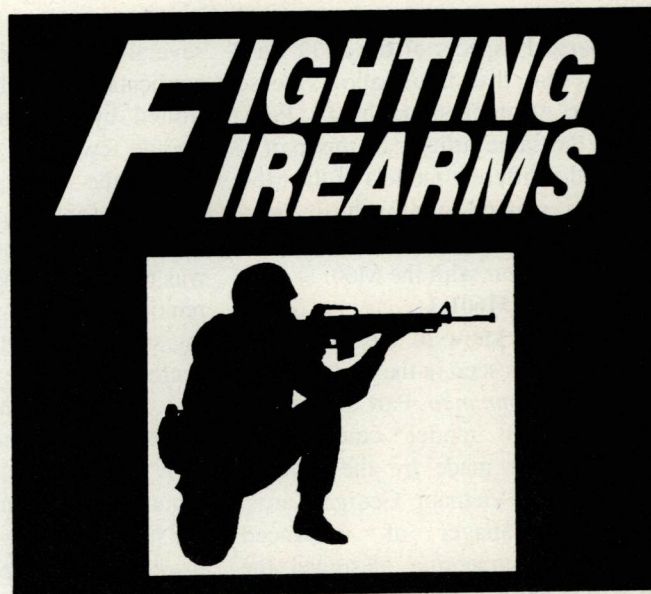
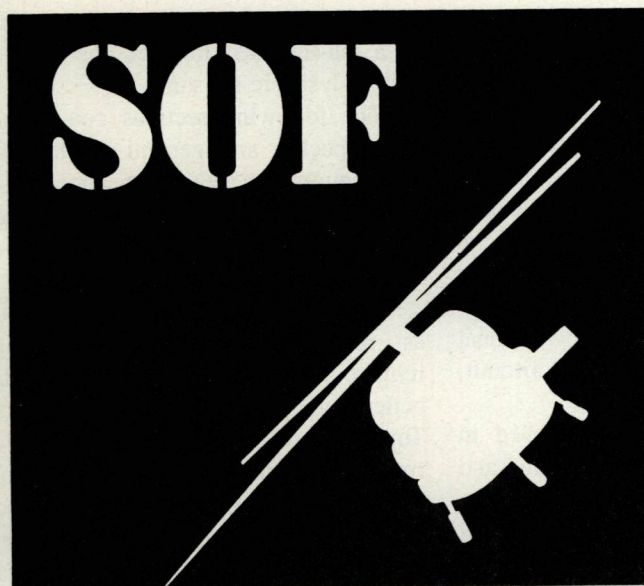


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FOCUS ON:

THE M60 MACHINE GUN

(PART 2)

by CARL SILVER

Welcome back to Part 2 on the M60 machine gun. Noel Napolilli and Al Paulson's most excellent article, "The M60 Versus The MG42 General Purpose Machine Guns" (October 1994 *MGN*), thoroughly detailed the functional and mechanical aspects of the M60, so I will not repeat that information. Please refer to the great photography by Polly Walter in the same article. In this part, I will cover the different models of the M60 and give a general approach to troubleshooting machine guns: focusing on the problems that occur with the M60.

M60E3

Many people know of the M60E3 as "Rambo's gun" as seen in the movies *First Blood II* and *Commando*. Part of the idea behind the E3 model came from "chopped" M60s made by the military field armorers in Vietnam. George Curtis, Maremont's Manager of Advanced Development Engineering, designed the production version. The E3 is five pounds lighter (18 pounds versus 23 pounds) and has a shorter barrel (21 inches versus 25.5 inches) than the E1, and there are other improvements. The new foregrip, constructed of plastic, incorporates a pistol grip. The trigger housing has a folding trigger guard for gloved winter use. A new, lighter bipod is attached to the receiver (instead of the barrel) and the carrying handle is attached to the barrel (instead of the receiver) to aid in hot barrel changing.

The E3 operating rod has a second sear notch to help prevent runaways when the first sear notch wears out or in the case of short recoil. The front sight now has adjustable windage. This means that spare barrels can be "zeroed" on the range before combat or competition. The buttstock assembly is simplified with the removal of

the hinged buttplate. The top cover assembly has been modified so that it may be closed with the bolt in the forward position.

M60C

The M60C model was deployed on several helicopters. It was a fixed-mount application with the firing direction controlled by the attitude of the chopper. (While few *MGN* readers have their own Hueys, the "C" configuration may be the hot ticket for the family R.V.) The standard buttstock was removed, the trigger group was modified to incorporate a solenoid for remote firing, and finally, a remote charging system was attached to allow manual cycling of the gun from inside the aircraft.

M60D

The M60D model was deployed in both airborne (helicopter door gun) and ground (vehicle mount gun) roles. The buttstock assembly is replaced with a set of spade type grips incorporating triggers on the back of the gun. A different trigger group (no pistol grip), rubber dust cover (to hide holes in the receiver), and linkage rod (connecting the spade grips to the trigger group) complete the D model conversion.

MALFUNCTION:

THE MILITARY DEFINITION

The U.S. Army Field Manual definition is: "A malfunction is an unplanned cessation of firing due to a stoppage caused by a mechanical failure of the weapon or ammunition." "The main causes of malfunctions are lack of preventative maintenance, worn or broken parts, incorrect assembly or adjustment, and faulty ammunition or improper loading procedures."

TROUBLESHOOTING:

THE SYSTEMS APPROACH

All firearms function (or malfunction)

in distinct phases of mechanical operation. The first step in successfully troubleshooting a problem is in isolating the phase (or phases) of operation at which the failure occurs. The phases are:

1. Failure to feed.
2. Failure to chamber.
3. Failure to lock.
4. Failure to fire.
5. Failure to unlock.
6. Failure to extract.
7. Failure to eject.
8. Failure to cock.

- also -

9. Runaway gun.

10. Sluggish operation

Phases 3 and 5 obviously do not apply if the firearm does not have a lock mechanism, but the rest are universal. One can waste a lot of time, energy and \$\$\$ if you try to fix a problem without isolating the actual fault. It does not make any difference whether you're a "master gunsmith" or a ten-thumbed tinkerer, the approach and analysis are the same.

The following sections contain both M60 specific and general machine gun information. The M60 information is listed first, followed by the general machine gun information which is printed in *italics*.

Failure to Feed

Improper lubrication: clean and lube as required. **Defective ammo/links:** remove defective (bent) ammo/links (buy better ammo and inspect your used links!). **Top cover unlatched:** latch it. **Long/short rounds in belt:** align rounds with links. **Insufficient gas pressure:** clean gas port. **Inverted ammunition belt:** reinstall ammo belt with open side of links face down. **Feed pawl, feed pawl spring, feed lever cam spring, roller cam worn or broken:** repair/replace as required. **Operating rod spring damaged/weakened:** replace spring. **Obstruction in receiver:** remove obstruction.

Magazines: weak springs, damaged follower, deformed magazine lips. **Bolts:** damaged cartridge feed areas, defective/dirty extractor.

Failure to Chamber

Ruptured cartridge case: remove ruptured case. **Carbon buildup in gas cylinder or receiver:** remove carbon. **Damaged or dirty round:** remove round. **Obstruction in chamber:** remove obstruction.

Chamber: damaged or dirty. **Ammunition:** short overall length (reloads), oversize diameter. **Bolt:** defec-

tive/dirty extractor/extractor spring.

Failure to Lock

Ruptured cartridge case: remove ruptured case. **Operating rod spring damaged/weakened:** replace spring. **Damaged or dirty round:** remove round. **Ejector/ejector spring dirty or defective (preventing the ejector from entering the face of the bolt):** clean or replace as required. **Extractor/extractor spring dirty or defective (preventing the extractor from slipping over the rim of the cartridge):** clean or replace as required.

H&K: foreign matter in firing pin hole, dirty rollers.

Failure to Fire

Firearm in "safe" position: don't you hate when this happens? **Firing pin, firing pin spring, operating rod spring weak, worn or broken:** replace as required. **Defective cartridge:** buy better ammunition.

Bolt: defective/dirty extractor/extractor spring, worn fixed firing pin. **Recoil spring:** weak/deformed. **Trigger group:** weak hammer spring.

Failure to Unlock

Damaged gas cylinder/gas cylinder extension or carbon buildup in same: clean/replace/clean as required.

Chamber: damaged or dirty. **H&K:** foreign matter in firing pin hole, dirty rollers.

Failure to Extract

Extractor/extractor spring worn or broken: replace as required. **Dirty chamber:** clean chamber. **Short recoil:** clean gas port and operating rod tube. **Gas piston installed backwards:** install gas piston with holes towards the rear.

Failure to Eject

Short recoil: clean gas port and operating rod tube. **Ejector/ejector spring worn or broken:** replace as required. **Weak ammunition:** buy better ammunition.

Failure to Cock

Sear/sear plunger/sear spring worn or broken: replace as required. **Operating rod sear notches worn:** repair/replace as required. **Short recoil:** clean gas port & operating rod tube. **Obstruction in receiver:** remove obstruction.

Bolt: damaged sear notch. **Ammunition:** short recoil due to weak ammo.

Runaway Gun

Call Runaway Hotline: 1-800-TWIST-BELT. **Sear/sear plunger/sear**
Machine Gun News - December 1994

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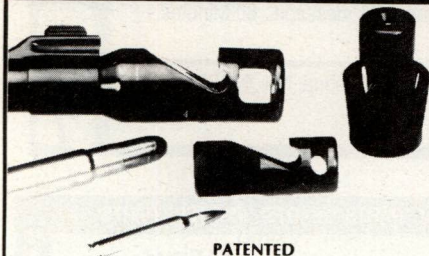
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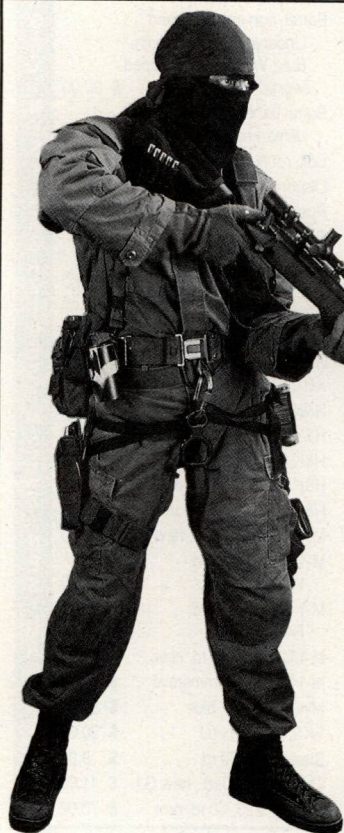
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spring worn or broken: replace as required. **Operating rod sear notches worn:** repair/replace as required. **Sear installed improperly:** reinstall with the "humped" end up and to the rear.

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Bolt: damaged sear notch. **Ammunition:** short recoil due to weak ammo.

Sluggish Operation

Excessive friction: clean and lubricate. **Excessive loss of gas:** tighten or replace gas plug (Oh, so *that's* where I put the safety wire). **Weak ammunition:** buy better ammunition.

MORE M60 TIPS

One way to extend the life of the M60 sear and operating rod notches is by proper trigger manipulation. Most beginner (and many experienced) shooters *slowly* squeeze the trigger to start firing and *slowly* release the trigger to stop firing. While this is good technique for accurate rifle shooting, it is the fastest way to chew up your sear engagement surfaces. Never be aggressive in both **engaging** and **releasing** the trigger. For single shots, try to **slap** the trigger with your finger. If you have to replace the operating rod, try to get the E3 variant with the extra sear notch.

Cleaning the carbon (powder residue) from the various parts is never a fun task. When brushing or scraping, always use a tool or brush that is **softer** than the metal you are trying to clean. Most of the stainless steel brushes are very hard and can destroy gun parts. The close tolerances of the gas piston assembly won't function properly if they are scratched or gouged. Some automotive carburetor cleaners work well, but keep them away from aluminum and plastic.

The gas piston/operating rod tube/gas plug assembly will disassemble themselves if given the opportunity. Adhesives and thread goop can't take the heat. Purchase a pair of safety wire pliers (most motorcycle shops carry them), a roll of safety wire and have some fun! Find another barrel assembly that's wired correctly and copy it. Remember, the wire tension should always be in the direction to tighten the part.

Parts for the M60s are readily available from several of the advertisers in *MGN* and at gun shows. With some attention to assembly, a little preventative maintenance and a few feet of safety wire, the M60 can be a lot of fun to shoot.

MGN

Machine Gun News - December 1994



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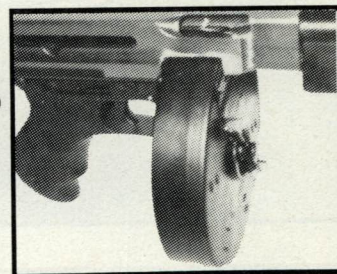
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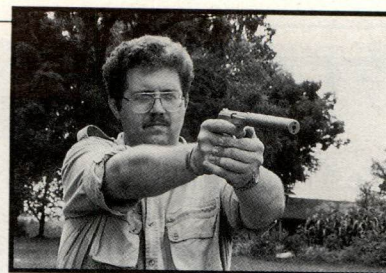


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The Ammo Bunker

by DUTCH HILLENBURG
C3 Rapid Loader



I really enjoy shooting, but I think we all hate the drudgery of loading magazines for a shooting session. Even if you do it while watching the Clinton Follies and the O.J. Simpson Trial on CNN, loading magazines is a slow, boring task. Even if you get all of your magazines loaded, you can't shoot too much. Most of us have half a dozen magazines for our guns at most. Many magazines for guns such as the MP5 run \$65 or more, so that runs into real money very fast. Figure five 30-round

magazines is average, that's 150 loaded rounds. At 600 rounds per minute through an Uzi, that's fifteen *seconds* of serious hammer time. Hmmm. Let's see, two hours in front of the TV loading and fifteen seconds unloading—Mega-Bummer!!!

Another problem is that even if you have plenty of magazines, you can't leave them loaded for more than a month or two because you risk damaging the springs. Long term storage of loaded magazines will ruin the springs by over-compressing them.

It helps if you have some type of loading tool, but most of these are still pretty slow if not downright worthless. Sten and MP40 loaders work, but at their one-round-per-cycle rate they're *definitely* in the slow category.

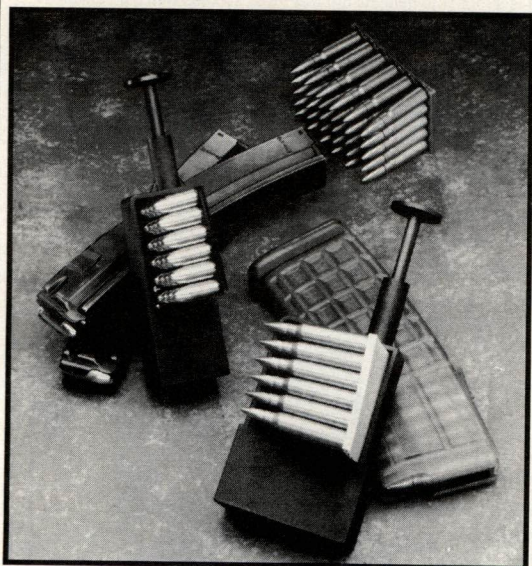
There is a great tool for the Swedish K, but they're pretty rare and only work with the Swedish guns and their Egyptian copies. Remember all that Egyptian 9mm that came 36 rounds to a box? It's for the Egyptian copy of the Swedish K known as the Port Said. Somebody in Nasser's Egypt had their stuff tightly wired

because they picked a primo design when they copied the Swedish K, but they dropped the ball by not adopting the speed loader as well. Design masters at Heckler & Koch make an interesting loading tool for the MP5, but it usually seems quicker to load the double stack magazines by hand. Action Arms markets a very simple and handy U-shaped loading tool for the Uzi which loads four or five rounds in a shot. It's not great but better than pumping them in one at a time.

There are a number of commercial loaders that you squeeze, pump or strangle in a desperate attempt to make loading magazines easier. They remind me those "Gee Whiz Kitchen Miracles" they sell during the Late Show on Channel Two. The Dumco Ammo-Matic. *I hate the damned things.* Most people play with them for a while and go back to loading by hand and getting blistered thumbs. *Somebody ought to make a quick and easy-to-use loading tool which works with a variety of guns and really works as advertised.*

Well, somebody finally *did*. My first encounter was at Knob Creek about a year ago when I saw a stunning demonstration using two magazines and a full auto Uzi. In a manner reminiscent of those late night television advertisements, I saw one man give a running sales pitch while speed-loading one magazine while his partner emptied the other magazine through the Uzi. As fast as the shooter emptied his magazine, the speaker speed loaded the spare. Quite often it seemed the shooting took longer than the loading. It was a hell of a display!!!

After the demo, I had a long talk with Jim Ballou who was helping promote the design. Jim was involved in the ill-fated Viking machine gun program and is known to many MGN readers because of



Insert Magazine



Insert Uni-Clip



Pump the Plunger

his distinctive "Indiana Jones" style hat. Jim had a loader sent to me and I planned to do an article, but the contacts he gave me led nowhere. It seems that shortly after talking with Jim, the manufacturers made a deal with someone to distribute the tool but the project floundered from that point. Very dissatisfied, they recently began to push the product themselves and are advertising it in *MGN* in the *C3* advertisement. I'm glad to see the product reappear because I think it has great potential. Very similar to the excellent, but rare, Swedish K loaders, the *C3 Rapid Loader* is made of black Zytel for durability, economy and light weight. Most important of all, it really works!!!

Ammunition is loaded onto a 30-round plastic uni-clip in five rows of six rounds each. The *Rapid Loader* is snapped onto the magazine; a plastic speed clip is inserted. Five quick thrusts of the plunger loads thirty rounds in less time than it takes to read these words. I don't know how else to put it. *It's neat!!!*

C3 offers the loaders in 9mm, .223, .30 carbine and 7.62x39, and they're compatible with a variety of popular guns. The one big hangup is that, at the moment, you have to put the rounds onto the plastic uni-clips by hand. Despite that, the uni-clips allow you to have your ammo stored for long periods, but ready for use on a moment's notice. You could leave your magazines unloaded until you reach the range. Less than five minutes work with the *C3 Rapid Loader* and every magazine would be fully loaded. You could load as you go for those days when you don't know how long you're going to stay at the range. I think the *C3 Rapid Loader* has some real potential for military and police use as well. A SWAT team could have their ammo safely stored on uni-clips until an emergency, and then have their magazines fully loaded faster than Deke and Hondo could slip into their SWAT Ninja suits!!!

C3 representatives tell me that they are negotiating with some ammunition manufacturers to produce ammunition *pre-loaded* on the *uni-clips*. I think that their business will take off when they can offer the tool and quality preloaded ammunition. Give *C3* a call and see for yourself.

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The Forms

by DAN SHEA

The most common question I have been asked recently, aside from "How much more does Clinton think he can do to the American citizen?" is, "Has your transfer time been longer lately?" Answer—yes, infuriatingly slow. There are a number of reasons for this, aside from the unseemly amount of Form 3's that seem to never make it into the system so that they have to be refiled a number of times. (I recently had to refile over 75 Form 3's!) There doesn't seem to be any solution to that one other than for the NFA Branch to add more personnel—the volume of transfers has been overwhelming.

The two new procedures that are adding transfer time to our NFA transactions are "cross-checks" implemented by ATF higher-ups that are trying to weed out "improper transactions." The first is a double check of every Form 3 after the examiner has approved it. Each form is going to a specialist for a second examination to insure that all transactions are in compliance with the local and state laws of the transferee. I have been getting a lot of calls from dealers who are getting heated calls from Class 3 customers who received firearms after long waits, only to see that the transfer had been approved six weeks earlier. The customer felt that the dealer had held the firearm for those six weeks, for some unknown reason. The reality was that the examiner who approved the transfer had stamped the date of their approval on it, and it had then sat on a specialist's desk (in backlog) until the specialist could get around to reviewing it. That may take 4-6 weeks. If you have a double transfer—to a dealer, then out to another—start working on your patience.

The second new procedure is on all Form 4's and 5's to individuals. The examiner who does the background check will have to add one more step. Instead of being satisfied with an NCIC background check by the FBI's computer, each transfer to an individual must go through a background check in each of the fifty states. You read that right. Each state must be checked on each individual to insure that no felon slips through as an NFA owner. That would imply that the NCIC check is not valid, or

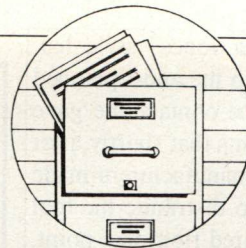
that there has been some recent problem (my information says there hasn't). This is going to significantly extend the transfer time on the affected forms.

Several questions are raised by these procedures. The most important is: "What has this got to do with raising revenue?" The National Firearms Act Registry is a tax collecting device not based in crime suppression. It appears that these recent changes are rooted in crime control, have nothing to do with tax collection, and are therefore an impediment to free commerce. Imagine if tobacco or liquor transactions took the amount of time that NFA transactions are now taking.... There would be twenty congressmen down at ATF headquarters demanding to know why the ATF was impeding business.

Hopefully these new procedures will either dry up and blow away on their own, or ATF will be allowed to hire some more competent personnel, or—some of you will get together with Oefinger on his challenges to the CFR and procedures, and redefine the methods of transfer to comply with what is constitutional.

On the import level, there are still presidential "bans" behind the scene on all firearms and ammunition. There are no legal reasons for this, and some items are making it through. No rhyme or reason to what—but generally speaking—Bill Clinton has the State Department shutting down any import Form 6's they get a hold of.

Q With all the bad news related to us lawful gun owners going on, I hate to keep bringing up some of the same old points, but I just received my "Open Letter" to FFL holders concerning the Crime Bill requirements and the new 4473 forms. The new 4473 has dotted lines arranged across the "serial number" block on the form. These are obviously designed for ease of data entry after the fact. I know, you know, and everybody else knows that these folks are illegally (or will later illegally) be using this information to gun owner's detriment. I've written my senator about this and have received a reply that he would have his staff look into the ATF's blatant violation of the '68 GCA. Just thought your readers ought to know about this when your hunting bud-



dies, who go along with the "assault" rifle ban, go down to their favorite gun shop and fill out their 4473 on their soon-to-be-defined "sniper" rifle (especially if it happens to have a black composite stock)....

SRB

A In addition to the new question regarding restraining orders against the transferee, the new Form 4473's do indeed contain information-gathering "helpers." Most forms today do. You would be more precise in saying that "some" of the ATF personnel are engaged in these illegal and unconstitutional activities. There are many ATF people who are not and would never do that. If you want a better picture of this, gather together with all of the dealers in your area and find out how many have had a compliance check where they watched an ATF employee systematically write down the names, addresses and serial #'s of every purchaser of semi-auto AKs, ARs, HKs, and even the SKSs. Most of the more intelligent FFLs that I know who had an incident like this immediately demanded an explanation of what was going on. They were told "Operation Forward Trace." When the agent was told it was outside their authority and a violation of the GCA-68, they ceased doing it. It is only in a few areas of the U.S., and it only seems to be a few compliance inspectors that try this. Most of us are aware that there are fanatics who want to confiscate all of our firearms, and that some of them are in the ATF. If we vote the Clintonistas out of power, the focus of ATF will shift back to going after criminals instead of making criminals out of citizens.

There is nothing you can do about the 4473's other than what you have done—calling your congressman. The ATF has a new facility in West Virginia that is the "Firearms Tracing Center." Some very competent personnel have been shifted there. It seems to have a reasonable purpose in helping law enforcement officers solve crimes, but if you couple the new facility with the rumors (pretty well verified) that some areas have been illegally computing all of the "out of business" 4473s and bound books from the last 25 years, and the new "data friendly" 4473s, and you have the makings of a conspiracy against the

Constitution and "We the People!"

Q Let me say how happy I am to be receiving this fine magazine. I have recently renewed my subscription and look forward to the end of every month to open my mailbox and see that plain white wrapper.

I have several questions regarding these Sten MKII receiver kits being sold on the market today. I purchased an unmachined tube (legal) from a private company some time ago and have purchased a few 32-rd magazines since, mainly due to the fact that after William Hitler Clinton's "Crime Bill" is in affect, I will no longer be able to purchase them. I also own a VHS video that explains the procedure of how to convert a Sten parts kit, with receiver, into a working submachine gun. I am now thinking about purchasing a parts kit to go along with my assortment of goodies, in my belief that I can have SOMETHING when it hits the fan. Now, before you start jumping up and down and saying that what I have just proclaimed is illegal and makes me a dangerous revolutionary and that I should be locked up for a long, long time, may I say several things? I am buying these items JUST IN CASE. I know that making a machine gun is illegal and punishable by up to 30 years in jail, but I am setting aside the laws and knowledge just in case. In case what, you ask? You know what it is—just pray it never happens in this country. Proceed....

1. I have heard rumors that possession of an unmachined tube and an instructional video or parts kit with video is a felony. Before I purchase the parts kit, let me know if or what combinations are considered illegal. Let it be known that I am not a Class 3, nor do I possess an FFL. And no—I'm not a felon.

2. More rumors regarding the forward-tracking of buyers of parts kits and/or unmachined receivers has hit me, and I would like to know whether or not BATF is currently tracing these purchases on a widespread scale.

I'm sure that many other readers have questions regarding these strange tubes and parts sets, and would like further info before THEY walk into something they can't get out of.

Name and address withheld

A There have been cases where an individual has been convicted of "conspiring" to manufacture an untaxed, unregistered machine gun for having all of the components and information that you named. I do not believe that any of those

convictions stood on appeal. I would like to ask the readers to send in any information that is pertinent to this. Having been convicted of possessing a "chop saw cut" machine gun that meets the definition of "readily restorable to full automatic fire" is entirely different than the question you are asking. There should be no impediment to your owning the legal parts set you mentioned, a blank tube, magazines, and the instructional video. Right now possessing that video is 100% covered under the First Amendment. I would argue that owning the above combination is legal and a prudent thing for a man who believes that social unrest is imminent, and believes that changes in the laws may allow him to manufacture the firearm he needs to defend himself, his home and his community. Or there may be an "amnesty," in which case he could legally register and manufacture his firearm.

Let's see what the existing court cases show....

On another note—the Large Capacity Feeding Device ban was only on manufacturing and importing them. The ones already in the U.S. are still in open commerce—you can buy, sell and own them. Only the prices will change—up and up as we find which magazines are the rarest and most desirable.

Q I've read your Q&A column for a couple of years now and have made notes about "pre-ban" and "post-ban" assault rifles and their configuration questions.

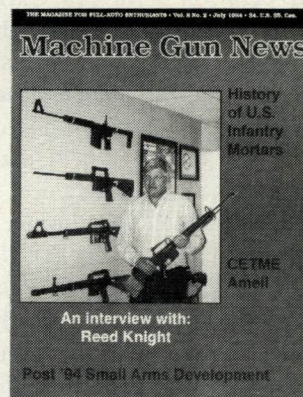
Nothing, that I have seen anyway, specifically answers my question.

Can I take an Enterprise Arms L1A1 receiver (made in U.S. and never having been assembled) and add a thumbhole stock and flashider/lug (military configuration) and be legal? These receivers are stamped "SPORTER" on one side, by the way.

Phil T.

A Well, up until 13 September, 1994, you could have under certain circumstances. You are going to have to be aware of what is legal as the government starts going around checking out all of the "receiver only" semi-autos that are out there. You could have taken a U.S. manufactured L1A1 receiver and assembled a dreaded assault rifle with bayonet lug, flash hider and pistol grip as long as you used no more than ten foreign manufactured parts, and you had possession of ALL parts to complete the firearm by 13 September, 1994, the date the "Crime Bill" was signed. How

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anyone is going to be able to prove it is going to be related to saving receipts and other records.

Q Regarding our nations three newest Destructive Devices: the USAS, Streetsweeper and Striker, I had an interesting conversation with the California Department of Justice the other day and would like to pass on the information to others from the once Golden State (now tarnished), as well as others who might be interested. I've been a Type 1 dealer for years but have no NFA experience.

As far as the state of California is concerned, these firearms are SHOTGUNS. Of course, we all knew that. In this state, Destructive Devices consist basically of, to quote the MG Dealers Bible, "things that go boom and things that throw things that go boom," as well as fixed ammunition over .60 caliber. Shotguns are specifically exempt and there is no double talk about "non-sporting" "in the opinion of the Secretary." I can hear the cries from the anti-gunners now, but unless the state legislature changes or amends the states Dangerous Weapons Act, the statute stands.

It was stressed to me by the DOJ that regardless of the new NFA classification of these shotguns, two of them—the Striker

and Street Sweeper—must still be registered in accordance to the state's Assault Weapons Act, commonly known as Roos-Roberti after the two now defunct politicians who dreamed up this idiocy—the most ignored law since the fifty-five mile per hour speed limit. In a nut shell, guys, if it's registered with the state and you can get the chief law enforcement officer to sign off on it, you are "home free" in California.

While learning all of this from the DOJ, I became curious about the idea of transferring in a Boyes .55 caliber anti-tank rifle. Since California is essentially "closed" to NFA firearms, I think a Boyes might just be the ticket for those of us starved for BIG TOYS.

Just a few questions on the newly passed Crime Bill's firearms provisions. I've requested a written copy to read the exact text but have never received it. Are all of these new assault weapons now no longer classified as "sporting" firearms, and is this "non-sporting" classification the reason they are being banned? If this is the case, are we all entitled to a refund of the federal excise tax we paid on them when they were still "sporting?" If I recall correctly, the tax rate is 11% on long guns and

10% on handguns. I think thirty or forty thousand gun owners writing to the Treasury Department demanding a refund would cause quite a stir in D.C.

I understand that new large capacity magazines are still going to be available to police, but how are we dealers going to be able to obtain them? I do a small but steady business with the local P.D. and Sheriff's Deputies and many of them want extra magazines for their personal Glocks, Sigs, and Berettas and don't want to have to pay the new sky high prices!

You mentioned in a previous issue of MGN that there was no provision to import as dealer samples any of the firearms banned from importation back in 1989. Well what about the domestically produced models that are still supposed to be available for sales to police? If an officer wants an AR-15 or M1A and five spare mags, what is the drill on getting him the gun? Small departments who don't order enough to qualify for factory or distributor sales will be in trouble, and the dealers who had previously supplied them with weapons will lose a good customer base. I need an RKI here Dan, help us all out!

Mark

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laws, Mark. It looks to me like a .55 Boyes rifle would definitely qualify for ownership in your state. Any California readers have a .55 Boyes? If anyone starts a transfer now—on a C&R license—let us know how it works out.

Your idea on the excise tax refund is a good one that would shake the established anti-gunners to the roots. Unfortunately, machine guns, short shotguns, AOWs and other NFA firearms have had the excise tax collected on them for years (with the exception of the Form 4 tax being paid on the first transfer from the manufacturer). These items show that although the "sporting purpose" definition is not applied to NFA firearms, excise tax still applies. I would say that the refund won't occur.

New manufactured and imported magazines are available to law enforcement agencies, and the ATF is saying that there is a procedure for dealers to obtain them with police letters. Personally, I think that this is an uncontrollable situation. The regulation here, if too stringent, will impede commerce with the PD's to the point of them ignoring the laws. Distributors and importers will probably require police letters to get magazines. It hasn't shaken out yet, and, as I am writing this, U.S. Customs

is sitting on large quantities of Sig and Glock magazines that are properly marked "Law Enforcement Use Only" with manufacturer and importer info and a serial number that includes a date. CUSTOMS CAN'T FIGURE OUT WHAT THEY ARE SUPPOSED TO DO!!!! It's going to take a while before we really understand the ramifications of these idiotic laws.

I have been told that even though the "Bush Ban," the 1989 executive order banning the importation of certain "assault" firearms left no procedure for the importation of "Dealer Sales Samples," there will be a procedure for the distribution of "Dealer Sales Samples" from manufacturers and importers of the firearms affected by the "Crime Bill." I can only assume that this will involve "police letters" requesting a demonstration. Will the sole proprietors who have these samples be able to keep them on dropping FFL status? Common sense tells us yes. Experience says there will be a fight. When I can get some info that clarifies this, I'll immediately write it here in "The Forms."

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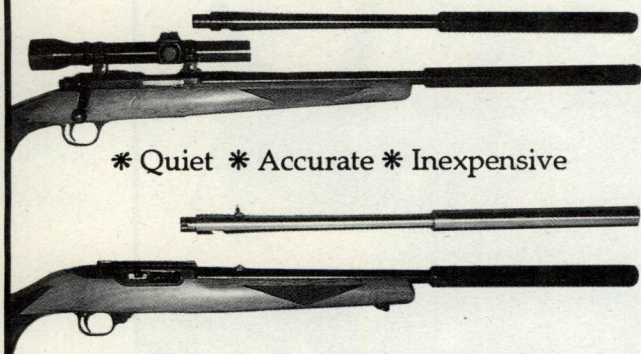
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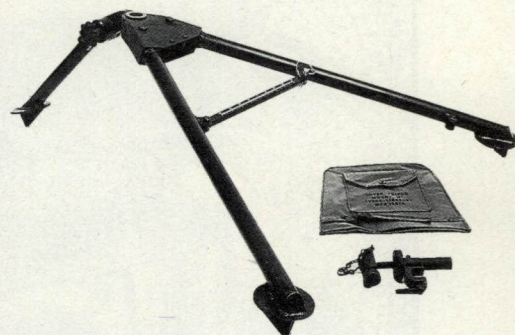
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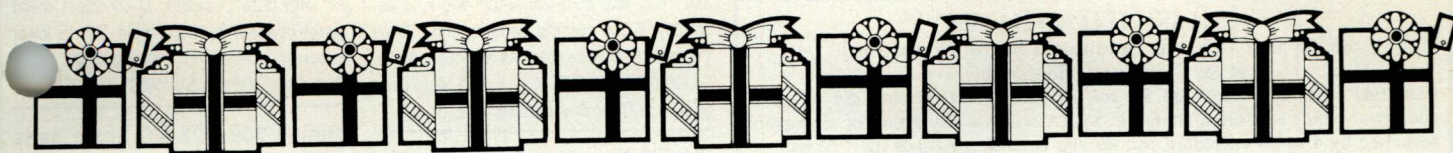
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Archive Photo of the Month

From the Robert Bruce Collection



Vietnam, circa Spring 1970. A U.S. Army scout dog handler with partner and M16A1 rifle as featured in the 9 Mar 70 issue of *RVN OBSERVER*, an in-country newspaper for G.I.s. Note the highly unusual magazine vest/apron under standard "flak vest," hand-painted camo on the rifle stock and handguard, and modified sling. Credit: U.S. Army Military History Institute. Copyright © 1994 ROBERT BRUCE PHOTO. *Editor's Note: Robert regrets that he cannot handle individual requests for photographs. However, publishers and documentary filmmakers, etc., are encouraged to contact him for information on use of archive images. Send a self-addressed stamped envelope and details on intended use to ROBERT BRUCE PHOTO, P.O. Box 482 MGN, SANDSTON, VA 23150.*



Seasons Greetings

from Machine Gun News

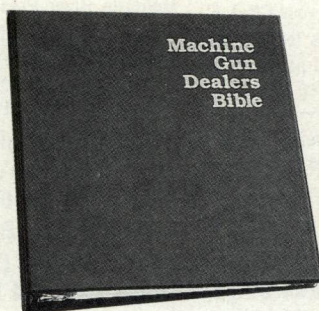


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| * Dealing with NFA/BATF | * M G Accessories |
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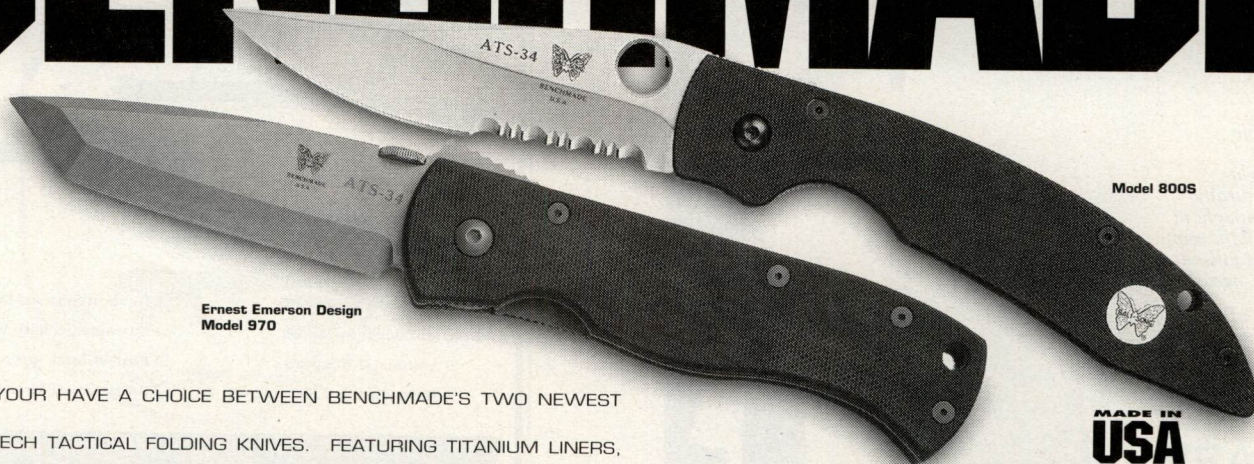
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Advertiser.....	Page No.	
Phone		
Allegheny Arsenal Inc.	34	I.M.A. Inc..... 11
(814) 362-2642		(908) 953-9333
American Liberty Casings	35	Internationale Ordnance Corporation 57
SEE AD		(615) 831-9612
AWC Systems Technology	50	J&T Surplus
(602) 780-1050		(606) 745-1757
Benchmark Knife Company, Inc.	62	J. Curtis Earl..... 34
(503) 655-6004		SEE AD
Black Gun Video.....	49	LMO..... 2, 3, 40, 41
(603) 886-4591		(207) 683-2169
Brass Net Corporation	61	Lomont, Kent A..... 39
(412) 664-7000		(219) 694-6792
C3 System.....	56	Lost Dutchman, The..... 10
(800) 421-5142		(812) 854-7323
Carolina Ordnance.....	5, 46	Meherrin River Press
(800) 477-9380		(919) 398-3554
Class Three Supply	21	MGN
(412) 962-1890		(501) 525-7514
Collectors Source.....	16	Navy Arms Company..... 17
(305) 434-8843		(800) 669-NAVY
D&S Manufacturing, Inc.	13	NFA
(207) 732-4979		SEE AD
Delta Press.....	20	Ohio Ordnance..... 8, 9
(501) 862-4984		(216) 285-3481
Dillon Precision Products, Inc.	31	Pheasant Ridge Enterprises..... 34
(800) 223-4570		(508) 761-4093
Eagle Exim Inc.....	14	R&R Enterprises..... 53
(800) 423-4867		(410) 437-2507
Fleming Firearms Inc.....	64	R.A.S.E.
(918) 371-3624		(407) 633-5599
G.P.I.	43	Remcon North..... 50
(800) 442-7989		(603) 279-7091
Galati International	29	RPB
(314) 775-2308		(404) 297-0907
Gemini Technologies, Inc.	24	S.W.I.S.S.
(208) 939-7222		(210) 822-4664
Goldsmith, Dolf	20	Scattergun Technologies Inc.
(210) 342-4723		SEE AD
GSL Technology, Inc.	53	Select Fire
(517) 784-2928		(203) 232-3336
Gunmachines	51	Soldier Of Fortune
(800) 748-1788		(800) 800-7630
High Caliber	15	Sound Technology..... 57
(800) 846-4237		(205) 664-5860
HITEK	38	Special Op's Shop
(800) 54-NIGHT		(615) 442-7180
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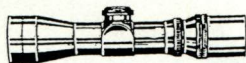
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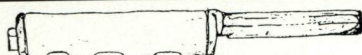


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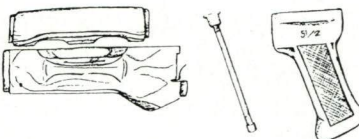
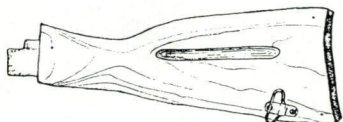


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Stocks have grooves cut on both sides of stock, blued sling swivel on side, blued butt plate (NOTE: butt plate is smooth). AK74 forearms are wider than AKM and have larger finger groove cut. Set comes complete with stock, grip, grip screw and base, forearm and top forearm. These sets are unissued and are dark red and orange in color.

LIMITED SUPPLY -
Only \$89.95 a Set!



Threaded UZI Barrels

Ten inch SMG size - has sionic threads cut directly on barrel. Comes with new barrel nut.

10" Threaded UZI Bbl. Nut
Only - \$75.00

10" Std. UZI Bbl. - \$50.00
Mini UZI Threaded Bbl. w/ Nut
Only - \$54.95

UZI SMG SEAR - \$21.95

AK Safety Selector - \$ 4.95

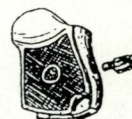


M-2 Carbine Selector Springs -
Pack of 25 pcs. - Only \$ 5.00



Original Soviet Military Grips for the Makarov!

Fits all Makarov models
Red Bakelite Material
Only - \$14.95



AK Double Catch Trigger
Only - \$14.95



AK-74 Wire Cutter Bayonets
\$21.95



Threaded Sten Barrel -
Sionic 3/4 x 10 9mm threads cut directly on Bbl.
Only - \$35.00



MP40 Heavy Barrel w/Sionic Threads - \$55.00

Fantastic Closeout Deal



Polytech 2.5x18 Scope Pack - Scope Pack
includes Polytech 2.5x18 scope, 1" weaver rings, and SKS receiver cover w/scope mount. This set normally wholesales for over \$75.00 -
RPB's Special Closeout Deal Price
Only \$55.00

We now accept
VISA and Mastercard orders

1-800-858-0809
(For Orders Only Please)

Mon- Fri - 10 AM-6 PM EST
Saturday - 10 AM-4 PM EST

**R
P
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ADD \$6.00 shipping & handling to all prepaid orders.
ADD \$8.50 to all COD UPS orders.

NOTICE: RPB sells only replacement or spare parts for registered machineguns. We do not sell conversion parts. Federal law prohibits an individual from converting a semi-automatic weapon to a full-auto fire weapon.

Fleming Firearms, Inc.

The LITTLE "MAC" ATTACK!

Due to change in laws, 10 rnd. magazines may be submitted for 30 rnd. magazines.



M11-22
for
M11-9mm



M10-22
for
M10-45 or 9mm



M11-22 A1
for
M11-A1 .380



\$249.95 Suggested retail
(Dealers call for pricing)

The low "cal." alternative for your ammo budget.

As Clinton-nomics takes a bigger and bigger bite out of our wallets, it only makes "cents" to use one of our .22 rimfire conversion kits on your "MAC." Get more bang for your ammo buying dollar. These kits will pay for themselves with the savings in less than 2 thousand rounds of shooting.

Use your 9mm Suppressor
with Our adaptor only
\$28.00



Lower receiver
NOT included.

Cocking Handle \$12.00



Flash Hider \$10.00

This kit consists of a complete upper receiver unit with bolt assembly and 1-30 round Ram-Line 10/22 Ruger magazine. To install: after checking to make sure firearm is unloaded, simply remove the retainer pin and slide 9mm upper receiver off. Slide your Fleming Firearms 22 receiver on and retain with your original retainer pin. The barrel is threaded 1/2 inch x 28 threads to accept any of the M16 style accessories, flash hidiers, sound suppressors, and muzzle brakes.

For information please call 918-371-3624, or Fax 918-371-0404.
FLEMING FIREARMS Inc., 7720 East 126th Street N, Collinsville, OK 74021.