

# Machine Gun News

*The Interview with*  
**Peter G. Kokalis:**

- *Kalashnikov & the Mysteries of the AK*
- *Krinkov's Muzzle Device*
- *MG34 vs. MG42*
- *The RPD*
- *Training Croats with MGs*



**U.S. M3**  
**37mm**

**.22 Firepower**  
**American 180**

**Reising**  
**Revisited**



# LONG MOUNTAIN OUTFITTERS



PERSONAL DEFENSE SYSTEMS

**SELLERS:**  
**GUNS, PARTS &**  
**ACCESSORIES FOR SALE**  
**CALL L.M.O.**

**BUYERS: LOOKING FOR**  
**GUNS, PARTS &**  
**ACCESSORIES**  
**CALL L.M.O.**

**All of these Brokered Weapons are IN STOCK, many others still available.**

SBS08	Cruso W 12 ga. short bbl. shotgun	MG580	H&R 008 pistol, new reg. rec.
MG173	H&R M16A1 reweld	MG693	Auto Ord 1928 w/Lyman sights
MG497	S.W.D. M11A1, new in box	MG603	IMI Uzi Pre-86 dealer sample
S0040	Suppressed Ruger 10/22 Ultra	MG065	N. Korean PPSH 41 w/orig. drum
S0060	Suppressed Centurion short rifle	MG097	1918 Marlin Rockwell mint
MG610	Steyr Aug 20" green	MG758	Early Ruger AC556, neat wood
MG561	Steyr MPI-69 Pre-86 dealer sample	MG825	R.P.B. M1 Carbine
MG739	Colt M16 w/14.5" bbl.	MG822	Smith & Wesson Model 76
LMO13	Madsen M50 Pre-86 dealer sample	MG824	AR 18 Armalite, original
MG805	Springfield SAR 48, as new	MG846	Fleming G3, HK91 conversion
MG071	FN Model D pre sample	MG842	Military Arms M10A1A, unfired
MG072	1941 Johnson pre sample	MG843	Fleming FN FAL, test fired only
MG074	Madsen 1950 reg. rec.	MG848	Fleming FNC w/col. stk.
MG081	Celco PPS-43 reweld	MG851	Suppressed Browning rifle
MG077	British MK 1 Lanchester	DD001	Solothurn S18-1000, museum quality
MG084	S&H Arms Ingram Model 6	MG852	Paws ZX5, test fired only
MG093	Suppressed MAC10 w/box	MG064	Soviet Union PPSH 41
MG095	Suppressed M11, exc.	MG066	Universal U.S. Carbine
MG203	Micro UZI, .45 cal., like new	MG067	M78 Valmet, like new
MG511	Uzi 45, new in box	MG069	Beretta 38/42, reparked
MG522	FNC Paratrooper folder	MG823	1928 Colt drum & mag., neat
MG560	Steyr Aug, dealer sample	AOW22	Stevens 410 handy gun
MG536	MP5K reg. rec., new in box	MG860	H&R Arms M14 w/1 mag.
MG037	MP43 done by Fleming	MG858	Fabrique FN G1 good shape
MG039	Sidarme 1915 Chauchat	SBS10	Ithaca shotgun 13" bbl.
MG040	Madsen M50 by S&H Arms	MG855	Suppressed Marlin bolt rifle
MG041	VZ 58 folder, have pair	MG850	Fleming MP5A3 in 90% cond.
MG044	Zastavia 56, original	MG845	Fleming G3, new, call for info
MG049	Maadi ARM AK47 in 7.62	MG833	Walther MPL, dealer sample
MG056	S&H Arms 08/15 reg. rec. gun	MG832	Group HR4332, Post-86 sample
MG060	BSA Lewis 1914 w/access.	MG853	Colt M16 carbine, 14.5" bbl.
		DD002	Lahti complete w/sled & etc.

## Coming in Soon

Rock Island M60	Colt M16 carbine	HK MP5 SD w/reg. receiver	Also another Browning .22 cal.
Hard Times 9mm UZI	Celco AK47	Sandra M16	suppressed rifle
Colt M16A1 as new	HK MP5A3 by S&H, as new	Ingram in 9mm or .380 cal.	

**All seller info remains confidential. BUYERS call with your needs; we'll cross with our list from dealers. All weapons preinspected before final transfer from L.M.O.**

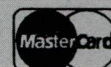
**Dealers get FFL on file & call for prices.**



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Class 10

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# Long Mountain Outfitters Parts Available

AK 47	Johnson LMG	Swedish K/Port Said
American 180	Lewis Gun	1928 Thompson
AR-180/18	MAC-10	.22 cal. Thompson
Aug Steyr	MAC 11 9mm	UZI Smg
Beretta AR-70	M50 Madsen	M49 Yugoslavian
Beretta 38/44	MG 34	M1-M2 Carbine
Beretta PM12S	MG 42	M2HB 50 cal. Browning
Colt Potato Digger	MP 40	M3/A1 Greasegun
Bren LMG	MK 760	M14
MPI-69 & MPI-81	Reising M50	M16
Boyes Antitank Rifle	Ruger Mini 14/AC556	1918-A2 BAR
FN-Fal	Ruger 10/22	Vickers
FN Model D	Ruger MK II	1919A4's
Galil	Sten MK II	30-40 Krag
Hotchkiss 1914	Sterling Smg	1903 A3 Springfield
Hotchkiss Universal	Steyr Solothurn	M1 Garand

## Full Line of H & K Parts

## SWEATSHIRTS



STYLE 1

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

**SIZES: LG, XLG, XXL, 4XLG**  
 \$18.95 each. Add \$4.00 for XXL  
 4XLG - Special call for pricing.  
 Colors: Ash Grey w/black  
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 each additional shirt.  
 Allow 3 to 6 weeks for delivery.

All shirts 50% cotton 50% poly



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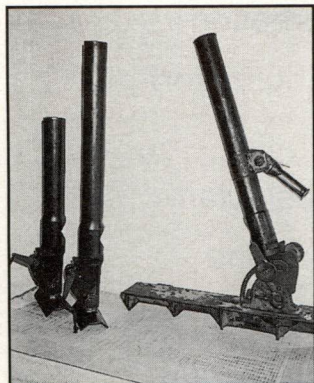


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**Please Include Shipping With Order! • Returns To Be Made Within 10 Days**

## BRITISH 2 INCH MORTAR

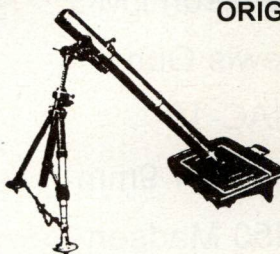


Airborne version  
(short or long)  
**\$150.00**

Infantry version  
**\$275.00**

Comes with orig.  
shipping crate

## ORIGINAL WWII MORTARS



Orig. WWII Stokes-Brandt  
81 mm Mortar complete with  
baseplate and bipod

**\$750.00 + shipping**



Orig. WWII Russian 82 mm Model 37  
complete with baseplate and bipod

**\$450.00 + shipping**

Rendered unserviceable  
according to BATF spec-  
ifications. However they  
are still considered, Title  
1 firearms.  
Must have standard FFL  
license.

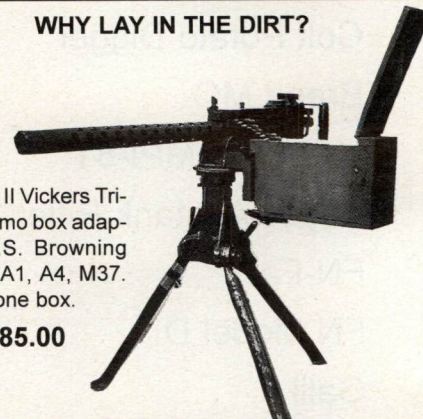
## ORIGINAL FN BELGIAN M2 50 CAL.



**FN Belgian M2  
50 Cal Gun Only  
\$3750.00**

FN Belgian  
Complete M2 50 cal.  
parts set no cut parts  
**\$1,550.00**

## WHY LAY IN THE DIRT?



Orig. WW II Vickers Tri-  
pod w/ammo box adap-  
tor for U.S. Browning  
BFMG 17A1, A4, M37.  
Includes one box.

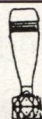
**\$385.00**

## Quality Machine Gun Complete Parts Sets

FN M2 50 cal. HB less right side plate .....	\$1550
ANM2 30 cal. in .308 Browning, orig. complete .....	\$ 950
ANM2 30 cal. part set only .....	\$ 450
ANM2 Spade Grips front & rear ground sights .....	\$ 550
ANM2 .308 conversion parts set .....	\$ 550
M1A1 Thompson U.S., G.I. Grade A .....	\$ 250
Grade B .....	\$ 200
MAT 49 .....	\$ 200
MAS 38 .....	\$ 200
Italian WWII Breda Model 30 6.5 .....	\$ 550
Beretta Model 38/44 .....	\$ 135
MAG 58 .....	\$4500
PPS 43 .....	\$ 150
Madsen Model 46, .30-06 .....	\$ 225
FND BAR .308 .....	\$ 625
1928A1 Thompson U.S., G.I., Grade A .....	\$ 450
Grade B .....	\$ 350
1928A1 Thompson w/flnned barrel & Lyman sight U.S., G.I. ....	\$ 575
1928A1 Bolt compl. U.S., G.I., N.O.S. ....	\$ 150
1928A1 actuator U.S., G.I., N.O.S. ....	\$ 85
PPSh41 w/stick mags .....	\$ 285
ZK383 excellent cond. with bipod .....	\$ 250
Less bipod .....	\$ 200
Swedish K, excellent condition .....	\$ 250
MG15 orig. German WWII .....	\$1350
FN-30 in .308 comp. less right side plate, very good condition .....	\$ 285

**FAX ORDERING LINE**  
**(216) 286-8571**

**U.S. 60mm inert HE  
mortar round**  
Comp. w/fins exc. cond.  
**\$12.50 + shipping**



## 1919A6 Conversion

Buttstock, .308 barrel, barrel jacket, bipod,  
flashhider, carry handle new condition .... \$350.00  
W/30.06 barrel ..... \$250.00 |

## Magazines

ERMA EMP 30-rd. ....	\$ 35	PPSh 41 Mags 30-rd. ....	\$ 35
MAC10 9mm 40-rd. steel mag. ....	\$ 50	Lanchester-STEN 50-rd. mags .....	\$ 55
M3 U.S. .45 cal. SMG 30-rd. ....	\$ 10	PPSh 41 72-rd. drum & pouch. ....	\$ 100
12 for .....	\$ 100	MP40 mags 32-rd. orig WW II	
ZK383 30-rd .....	\$ 65	A (ea) .....	\$ 55
Madsen .30-06 30-rd. mag 5—each in original carrying can .....	\$ 75	B (ea) .....	\$ 30
FND BAR .30-06 .....	\$ 15	10 for .....	\$ 250
L2A1 30-rd., unissued cond. ....	\$ 75	Reising 30-rd. new-made, guaranteed ..	\$ 55
MP41 32-rd., very good. ....	\$ 55	Sterling 45-rd. exc. plus. ....	\$ 55
MP38/40 flat side mag .....	\$ 55	10 for .....	\$ 500
Bren 8mm 20-rd. mag .....	\$ 65	Orig. WWII Thompson 50-rd drum, excellent plus 95% .....	\$ 300
PPS 43 mags 30-rd. (ea) .....	\$ 35		

## Accessories

Vickers headspace disassembly tool ..	\$ 85	MG3 100-rd. assault box .....	\$ 100
Vickers brass tab reloadable belts .....	\$ 50	MG3 complete bolt .....	\$ 400
Vickers MK1 tripod, new condition .....	\$ 250	MG3/42 .308 barrel 4140 Steel H.T. ....	\$ 250
Browning orig. 250-rd. cloth belt .....	\$ 20	1919A4-A6-M37 IMI Mfg. .308 Cal. new unissued barrels, chrome-lined (ea.) .....	\$ 100
FND Barrel .30-06 .....	\$ 100	2 for .....	\$ 170
FND Barrel 8mm .....	\$ 200	3 for .....	\$ 250
FND Barrel .308 cal. excellent. ....	\$ 250	1919A4 IMI .308 cal. links, new in wrap 2,000 for .....	\$ 75
1908 Maxim sled mount top strap .....	\$ 250	10,000 for .....	\$ 350
1908 Maxim steam condensing hose. ....	\$ 100	1919A4 .30-06 barrels, used .....	\$ 25
Orig. Bren mag. chest with 12 mags new unissued ea. ....	\$ 35	5 for .....	\$ 100
M2 30 cal. tripod pintle T & E UK mfg. ....	\$ 350	1919A4 .30-06 barrels, new .....	\$ 50
MG3 MG42 .308 Conversion set barrel, flashhider, top cover, feed tray, Rheinmetall Mfg. ....	\$ 850	3 for .....	\$ 100
		Orig. Vickers left-side plate .....	\$ 200



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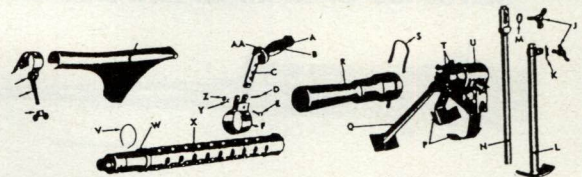
## \*\*COMPLETE MG34 .308 CONVERSION KIT\*\*

\$650.00



.308 chrome-lined barrel & bolt bomb.  
Set for pre-determined head space  
.308 only feed tray, new cond.  
.308 complete feed slide assembly  
.308 hard chromed reduced orifice booster cone  
Installed, Test Fired, and Guaranteed

## COMPLETE 1919A6 CONVERSION KIT



1919A6  
FLASHHIDER  
BOOSTER  
\$75.00  
Very Rare!!

1919A6 conversion  
buttstock, .308 barrel, bar-  
rel jacket, bipod, flashhider,  
carry handle new condition

**\$350.00**

With .30-06 Barrel

**\$250.00**

Will modify your 1919A4 Top Cover  
to use .308 Links . . . . . **\$ 65.00**

Complete Top Cover modified to  
use .308 Links . . . . . **\$150.00**

These still function in 8mm & .30-06

## COMPLETE 1919A4 .308 CONVERSION SET

1. New unissued .308 IMI barrel.
2. Enlarged belt holding paw.
3. Front & rear cartridge guides.
4. Right rear cartridge stop.
5. .308 booster cap, muzzle bearing.
6. .308 bolt stripped.

**\$350.00**

## COMPLETE PPSH 41 PARTS SET



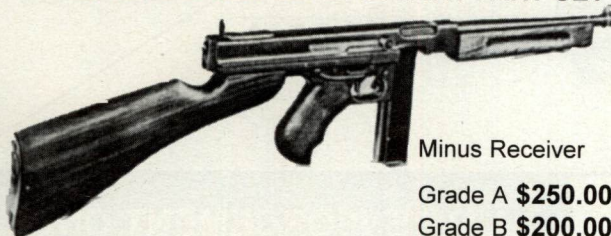
Minus RECEIVER with Drum Magazine **\$325.00**

With 2 stick mags **\$285.00**

Extra Drums \$100.00 Orig Sling **\$20.00**

Individual parts sold separately, call or send S.A.S.E.

## ORIGINAL U.S. G.I. MFG. M1A1 PART SET



Minus Receiver

Grade A **\$250.00**

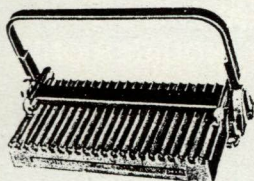
Grade B **\$200.00**

## ORIGINAL U.S. G.I. 1928A1 PARTS SET

Complete with lower trigger housing group, buttstock, smooth  
barrel & cutts compensator, stick mag., no drum

Grade A **\$450.00**

Grade B **\$350.00**



Browning M3A1 .308 cal.,  
link loading machine, com-  
plete with 2000 new-in-wrap  
IMI .308 Links  
**\$275.00**

## ORIGINAL WWII

### \*\*MG 34 ACCESSORIES\*\*

- |                                      |          |
|--------------------------------------|----------|
| Hot barrel pad . . . . .             | \$ 25.00 |
| Flashhider soaking can . . . . .     | \$ 75.00 |
| Firing pin (new cond.) . . . . .     | \$ 20.00 |
| Firing pin spring . . . . .          | \$ 10.00 |
| Bag of 20 orig. rubber               |          |
| flashhider covers . . . . .          | \$ 10.00 |
| Small parts cleaning brush . . . . . | \$ 10.00 |
| Disassembly spanner wrench . . . . . | \$ 15.00 |
| Barrel carrier w/sling . . . . .     | \$ 45.00 |
| MG34 orig. transit chest . . . . .   | \$150.00 |



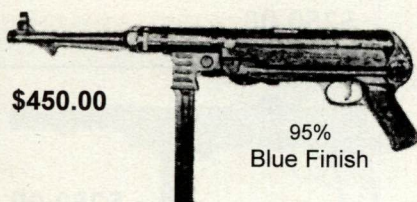
Orig. WWII G.I. issue  
50-rd. Drum  
Exc. plus cond.  
**\$300.00**

With Lyman sight & finned barrel  
\$125.00 additional.

Orig. actuators, new-in-wrap. exc.  
cond. . . . . **\$85.00**

Bolt complete with actuator  
. . . . . **\$125.00**

## FINEST CONDITION YOU WILL EVER BUY Original WWII MP40 Parts Set



**\$450.00**

95%  
Blue Finish

Very Good  
Condition

Limited  
Quantity

## CZECH MOD ZK 383



Less Bipod  
**\$200.00**

Compl. Parts Set 9mm  
Parabellum quick-change  
barrel w/bipod & 30-rd.  
mag. This is one of the  
finest quality SMGs ever  
produced.

GREAT FOR NON-GUN  
**\$250.00**

## ORIG M2, 60MM WW II MORTAR

Comp. w/sight, bipod, base plate &  
orig. shipping crate

**\$1250.00**



Bipod  
**\$250.00**

Shipping crate  
**\$65.00**

Fully transferable on Form 4  
to FFL individual or dealer



# Robert Landies

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Please Include Shipping With Order!

## M2HB .50 CAL. MFG. F.N. BELGIAN



**Firearm Only**

Superb Quality in Excellent Condition

**\$2500.00**

## FN MOD. 30 LMG IN .308 CAL.

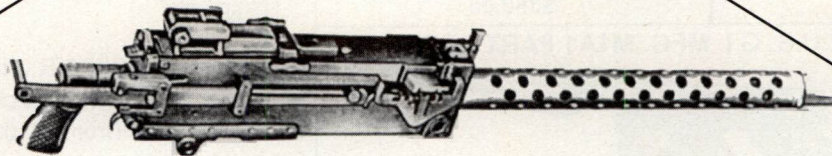


These Guns are  
Like-New Condition

(no tripod)

**\$350.00**

## THE BROWNING M37 LMG



**\$950.00**

## FN-MOD D LMG IN .308 CAL.



Made on special contract from Israeli Gov't. New

**\$550.00**

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LAW ENFORCEMENT INQUIRES ONLY.**

Must have letter of Purchase or  
Demonstration for Government Agency.

**All Firearms in Excellent  
Functional Condition**

## ORIGINAL U.S. G.I. WWII 1928A1 THOMPSON SMG



In Great Condition  
w/one stick mag

**\$450.00**

Original G.I. 50-rd. drum  
available additional  
**\$300.00**

## ORIGINAL U.S. G.I. WWII M1 THOMPSON SMG



In VG+ Condition

**\$250.00**



**\$250.00**

**SWEDISH K EXCELLENT CONDITION**



## Transferable Curio & Relic Guns

<b>Russian PPSH 41</b> mfg. in 1942 has tangent sight in excellent condition. ....	\$2500
<b>Bergmann MP-35</b> 9mm SMG German Military Proofed AJF 44 in very good condition with 2 mags. ....	\$2000
<b>Bergmann MP-35</b> 9mm SMG commercial firearm in very good condition. ....	\$2000
<b>MP 18</b> 1 converted to take stick mag. very good condition. ....	\$1800
<b>MKI Lanchester</b> in excellent condition. ....	\$1850
<b>Sten MKII</b> original British WWII good condition. ....	\$1100
<b>MG-08</b> H. MG in excellent running condition complete with sled mount, optical sight, spare barrel, spare lock, water hose and can. ....	\$4500
<b>VZ O.R.-24</b> A very rare specimen of a Post WWI Schwarzlose, manufactured in Czechoslovakia, Waffenwerke Brunn in the mid-1920's. The only known example in the U.S., no tripod. ....	\$3500
<b>08/15</b> LMG Complete with drum and original belt on bipod with steam hose in excellent condition. A runner. ....	\$2200
<b>08/15</b> Complete and running in fair condition. ....	\$1750
<b>1917 Savage Lewis</b> in very good condition in .303 cal. with U.S. Navy acceptance proofs with one spare drum. ....	\$2800
<b>1917 Savage Lewis</b> in .303 very good condition. ....	\$2500
<b>1915 B.S.A. Lewis</b> in .303 very good condition. ....	\$2500
<b>MG15</b> WWII German Water-Cooled Ground Gun complete in original crate with spare barrel, gunners wallet, spare parts and maintenance tools, also drum loading tool. ....	\$4500
<b>Jap Type II</b> LMG 6.5 cal. in very good condition. ....	\$2000
<b>Jap Type II</b> LMG 6.5 cal. in good condition. ....	\$1750
<b>MG-17 Air Craft</b> in very good condition. ....	\$1500
<b>1918 Chauchat</b> .30-06 cal. in good condition. ....	\$1500
<b>1915 Chauchat</b> 8mm in good condition. ....	\$1100
<b>1909 Benet-Mercie</b> mfg. by Colt. ....	\$2500
<b>Breda Model PG</b> 7mm mfg. for Costa Rica in very good condition with 10 spare magazines. ....	\$1850

## Transferable Guns

<b>Valmet M71</b> .223 cal. in mint condition with 4 mags. ....	\$2000
<b>AR-15 Model 614</b> Colt Mfg. in excellent condition. ....	\$2200
<b>Jap Air Craft</b> .50 cal. receiver only. ....	\$800
<b>M10</b> 9mm in very good condition with 6 mags. ....	\$650
<b>M11</b> 9mm in very good condition. ....	\$550
<b>Iver Johnson</b> carbine. ....	\$750
<b>Uzi</b> bolt only .45 cal. ....	\$450
<b>Sten MKII</b> 7.62x25 cal. (needs assembly) ....	\$500

## Pre-May Samples

<b>N.E.S.A. 1918A2 BAR</b> in excellent plus condition. ....	\$2200
<b>M1A1</b> .45 cal. SMG in very good plus condition. ....	\$1400
<b>M50</b> Madison 9mm SMG in very good plus condition. ....	\$850
<b>G1 FAL</b> with 10 mags. in excellent plus condition. ....	\$2400
<b>AR10</b> in .308 in very good condition. ....	\$1750

## Destructive Devices

<b>U.S. M2</b> WW II 60mm Mortar. ....	\$1250
<b>U.S. M1</b> WW II 81mm Mortar. ....	\$1500
<b>Russian PTRS</b> 14.5 cal. Anti-tank rifle with 30 rounds of original ammo. ....	\$3500
<b>Jap Type 92</b> Battalion Gun 70mm amnesty registered (missing a few parts) ....	\$5000



# In Memorium

Rachel Bigley

1982-1995



*Rachel's tragic accident has brought tears to all our eyes and we mourn the passing of one so young. May the Lord be with the family and friends of Rachel at this time of sorrow.*



## Tragedy on the Firing Line

by JIM BONIS

The well-attended October 1995 Knob Creek Machine Gun Shoot was struck by tragedy on Friday afternoon. Rachel Bigley was firing a 7.62 Minigun when it shifted violently on its tripod. The recoil caused the corner of the gun mount to strike her forehead, killing her instantly.

Preliminary reports from the local authorities indicated that it appeared to be a freak accident. The coroner determined that it was the weight and force of the tripod, that caused her death.

The gun had been fired a number of times that day without incident. Ms. Bigley's father had prepared the gun prior to its firing, and was fully knowledgeable of the guns safety and operation, having used it on many occasions previously.

The range was closed the remainder of the evening, while the local coroner and sheriffs office investigated. At the request of Ms Bigley's father, the activities commenced the following day. "Rachel would have wanted it that way," he informed the ranges' operators.

Rachel was a straight A student who had been attending Knob Creek since she was 11 years old. She enjoyed shooting firearms and did so with her father. They had made many friends at the event. She is survived by her parents, an 11-year-old brother and a 2-year-old sister.

A large collection was taken by attendees to defray the funeral expenses. The tragedy deeply saddened everyone and they responded with a genuine empathy for those involved. All of us at MGN extend our deepest condolences to the friends and family.

MGN

Memorials in Rachel's name may be made to the Juvenile Diabetes Association, Attn: Patricia DelFranco, 120 Wallstreet 19th Floor, New York, NY 10005 or to the family to help with funeral expenses. Donations to the family should be sent to The Rachel Fund c/o Knob Creek Range, 690 Ritchey Lane, West Point, KY 40177. Any unused funds will be donated to charity in her name.



*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

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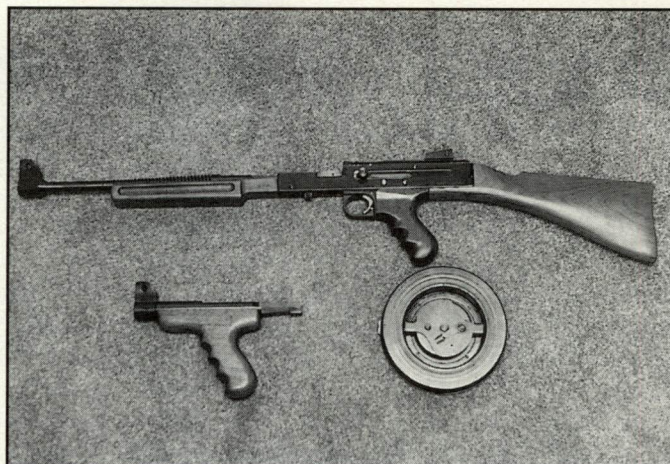
Lucy Bright

# Machine Gun News

**THE MAGAZINE FOR FULL-AUTO ENTHUSIASTS**

Volume 9 Number 7

December 1995



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On the Cover: SOF's Technical Editor Peter G. Kokalis, firing Yugoslavian caliber 7.62x54R M84 GPMG, a direct copy—except for the solid buttstock and a few minor features—of the Russian PKM GPMG. Photo courtesy of Chris Mayer

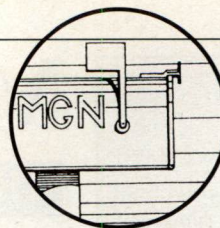
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# Incoming



## SHOOTING WITH THE NONDOMINANT EYE

I love *Machine Gun News*! I had to write a short note questioning Jim Dickson's view that no one can shoot with his nondominant eye and hit his intended target. I know from personal experience that you can if properly trained to do so. One of my earliest military experiences was learning how to fire the M16 rifle from both dominant and weak sides around cover. I will never forget Sgt. Lopez instilling this ability into me through day-after-day of intense training. You see, Sgt. Lopez jumped into Grenada as a Pfc. with 1st Ranger Battalion. A member of his squad was killed because he was firing his weapon dominant shouldered and wasn't using the cover of a vehicle which would have required him to fire his weapon weak shouldered. Sgt. Lopez said the Cuban "workers" firing at them ricocheted rounds off the airstrip's tarmac and rounds hit the man in his squad in the chest and head. I will never forget this lesson of combat tactics that cost our nation its finest youth.

Don't get me wrong, for I have owned the Steyr AUG. I thought it was a nice rifle. But I sold it at a very extreme profit to finance my love of the AR15A2 series of rifles.

I just don't want anymore good guys to die from lack of knowledge.

C.P.

## I WISH!

Great job guys. I like the web site a lot. I downloaded some of the MG gifs (picture files). Upon downloading a picture of an AR-type pistol, I noticed directly above the image was the following message: "URL: <http://www....nshow.9.gif> TRANSFER COMPLETE." Transfer complete. I wish! Keep up the good work.

T.C.

*Glad you enjoyed the web site. Check it out again. We've recently added more picture files and redesigned the layout. The URL to find us on the internet is <http://www.machinegunnews.com>*

## AR-15 DROP-IN AUTO SEARS AND LIGHTNING LINKS

I was going through the October issue of *MGN* and I was quite interested in the article on the "drop-in sears" and "lightning links" because I am currently waiting for the transfer approval on two of the lightning links. From what I have been told, even if everything goes OK, it does take some months for this, as the BATF doesn't seem to hurry.

You mention that the link will not work in the newer AR-15s because of the blocks in the receiver, which I understand. I have an AR-15 with no block, but until I saw your article, I didn't realize there was a difference in the bolts. It (the link), in order to work, has to have "no block," and it requires one of the earlier bolts in order to move the paddle, as the bolt closes.

I have been told that the "link" will not work in an AR-15 9mm and I can see why. From the picture in *MGN* of the various bolts, I can see that machine work was done on the 9mm bolt. I have a hunch that somehow the AR-15 9mm was reworked so that it could use the "lightning link" to make it full auto and legal.

I would like to do this, so that if and when I receive the legal links with the tax stamp, change whatever is needed to make this system work in the AR-15 9mm.

I know the bolts have to be machined for a conversion use with a drop-in sear, and as I said, I believe the bolt has to be reworked maybe differently, for use with the "link."

Possibly, you might advise on the work needed, if it can be done to work with the "link" and who is qualified to do this work. Also, is the same 9mm trigger and hammer used or not?

I can see no legal problems in having the bolt reworked prior to acquiring legal links, as the gun wouldn't work in full-auto manner without the link and would not, as I see it, be any violation of the law.

Anything that you can give me in the way of information on the above would be greatly appreciated.

By the way, I have been looking for some time now for a spare bolt, and Colt parts just seem very hard to come by, even from the people who stock Colt parts.

Sincerely,  
William S.

P.S. To obtain a drop-in sear, a legal one with tax stamp, from a dealer seems to be just about impossible, and I would guess the price would be "out of this world."

*Thank you for your letter. I will try to answer your questions as best I can. As Dan Shea says, "I am not an expert, just a reasonably knowledgeable individual."*

*You appear to be an RKI, too. Your letter indicates that you understand the operating principles of both the link and the sear.*

*Yes, getting the transfer takes time. I have personally gotten one in three weeks, while another took five months. I have no explanation for the differences in time.*

*As you have observed, the link will not work with an M16/9mm bolt or with the new style AR-15 bolt. Regarding your question about converting an M16/9mm bolt for use with the link, I see no reason that this cannot be done. Look at the picture on page 51 of the link issue of *MGN*. The top bolt in the picture is an M16/9mm bolt. Next to the bottom is an AR-15 bolt. You have already noted the differences in the rear faces of the two bolts. I believe that a good machinist could change the M16/9mm machine gun bolt so that it would work in an AR-15. He would have to machine the full auto M16/9mm's bolt until its rear face was in the same position as the semi-auto AR-15's.*

*Regarding the sear: If you buy a registered auto sear and you have a semi-auto AR-15 with a 5.56mm NATO bolt and you want to fire the 5.56mm NATO round, you need an M16 bolt too. It is cheaper just to buy a new M16 bolt carrier instead of paying someone to rework the old bolt.*

*I hope that you were not confused by the pictures on page 49 of *MGN*. The pictures were misplaced on the page. The link*



photo is on the top and the sear is on the bottom.

The link works with an unmodified, -style AR-15 bolt. The sear works with an unmodified M16 bolt.

If you have a full-auto M16/9mm bolt and intend to use it with the link, then the full-auto bolt will have to be changed as described in paragraph four. Probably the best person in the nation for this job is John Norrell. His address is 2608 Grist Mill Rd., Little Rock, AR 72207. Phone/Fax (501) 225-7864.

The best and easiest way to go full auto on an AR-15 is with a registered drop-in auto sear. It is more durable than a link and you can fire semi auto with it, too. With the sear, you can use an unmodified M16/9mm full-auto bolt.

If you have a semi-auto AR-15/9mm bolt, John Norrell charges \$150 to convert it to the M16 configuration. It sounds expensive. The bolt is very hard and John ruins at least one tungsten carbide cutter on every conversion.

You will have to replace the semi-auto AR-15 hammer, sear, trigger and disconnect with M16 parts. This is a simple change if you have a good set of instructions. If you do not have them, I can send you a copy of mine.

Do not have your semi-auto bolt reworked or buy any M16 parts until you have your Form 4 registered drop-in auto sear in your possession. The BATF might charge you with having an unregistered machine gun.

Probably the best way to find either a registered sear or link is to put an ad in Machine Gun News. The cost for either part is around \$500. If you have a choice, buy the sear. The cost of the M16 parts is about the same as the cost of reworking an AR-15 bolt for full auto.

Where to get M16/9mm conversion parts? I have seen ads recently in Shotgun News for genuine Colt M16/9mm conversion parts sets. They are asking about \$1000. I assume that they are buying post 1986 Colt M16/9mms and selling them disassembled, less the receiver.

Best regards,  
Monty Mendenhall

Send your comments to:  
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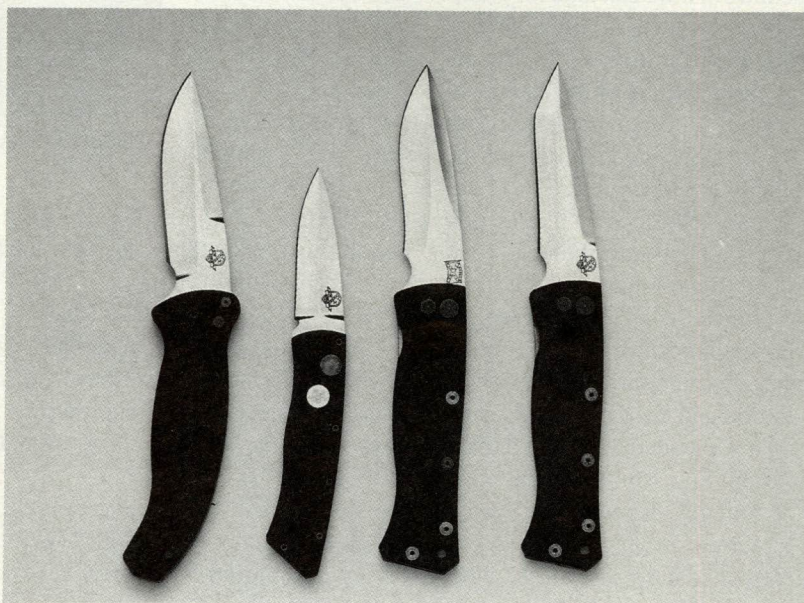
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# Raffica

(full-auto)

by DAN SHEA

*"Victory at all costs, victory in spite of all terror. Victory however long and hard the road may be; for without victory there is no survival"*

— Churchill

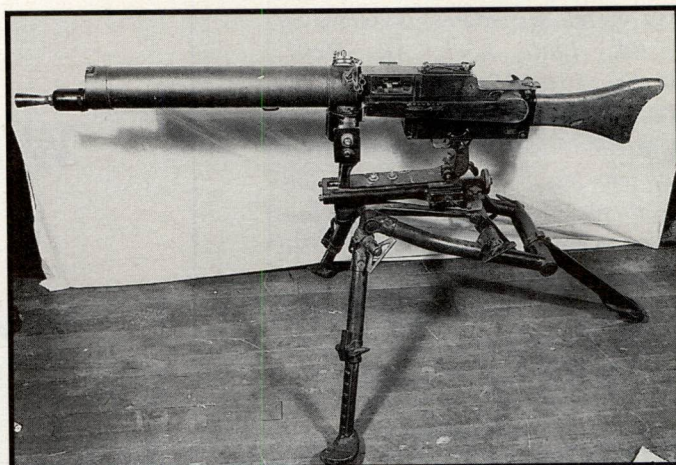
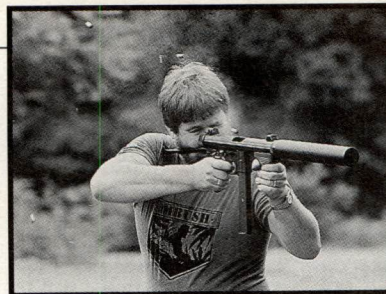
I love reading Churchill's speeches. Here was a man who knew what it took to win—everything you had. Keeping your chin up while you were feeling down. His words can revitalize and inspire. Freedom is not something that we can take for granted or lose heart because of a few defeats or set-backs. We need to keep on the offensive, and push until all of the encroachments on our freedom are turned back. Patton once said, "Don't you DARE tell me you are holding ground; you are to be advancing!" Or something very like it. I do know that as we head into the next year, with the election battle coming up, those of us in the United States need to keep going—not back off—or, we will lose again. I believe that we can return this country to the Constitution and keep our streets safer while we do it! Contact the NRA and make sure they know how you feel. Call Gun Owner's of America, Jews for the Preservation of Firearms Ownership, the Second Amendment Foundation, and all the other groups out there "doing it." Most important of all (my opinion), call Joe Corey, the President of the Committee of 1776 (717-

387-1146 fax 387-1151), and give him some support for the Rallies that are coming up in 1996. The state rallies are scheduled for Flag Day in June, and the National Rally for Firearm's Rights, the "Rally for the Bill of Rights," and "Gunstock 96" (the concert) are scheduled for Labor Day weekend at the start of September 1996 in Washington DC. We need all kinds of help, from donations to foot soldiers to state leaders. Let's keep on until Victory!

## MYSTERY PHOTO

We had no takers for October's Mystery Photo. It was an H&K front sight hood-straightening tool. This should give you guys a hint for November's Mystery Photo.

**MP** The Mystery Photo in the August issue is a Marx "Collector Series" Thompson SMG model. This was a series of die-cast models sold around 1962 by Marx, the large toy manufacturers. They fired single caps and were equipped with "wood-grained" plastic furniture. My favorite was the "Mare's Laig," a modified Winchester carbine as made famous in the TV show "Wanted— Dead or Alive" starring Steve McQueen. These miniatures are still around at antique and collectible toy shows. The price guides for these Marx guns lists the Thompson at \$100 and are typically \$75



MG08/15 on Alfa tripod.

at shows. Not a bad price increase since they originally sold for less than \$1.00!

P.S. For those interested in miniature guns of all kinds, consider joining the Miniature Arms Society, collectors of everything from the plastic toys to the firing miniatures of museum quality!

Dave Latsch

**A** An RKI to you, Dave... thanks for the info on the society. We could use an address for them, please.

**Q** I recently went through my pile of steel in the back shed and found an old tripod that I picked up at a gun show years ago. I never did know what it was for or ever find anything that would fit on it. It is steel, and quite heavy, with some type of Arabic lettering on it. The legs extend as internal tubes on the other legs, which fold up under the large base of the unit. There is a platform on the top, with a traverse mechanism. (Diagram enclosed.) Any ideas?

**A** From your description and drawing, I would say that you have a Spanish Alfa 44 machine gun tripod. I do not know of any of the machine guns in the United States. I have never checked any of the museums for them. It is kind of a generic belt-fed 8mm—nothing too special. I have a



December Mystery Photo.



registered receiver and have never found the parts to complete the darn thing. Anyway, that beast of a tripod was probably bought in by Cholly Steen at Sarco, or came from Charlie Erb in Pennsylvania. There were a bunch of them out there. Most of them had adapters made to fire various guns from. Probably the most notable was Charlie Erbs' adaptation to the MG 08/15 (See photo). I had one of these years ago, and it was the only time I really felt comfortable shooting the gun. It was nice and high off the ground, and real stable—perfect for recreational machine gun shooting. Way too high and heavy for a combat mount, but that isn't what we were using it for.

**Q** I need some technical advice about buying a good transferable Sterling SMG. Not too long ago I came across a Sterling SMG at a gunshow, displayed by a Class 3 dealer. This was a gun that was converted from an MK6 Sterling semi-auto carbine. I have never had the opportunity to examine a "real" Sterling SMG and don't know much about them, so my questions might seem naive. This particular gun, the dealer had, seemed to be mechanically "funny." I don't know if the Class 2 manufacturer botched the job. Here are my observations and questions:

1. When I cocked the gun, the bolt did not seem to go back far enough. The bolt appeared not to be positioned back far enough to strip a round from the magazine. Looking straight at the ejection port, the bolt concealed the ejector when the bolt was in the cocked position. Is this normal for a Sterling SMG?

2. The bolt was positioned in the same place when the gun was cocked in both the semi-auto and full-auto settings. Is this normal for the Sterling?

3. When the selector was placed in the semi-auto setting and the bolt cocked, the bolt would not go forward when the trigger was depressed. When the selector was placed in the full-auto setting and the bolt cocked, the bolt did go forward when the trigger was depressed. The fact that the bolt would not go forward in the semi-auto setting seemed faulty to me. Again, is all this normal from your experience?

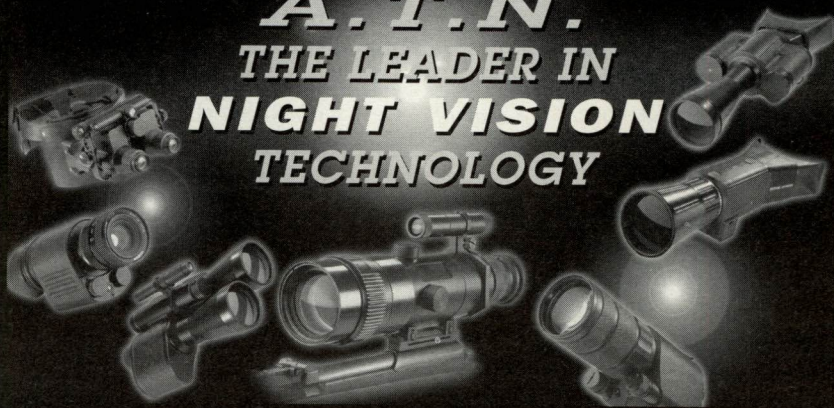
If these "defects" are actually defects, can they be fixed? If so, how?

J. R.

**A** The Sterling is a fine submachine gun: very accurate and very reliable.

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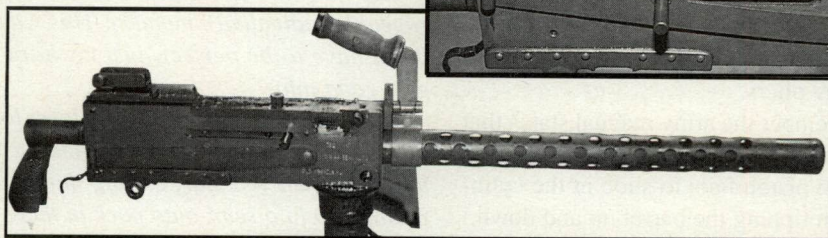
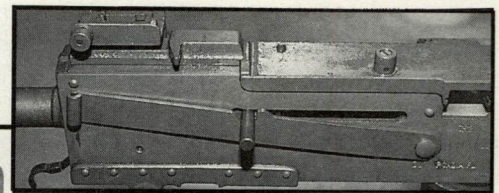
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That is from my experiences with having owned five or six original guns. The conversions of semi-auto's that various people did are all different. Whether it is any good or not is going to depend on the person who did the work and what he used for parts. In answer to your questions:

1- The face of the bolt on a real Sterling is about 1 1/2" back from the rear of the ejector when it is in the cocked position. I would not trust a Sterling that did not have some "lead" before it began stripping the round from the magazine....

2- The bolt on an original Sterling is in the same position when cocked for the semi-automatic position, as it is in the full automatic position...

3- I would say that gun would not fire semi-automatic, wouldn't you? If the bolt won't go forward, it AIN'T GONNA FIRE. I believe that you were looking at a full-auto-only conversion, which had a little sear work done and had the selector made to go all the way forward.

I have no idea whether any "defects" in that gun can be fixed, I would need to physically see it.

**Q** I can no longer keep quiet after seeing the ads for safety wire pliers in September's Raffica. If you are thinking of buying these pliers for use on an M60, you would just be wasting your money.

I maintained thirty-two M60Ds for over four years in an Air Cav unit. U.S. Army personnel who fix helicopters are not allowed to use safety wire pliers because it was determined that it is too easy to over tighten the wire while twisting. The wire will become stretched and weakened when twisted too tight. I safety-wired many M60s using only my hands to twist the wire. The trick is to cut the wire twenty inches longer than needed so you have enough to get a grip with. With practice, the twist can be done to look as good as a job done with the safety pliers.

Remember the army manual states that the gas cylinder extension is only removed when the piston fails to slide in the cylinder when tipping the barrel up and down.

Dan, I hope you pass this information on to the readers so they can spend their money on more important items like spare parts.

U.S. Army 1986-1991

P.S. In September's "The Forms," F.R. wanted a fix for his HK sling swivel problems. The best answer is to use a pin/swiv-

el that HK sells. Two size pins are available: one forend size and one buttstock retaining pin size. These pins have a ring on one end of the pin and a nut on the other end. F.R. should replace his end cap retaining pin. A special HK sling is also available that has the HK spring-loaded hook at both ends of the sling. This system works well with SP89/MP5K because they are not made with sling attaching points. These sling swivel pins are also useful for mounting slings on the opposite side of left-handers.

No offense Dan, but sometimes your HK answers leave a lot to be desired.

P.A. in September "The Forms" wants to use a plastic lower on his registered receiver HK. Your answer was OK, but I think you made it harder than it has to be. If a plastic lower is the goal, simply have the pin hole ears on a plastic lower milled wider and increase the hole on the forward edge of the lower to clip on the receiver clip. The trigger pack should fit in the plastic lower and clip on in the same way the metal one fit. I'm talking about using the original trigger unit that came with the registered receiver.

Albuquerque

**A** The "New Action Army" speaks. Well, when "I" was in, they made us use the tool, and you are one hundred percent correct. Many people will over-tighten the wire, and stress it, thinking that tighter is better, and not realizing that the point of the exercise was to secure the nut from turning, not hold it in place from brute force. Regarding the HK tip, thanks for the hint, and I am sure that many of the HK owners out there will appreciate it. You are free to slap me around from time to time for not answering every question perfectly, up to your own standards. That is why I hide behind my "Reasonably Knowledgeable Individual" moniker. This way, I don't have to be perfect, just try hard to give good info.

And, you may want to take a closer look at what happens in the front of that plastic housing when you start cutting things out in order to fit a semi-auto pack in there. It really is a fairly precise operation. I get to see a lot of botched up jobs. The registered receiver HK guns that did not use the swing down have a semi-auto pack in them and a conversion sear that is not registered. It stays with the gun. That semi-auto pack needs someone to pay serious attention to in order to make it work right in a modi-

fied plastic housing.

**Q** How does someone get the addresses of dealers in ammo and reload components for D.D. class weapons, so a person could price shop?

James D.

**A** I don't think that there are really enough of them out there for you to "price-shop." When you find someone who has ammo that fits your needs on the BIG stuff, you might be well advised to buy it. I think that you should try our advertisers in Machine Gun News as a first source, because they are most of the ones in the industry...

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**Q** Greetings. I am reading an old copy of MGN, April 95: .223 headspace dimensions.

Go - 1.464

No Go - 1.467

Field - 1.470

Colt factory headspace - field 1.4736 can be purchased from Brownells.

Keep up the good work.

**A** Thanks for the numbers....

**Q** Thought I would share MK-760 experiences with you. I know you like to throw yours at cars, but when well tuned up, they will run quite well and make a good budget-priced subgun for someone just starting out. Not all of us can afford MP5s that are transferable.

I purchased mine from a gentlemen in Virginia and it had been tuned up by Tim LaFrance. It ran well most of the time, but it had some fickle tendencies. First, all MK-760s are ammo sensitive and for the most



part like a fairly hot load, especially if they have a heavy standard recoil spring. These are some stainless recoil springs that apparently were for using a suppressor that are lighter and will allow a "quieter" range of ammo. Remember, the bolt is fairly heavy, and with a heavy recoil spring, some U.S. pistol ammo doesn't have enough power to kick the bolt back to catch the sear. In fact, they sometimes run away, I would check the ammo. This is basically the information that Tim LaFrance gave me on ammo.

Number two problem is the magwells, as they are variable in straightness and some were not cleaned up when the guns were built in the heat of the 1986 ban.

Number three is magazines. They may not interchange from gun to gun due to mag well difference. Right now, thanks to the Clintons and their friends, mags are expensive for the MK-760. Luckily I got four with the gun and made up three more from some "poorman's special" that SARCO offered at one time. I believe these were either Czech 25 or MPL mags, but they originally went into a deep mag well/pistol grip like an Uzi as the catch was midway down the back, and we had to mill a spine off the back. We made mag catches similar to those in Kelly "Doc" Morris' *MGN* article, only we made them out of one piece in the mill and milled out a long strip with the base and the catch, with cross-milled spaces in between. The tang that fit into the slot in the mag well was left all the same width. We tig'd on the catches and final-fitted with the file. It looks like Tec 9 mags could be a candidate to convert if Swedish K or Port Said can't be found, which are easier to do.

Extractors seem to be a problem, also, as I broke the very point of the claw off and the gun would function, then drop about every 4th case on extraction. Tim LaFrance was good enough to warranty the extractor. Per Tim, MK Arms did not use a jig to position the location of the extractor pin in the bolt so each must be hand fitted. While he was at it, I had him make up a spare!

Living near Doc Dater has its advantages, and I had Doc build one of his earliest designs: A Model SG-9 suppressor that replaces the barrel and barrel nut with an internal barrel in the can. Really fun, the bolt cycling is louder than the firing

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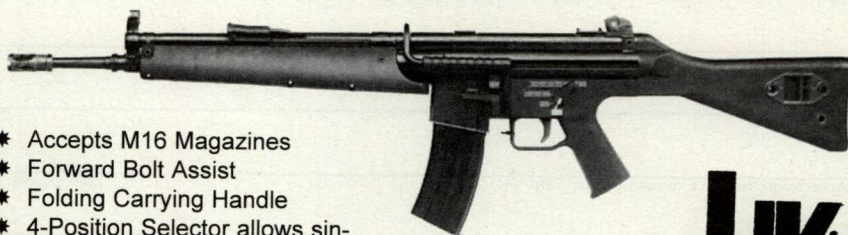
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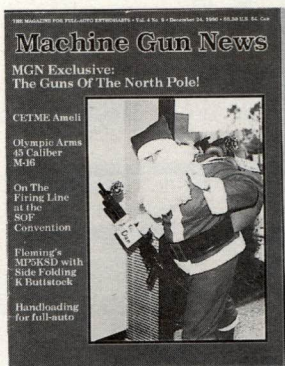
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itself.

I would highly recommend the services of Tim LaFrance to anyone having MK-760 problems as well as Doc Dater GemTech products.

Howard E. W.

P.S. My latest project for the MK-760 is optics (old eyes, you know!) I don't know if you've seen the Russian dot sights that are sort of a Seymour copy or not. They are reasonable (like \$35 or so) and use two penlight batteries and mount in a .22 style rail. They will use a steel rail off the top of one of those cheap Chinese AK-47 scope mounts that replace the top cover that doesn't work and spot tig to the MK-760 receiver (rail portion only). It's too bad the Russians used a .22 rail instead of a Weaver mount, but they didn't. Steel .22 rails are hard to find, so to the junk box we go.

Enjoy reading MGN, and wish Vida would let you loose to come to the shoots in the west. You keep promising, but no Dan!

**A** Thanks for the information on your MK-760 project, Howard. The MK-760 is a nice, smooth shooting submachine gun, when properly tuned. I expect to see more of them at the competitions as people get them running, outfitted with a suppressor and a quick acquisition sighting system.

Howard, I did NOT throw the MK-760 at a car. This old story is still following me around. What happened was at Knob Creek, quite a few years ago, I had piled up a bunch of submachine guns at the line, with the intention of burning a few mags through each of them—kind of a massive road test, if you will. I had an MK-760 that just wouldn't work, no matter what anyone did with it, and it was in the pile. When I picked it up and stuck a mag in, it didn't work. Of course. I tried another mag—KA-CHUNK. Still didn't work. Tried another mag—still didn't work, and I had just about had it, so I pulled the mag, inspected the weapon, and gave it a discus throw downrange. It landed barrel down, sticking up out of the ground like a target (brilliant light bulb flashing over my head). I picked up the next SMG in the pile, a Smith and Wesson 76, smiled at how appropriate it was that the 76 should be the tool of finally putting that #\$%&\* MK-760 out of its misery, slapped a mag in it, and started



firing. Stan tapped me on the shoulder and pointed to the crowd watching my entrum, and I was embarrassed as could be. I stopped shooting and closed up my gun cases. Kenny ended the shooting a few minutes later, so I meekly retrieved the MK-760, which had fortunately not taken any hits. That is the true story. I did finally fix that gun, by putting a new bolt in it. Smoothed right out.

**Q** I am trying to find out what serial numbers Ruger used for Mini-14's after 9/94. I want to buy a pre 9/94 Mini-14. I don't need complete serial numbers. You can leave the last couple of digits out.

Wahid

**A** Well, it seems that I can't give you the serial number breaking-off point for Mini-14's that were made after the September 1994 "Ban," because Ruger didn't do anything to distinguish the "Pre-ban" and "Post-ban" pieces. We all know that there really isn't a difference—a semi-auto is a semi-auto is a semi-auto, but the idiots who passed the "Assault Weapon Ban" didn't know what they were doing, as usual, and there is not any real way to protect yourself from accidentally buying an incorrect gun. So, if you want to buy a Mini-14, a Mini-30, or a 10-22, that have the dreaded assault features such as a folding stock or bayonet lug, you need to check with Ruger in Southport, Connecticut to see when the gun left the factory, and in what configuration. I am serious about this—there is no other way to tell—so when Joe walks into your shop with a Mini-14 folder, and you buy it, you do not have any way of knowing if the gun is a pre-ban gun unless he can show you a receipt proving it!

If you are in the situation where you need to know, get the serial number and model, then call Sturm Ruger at (203) 259-7843, and ask for Records. They will look it up for you, and you can keep from committing a crime by purchasing a dreaded assault rifle that was made a day or two late....

I still want to know how this stops any crimes.

#### Questions to:

Dan Shea, C/O MGN  
PO Box 459  
Lake Hamilton, AR 71951  
e-mail: MGNews@aol.com

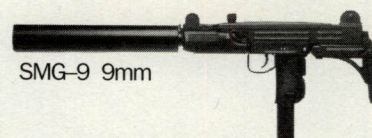
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# THE AMERICAN 180

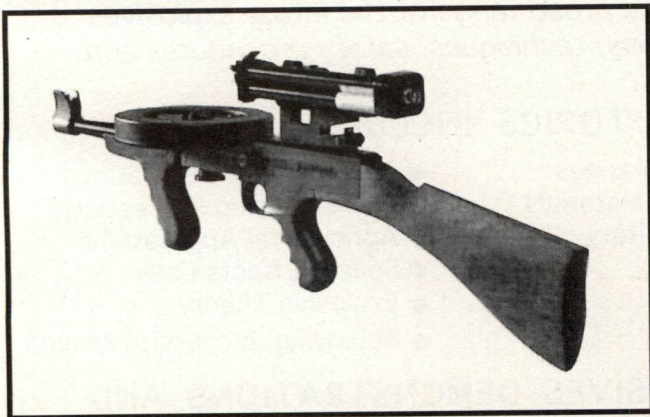


The American 180 with E&L plastic drums. Note loading tray on left drum.

## A FULL CHOKE 100-YARD SHOTGUN

by CAPT. MONTY MENDENHALL

Only one .22LR machine gun has officially been issued for use by a state agency: the American 180. The Utah Department of Corrections armed its prison guards with laser-sighted American 180 machine guns. The guards report that shining the "laser dot" on trouble makers had a submissive effect on them.



The laser-sighted American 180.

The American 180 and its drum magazine is reminiscent of the British Lewis gun. Unlike the Lewis gun, the American 180 fires from an unlocked, open breech. The Lewis gun's operating mechanism powered its drum magazine. The American 180's drum magazine is powered by a "wind-up spring motor."

At 1500+ rounds per minute, the American 180 sounds more like a chainsaw than a machine gun. American 180s are seldom seen at machine gun shoots. Some may think that they are toys because of their .22LR caliber. That evaluation is far from correct. In most "entry" situations, the American 180 may be the best weapon available. No machine gun is more controllable. Videos taken of a six-second burst reveal only a small rearward movement of the muzzle as recoil compresses the shooter's clothing. After that, the muzzle is still as empty brass pours from the gun.

Factory demonstration videos reveal that the American 180's high rate of fire will defeat many bullet resistant vests with a "jack hammer effect." Yet in the event of a miss, the 22LR cartridge does not have excessive penetration for most urban situations.

Val Cooper, of E&L Manufactur-

ing, graciously supplied most of the information for this story. Val reports that the American 180 was originally imported from Austria and later assembled in Salt Lake City, Utah.

The American 180 was marketed by the American Arms International Corporation (AAI). The name "180" was selected because the capacity of the original prototype's three-tiered drum magazine was 180 rounds. The original metal production models held 177 rounds.

### Round Comparison



#### Ilarco .22 Short Magnum vs. 9mm NATO



BULLET VELOCITY (Feet Per Second)		100	200
Caliber And Bullet Weight	Muzzle	Yds	Yds
.22 Short MAG 40 GRN FMJ	1,350	1,015	825
9mm NATO 124 GRN FMJ	1,260	1,040	905

BULLET ENERGY (Foot Pounds)		100	200
Caliber	Muzzle	Yds	Yds
.22 Short MAG	160	82	51
9mm NATO	437	282	207

#### BULLET TRAJECTORY

Caliber	Muzzle	100	200
	Yds	Yds	Yds
.22 Mag	0"	-3"	-12"
9mm NATO	0"	-6.5"	-25"

#### 10 SHOT BURST Group Diameter 25 Meters

Ilarco's 180 6"

Uzi 9mm 20"

#### TOTAL WEIGHT (Round Loaded)

.22 Short MAG	60 GRN
9mm NATO	190 GRN

#### OPERATING PRESSURES

.22 Short MAG	24,000 Max PSI (chamber pressure)
9mm NATO	36,200 Max PSI (case mouth pressure)

All information shown in the above charts was obtained from Olin Winchester Corporation and range tests. Actual field use may vary.



When American Arms International first decided to manufacture the American 180 in the United States as opposed to importing from Austria, the production guns became "Fully Transferable" instead of "Pre-86 Dealer Samples" like the imported guns. These American Arms manufactured American 180s are the only ones that may be owned by non-Class 3 dealers, and they command a premium on the market. American Arms did try several subcontractors to manufacture the guns for them, and there were 24 fully-transferable American 180s that were made by a company called S&S Arms. These had a lighter finished color, and some were actually colored in red or green. American Arms also produced a model that was chrome-plated, as well as a 24 karat gold-plated model that was offered for \$16,000.

Production of the American 180 was begun by The Illinois Arms Corporation (Ilarco) after AAI closed its doors. When foreign sales of American 180s didn't materialize, Ilarco declared bankruptcy. Most of the company's assets were acquired by Feather Industries.

All of the American 180s manufactured by Ilarco were Post-86 dealer samples for law enforcement and Class 3 dealers only.

American 180s produced by all three companies are similar. Most parts will interchange; a few parts are different. Val Cooper acquired all of the remaining parts from Feather Industries. He can maintain American 180s made by any manufacturer.

Val Cooper stated that the American 180 works fine with many brands of ammo, but Winchester is not a good choice. The powder used in Winchester .22LR ammo burns too fast. This causes the American 180 to cycle too quickly. The fired cases are pulled from the chamber before the pressure drops to a safe level. This causes ruptured cases.

Extensive testing was done with several brands of ammo but not Winchester. All performed well. None were better than CCI 22LR Blazers. Val Cooper's personal choice of ammo is Federal Lightnights.

Firing at twenty-five to thirty-rounds per second, depending on the brand of ammo, the American 180 can produce a continuous

burst as long as seven seconds. If that is not enough, E&L Manufacturing still has some of its preban, 275-round magazines. These produce up to eleven seconds of fire.

The American 180 is extremely controllable when fired from the shoulder in bursts of five rounds. At fifty feet, eighty percent of the hits will be in the black rings of an NRA slow fire pistol target.

The American 180 was fired at an IPSC target at 100 yards. Using the iron sights, fifty rounds were shot in bursts of five while leaning on a car roof for support. This firing position is one that a police officer might use.

There were forty-four hits on the IPSC target. Twenty-seven were in the "A" zone. This is a very good performance.

The American 180 does not have a muzzle brake. It does not need one. Some models did have a flash suppressor.

The total weight of five .22LR bullets is 195 grains, about the same as one .45ACP Winchester Silvertip. Reports from the field indicate that the effect of multiple hits in very rapid succession is devastating. According to

Alan C. Paulson, it is the moral equivalent of buckshot. Think of the American 180 as a "full choke 100-yard shotgun."

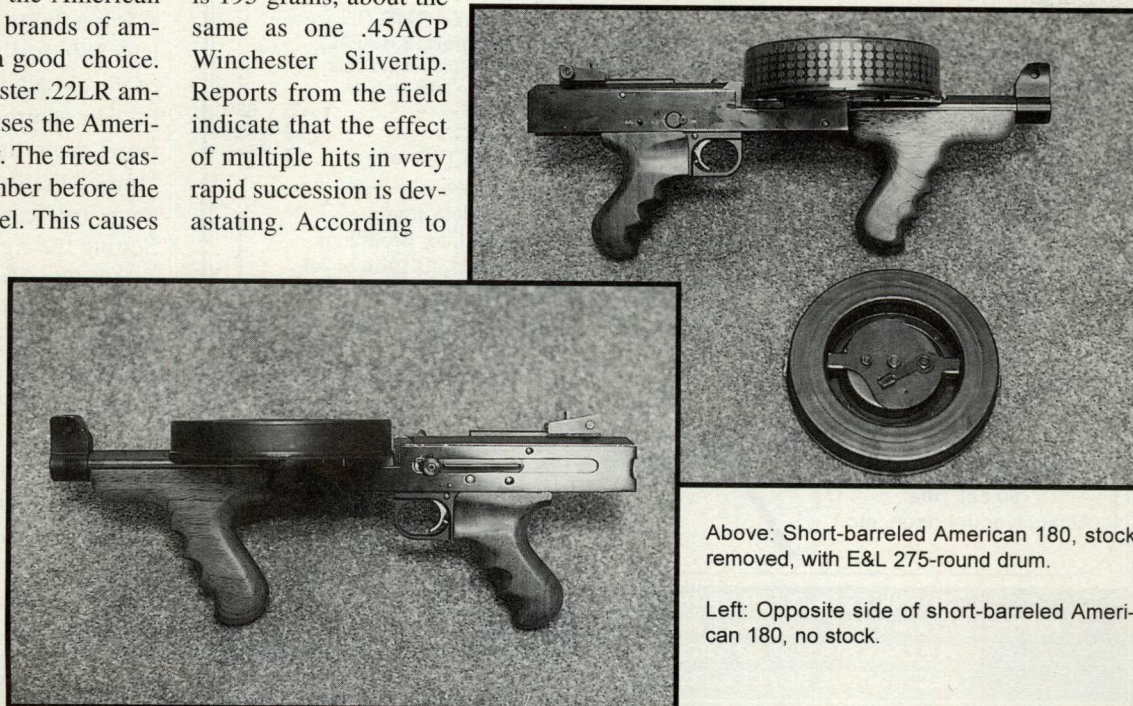
Val Cooper reported that there is only one documented case of an American 180 being fired in a confrontation. A police officer, in a small Florida town, used his

## AMERICAN 180 SPECIFICATIONS

Caliber	.22 long rifle
Length, overall	(standard barrel 35 1/4"
Length, overall	(9" barrel, stock removed) 17 5/8"
Weight, empty	(magazine removed) 5 3/4"
Weight, loaded	(177-round original metal mag) 9 1/4"
Weight, loaded	(275-round lexan mag) 8 1/4"
Trigger pull	approximately 5"
Barrel length	16 1/2" standard
	14" custom
	9" short
Barrel bore	.217 (5.51)
Number of grooves	5 twist one turn in 16"
Sights (front)	fixed blade
(rear)	peep-type ramp with 1/2" minute of angle for windage
Select fire	full auto or semi-auto
Rate of fire	1500 rpm*
*Varies with type of ammunition used	

American 180 to stop a felon who was fleeing in a car. Forty-plus rounds were fired through the car door. The felon saw the error of his ways and was sincerely sorry.

The American 180 is available in three barrel lengths: nine, fourteen and sixteen inches. These barrels may be exchanged in



Above: Short-barreled American 180, stock removed, with E&L 275-round drum.

Left: Opposite side of short-barreled American 180, no stock.



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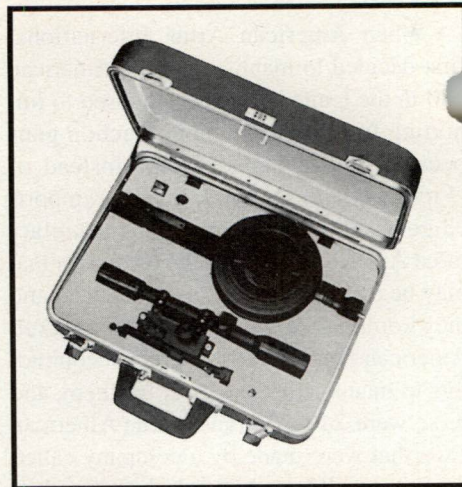
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The 180 SC security briefcase contains the 180 SB.

seconds without using any tools.

The nine and fourteen inch barrels are threaded for suppressors. Val Cooper states that screw-on muzzle cans do not work well. To be reliable, the American 180 must use high velocity ammo. High velocity ammo is supersonic. The supersonic "boom" occurs outside of the suppressor and negates much of the suppressor's work.

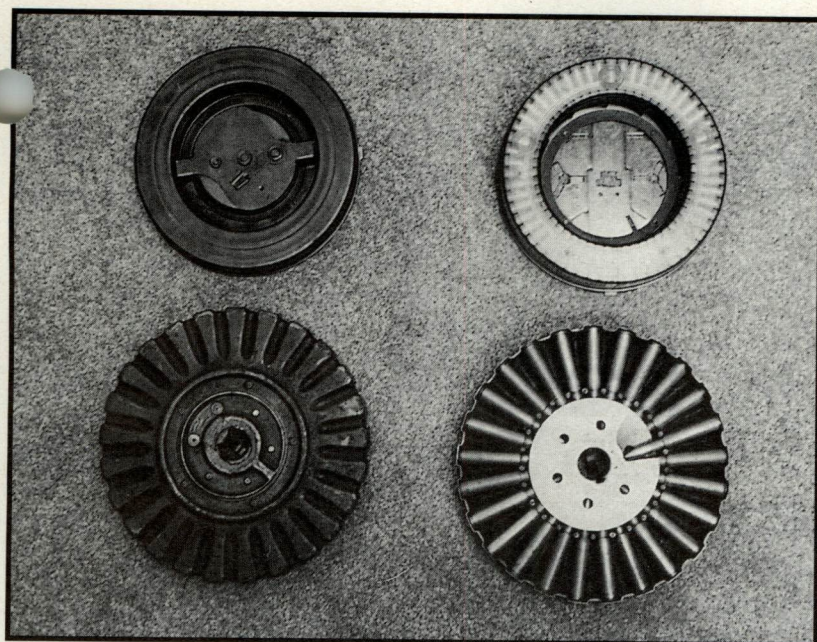
Like the 1921 Thompson machine gun, the American 180's butt stock removes with the push of a button. With a nine-inch barrel and no stock, the American 180 is very short. It is still bulky, though, due to its large magazine. In this configuration, it is not a good choice for an undercover weapon.

For covert operations, an "undercover briefcase" was made for the American 180. Superficially, it appears to be an expensive, high quality businessman's briefcase. Inside is a short-barreled, laser-sighted American 180. It is aimed and fired from inside of the closed briefcase.

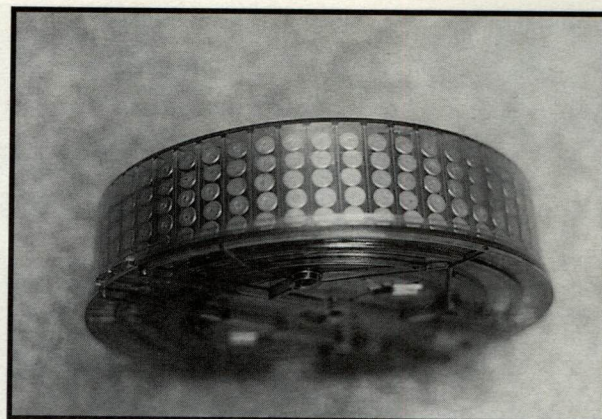
The controls for the "undercover briefcase" are reliable and clever. Like many "top-of-the-line" briefcases, the "undercover briefcase" has a combination lock. Setting the right combination releases the first safety. Hidden in the briefcase's handle are two inconspicuous "push button" switches. The first switch turns on the laser and releases the final safety. The second switch fires the American 180. Factory demonstration videos of the "undercover briefcase" show that it is very effective at close range. Like the shoulder-stocked version, little movement is caused by the recoil.

The American 180's standard peep sight is adjustable for elevation and windage. It is installed on a grooved rail and is simple

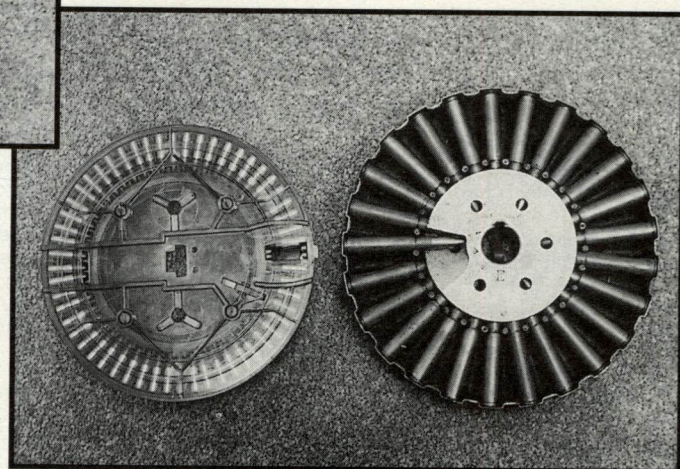




Upper left: 177-round drum. Upper right: E&L drum. Bottom: Lewis gun drums.



E&L 275-round drum.



E&L drum and Lewis gun drum.

to remove. Once removed, a "red dot" sight or scope sight may be installed on the rail using standard .22 "Tip Off" rings. With a 1.5 to 4 power scope, an American 180 could be very useful in hostage rescue situations. Val Cooper recommends using the short Beeman model SS-2 scope.

The American 180 has a few faults. Magazine changes are slow. The magazine lacks a follower. For this reason, the last round in the magazine often fails to feed. Unless the user has "backup units" to protect him, it would be best to drop the American 180 and draw a handgun if he runs out of ammo during a fire fight.

If an American 180 user fires in effective five-round bursts, running out of ammo is unlikely. With 177 rounds of ammo, the user has thirty-five bursts available. If an E&L 275-round magazine is used, fifty-

five bursts are possible.

The instruction manual supplied with the American 180 is one of the best in the industry. It is profusely illustrated and very readable.

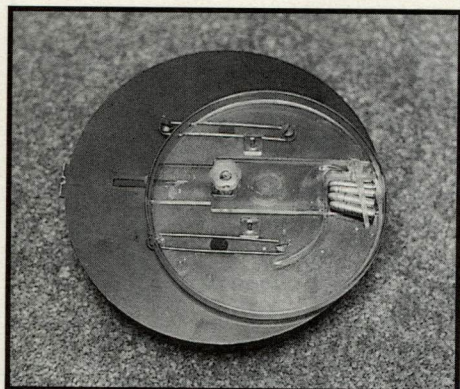
There are a few details about the drum magazine that are worthy of note. The magazine has two parts: the drum and the spring motor that powers it.

The ammo in the American 180 drum is stacked in tiers. The 177-round magazine has three tiers. E&L's 275-round magazine has five tiers. As it fires, the drum makes one 360 degree revolution per tier of ammo.

The drum is slow to load by hand; it

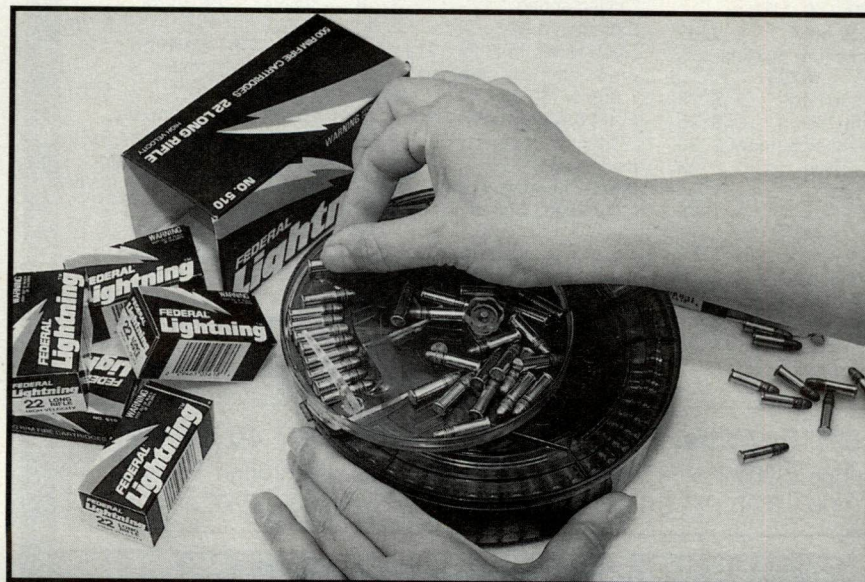
takes ten to fifteen minutes. E&L makes a neat loading tray that clips to the magazine. With it, an experienced person can load a 177-round magazine in three minutes.

After loading the drum, the spring motor must be installed in the magazine. This is a simple job, but it must be done correctly. If the spring motor is mounted improperly, it will jump out the magazine and



Above: Original 177-round, American 180 drum with E&L loading tray.

Right: Using E&L loading tray.







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unwind instantly. This rapid unwinding will jam the spring motor every time. It is not user-repairable and must be returned to E&L for repair. E&L can rework the old original style "geared" winder to the new "nongear" configuration. The new type will not jam if misused.

After placing the magazine on the American 180, the spring motor must be wound one and one quarter turns per layer of ammo.

If the magazine must be removed from the gun after winding the spring motor, be sure to move the spring motor's brake lever to the outermost position marked "F." If a wound-up spring motor is removed from the magazine before the brake is applied, the motor may be damaged unless it has been converted to the new style.

The Ilarco manufactured American 180 was available in a twin gun configuration. Two receivers were mounted on a single stock. Weighing over fourteen pounds, it must have been awkward to use. At 3000+ rpm, it had tremendous firepower. Val Cooper stated that with a single American 180 and one magazine, he could, "Blow a hole in a cinder block wall big enough to crawl through, every time." Factory demonstration videos confirm that this is true. What would two guns have done?



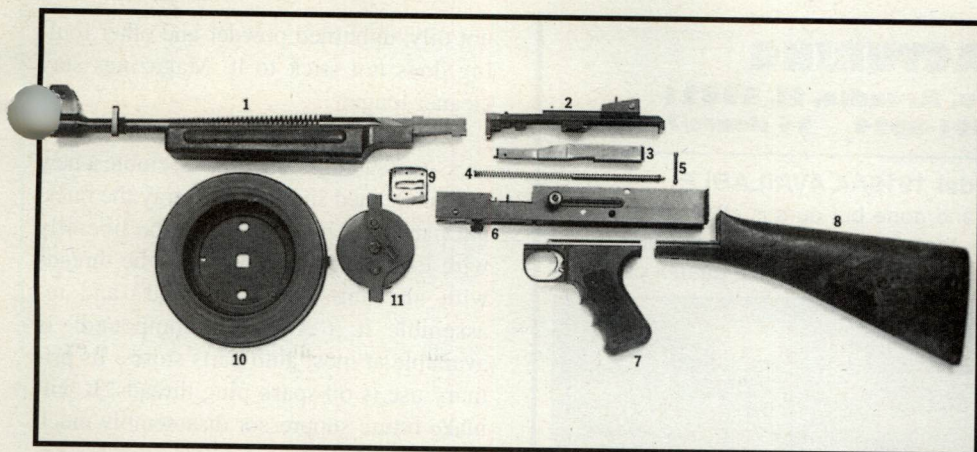
The Ilarco 180 Twin has a capability of firing up to 60 rounds per second with a capacity of 165 rounds.

A few quad-mounted American 180s were built. These "Quad 22s" fired from a tripod at the devastating rate of 7000+ rpm.

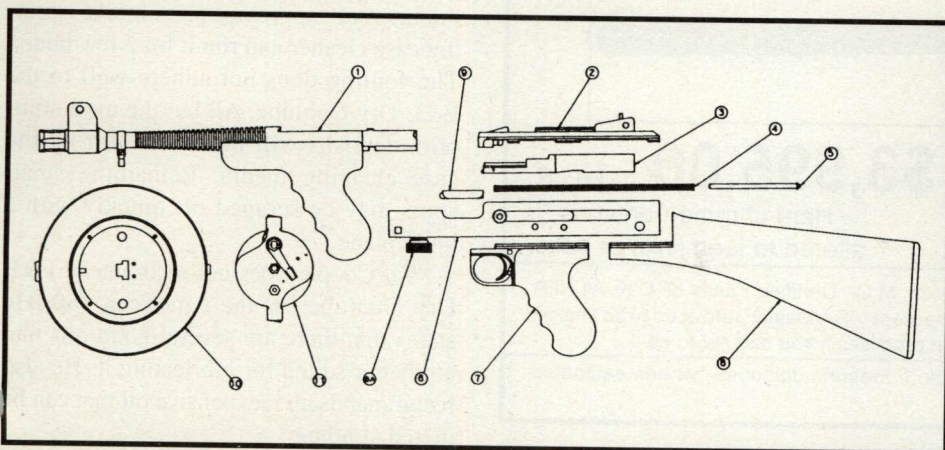
Val Cooper told of an American 180 salesman in New England who mounted a pair of quad American 180s on a Falcon ultralight airplane. The "Quad 22s" were placed in removable brackets on the left and right sides of the fuselage. The salesman hoped to make sales to third world governments.

The individual guns could be fired in any combination. They could be fired one





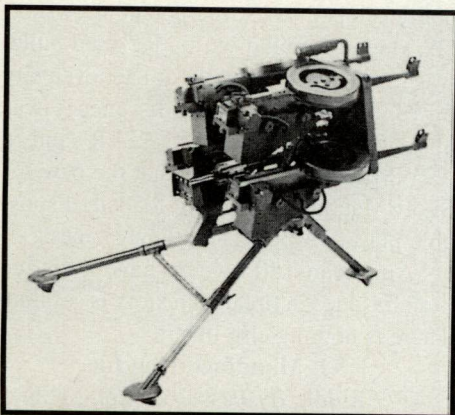
**The American 180 rifle disassembled.** 1-Barrel group. 2-Receiver top strap. 3-Bolt. 4-Bolt spring. 5-Receiver top retainer pin. 6-Receiver. 7-Trigger group. 8-Stock. 9-Feed block. 10-Drum magazine. 11-Winding mechanism.



**The Ilarco 180 rifle disassembled.** 1-Barrel assembly. 2-Receiver top strap. 3-Bolt. 4-Bolt spring. 5-Bolt spring guide. 6-Receiver. 6a-Barrel retaining knob. 7-Trigger housing assembly. 8-Shoulder stock. 9-Feed block. 10-Drum type magazine. 11-Winder.

at a time or one on the left and one on the right or all eight at once. Using 275-round drums and firing the guns singly produced eighty-eight seconds of fire. In most cases, all eight American 180s would be fired at once to minimize return fire from the ground.

After receiving Coast Guard permission, the salesman dropped buoys offshore



The 180 SAW Quad is capable of firing up to 120 rounds per second with a capacity of 660 rounds.

in the Atlantic and made strafing runs on them. If his aim was good, he must have literally "blown them out of the water." His combined rate of fire was 12,000-plus rounds per minute.

The American 180 armed Falcon could be disassembled and air dropped to a forward location. Only 500 feet of a relatively straight road was needed for a runway.

It was claimed that the Falcon could be made ready for flight in only ten minutes after an air drop. This claim is unlikely. After the initial assembly of the Falcon, a prudent pilot would probably need twenty minutes just to make his personal preflight inspection.

No armed Falcons were sold. The whereabouts of the prototype is unknown. Val Cooper has the prototype Falcon's gun brackets and electronic firing controls.

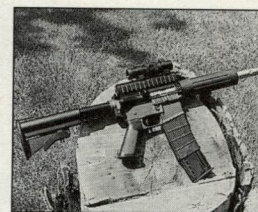
Besides maintaining American 180s for owners, E&L makes a "spray-on" graphite product called E&L Dry Gunlube. It is very good for use inside magazines. The dry lubrication will not harm primers. Since it is

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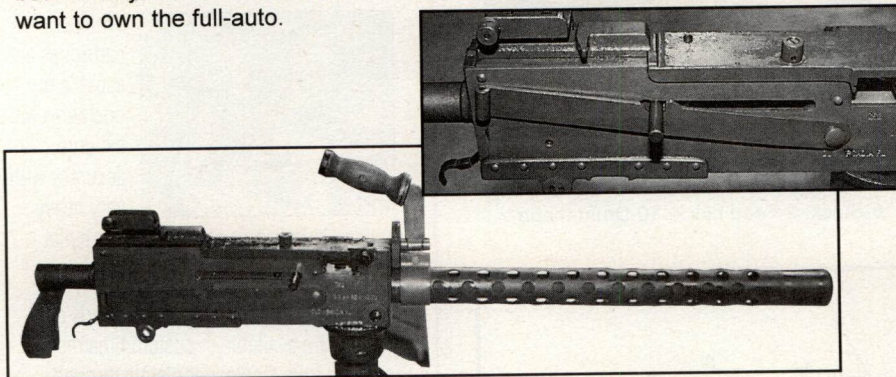


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not oily, unburned powder and other fouling does not stick to it. Magazines stay cleaner longer.

E&L Dry Gunlube also can make suppressor cleaning easier. Disassemble a new or just cleaned suppressor. Spray the internal parts and inside of the tube liberally with E&L Dry Gunlube. Coat the threads with an "antiseize compound" and reassemble it. ("Antiseize compound" is available at most auto parts stores. Its primary use is on spark plug threads. It will make future suppressor disassembly much easier.)

When the Dry Gunlube treated suppressor is dirty again, disassemble it. Place the internal suppressor parts into a vibrating case cleaner and run it for a few hours. The fouling does not adhere well to the E&L Dry Gunlube. All but the most stubborn deposits will be cleaned off by the case cleaning media. Remaining small spots may be scraped off quickly with a knife blade.

Val Cooper does not recommend E&L Dry Gunlube for the American 180. He states that there are several good oils that are better suited for lubricating it. He also recommends an inexpensive oil that can be mixed at home.

Into a one-quart jar, pour one inch of STP® motor oil treatment. Fill the jar with a 50/50 mixture of WD-40® and 10W machine oil. (WD-40® and 10W machine oil are available in one gallon cans in many auto parts stores.) Shake well and pour the mixture into a spray can. Shake the spray can before each use.


E&L also makes brass catchers. They clip to the gun and prevent the loss of fired cases. This is a boon for reloaders.

Due to the 1986 gun control law and an unfortunate lack of demand by law enforcement agencies, the American 180 was not developed to its true potential. A short .22 Magnum round with a jacketed bullet was made experimentally. It had a velocity of 1350 feet per second. Its energy was about halfway between .22LR and a .22WMR. It was planned that the new .22 Short Magnum be sold in loaded, disposable plastic, American 180 magazines.

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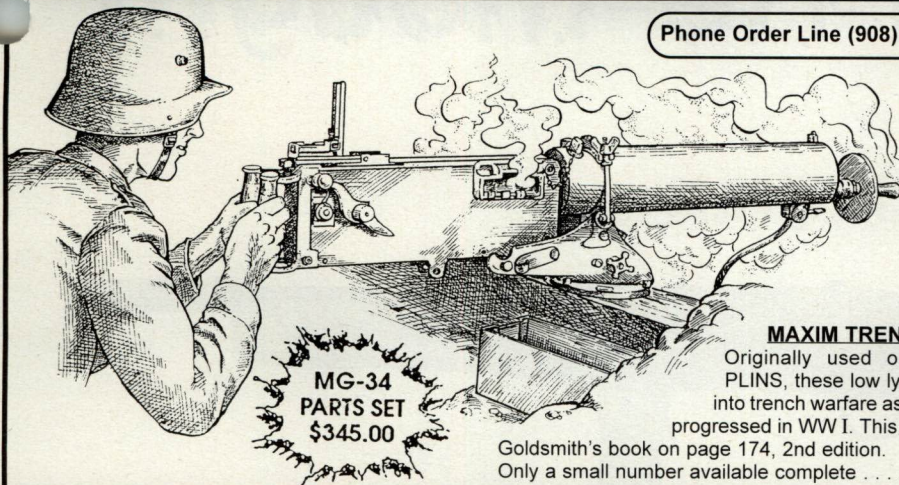
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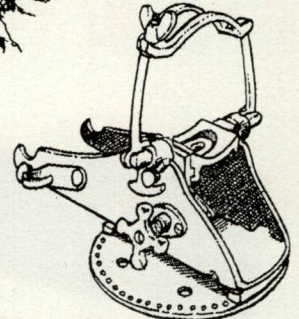


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# Reising Re-thought



by **RUSSELL WILLIAMS**

One of the first things anyone learns, when writing for publication, is that how you write about a topic can change from day to day, meaning that on Thursday you'll go at a topic from a different angle than the one you would have used on Monday. And as soon as you drop the finished copy in the outgoing mail, you'll suddenly realize you could have taken a better approach than the one you've just used. It's been just about a year (August 1994) since my last article, "M50 Reising: The Gun Nobody Wants," and every time I look at the published copy, I think of three or four other ways I could have used to write on the subject: avenues of approach that wouldn't have given the story such a negative feeling.

But then, I'd be lying. I still think the gun's complex internal design makes it a turkey, though I must admit that after putting some twelve hundred more rounds through the thing, it's a turkey that has a character all its own and one that I can live with.

The article provoked much more response than my previous efforts, with letters, comments, even a positive pro-Reising counter article. This is all very good

and educational. I've learned there are three great Class 3 disputes: MG34 vs. M60; MP5 vs. M16; and Reising M50 vs. anything else. Get the respective advocates going strong in argument, and the fur flies. This is where testing, shooting, and experimentation come in, as they can change a person's point of view. Well, sort of...

After the initial response to the M50 article, I started in on some serious experimentation with bullet and powder variations to see if I could come up with a load that would give me better results than what I had been getting. I went through twelve hundred rounds of various bullet weight (all RNs), four powders, and two makes of primers. The results were productive, but they didn't change my mind that much about the practicality of the gun for anything other than nonhurried, casual shooting. I found the Reising worked best when a load was assembled for controllability, not to get close to GI specs or hot match performance. In this case, 185gr. JHPs and 200gr. FMJs worked far better than the standard 230gr. load. Too, a clean-burning powder kept one major problem to a minimum. With powders such as Unique or Bullseye, I could only get some sixty rounds fired

before blow-back residue built up enough to slow the action down. With a load of W-231 or 700-X and a magnum primer, I got upwards of 250 rounds fired before cleaning was called for. I admit that my barrel's chamber is probably over-sized from use as it's a prewar gun, and a new barrel might reduce the fouling trouble. Also, I did my best to avoid LRNs as they tended to hang up on the little feed ramp and produced little particles and shavings that settled in the chamber end and in the action. For a Reising, FMJs are the only way to go if you want to avoid repeated cleaning at short intervals.

My experimentation ended with a load tailored to the gun that would allow me to fire short bursts at a 25-yard target bull and have most rounds impact in the bull, or at least in the upper scoring rings. This was a definite improvement over what the gun had been producing.

I did most of my testing on Phoenix's Ben Avery Shooting Range since it allows Class 3 guns on the line, and being there puts me in contact with a goodly number of retired military folks who have serious experience with the Reising. Some had read the *MGN* article and agreed that the M50



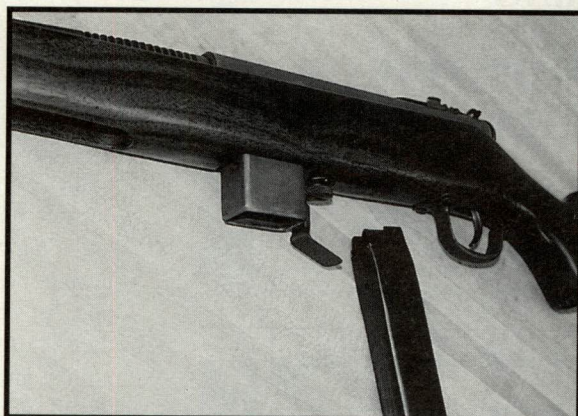
# Magazine Release for M50 Reising

by FRANK IANNAMICO

One area of the Reising submachine gun that has often been faulted for poor design is the magazine release. It has been criticized as being too small to afford enough leverage for quick magazine changes.

Mr. Gerald White of JJ's Guns is now manufacturing a much-improved paddle type magazine release for the Reising. This new high quality magazine release is easily installed with no permanent alterations to the firearm.

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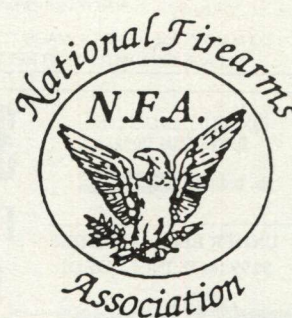
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is not a good in-the-field firearm. A few said it was OK but just for training purposes. Some said they make good door stops. But some folks thought they were acceptable if you knew what you had, what the gun could or could not do, and were trained to properly use it. From one such person I learned several interesting points. First, troops who were issued the M50 (or its folding version, the M55) in the Pacific soon learned to use single shots, and not to shoot the gun on full auto as the natural urge to hold the trigger down soon resulted in the barrel pointing toward the open sky. "Panic position" was what the selector's full-auto (FA) position was called. Second, if they had to go full auto, they changed their grip on the gun. That is, for single action (SA) there was one grip position, and for FA another. SA was pretty much GI standard: buttplate tight into the shoulder, right hand around the stock with index finger on the trigger, and the left hand out to grasp the stock's forend in the palm. FA hold was different. In FA, the lower end of the buttplate was placed against the shoulder, and the right hand kept the usual grip. But the left hand was pulled rearward to lightly wrap around the magazine well.

This sounds a bit impractical, but it really does work quite well. It allows the gun to easily pivot from the shoulder and shifts the balance point to just behind the mag well. When fired in this position, the recoil of the gun is greatly reduced as its own weight now pulls the muzzle down with each shot. When I was first told of this SA to FA stance change, I thought the fellow telling it was full of hot air, but once I tried it, I knew he wasn't kidding. My group size shrunk a bit, and the Reising was easier to control. I guess this is a simple form of ergonomics, letting the design of the gun work off of the shape of the human body for maximum ease of use. And third, according to this same gent, both M50s and M55s were second-line issue to truck and transport regiments in Korea and Okinawa during and just after the Korean war. However, most of the drivers and crews preferred to carry and M1 or M2 carbine instead. The action had a tendency to collect too much dust and debris to be considered reliable.

Now that I've put a grand total of something like three thousand or so rounds through my Reising, I can say that its positive points nearly equal that of its nega-



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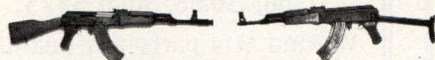
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tive ones. On the latter count, the over-complex action is prone to stoppage from fouling and debris sifting in through numerous openings, and it can't readily be field-stripped for cleaning. The little pins that hold it together can be a headache to deal with, and if you drop one...well, let's hope you never do. The internally moving action bar collects blow-back residue, and that slows the cyclic rate. The finger-end of the bar resides in a small underside stock cut-out, and if you've got big hands like I do, it's a roaring pain to get to, let alone push to cycle when slightly fouled. But the positive side is good. Reisings fire the standard .45 ACP round, and you can find that almost anywhere. Parts can be easily gotten through Ken Christie Enterprises and Gun Parts Corporation, and most should swap-out with little or no serious fitting required. New magazines are available, as are stocks. This means that if something other than the receiver goes out on you, its replacement is just a mail order away. You don't have to send a Reising away on a Form 5 to replace a firing pin or a selector screw. Reisings are also plentiful, judging by the ads I've seen in *Machine Gun News* and *Shotgun News*. New-in-the-box guns can be had for \$600 to \$700. Now, if you consider that well-used MAC 9s and 10s start for that much, and a beat-up MP5 will set you back two and a half grand, owning an "NIB" Reising has a certain practical financial appeal. I saw such a gun at a recent Phoenix gun show, and it was in very impressive condition: immaculate wood, and parkerized metal with no scratches or blemishes. Too, they are very well-received to the firing line, barking loudly and throwing out a stream of big brass cases. A Reising shouts, "Hey! I'm a real machine gun!" to other shooters (especially little kids), and they always crowd around to watch it do its stuff. So, my final advice on the subject is simple. If you want a Class 3 gun and your finances are limited, or you want something not too expensive to learn on, go for a Reising. You will have a gun that, when properly loaded, will shoot well and impress almost all who see it. Learn to clean it correctly, understand its limits—shooting FA past 50 yards is really pressing things—and you will have an accurate shooter and a good investment.

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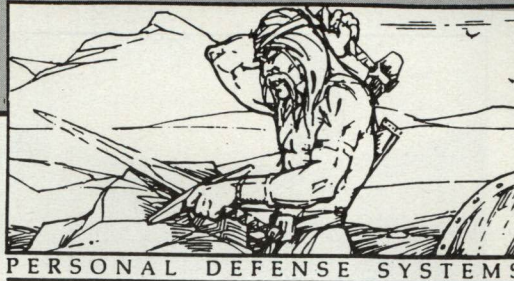


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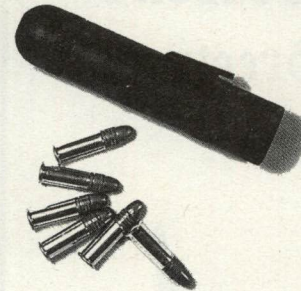


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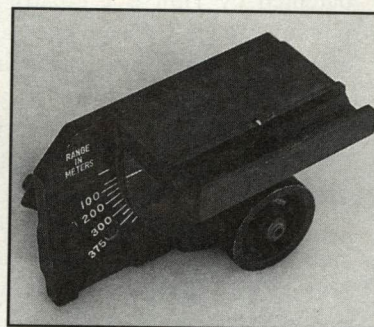
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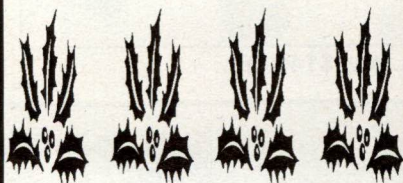




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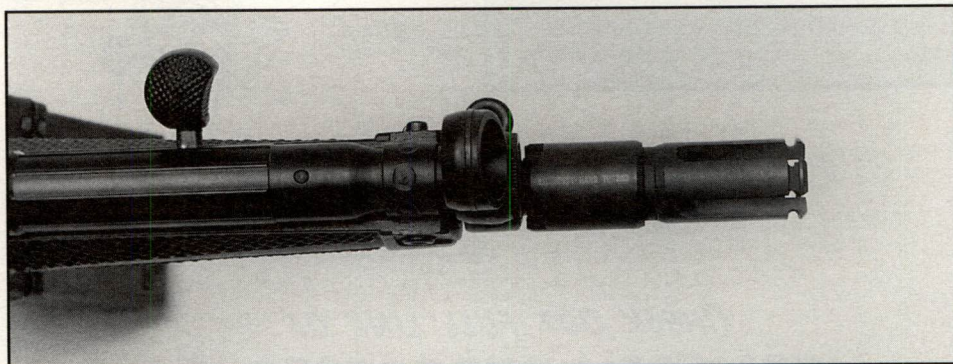


From all of us  
at  
Machine Gun News



# MP5 Vortex Flash Hider

by SAM LEE



Users of the MP5s are in for a treat with the Vortex Hider. This product is from Tim LaFrance of LaFrance Specialties, PO Box 178211, San Diego, California 92177. Without the Vortex, flashes range from three to six inches. Using this Vortex Flash Hider will virtually eliminate all muzzle flash. The Vortex consists of two parts: the coupler and the flash hider.

Tim LaFrance, a master weaponsmith, is renowned for his innovations among which are the M14K, the M16K and the soon-to-be-released M16K45. However, what is unique in this case about Tim LaFrance's product is not in the fact that he invented it, but rather that he greatly improved products that already existed and made them better and simpler. The coupler, patented by Tim, is a greatly improved product in terms of speed of use and ease of production over pre-existing units.

To use, slip the coupler over a three-lug barrel (the barrel must meet factory specs detailed in the installation instructions), and align the index screw on the lug at the six o'clock position. The Vortex itself is similarly a great improvement from the current designs. Tim's version, however, has left-hand threads so there is no need for tools or Loctite to keep the Vortex in place. Ingeniously, Tim utilizes a left-hand thread for a few practical reasons (it takes considerable effort to become accustomed to this left-hand thread). There is no need to forcibly tighten the Vortex to the coupler, just hand tight is plenty. The right-hand twist of the barrel causes the gases to spin the same way, and this rotating gas has a tapping or tightening effect of the Vortex on the flash hider itself. This ensures that the Vortex will not become loose and fly off during use. The tines of the Vortex are staggered slightly off-center and that fact

combined with the four right-angle blades give the swirling gases, carrying the unburned powder, another chance to burn before totally exiting the Vortex.

It is my understanding that if the tine stagger were eliminated, the effectiveness would be compromised. The four prongs are at the optimum position. Any change of position would also compromise performance. Hence, there is a warning that comes with the Vortex for safety and efficiency reasons to check the flash hider for damage if the weapon is dropped.

There are two versions of the Vortex



The Vortex mounted to the LaFrance Specialties M16K.

Flash Hider: the one described above and the variation requested by law enforcement agencies that perceived a need to prevent grass, leaves, etc. from being caught in the tines. This version has a stainless steel ring installed in the undercut provided at the front of the tines. However, while fulfilling the requirements mentioned, the ring reduces the flash-hiding effectiveness of the device.

The Vortex Flash Hider retails at \$95.00. To order, contact LaFrance Specialties listed above or from Tim's distributor: M2 Corporation, 3230 East Flamingo Road, Suite 258, Las Vegas, Nevada 89121. Phone (702) 737-7867, Fax (702) 737-5723.

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MG-0855	L1A1, Australian, steel	7.62 NATO	30 rds	New	\$49.90	\$39.90	\$29.90
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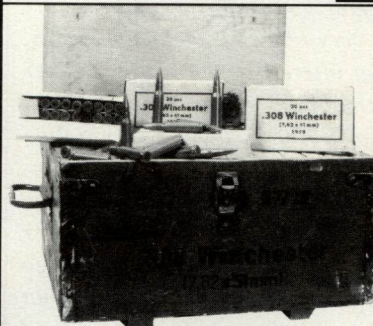
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<b>30.06 Steel Core G.I. BLACK TIP</b> AM-0485-C250	F.N. Belgium	1960s	Brass	Steel Core FMJ	250rds	250rds .30 Cal Can	20 lbs	YES	No	<b>\$87.50</b> (\$35.00/rd)	5.75	9.00	12.00
<b>30.06 Ball</b> AM-0447-C250	F.N. Belgium	1960s	Brass	Lead Core FMJ	250rds	250rds .30 Cal Can	20 lbs	YES	No	<b>\$72.50</b> (\$29.00/rd)	5.75	9.00	12.00
<b>30.06 Blank ON LINKS BELTS</b> AM-0480-C250	F.N. Belgium	1970s & 60s	Brass	Star Crimp	250rds	250rds .30 Cal Can	16 lbs	YES	No	<b>\$27.50</b> (\$11.00/rd)	5.00	8.00	10.00
<b>30.06 Blank, Star Crimp Bulleted</b> AM-0482-C400	I.M.I. Israel	1990s	Brass	N.A.	20rds	400 rds .50 Cal Can	35 lbs	YES	YES	<b>\$49.00</b> (\$125.00/rd)	7.50	13.00	18.75
<b>30.06 Blank GRENADE LAUNCHING</b> AM-0484-C800	F.N. Belgium	1960s & 50s	Brass	N.A.	100rds	800 rds	45 lbs	YES	No	<b>\$128.00</b> (\$16.00/rd)	9.00	16.00	24.00
<b>7.65 Argentine</b> 7.65x54 AM-0326-C1500	Argentine Military Arsenals	1980s	Brass	N.A.	15rds	1500 rds	90 lbs	YES	No	<b>\$172.50</b> (\$115.00/rd)	33.00	35.00	38.00

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# The Interview: Peter G. Kokalis

by DAN SHEA

*MGN readers will remember last year's interview with Soldier of Fortune's Technical Editor Peter Kokalis (MGN Nov. '94). He is a well known member of the machine gun fraternity and recently had several experiences that are very relevant to current events. I thought these would be of great interest to the readers. Peter was training Croat Government Soldiers on machine gunning, and he was at Mikhail Kalashnikov's 75th birthday party in Russia.... Stan Andrews and I caught up with Peter at the September 1995 Soldier of Fortune Convention in Las Vegas. We were there to shoot with the Arizona Emma Gees for the Firepower Demonstration. I brought a Czech ZK-383, and Stan had a Yugo M53, hoping to round out the appearance of machine guns that Peter had trained the Croatians on. We stayed off of the subject of M60 GPMG's, so Peter's acid wit was somewhat restrained....*

**MGN:** Peter, good to see you, and welcome back to the U.S.

**Kokalis:** I'm glad to be back with Stan and Dan from *Machine Gun News* at this year's *Soldier of Fortune* Convention. I'm happy for an opportunity, through Dan, to talk to the *Machine Gun News* readers for whom I have a great deal of respect and a great deal in common with, and I think we are going to discuss a number of very interesting topics. Since I talked to you last through the pages of *Machine Gun News*, the first thing that happened to me that I think would be interesting to *MGN* readers is that in November of 1994, I was invited to go to Russia and help celebrate the 75th birthday of Mikhail Kalashnikov. It was a great honor for me to be personally invited to that, and it also proved to be an opportunity to both test and evaluate some very interesting weapons. Dr. Kalashnikov is now raised in rank from Colonel to General. I had several private dinners with him: once in the hotel where we stayed and once in his apartment. I spoke with him about his famous design and discussed some features on the AK about which there has been some dispute by westerners. It was a wonderful opportunity to talk to the designer himself and settle some of these issues once and for all.

**MGN:** Where did the meetings take place, Peter?

**Kokalis:** In the city of Izhevsk, Russia which is in the western part of the Urals and it is 1,130 kilometers east of Moscow. To

get there, I went on a train ride which was fascinating. The train was made in East Germany, a pullman type train. The ride is over twenty hours across the frozen steppes of Russia. Izhevsk was a closed city before the communist regime fell, because Izhevsk is a historic arsenal city, where a lot of defense material is manufactured. There are two great factories there: the Izhmash factory which makes the AK 100 series, the Dragunov sniper rifles, as well as the Bizon SMG; and the Izhevsk mechanical plant which makes the Makarov pistols, the PSM pistols, a number of clandestine handguns for special operations personnel, and it is at that plant that the Klin-Kedr submachine gun was designed although it is made at a different factory.

**MGN:** Did you get an opportunity to discuss the slot in the stock of the AK74 with Dr. Kalashnikov? I mean, what it's for?

**Kokalis:** Yes. I told you that I had some answers to questions we all have, but the first thing I would like to discuss is the so-called rate reducer. This is something that I've discussed some years ago with Ken Carter, who after my discussion remained convinced that it was indeed there as a rate reducer. I have never felt that it was a rate reducer. When I first encountered it in Afghanistan in 1983, I saw both the first AK74's and a lot of Russian AKMs. I decided that even without a rate counter computer, by just listening, it appeared to me that any reduction in the rate was very minimal and that they would not have introduced this five-component device into the trigger mechanism for such a minimal reduction in the rate. It was my supposition at that time that when the Russians went from the forged, milled receiver of the AK47 to the pinned and riveted sheet metal receiver of the AKM that the weapon's "bounce" characteristics changed. By that I mean the "bolt bounce." When the rotary bolt goes forward and goes into battery, it bounces momentarily out of battery and then back in and out until it finally settles down and is locked in complete battery. You have the same occurrence with the M16 and its rotary bolt. A lot of people think the buffer and buttstock of the M16, as improved for the M16A1, was a rate reducer because it did have a significant effect on reducing the rate of fire. When I talked to Rob Roy of Colt, way before he retired, and discussed that with him and told him I didn't think that was a rate reduction improvement, he said that was certainly correct, that it was an antibounce device. They were having trouble with the M16 firing out of battery and went to the prototype room and experimented with a whole bunch of different buffers. I have a cross-sectioned buffer that he gave me from the model shop, and if you've ever seen an M16A1 buffer, it's a series of little steel inserts. It's not one big steel insert, it's a whole bunch of them interspersed by some type of a synthetic spacer. Lowering the rate was just a side benefit that they were happy to get, but that wasn't why they did it.

**MGN:** So your supposition was that...

**Kokalis:** So my supposition was, Dan, yes, that this device added to the trigger mechanism of the AK served the same purpose. That it was an antibounce device, and it was, in fact, a mechanical drag on the hammer, so that the hammer could not fall forward to strike the firing pin until the bolt had settled down. I thought to myself, there's got to be a lot more bounce in this



*So, when I had dinner with  
Dr. Kalashnikov, I laid it all on him.  
I said, "You must answer this dispute."*

**MGN:** Has Dr. Kalashnikov been involved in all of the changes that have been made to the AK series that you looked at?

**Kokalis:** That's an interesting question and I would say that he has been involved in all the changes made to the Kalashnikov series that are manufactured at the Izhmash factory which is where he is the chief designer. Remember that certain models of the AK have been made in other arsenals. The AKS 74U, which people call the Krinkov, that's made in the Tula arsenal. He is not hands-on with the project staff at Tula, so there have been changes made in that arsenal that he has not been a part of. Dr. Kalashnikov still goes to work, he is on a pension now, but he still goes into the plant. They still treat him with a great deal of respect, as you would imagine, and he does provide input.

**MGN:** I am curious if that antibounce device was his design.

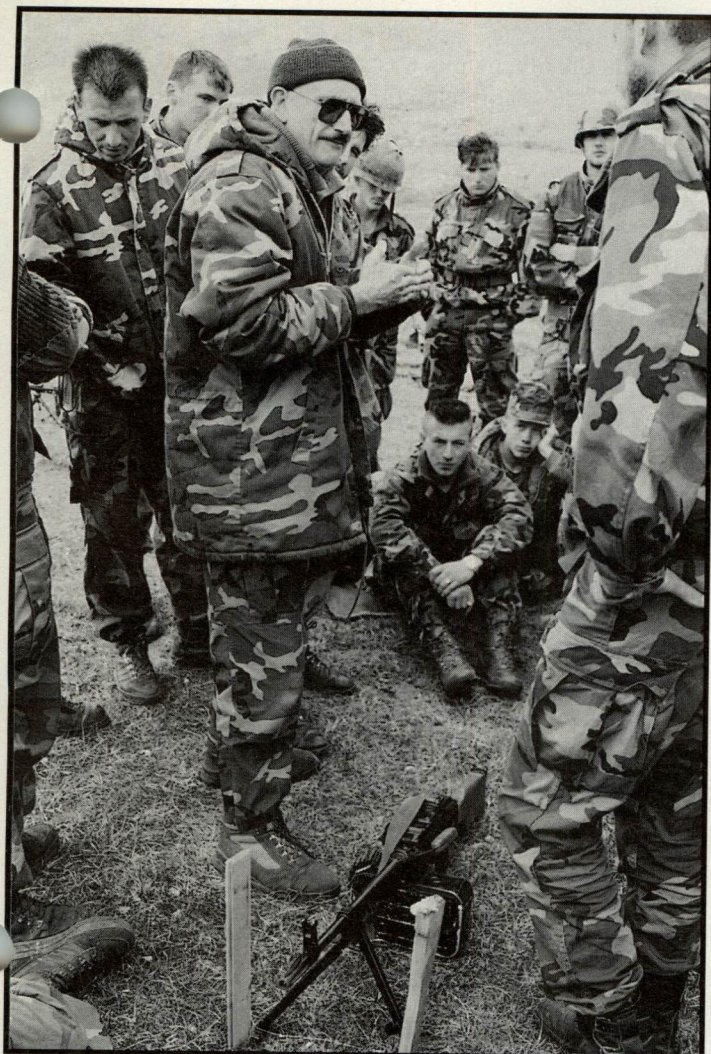
**Kokalis:** Yes. He was speaking as the designer when I questioned him.

**MGN:** Peter, back to the longitudinal slot in the stocks of....

**Kokalis:** I am getting to that...this is a far more trivial thing, but still has caused people an incredible amount of speculation before the iron curtain fell, and even now apparently. That is on the AK74, as I saw in Afghanistan, with fixed laminated wood stocks. On each side of the stock, you will see a long, longitudinal groove in the stock with no markings on it or anything. Many people have seen the guns themselves, the U.S. Army Foreign Science and Technology Center examined it and they came up with ideas about it, people that have looked at just photographs have come up with ideas. There has been a range of ideas as to why that groove was there, some as simple as well, that it distinguishes quickly in the field or in a rack, an AK74 in caliber 5.45x39 from an AKM in 7.62x39. That's a visual distinction that nobody could make a mistake about. Another person told me that he thought it was to hold the gun while you were firing it through an armored personnel carrier's firing port. People were grabbing at straws, "What could this slot possibly be for?"

**MGN:** AND??????

**Kokalis:** (Laughs.) So when we had dinner together, I said to him, "You must answer this question. What are the longitudinal grooves? You MUST tell me what that groove is for. I can't stand it." Dr. Kalashnikov said, "It's not really that complicated, although you may have trouble believing it." I said, "Go ahead, try me." So he said, "Well, you know when we went from the AKM to the AK74, the early ones were modified AKMs. They had been rebarreled and the magazine-well reconfigured and the sight changed for the trajectory and so on, but they were basically AKMs taken out of inventory and converted. When we entered



SOF's Technical Editor Peter G. Kokalis explains the use of limit stakes to machine gun crews of the Ante Bruno Busic 1st Guards Brigade of the HVO (Croatian Army of Bosnia-Herzegovina). Photo courtesy of Chris Mayer.

sheet metal receiver, there's so much more torque to this kind of receiver that it changed the bounce characteristics. I talked to Ken Carter and he had done some cyclic rate testing and he was convinced that that was not the case, that it was, in fact, a rate reducer. (See articles by Ken Carter in *MGN* May 1993 and June 1993.)

So, when I had dinner with Dr. Kalashnikov, I laid it all on him. I said, "You must answer this dispute." *Soldier of Fortune* and *Machine Gun News* have had articles on this, and everybody is taking one side or another as to what this device really was. He looked at me and laughed and said very emphatically (through the translator, of course) that he found it, quote, "Amusing that anyone would suppose that it was a rate reducer." (All laugh.) And I asked, "What are you saying?" and he replied, "You are exactly correct. It was an antibounce device. We had some serious problems with the guns blowing up when they went to the sheet metal receiver, the last one." Remember that the earliest AKs were sheet metal receivers, but they never made enough of them to have these problems. But when they went to that model and they started doing a lot of testing, they had guns firing out of battery and they had some guns that were damaged seriously because of bounce.



this project, with the Soviet Army, they stipulated that the gun was to remain at a certain weight. That we could not exceed that weight. When we went to the smaller caliber, the barrel had the same outer diameter, but a smaller hole so the steel of the barrel weighed more than the 7.62, and it was refused by the Soviet Army. They rejected it and said that it's not acceptable."

**MGN:** (Laughter.) No... No...

**Kokalis:** Yes, yes (laughing again). Dr. Kalashnikov continued, "It must be such and such a weight and that's it—that will be the maximum weight. Those grooves, along with some other lightening procedures, were made as an attempt to drop the weight under the maximum stipulated by the Soviet Army." And THAT is the answer of the strange, longitudinal grooves in the AK74 models. During the Cold War, nobody in the west had the foggiest notion as to what these slots were for. He said something to me in the end, "Was a nice joke on you wasn't it?" (All laugh.) He said, "You must have spent a lot of time trying to figure that one out." And I said, "Yes sir, I certainly did."

**MGN:** Knowing military procurement procedures, that doesn't really surprise me all that much.

**Kokalis:** Not in retrospect. So I'm sure that's something that many *MGN* readers will find fascinating. Another thing: the Krinkov's peculiar muzzle device which you'll remember looks like a cylinder, almost like a gas cylinder with a cone-shaped flash hider on it. Most people in the west, like *Jane's Defence*, have presumed that it served only two functions: to reduce the flash signature, which is very important, and to reduce muzzle rise. Let me comment that in these .22 caliber assault rifles, when people go to design muzzle devices and I'm sure, Mr. Technical Editor of *MGN*, you have been bombarded over the years with 27 different muzzle devices. Anybody with a lathe and a drill press thinks that he will rise to fame on the basis of his bizarre muzzle devices, all of which he designs to affect the muzzle jump. Usually these things shoot flames three and four feet out the muzzle. But, by golly, they hold the muzzle down. Well, in combat, I don't need to hold the muzzle down on a .223 rifle. What I need is for somebody to eliminate the flash signature; otherwise, in the dark, I'm not even going to fire the rifle. Many people thought that device on this little Krinkov was to reduce the flash signature and maybe to act as a sound moderator. Not really a silencer but as a sound moderator because of the blast that's usually associated with these short-barreled guns. Well, when I went to the Izhmash facility I tested the AK 100 series, and their short-barreled versions used this muzzle device just like the Krinkov made at Tula. While there I met Victor Kalashnikov, the son of Mikhail Kalashnikov, and also Alexi Dragunov, the youngest son of Evgeni Dragunov, the designer of the Dragunov rifle. They were part of the project involved with the Bizon submachine gun and the AK 100 series. When I first got there, they didn't know me and they were a little stiff socially. I asked them about this device, and they said, "Yes, that's what it's for." I said, "Well, thank you," and we got to the shooting. When we were finished shooting, everything ended in the Russian style—they broke out the black bread and the vodka. They started ripping the bread, and they told me through the translator, "Bread as good as this, you must

never put a knife on it. You have to rip it." They started drinking vodka and they thought it was very peculiar that I didn't drink any alcohol and that I didn't drink the vodka with them, but they tolerated me.

By the time we got on the company bus to go back from the testing range to the factory, they were feeling pretty good. I thought to myself, "Well, now that they're feeling pretty good, I can tell them that I was in Afghanistan." (Laughter.) When I told them I was in Afghanistan, they said, "We know that. We have a KGB file on you." I joked, "Well, maybe I was shooting at you." And they said, "Yes, because we were there too, testing things and training people. Maybe WE were shooting at YOU." "Maybe," I said, "but now here we are drinking vodka and eating bread." Victor said, "Well, you're not drinking the vodka." I replied, "But, I'm enjoying the camaraderie. Let me lay something on to you. Throughout the western world, the Mujahedin have this reputation of being great sharp shooters. The media in the west has said that they were born with a rifle in their hand, and that they were incredible, natural, talented rifle shots. It's a mystique that nobody could come close to them. I went there to train them, and let me tell you what I found. I found that they were probably the worst rifle shots I had ever seen in my life." Their eyes opened up wide and they start clapping me on the back.

**MGN:** Sounds like you found some brothers in arms on that one....

**Kokalis:** I continued, "Number one, because to be proficient in anything, including shooting, you have to practice. They never had enough ammunition to divert for training, so they couldn't gain any proficiency. NOBODY is born with a rifle in his hand; nobody is born with a talent for shooting. You have to train for it and train hard. Number two, they didn't know how to and didn't take care of their weapons." Sort of like Dan (all laugh). The readers should please note: the laughter in the background is mostly from Stan, as in the last interview.

*(Dan's note: this was a cheap shot on Peter's part—I brought my ZK383 to Peter, "Mr. Machine Gun," so he could see one and become familiar with it, and he immediately gave it an anal retentive white glove inspection, crowing about every bit of dirt he found in it. I shoot these guns for cripe's sake, not just sit around and fondle them.)*

*(Back to Peter.)* So as you know, you've got to MAINTAIN those kind of weapons or the accuracy potential goes down. Combined with that, I said the Mujahedeen were terrible shots. Victor and Alexi started laughing and smiling and they said that when they trained the Afghan troops that were working with the Russians, they found the same thing. They couldn't shoot worth a damn. They were glad that I had nerve enough, that I was bold enough to say the truth about the Afghans. So we departed and I thought that was the end of the discussion.

**MGN:** Peter Kokalis as the International Goodwill Ambassador?

**Kokalis:** The next morning in the hotel, before I left for the factory, I got a call from the translator. He said, "Peter, you going to



be there another half hour?" I said, "Yes." He said, "I want to come to see you. Victor Kalashnikov and Alexi Dragunov want me to say something to you." He came to meet me and he said, "You know they were very impressed with you, especially when you started talking about Afghanistan and that we were common enemies and so on, but that we respected each other, and what you said about the Mujahedin. They wanted to tell you that they weren't exactly lying, but they didn't tell the whole truth about the muzzle device, the Krinkov muzzle device. What you asked was true. It did serve to reduce the flash signature. It did serve as somewhat of a sound moderator. But it had another feature that was even more important than either of those two." What he told me was that short-barreled, gas operated weapons have a very big reliability problem.

**MGN (Stan):** Sure do...

**Kokalis:** When you chop the barrel, you move the muzzle back very close to the gas port and what happens is that dwell time becomes so short that before very much gas can be diverted down the port and impinge against the piston and drive the operating parts forward, the majority of the gas has gone out the muzzle because the bullet has left. Bing.... and out goes the gas. What the muzzle device does is hold the gas and creates a reverse turbulence because of the cylindrical shape and the gas bounces back off the front walls and goes down the gas port. It's there principally to increase the operational reliability. When he said that, I immediately thought of two examples: the very early Belgian Para-FALs, the military ones, were plagued with the same problems, and FN had to lengthen the barrels. That was their solution.

**MGN:** To keep the pressure in longer.

**Kokalis:** Yeah. Another common example of where they had the same problem was that spiffy looking, fluted short barrel on the Stoner 63A, that so-called Navy Commando barrel. Same problem. As long as everything's clean, everything's oiled, lubricated, everything's fine out at Knob Creek, it works just perfect. Take it into the jungle, gun gets fouled, that coefficient of friction starts going up, and you need a little more gas... well, it was operating marginally to begin with ... and the gun gets fouled and that Stoner with that short barrel wasn't worth a damn under those conditions. It dawned on me then that I should have thought of that about the Krinkov to begin with. That was very logical.

**MGN:** You and a hundred other people that have been looking at it should have thought of that, you know.

**Kokalis:** You won't find that information anyplace.

**MGN:** How much time did you spend there?

**Kokalis:** Quite a bit. I was there for eleven days. I went to the big official ceremony, his birthday party. And then afterwards, I was at a private party with him and some prominent people—a number of generals and some of the Russian Cosmonauts. Kalashnikov is a man who projects himself as a simple, former enlisted man, but who is in reality an extremely complex individual. Al-

though he is used most often now as a publicity stunt, if you will, interfacing with people from the west. I am convinced that this man is, in his heart, a hard core communist. He comes from the old school. He is an example of older Russians who have seen their thick pension incomes literally devastated by the incredible inflation, and he's one of them. So there's a man, whether he expresses it or not, who has to have a lot of resentment about what has gone on and how it's affected him personally—reduced his income to such a large extent. Like all famous gun designers, I also think he's a person that, even under the Marxist system, was pretty much used to having his own way. I think that's a characteristic of most of these people. Maybe that's the reason that he and Bill Ruger get along, and they do get along very well. Bill Ruger brought Dr. Kalashnikov to the United States on one of his trips.

I think of all the designers I've meet; Israel Galil, Uzi Gal, Bill Ruger, and on and on and on, all the ones that are famous, are people that over a period of time got used to having their own way and can be pretty dogmatic. He's a very complicated man, a very emotional person, can be brought to weep easily, and I think he's a very intelligent man too. He has studied the weapons systems of the west and is very familiar with weapons like the M16. You know, I had to be careful in talking to him. I have some very specific prejudices with regard to the AK. I think it has some very fine features, but I also happen to think that it has some fairly substantial negative design features. I was careful never to bring those up in his presence.

**MGN:** You must mean the selector on the AK..

**Kokalis:** It's very noisy. However, the ergonomics of the selector are correct: you go from "safe," past and through "full auto" on the way down and bottom out at "semi." Under stress the soldier is going to take the AK selector lever that is on safe and he's going to sweep downward and invariably bypass full auto and end up in semi. That's the way we want them to shoot most of the time anyway. It would have been a disaster if they had reversed that and you went from safe through semi down into full auto because then invariably they'd end up in full auto. Magazine changing is superior on the M16 system for tactical reloading. One area where I think the AK has gotten a bum rap is regarding accuracy. I left Russia convinced that much of that can be pegged against the ammunition they produced, not the gun.

**MGN:** What would lead to that conclusion?

**Kokalis:** I fired the AK 100 series in 5.45x39, 7.62x39, and 5.56x45 NATO, and the one that I fired in 5.56 was significantly more accurate than the other two. When I looked at the headstamps on the ammo, the 5.56 ammo was FN, not Russian made ammo. I'm convinced that throughout the communist system, they have had major problems with quality control on mass-produced ammo, and that a lot these things that people criticize with the AK are consequence of mediocre ammunition and not so much the system. I'm not saying it's a match grade rifle. I'm not saying it will shoot up to M16 standards. I'm just saying that I have a different perspective now, and I believe that the AK is capable of greater accuracy than we usually see with it. I really be-



lieve that.

**MGN:** When you were with Kalashnikov, did you have the opportunity to talk with him about his development process of the AK at all or see any of the prototype systems that they worked on as they were developing the AK?

**Kokalis:** No. We did talk only about things that I could think of and write as questions when I was with him. There was a lot of activity going on during the week of the 75th birthday, and I didn't want to intrude into the man's personal life too much during that period. One other item of note: some *MGN* readers I'm sure have seen some very unusual aluminum 7.62x39 AK magazines made out of solid aluminum. I have several myself that came out of Nicaragua from the Sandinistas. These are black anodized. They're extremely lightweight. I asked him about those because that's never been written up in the west either. What were they for? Why are they so rare? And here's what he told me. When they went from the AK47 to the AKM, the Soviet Army's directive was that they were to considerably lighten the entire system. One of the obvious ways to do that was to go from the steel AK47 magazine to something really lightweight, and they tried this ribbed, aluminum magazine. It didn't work. It was a total failure. It wouldn't take the beating that soldiers subject equipment to. They, quote, "withdrew them from service and scrapped all of them and went to the synthetic magazine," the reddish-brown magazine that we all know, the fiberglass reinforced magazine. This was a compromise—not as lightweight as the aluminum but not as heavy as the steel. He said that obviously not all the magazines were recalled, some of them must have slipped through the system. Those were ones that maybe ended up in strange places like Nicaragua or Angola.

**MGN:** You mentioned the Bizon submachine gun. I have seen your write-up on it in May 1995 issue of *Soldier of Fortune*. Any more insight into this SMG?

**Kokalis:** The Bizon submachine gun, which is in 9mm Makarov, is a submachine gun that was designed and is produced at the Izhmash factory where Dr. Kalashnikov is. It's a strange looking gun; the rear half of it looks like an AK, and the front half of it looks like a grenade launcher. The part that looks like a grenade launcher is the helical magazine, which is sort of like the Calico magazine, but not really—they're loaded in a different way. It's a different design. The rear half is in fact an AK because the Bizon submachine gun provides 60% parts interchangeability with the AK. So it's a very clever attempt to use present tooling, present parts with commonality like that to make a very cost-effective weapon.

**MGN:** I'm thinking of a Colt M16 9mm right now....

**Kokalis:** There you go. A very good comparison, very excellent, Dan. They're trying to do the same thing at Colt.

**MGN:** I needed an attaboy, Peter, after the reaming on those dirty weapons I brought over.

**Kokalis:** (Laughs.) Right, well, remember that throughout the

world, the defense industry is in bad shape. Really major bad shape. The Russians are fielding a lot of things, some of which are very little other than prototypes, which they are showing defense shows. Why? Because they're looking for business. They're looking for contracts, and when they get the contracts they need, they'll go into full series production. So the Russians are scattering dozens and dozens of designs all around in small arms hoping to attract interest. While I was in Russia, the Tula arsenal closed. They told me it was temporary, but they admitted it closed. So whether it's temporary or not, I'm sure will depend on what business the Tula arsenal is able to procure to open the production lines again. Russia AND the west, everybody's in major trouble. People are talking very little contracts for this or that—a small suppressor contract, a little SOCOM pistol contract for Heckler and Koch—really small stuff, ok. They're not talking major contracts anymore. Sure, there are rumors in defense magazines about this Nikonov or ASN assault rifle.

**MGN:** I am not familiar with it.

**Kokalis:** It has all kinds of unusual features on it like a variable rate control where the first couple rounds come out at an extremely high rate so that the projectiles have left the muzzle before the gun begins to climb. Then, automatically, the gun supposedly goes to a lower rate. It's a very peculiar looking gun. It has optical sighting equipment and a very unconventional looking geometry. There's been all kinds of rumors that the Russian Army is going to adopt this. I can't see that happening. When they've got millions of AK74s and their economy is near bankruptcy—and they're going to get rid of the AK74s and buy the Nikonov? I think that's a pipedream.

Another very interesting weapon that I had an opportunity to test and evaluate in Russia was the Klin/Kedr submachine gun. This is a largely sheet metal, blow-back submachine gun, unlocked blow-back, firing from the closed bolt position. It was designed by Evgeni Dragunov, the same man that designed the sniper rifle. The project was brought to completion by his oldest son, Mikhail Dragunov. I'd just like to mention two or three of its unusual features. One, it fires the high impulse 9mm Makarov round. The regular 9mm Makarov comes out of the barrel of a pistol around 1000 feet per second. The new high impulse Makarov round, which has a lighter bullet and a greater propellant charge weight, comes out at about 1400 feet per second.

Now, the clever way that they got around firing that out of a blow-back submachine gun was to use a chamber with three helical grooves in it. When the cartridge is fired, the propellant gases blow the case into the grooves and that retards extraction because they are stuck in those grooves just enough for the pressure to drop to a safe level and then extract a round, and do it in a safe manner.

**MGN:** I've got red flags going up all over the place in my head about people with some of the 9mm Makarov pistols that have been flooding the country recently. Peter, is there any high impulse Makarov ammunition in the United States yet?

**Kokalis:** Not that I am aware of.



**MGN:** Will that chamber on a regular Makarov pistol?

**Kokalis:** Yes it will. I see your point. I do not think it would be safe to fire in a normal Makarov, as a matter of fact, it would be quite dangerous. The high impulse ammunition is easy to distinguish because it has a strange truncated, coned bullet.

The other most interesting feature of the Klin/Kedr, before we go on to some other topics, is the sight system that Evgeni Dragunov designed on this weapon. When the stock is extended, the rear sight is a peep aperture. When the stock is folded up over the top of the receiver, a U-notch is exposed for firing at closer ranges—very peculiar. Other than that, and the fact that the trigger system is modularized like it is in the Tokarev pistol, there's nothing particularly exciting about this gun; although, I find the business of the helical grooves pretty interesting. I fired on mainland China a Type 64 pistol that had four helical grooves for firing an odd 7.62x17mm Chinese cartridge which was fairly high impulse.

**MGN:** So the grooves were for the same reason as that Chinese pistol, blowback retardation accomplished by gas pressure distending the case into grooves...

**Kokalis:** Obviously the Chinese pistol came well before this design. The Russians got that from the Chinese. Other than that, nothing earthshaking about this interesting submachine gun that was actually designed for the Russian police market.

**MGN:** We have covered some interesting topics, Peter.

**Kokalis:** I am compelled to discuss with you, what I found to be, a very "strange" article in the September 1995 issue of *Machine Gun News*, which you know is a publication that I always read from cover to cover. My comments are about an article on the Steyr AUG authored by a gentleman by the name of Jim Dickson. There are a number of points with which I disagree with Mr. Dickson, MOST emphatically disagree. I think he has made statements that are simply not true. Dickson starts out in his introduction about the AUG stating that Australia did adopt it and their troops are very happy with it. That is his first untrue statement.

The fact is that the Australian troops are very unhappy with the Steyr AUG. The latest information I have from Australia, which is quite recent from a week ago, is that the Australian Ministry of Defense has issued a statement to the effect that Australian troops cannot fire more than ninety rounds in full auto with their Steyr AUGs because the internal components have been melting. That's number one.

Number... I see you're sort of attempting to smother a laugh there, Dan. Number two, when the Australian troops went to Somalia, there were over thirty incidents of accidental discharges with this rifle. There was a severe safety problem with it. I'm not making this up. I can document all this. I have newspaper articles, Australian military magazine articles to document everything I'm saying here. I don't think Mr. Dickson has attempted to document his statement concerning how happy the Australian troops are with the AUG. But, there are more serious concerns with this

man's article.

He also states, "I am particularly fond of the old buckshot-loaded and later flechette-loaded 40mm shells when walking point." Now I would like to say that this gentlemen is not telling us how to fix our kitchen sink, he is telling us how to kill people. A very serious matter. I would like to know how often Mr. Dickson walked point and exactly where and in what war Mr. Dickson walked point, since he said he is particularly fond of the old buckshot-loaded 40mm shell which I can tell you has no more buckshot than a 12 gauge shell. In fact, with very poor patterning, and it would certainly not be MY choice when walking point. Furthermore, he mentions the flechette-loaded shells. I can tell you something about flechettes because I'm a member of the Board of Directors of the International Wound Ballistics Association. When the army started flechettes, in the '60s, they found out that 70-80% of the time, since only 20% of you is bone, these flechettes will go in and out of you and are nothing but high velocity acupuncture. When they are dispersed by artillery shells, they are usually bent so that they're deformed before they hit a human target and they will do more damage at that time. But when fired out of a 40mm shell, unless Mr. Dickson is a specialist in acupuncture, I have very little regard for his choice when walking point. I again would like to know in what battles he has walked point.

**MGN:** Peter, are you implying that you disagree with some of the stuff in this article?

**Kokalis:** I'm implying that when a man gives advice to *Machine Gun News* readers on how to operate in a deadly environment, in a tactical situation, that we as readers of *Machine Gun News* have the right to ask this man what are his "bonafides." What are his credentials? What is his military background? What wars has he been in? What government does he consult with in military matters? I say we have the right to ask this because we're talking about some very serious stuff here. But let's go on to his discussion of the AUG.

Now, he says that before he goes into the AUG when he talks about his series of fire discipline, he says that the old open-bolt BAR firing semi-auto from a bipod often shot tighter groups than the Springfield or the M1 Garand because of the rock-like steadiness of its bipod. Wow. He's teaching us something that none of us people associated with the military ever knew. An M1 Garand, out of the box, untuned, will usually provide three to four MOA, usually around three. It's a hell of an accurate rifle. If it's tuned by the army marksmanship training unit, I guess these people are some of the "idiots" that he's talking about. It should certainly do two minutes of angle, and some of these iron sight Garands will even shoot a little better, with match ammo, than two MOA. Now he's trying to tell us that the BAR will outshoot the M1 Garand. Well (Peter thumps a large hardbound book onto the table), I have to reference a book called *Rifles and Machine Guns* by a man named Melvin M. Johnson, who developed the Johnson rifle and machine guns but who obviously, in his career in the Marine Corp, never learned as much about these things as Mr. Dickson did. The tests that he made on the BAR firing on, if you remember, the old thousand inch machine gun targets that they used to use in the army. Taking the fact that he said you can



put the whole magazine into a two inch by three inch rectangle, that sounds very impressive until you start remembering that he's talking about a thousand inches. When you translate that into, that dispersion, into feet and then from feet into yards and then calculate the minute of angle, you see that he's talking about eleven MOA. So sure, the BAR, for that type of weapon, was very accurate. Not because of the "rock-like steadiness" of its bipod but simply as a function of its bipod location close to the muzzle. The closer the bipod is to the muzzle, the smaller the group dispersion on a machine gun. The problem is that the more difficult it is to engage swiftly moving flanking targets because you literally have to lift the gun off the bipod to engage those targets. The farther back you move the bipod, the larger the group dispersion comes but the easier it becomes to engage flanking targets. The opposite example is the Johnson machine gun. The bipod is about as far back as anyone's put it, and when you fire that gun in full auto, all it does is flail wildly about. It's got to be one of the most inaccurate guns I've ever fired in full auto. The best compromise position is the Bren gun, where it's close to the gas regulator right in the middle between those two extremes. You get reasonable accuracy and you get ability to pivot, to move the flanking targets.

But the problem with Mr. Dickson is that he's talking about a shoulder-mounted rifle and talking about machine guns. Obviously he doesn't understand the basic distinction for the military. The basic distinction is that a machine gun, like a mortar, regardless of how it's used now or regardless of how it's used now, is basically an area target weapon. A rifle is a point target weapon. They are two different weapon concepts and systems. He never even discusses this. So he confuses that from the very beginning and then he goes on to tell us that multiple bullets load in one case, I presume he means cartridges with a bunch of tiny-weenie little balls in them, do that job better than any three-round burst. But neither is any substitute for long, accurate bursts. That seems to me to be an oxymoron because we idiots that train people don't even train them to fire three-shot bursts anymore. We're down to two shots because on a shoulder-mounted weapon, by the time the third shot is out of the barrel, it's high right maybe a shoulder hit or maybe approaching going over the shoulder. Now this man is talking about presumably longer bursts. He never really specifies. I guess he means dumping all thirty rounds of cyclic



Peter G. Kokalis with his assistant instructors, translators and the students that participated in the machine gun class he directed in Bosnia-Herzegovina. Machine guns included the MG34, M53/MG42, RPD, M72B1 LMG and Bulgarian and Yugoslavian PK-type GPMGs. Photo courtesy of Chris Mayer.

down range in a long, accurate burst. That's impossible. You cannot fire a shoulder-mounted full-auto weapon in a long, accurate burst unless he's talking about that American 180 in .22 long rifle. Maybe he can demonstrate for this and send the video into *Machine Gun News* and show us how he can fire at 100 yards (which is the average distance to contact all over the world in battle) the thirty-round cyclic into a long, accurate burst. I'd be amazed to see that. It would be a feat, an incredible feat. It would be a great coup for *Machine Gun News* to distribute a video showing... (laughter) ...showing that. That's the long and short of it. I want to know if Mr. Dickson will respond with his credentials. I want to know where he got his opinions on the AUG.

## PHASE II CROATIA

**MGN:** One of the interesting things that we wanted to discuss with you, Peter, was your recent trip to Bosnia-Herzegovina, the area for training of Croat government troops in proper utilization of machine guns. When did that occur?

**Kokalis:** That was in May of this year (1995). We were sent to a training center close to the front lines, which at that time were at Kupres. There we trained approximately thirty machine gunners from the First Guards Brigade of the Croatian Army in Bosnia, which is called HVO. That means Croatian Army in Bosnia. We had an interesting mix of weapons: the MG42 and M53 (M53 is essentially the Yugoslavian-made MG42), both in the original German 7.92x57mm standard rifle/machine gun cartridge of World War II. We even had one World War II MG34 which was still plucking away. I had others of that weapon the first time I went to Bosnia a year and a half ago. Then we had some PKs. It's a very fine machine gun. One of the PKs we had was Yugoslavian, which is a PKM type and is distinguished from the Russian by the fact that it has a solid, wooden buttstock instead of a laminated wood, skeleton stock.

**MGN:** What condition would you characterize the firearms that they had? Were these firearms the ones that the soldiers were going to be using in combat or was this a training group of weapons?



Bulgarian PK GPMG. Note fluted PK-type barrel and reddish plastic skeletonized buttstock. Russian skeletonized buttstock is fabricated from laminated wood. Below and to the right is a Yugoslavian caliber 7.62x39mm M72B1 light machine gun, a copy of the Russian RPK with some minor differences. Photo courtesy of Chris Mayer.

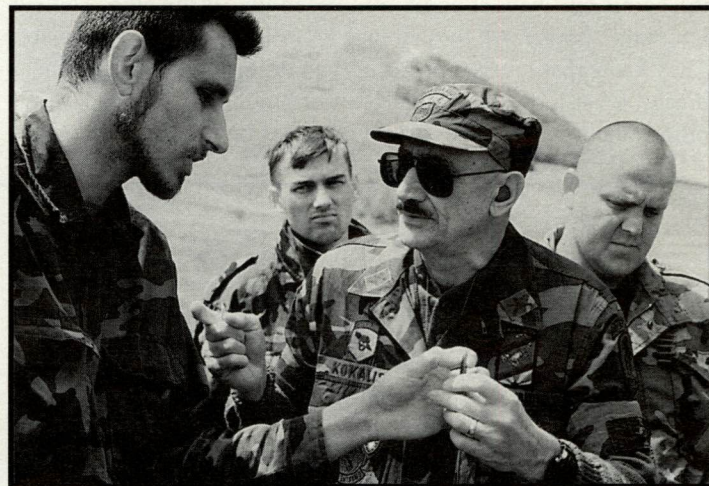


**Kokalis:** These men all came down off the front lines with their individual weapons to receive training in the course. We also had five Bulgarian PKs and one of them was in fair condition. The others were almost brand new. There also were a dozen RPDs. These were all in new condition; although, it was my observation that they had been rebuilt in some arsenal. The markings were removed; the guns had been sterilized. They had been reblued. There were still bluing salts on the rear sight, which indicated to me a very recent reblue. The wood furniture was all new. They were rebuilt to new specifications. A couple of them had odd Arabic markings on the top of the receiver. Most of them had no markings of any kind. All of them had the selector lever markings either milled out by endmill, or welded out. To what purpose, I don't know, because the selector markings do not indicate anything on an RPD as far as the origin. Governments play odd games sometimes with themselves when it comes to doing things like that. The RPDs, as I said, were in new condition. The PKs were in either new or excellent condition. The MG 34 was even in good condition and the 42s and the M53s were in serviceable condition. All these guns were on the front line.

I have made a number of observations about these guns from the user's perspective, as a consequence of the time I have spent in Bosnia. First of all, I would like to tell you a story that indicates the soldier's mindset. Not just in Bosnia, but universally. The man in my class that had the Yugoslavian PK chambered for the 7.62x54 rimmed cartridge, which is a cartridge that is well over a hundred years old, came into the course with a number of cartridges, belted cartridges, that had silver tips. During the period of the course, we started to run short on ammunition. I asked the students to turn in all of the ammunition and that we would reissue it after we received more ammunition from the supply depot. You've got to understand that since there's a boycott on everything over there, they're paying 75 cents to a dollar for every round of 7.62x39 ball. So we had a real problem with ammunition and we used thousands and thousands of rounds which cost the Croatian government a tremendous sum of money. We reached the point where we were getting low on ammo and wanted them to turn it in because I know how soldiers are—how they hog ammunition. This individual didn't want to turn in the ammo that he

had with the silver tips. I asked why and he said, "Because it's superior to the other 7.62x54 rim which has no color code on the tip." Well, the truth of the matter was that many years ago, the Russian fielded two types of ball ammunition in that caliber. One was the light ball with about a 148 to 150 grain bullet. The other was the heavy ball which was about 180 grain bullet. It was suppose to be, at one time, a machine gun round. Well, to distinguish that, since they were both in the same caliber and both the same in appearance with no way for the average soldier to distinguish them, they used a color code. The light ball got a white or silver color code tip, and the heavy ball got a yellow tip. Well, in the late '70s, the Russians dropped the heavy ball and began to make nothing but light ball in that caliber, so there was no need to use a color code anymore because there was only one kind of ball. The ammo that this man had was from the '60s. The ammo that he was objecting to had 1990s headstamps on it. This guy wanted to use this 30-year old ammo because he was convinced that the silver tip meant that it was a magic bullet. There wasn't anything I could do that would convince him, until I had a problem with one of the PKs that went down and that I had to repair. I test fired the gun before I put it back into the class, using some of the silver tipped ammo. I got three dead rounds. Three dead primers.

**MGN:** That must have been an eye-opener for him.



SOF's Technical Editor Peter G. Kokalis explains the real significance of the 7.62x54R "Silver Bullet" to his translator. Photo Courtesy of Chris Mayer.



Soldiers of the Ante Bruno Busic 1st Guards Brigade of the HVO disassemble a Yugoslavian caliber 7.92x57mm M53 general purpose machine gun, a direct copy of the German World War II era MG42. Photo courtesy of Chris Mayer.

**Kokalis:** Sure was. I called the formation, and I explained to everybody, his comrades, everybody in the class, the story of the magic bullet. That this man wanted to keep 1960s ammunition which was no different than the 1990s fresh ammunition and he wanted to expend the 1990s ammunition in the training class. I must tell you I can't be certain because of the language barrier, but I walked away feeling that deep down in his heart this guy still thought the silver bullet was magic. He never did totally accept what I said. That gives you a clue into the universal soldier's mindset and what you have to deal with when you train people in these foreign countries. It is sometimes truly mind-boggling.

**MGN:** He probably believed they didn't work because you were using them, and not him, and you didn't believe in them....



**Kokalis:** Probably. He could have. God only knows, because the trouble when you train foreign troops and you have to work through translators is you never totally know if there are some things that the translator is not capable of relating back and forth and whether something is not, to use the old cliché, "lost in the translation."

**MGN:** Peter, how about a "users' perspective" on some of the different firearms you were training them on...

**Kokalis:** Let's take the MG42—"Hitler's zipper." We have a similar situation with the so-called rate reducer. It has a spring-loaded bolt insert that came about with the MG3, I believe, or the MG1, the first 7.62 NATO version of the MG42, and it does lower the cyclic rate by a substantial amount. It can take the cyclic rate by putting that device in the bolt and you can go from 1150-1200 which is what the "zipper" runs at normally and drop it to between 800 and 900. I've done it. I've tested it with the PACT cyclic rate counter. Once again, that's not why the device was developed. The problem with the MG42 on the eastern front in World War II was premature unlocking. God knows, it's not just a problem in World War II on the eastern front, it's a problem on machine gun shoots with MG42s that *MGN* readers own. Depending at what point you have premature unlocking, disastrous things can happen to the gun. You can blow the receiver or blow the barrel out, have it come off... open up off the side. You can injure the shooter. All these things happened to the Germans, too. They knew that it was a problem with design. This spring-loaded device, what it does is, it puts a lot of pressure on the rollers and pushes them out into the locking recesses on the barrel extension

and holds them out and retards the unlocking until the pressures have gone to a safe level. If there are any *MGN* readers out there who are firing MG42s and do not have this spring-loaded bolt insert in the gun, I would personally tell them to stop shooting the gun until they get one of these or they're just rolling the dice. Sooner or later they're going to blow their gun up. Remember, what are we talking about? We're talking about some very old, tired, almost worn out, World War II vintage, half a century old MG42 machine guns. They need all the help they can get from a safety perspective.

**MGN:** Did you find a problem over in Bosnia with that?

**Kokalis:** No. All the guns had this bolt insert, the spring loaded bolt insert. The soldiers in that area had been well educated. They knew that it held the rollers out, and they knew that it prevented the gun from opening too quickly. There was no desire on their part to take it out to increase the cyclic rate.

Another idiosyncrasy of that gun, of the earlier models, not the MG3's where the bipod was redesigned, but the problem with the MG42 and the Yugo M53 is you must teach the gunners to throw the gun forward, when they go into the prone, and then pull it back, so that the bipod is pulled outward. If they don't do that, I have seen them in the field, go into the prone and have the bipod collapse while they're firing it, with rather unpleasant results. Especially if there are rocks and things on the ground in front of the gun. Basically, I think it's a hell of a design. It's got an excellent shuttle system in the feed mechanism, which is a brilliant concept or certainly was brilliant at the time. It's a sim-

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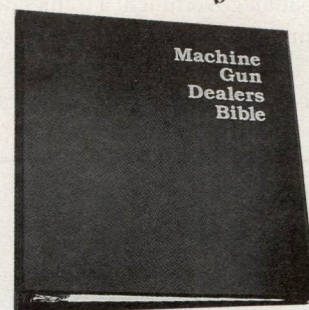
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ple mechanism. You can teach somebody in a very short period of time to totally strip that gun and to maintain and to clean it. an excellent machine gun.

If a guy wants to get into a belt gun, some of the dealers like yourself or Lomont or Landies can provide people with three-way conversion kits for that gun. It's real easy for the owner himself to make the conversion (to put the caliber conversion kit in). Whereas, with an MG34, Bob Landies tells me you pretty much have to have the gun and hand fit some of the parts. I think the MG42 is a great gun in its .308 versions. Its going to continue to soldier on for a long, long time, from Saudi Arabia to Western Europe.

**MGN:** The ones that you were dealing with over there were in 7.92?

**Kokalis:** Yes. That was standard machine gun cartridge of the Yugoslav Army ever since World War II. We were mainly shooting, I believe, Romanian and Bulgarian 7.92 ammunition out of those guns, steel cased. The only feature it doesn't have, it doesn't have a good method of carrying it. You have to use that split leather sling or cloth sling, web sling, but it's split into two slings and you bring around over the top and carry the gun that way. Very awkward. There's no carrying handle. I can tell you another feature that that gun has and the MG34 has that your readers might find of interest from the users' perspective. I am less than satisfied with machine guns that are meant to be moved rapidly and fire in maneuverable tactical environments that have folding front and rear sights. Why? If they are folded, the soldier will

normally go into the firing position with the sights folded down. If they are unfolded, because they were designed as the folding sights, they project with too high a profile above the receiver and they become susceptible to damage when moving in the field. In Bosnia, I have seen MG34s with the front sights gone and therefore the guns were totally useless. I'm not an advocate of big, giant folding sights on machine guns. But that aside, the MG42 is a wonderful gun.

**MGN:** On to the MG34...

**Kokalis:** The MG34, which I have seen in a number of countries, in a number of environments, is a machine gun that I would never take into combat, if given my druthers. It is a gun for guys like Dan Shea and Peter Kokalis in their personal collection—beautifully built, but a machinist's nightmare. Far too complex, but just a gorgeous gun to take out to Knob and tinker with and shoot and strut around and show everybody that you've got a gorgeous MG34. They're a classic World War II piece of memorabilia, but use them in combat? No. They are extremely dust sensitive. You've got to remember that the Germans developed a special lubricant for the MG34 in Africa—something made out of sunflower seed oil or something. I don't know what it was... some kind of a vegetable oil that they developed for that gun because they had a terrible problem with it malfunctioning in Africa. Also, it has very poor buttstock ergonomics. It will beat the bejeebees out of you when you put it up against your shoulder and go into prone. Also, the MG34, like the MG42, has folding sights—another defect. The bolt group is subject to breakage and parts of the trigger group are subject to breakage. Here you've got a machine

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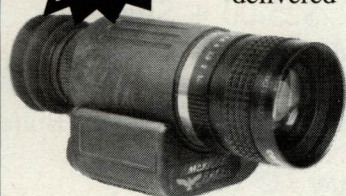
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gun where you cannot tell the user really to take the trigger group off the receiver because if he takes the trigger group off the receiver and moves those top trigger levers around, he may never get it back on the receiver again. Well, that's a serious design defect.

**MGN:** Did you have trouble with the soldiers in the field in Croatia with the MG34s that they had?

**Kokalis:** No, they knew better than to take the trigger groups off. The gun was legendary after 50 years over there. It's a legend that was passed from one soldier to the next, probably telling them in the Croatian language, "Whatever you do, NEVER take the trigger group off this machine gun." (Laughs.) When we had the disassembly lessons, they never even bothered... no one tried to take the trigger group off. Basically, great gun for collectors, great gun for serious students of the machine gun like yourself, like myself, and many of the readers, but not a gun that either of us would want to take into combat.

**MGN:** Ok, so we've got a thumbs up on the 42. We got a thumbs down on the 34. Now let's talk about the RPD.

**Kokalis:** The RPD has got some really interesting, positive features and some really undesirable features. The RPD is one of the first SAWs. It beat the U.S. Army by 35 years and boy, in historical perspective, you've got to put that down as a set-in feature, that it was one of the first. Still a very lightweight machine gun, under fifteen pounds firing a nice intermediate size squad automatic weapon type cartridge (7.62x39).

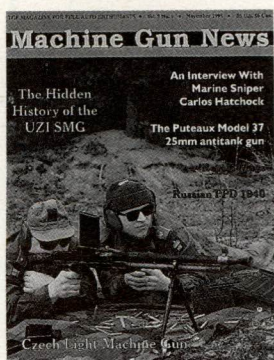
The U.S. Army at Aberdeen, many decades ago, tested it and claimed that it had marginal energy for belt lift. I don't believe it. I don't know whether they had a worn-out gun or what. The Israelis ran tests where they linked belt after belt after belt, ran them on the ground in the sand, leaves, and dirt—everything, ran the gun and it ran just fine. I personally think it's a very reliable gun with plenty of energy to lift the belts. It has a cyclic rate between 700 and 800. That's ok, maybe slightly on the high side but not bad. Still very controllable. You can still fire twos or threes out of it. We did that consistently.

Disadvantages: One, it does not have a quick-change barrel. I tell you, you know when that machine gun heats up because what usually happens is the wooden forearm panels will simply burst into flames. At that time you should stop firing the gun. (Dan laughs.) It is a very difficult barrel to change. It's not only pinned but it's a friction set.

Two, another defect in the gun and this I've seen in combat operational areas: the belts, which are an evolution from the MG34, 42 type. The front tabs break off of them frequently and that means you have to throw that whole belt segment away. From the users' point of view, the belts are marginal or substandard as far as endurance.

Three, the gas regulator has three positions, and it is almost impossible to change when the weapon is hot which is the very time you'll probably have to change the gas regulator position, because you have to unscrew using a tool in the buttstock kit, and then you have to knock out the regulator and turn it, then put it back in a different position. When it's fouled and hot, the regula-

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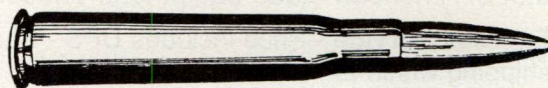
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tor has expanded, and you really can't get it out unless you tap it out with a mallet and the average soldier is not going to have a mallet. He's going to pick up a rock and beat it out, and he's going to damage the gas regulator.

Finally, I have found that occasionally the trigger access pins will fall out of an RPD. Of course, when that happens, it's just lost in the grass or out in the field; you don't have a gun.

**MGN:** So it has a built in self-defeating SNAFU feature, huh?!

**Kokalis:** Right. (Laughs.) Yes, very right. Well, nothing's perfect. The RPD is still very lightweight, very popular. You've got to train people to use it in light of its disadvantages. Never train or permit people to fire long bursts with this gun. Of course I don't let people fire long bursts with any machine gun.

**MGN:** Did you find a disadvantage in 7.62x39 caliber for the RPD, for the light machine gun role or squad automatic weapon role?

**Kokalis:** Not for the squad role, but for long-range shooting on fixed lines, yeah, it's a marginal caliber. The troops will tell you the same thing no matter where you go. If you go to South Africa, there will be a lot of them that will tell you they'd rather have the FAL that they used to have than the R-4 Galil type .223 they've got today. When you go to Bosnia, a lot of the troops will tell you they'd rather have the PK with the 7.62x54 rim cartridge than the RPD. When you ask them why, they'll tell you because it's more powerful. Got more range.

**MGN:** We've been talking about the caliber of ammunition. Yugoslavia used to be one of the major producers of military ammunition in the world. You've been talking about a hodgepodge of different manufacture ammunition being available there. I'm kind of surprised. I expected that there'd be more of the Yugo manufacture there.


**Kokalis:** The answer to that question, Dan, is the fact that most of the Yugo ammunition plants are located in Serbia, and we were training Croatian troops so other than what was captured or other than what they had on hand prior to the problems with the Serbians, they have to obtain ammunition from other sources. The ammunition that we saw, the headstamps that I examined, were from places like Romania, Bulgaria, Russia, and there was some Chinese. There was, of course, Serbian ammunition. There was East German headstamps. Pretty much a smattering of all the former East Block countries that made 7.62x39 ammunition or 7.62x54 rimmed ammunition.

**MGN:** Here's a couple of old machine gunners talking, Peter... When you went over there, you had an idea of what you wanted to do with the troops, what you wanted to train them into. What did you get for raw material for personnel when they came in? What was their experience in training with machine gunning?

**Kokalis:** All these men that were in the course, or boys I say most of them, some of them teenagers, had been in the army for three or four years, many from the age of sixteen. All of them were combat veterans. All of them had their own concept of what was correct and when I got there they sort of, as a group, informed

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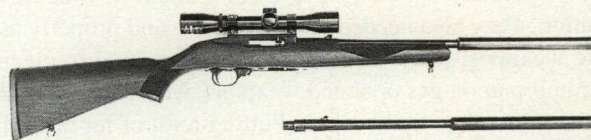


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me that they had a lot of success shooting from the hip assault position in long bursts. So, what I did was, rather than try to argue with them about what I thought was the better way, I took them all to 100 meters and set out targets that we could score, humanoid targets. I told them to go ahead and demonstrate their firing techniques that they had such great success with, then show me all the hits. Well, when you start firing long bursts from the hip at 100 meters, which is what they were claiming that they were doing, there were very few and in many cases ABSOLUTELY NO strikes on the target of any kind. I demonstrated the prone position with short bursts and allowed them to examine the targets. I then informed them that they were going to do things my way and that we were going to exclusively train firing these belt-fed machine guns from the prone position off the bipod. I explained that's what the bipod was there for, and that firing from the prone provided them with greater hit probability and also greater personal safety in a combat zone. Then I started to teach them to fire from that position in three- or four-round bursts. One, it conserved ammunition which they had to carry and which was a problem in their country. Two, it provided for more hit probability. Three, it didn't attract attention. People that fire machine guns in very long bursts in combat tend to attract a lot of attention from their enemy, and that's just what you don't want to do. When they understood that, we began the training; first from fixed positions. Then we did a lot of fire-and-movement where they would fire... go in patrolling scenarios and then when we had contact, when it was called out that we were having contact, they would seek cover and concealment and go to the best they could find and then engage the targets. They would do that sometimes running, and falling, and then shooting.

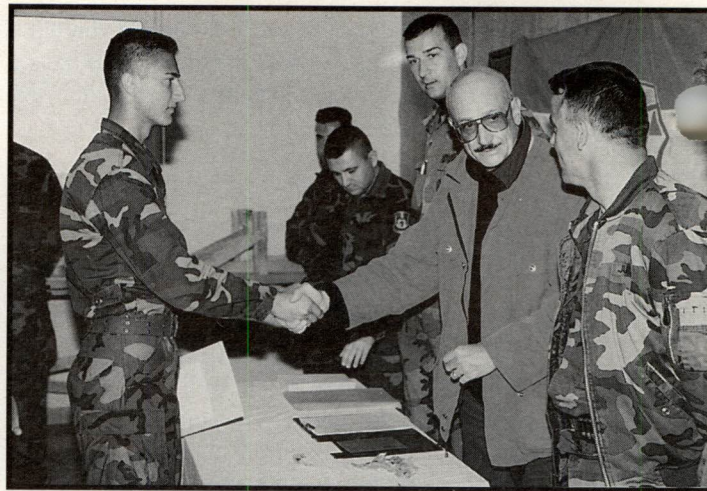
Things that they need to know—range estimation—which is very important for machine gunners and is often neglected because when we go to the shoots that you and I attend to, in this country, they have a firing line and then they have targets at fixed ranges and the people running the shoot are very happy to inform you what the range is from this target to that target and so on. Of course, you don't have that luxury in combat, so machine gun crews need to spend a significant amount of time in range estimation. They also needed to disassemble and properly assemble the weapons, understanding where they need to clean and more important on gas operated weapons, where they should and should not lubricate the weapon. Putting a lot of lubricant in the gas system is counter-productive. They need to know things like the fact that, before they go in a hot area, they had better personally have inspected every single link in their belts and where the rounds were, because a lot of stoppages come from broken or defective belts from rounds that are not placed properly in the belt.

**MGN:** How long was the training course that you gave?

**Kokalis:** The gunner course that we gave was six days.

**MGN:** Recently, there was a Croat government forces advance against the Serbs. Do you know whether these personnel took part in that?

**Kokalis:** Yes, my unit was involved in that. They were in combat



Together with officers of the 1st Guards Brigade, Kokalis awards a training certificate to a member of the machine gun class that was sponsored by *Soldier of Fortune* magazine. Photo courtesy of Chris Mayer.

and I and the trainers that went with me can only hope that the training that we gave these people was beneficial.

**MGN:** You haven't had an "after-action" yet?

**Kokalis:** Not yet, no. The communication is very difficult because these people are in mountainous regions and it's very hard to get into contact with them.

**MGN:** The terrain brings up some interesting questions. There are methods of machine gun fire. Did you have time to get into the different methods from ranges...?

**Kokalis:** Well, some of the things we worked were showing them how to set up L-ambushes and how to use "limit stakes" to prevent them from taking out the long leg if you put the gun at the short leg so that you can fire from enfilade. That they have to be very careful about the long-legged, which is their own people. We talked to them about firing from defilade at unseen targets using forward spotters or observers. They don't do a lot of that because, in my opinion, defilade firing with a machine gun should mainly be reserved for tripod-mounted machine guns that are very substantially stabilized with sand bags.

**MGN:** Where you can control your traverse and elevation.

**Kokalis:** Exactly. They at least were given the basics of that and hopefully when we go back, we'll get to work with some more theoretical training. We understood that they had some SG43s up on the line, which were not brought down for the training. You've got to understand that this is a front line unit and the commander took as many people as he thought he could safely get away with to come down for training. He cannot simply remove all the machine guns from his front lines because in these kinds of armies in those kinds of brigades, other than the mortars and RPG7s, the real fire support of these battalions and brigades is the machine guns. I hope all the *MGN* readers understand how important machine guns, belt-fed machine guns in particular, are in units like that—very important.

**MGN**



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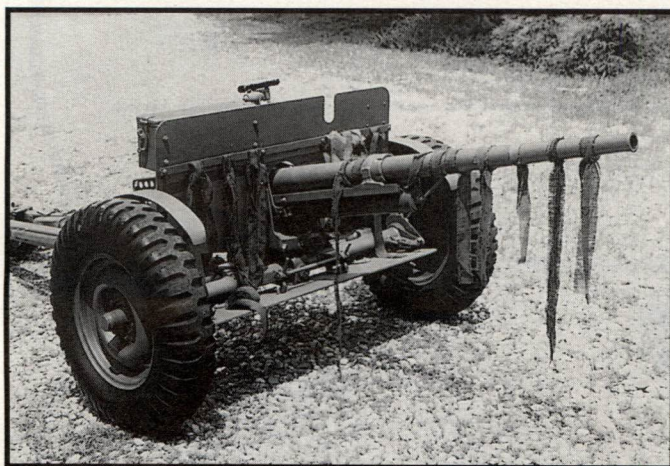


# FOCUS ON:

## The U.S. M3 37mm

by **CARL SILVER**  
*dba Select Fire*

This month's column will focus on the American M3 37mm antitank gun on the M4 carriage (picture 1). The history, operation, ammunition and reloading will be covered. I have also included a section on projectile terminology.



Picture 1: The U.S. M3 37mm antitank gun.

### AMERICAN WWI/WWII ANTITANK GUNS

The appearance of the tank on the Western front in World War I caused the German Army to seek ways to destroy it. This started an international race between the tank designers and the arms designers to create more heavily armored tanks and more powerful guns to defeat them. By the late 1930's, most tanks carried more armor than the antitank rifles could defeat, leading to the development of antitank guns like the United States M3 in 37mm.

Antitank guns were mounted on carriages, installed in tanks and even mounted on trucks. The U.S. M3 37mm gun was the main gun in the Stuart tanks and were mounted on M37 trucks. The U.S. Army realized that the 37mm was out of date and took a short-cut by converting the drawings and jigs of the British 6-pounder and manufactured it as the 57mm M1 antitank

gun. It was not installed in any tanks but was mounted on a half-track as a tank destroyer. After the 57mm was the 76mm gun which was used in the M10 tank destroyer and the Sherman tank. This was replaced by the 90mm antitank gun, also used in the Super-Sherman and the M48 Patton tanks.

### U.S. M3 37MM SERVICE HISTORY

By the time the U.S. Army entered the war in Europe and Africa, the 37mm M3 was useless against the current German tanks. It was used primarily in the Pacific Theater of operations where it could still defeat the less well-armored Japanese vehicles.

### SPECIFICATIONS

The M3 was designed in the late 1930's. The gun pictured in this article was manufactured in 1942. By itself, the gun weighs 191 pounds. With the carriage, the total weight is 912 pounds. The length (from muzzle to lunette) is 154.5 inches, and the maximum width is 63.5 inches. The gun moves 20 inches in recoil and was designed to defeat 2 inches of armor plate at 1000 yards.

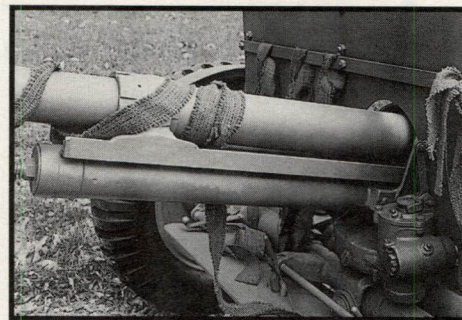
### TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION

The M3, like the French Puteaux Model 37 in the November '95 *MGN*, is a flat trajectory field gun. Unlike the semi-automatic Puteaux, the M3 is a single-shot gun that uses a sliding breech block action. The breech block is the vertical sliding type that is lowered into the breech ring to expose the chamber (picture 2). Please refer to the Puteaux article for a complete description of the sliding-wedge breech block action.

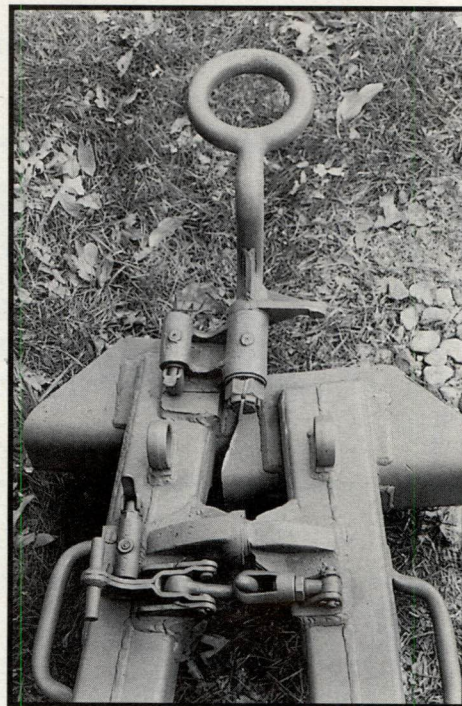
The single-shot action works in the fol-

lowing manner: when the gun is fired, the barrel and breech recoil against the enclosed recoil spring and hydraulic recoil mechanism (picture 3). The gun returns to battery, the operating handle latch is squeezed, then the operating handle is pulled, opening the breech and ejecting the empty case. A fresh round is thrown into the breech and the operating handle is pushed forward, raising the breech block and making the gun ready to fire.

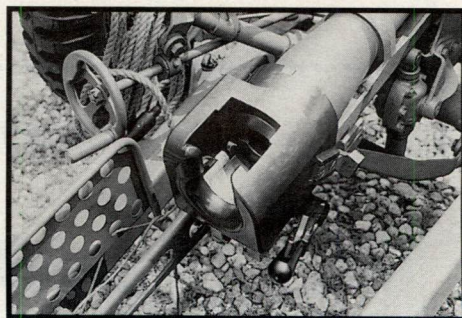
The carriage is the split trail type and



Picture 3: Hydraulic recoil mechanism (below the barrel).



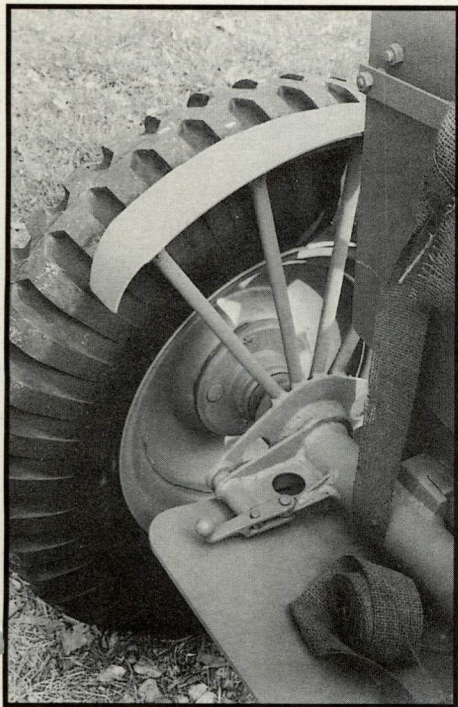
Picture 4: (top-to-bottom): the lunette, spades and trail lock.



Picture 2: The sliding-wedge breech block and operating handle.



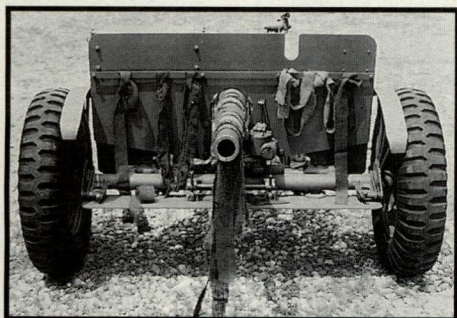
is designed to be towed behind a prime mover on roads and cross country. The trail  
gs are equipped with **spades** and a **lunette**  
(picture 4). The three-piece steel wheels  
carry 6.00 X 16 pneumatic tires. Before fir-  
ing, the **wheel segments** (picture 5) are  
used to lift the carriage, raising the wheels  
off of the ground. The one-piece blast shield



Picture 5: The right-hand wheel segment.

is made of 1/4 inch thick armor plate and  
has a hinged **apron** (picture 6) which is  
lowered before firing. A leather sight stor-  
age case and spares box are also mounted  
to the armor.

The carriage is designed for one-man



Picture 6: Armor shield with apron (raised posi-  
tion).

control of aiming, elevating, traversing and  
firing. The **traverse** mechanism has a re-  
lease handle for rapid changes and a knob  
for fine adjustments (picture 7). The **eleva-**  
**tion** is adjusted with a handcrank. Both  
controls drive worm and sector gearboxes.  
The target is sighted through the optical  
sight (picture 8). The E.K. Company mod-



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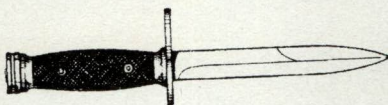
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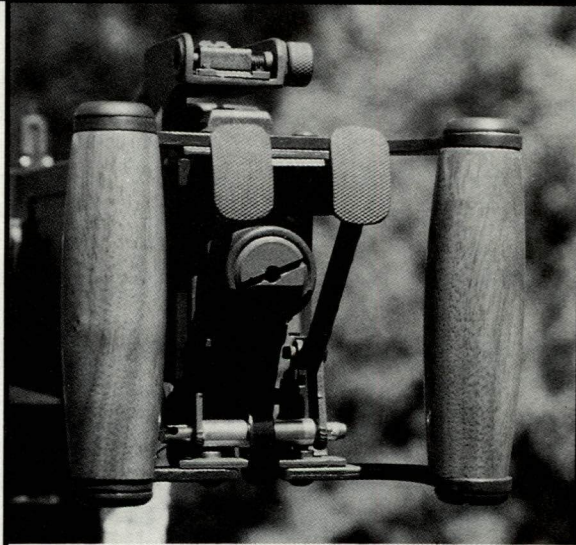
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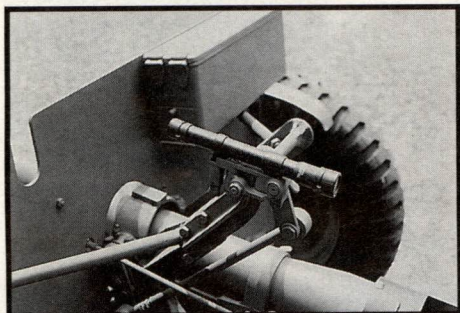
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Picture 7: (top-to-bottom): the traverse release handle, traverse knob with firing plunger and the elevation handcrank.



Picture 8: M6 optical sight.

el M6 sight has no magnification and the reticle is calibrated to 1500 yards and for up to 20 mils of lead.

The gun is fired by either pushing the firing plunger located in the center of the traverse knob (picture 7), or by pulling a lanyard attached to the firing lever (picture 9). The barrel of the M3 is *not* equipped



Picture 9: The lanyard is attached to the firing lever (center).



Picture 10: (left-to-right): M51 37mm round, .50 BMG, 7.62 NATO.

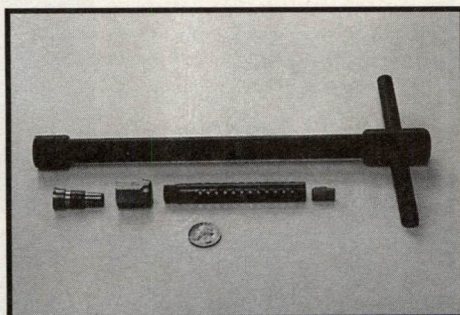
with a muzzle brake or flash suppressor. The later M3A1 model was modified to add a muzzle brake.

#### AMMUNITION

The military made several cartridges for the M3 including an **M51**, Armor Piercing with Tracer APT, (picture 10) and an **HE Mk II** High Explosive round. The APT projectile weighed 1.92 pounds (13,440 grains!) and burned 8 ounces of propellant to produce a muzzle velocity of 2600 feet per second. The HE projectile weighed 1.23 pounds and had a muzzle velocity of 2750 feet per second.

#### RELOADING COMPONENTS

The M51 37mm is a **HUGE** cartridge. The reloadable brass primer assembly (picture 11) consists of the primer holder, threaded coupler, vented tube and a plastic plug. It is loaded as follows: first, a .50 BMG primer is pressed into the primer



Picture 11: (top): primer wrench, (bottom, left-to-right) reloadable primer assembly: primer holder, threaded coupler, vented tube, plastic plug (quarter shown for scale).

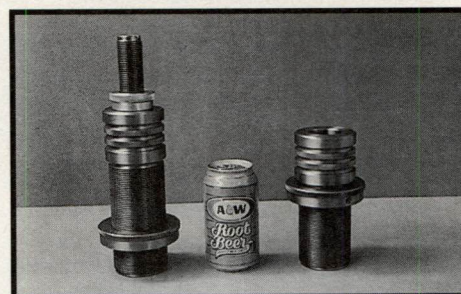
holder. A piece of onion paper is rolled-up and inserted into the vented tube. The tube is screwed into the coupler, filled with F or FFF blackpowder, and the plastic plug is screwed in. Finally, the primer holder is pushed into the primer hole in the case. The coupler-tube-plug assembly is inserted through the case mouth and tightened with the T-handled wrench.

The powder charge is 7.2 ounces (3150 grains) of U.S. M6 propellant. M6 is a single-base propellant consisting of 87 % Nitrocellulose, 10 % Dinitrotoluene and other chemicals to lower the flame temperature (for more information on propellants, see TM 9-1300-214, Military Energetic Materials). This load is lighter than the Military M51 load of 8 ounces.

The projectile (picture 12) is a copy of



Picture 12: Brass case, pop can, AP projectile.



Picture 13: Reloading dies, pop can.

the M51 AP. It weighs 31 ounces (13,562.5 grains) and is turned from low carbon steel with a copper driving band. The next problem is finding a reloading press. Fortunately, Dangerous Dave comes to the rescue again with his Rock Crusher press (see Focus On: the Lahti Model 39 in the October '95 MGN). The custom reloading dies (picture 13) are just *humongous*.

#### PROJECTILES

Shooters who handload their own ammunition are very familiar with reloading components. Once you get bigger than .50 BMG, the construction of the "bullet" changes. A special copper rotating band is used to impart spin rather than the bullet jacket deforming to fit the lands and



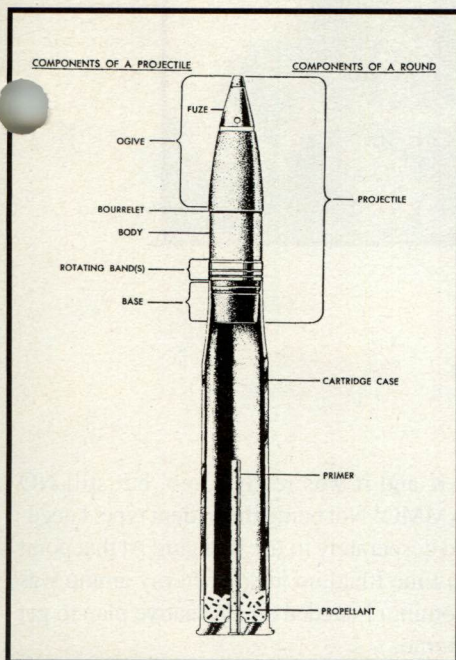


Figure 1: Fixed ammunition nomenclature.

grooves in the barrel (see figure 1). The pointed end of the projectile is called the **ogive**. It is designed to permit the projectile to push its way through the air with a minimum of drag. Just behind the ogive, ringing the projectile body is a highly polished surface called the **bourrelet**. It is slightly larger in diameter than the body. The purpose of the bourrelet is to support and steady the forward end of the projectile as it passes through the gun bore. Toward the rear of the projectile is the **rotating band**. It serves three purposes: to engage the rifling of the gun and impart rotation to the projectile when it is fired; to seal the bore to prevent propellant gases from escaping around the forward part of the projectile; and to prevent the projectile from sliding back when the gun is elevated. The last item does not apply to **fixed** ammunition, but to **separated** ammunition, where the projectile and propellant are loaded separately into the gun.

### Sources:

**Michael Angelo**

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Custom Vehicle Mounts for the  
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## CANNONEER'S GLOSSARY

**Apron:** the part of the armor (blast) shield that extends below the wheel centerline on a gun carriage. On some cannons, it is raised during transportation and lowered before firing. On the M3 it is hinged.

**Bourrelet:** a highly polished surface ringing the projectile body, just behind the ogive. It is slightly larger in diameter than the body of the projectile. The purpose of the bourrelet is to support and steady the forward end of the projectile as it passes through the gun bore. On some of the larger projectile there are two bourrelets.

**Breech:** the action of a cannon, that seals the barrel and contains the firing assembly.

**Fixed ammunition:** a complete round of fixed ammunition is one piece, with the cartridge case crimped to the base of the projectile. All common handgun and rifle ammunition is fixed ammunition. See **Separated ammunition**.

**Gun:** the term gun actually designates only the gun tube or barrel, but is commonly used to refer to the entire mount assembly including the breech.

**Lunette:** the hitch ring on the end of the trail that is used to couple the gun to the prime mover for transportation.

**Ogive:** the pointed end of the projectile, designed to permit the projectile to push its way through the air with a minimum of drag.

**Rotating band:** is made out of copper and located toward the rear of the projectile. Larger than the bore diameter, it serves three purposes: to engage the rifling of the gun and impart rotation to the projectile when it is fired; to seal the bore to prevent propellant gases from escaping around the forward part of the projectile; and to prevent the projectile from sliding back when the gun is elevated (separated ammunition only).

**Separated ammunition:** a complete round of separated ammunition consists of two pieces; a projectile and a cylindrical metal cartridge case sealed with a cork or plastic plug. See **fixed ammunition**.

**Shoulder Guard:** the protective shield that keeps the shooter out of harms way from the recoiling gun.

**Spade:** the spade shovel shaped foot attached to each leg of the trail. The recoil from firing causes it to dig into the ground, providing a stable shooting platform for the gun.

**Trail:** the part of the gun carriage that rests or slides on the ground. Hinged on the M3, it is connected to the **lunette**.

**Wheel Segment:** a curved support that is used to raise the carriage and gun off of its wheels and provide solid support while firing.

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# The Ammo Bunker

by Guest Columnist Frank Iannamico  
Reloading the 7.62x39 Cartridge



A year ago no one in the world would have been interested in reading an article about reloading the 7.62x39 Russian cartridge. The stuff was dirt cheap, plentiful, and no brass to pick up. Today, now that the Chinese 7.62x39 source has dried up, and the Russian ammo is just trickling into the country, I think some interest in loading this cartridge has been sufficiently generated.

The 7.62x39 was adopted in 1943 by the former Soviet Union. For many years it was the standard cartridge for all communist countries. The cartridge was designed with a .311 diameter 123 grain bullet at 2375 fps. This combination yields 1,540 foot pounds of energy at the muzzle. The 7.62x39 has become very popular in the United States. In addition to the many SKS and AK rifles that have been imported, Ruger has produced the Mini 30, and Colt has made a version of their popular AR-15 that is chambered for the cartridge.

By shopping for the best prices on surplus powder, projectiles, and primers, you could probably reload 1000 rounds for about \$118.00. Using cast bullets and reduced loads, you could cut your cost even further to about \$75.00 per thousand (not counting the initial cost of the brass). Another advantage to reloading your own rounds is you no longer have to worry about the ammo your shooting being corrosive.

After conducting the "nail test" on several types of foreign, surplus AK ammo, I've found that if it is corrosive, it will cause rust to form in less than 24 hours. There is no sure way to tell if the ammo is corrosive by appearance, although the newer the manufacture date on the headstamp, the least likely that it is corrosive. Again, there is no way to determine it for certain. Corrosion ammo will not harm your firearms if you thoroughly clean them with hot soapy water or a cleaner made specifi-

cally for corrosive ammo, and clean them right after shooting. One area that must receive special attention after firing corrosive ammo in an AK or SKS is the gas tube. They are made from sheet metal and are very thin; it would not take long to damage them. To clean the tube properly, it should be removed from the rifle.

My experience with the 7.62 Russian cartridge began back in 1984, when the Chinese AKs first became available in the U.S. I saw the AKs advertised in *Shotgun News* for \$298.00. Extra mags were \$20.00 and the ammo was \$300.00 a case (7.62x39 ammo was rare back then). Well, I ordered an AK, two extra mags and a case of ammo. The AK, and the mags arrived in about two weeks; the ammo came eight months later!

While I was waiting for the ammo, I filed a Form 1 to convert the AK to full auto. The Form 1 took three months to be approved. I then had the work done to convert the

AK and it was ready to go, but still NO AMMO! Not being the patient type, I needed desperately to fire that gun! At that point in time I had no idea when my ammo was coming. I needed an alternative plan to get ammo.

I saw that Midway Supply had advertised reloadable brass for sale, but no one had the correct .311 diameter projectiles available. The only projectiles that were even close was ordinary full metal jacket .308, 150 grain slugs. I decided to try them, and although I mainly wanted them for full auto shooting, they later proved to be on par with the Chinese ammo for accuracy in the semi-auto mode. Today the correct 123 grain .311 slugs are readily available from several sources.

I have used brass from several manu-



The current price of reloadable cartridges is very close to nonreloadable surplus 7.62x39.

CASE LENGTH IS 1.525" AND OVERALL LENGTH IS 2.200"

Bullet	Diameter	Powder	Charge	Velocity
150 GR	.308	WC680	20.0 gr	2150 fps
150 g	.308	BLC2	28.5 gr	2028 fps
123 gr	.311	WC680	22.0 gr	2310 fps
123 gr	.311	BLC2	31.0 gr	2330 fps
130 gr cast	.311	WC680	16.5 gr	1500 fps



facturers with no problems. Although the AKs' violent ejection dents the brass cases, this doesn't effect longevity. Cases can be reloaded quite a few times before trimming is required. They seem to hold their dimensions quite well. A brass catcher is a very good idea: it will save you a lot of searching for spent cases. In today's market you can purchase a box of new



Herb Plummer fires his economical cast bullets from an SKS rifle.

7.62x39 reloadable cartridges from Federal or Winchester for about the same price as the Chinese or Russian rounds, which are not reloadable. I believe that the use of brass cases rather than steel ones will add longevity to your guns chamber and extractor.

Fortunately, today there are many manufacturers of boxer primed 7.62x39 brass IMI, Winchester, Federal, Remington (Remington uses small rifle primers), PMC and Laupa.

Just about any powder that can be used in a .223 load can be used in the 7.62x39, H-335, BLC2, WC 680 to name a few. The powder I recommend is the WC 680, because it is available in bulk at bargain prices from most powder suppliers. Dies for reloading are available from most all manufacturers for the cartridge. If you use a Dillon reloading press, they have the shell plate conversion kit and powder funnel for the 7.62x39. As for crimping, I have always used a taper crimp die as a last step. I personally prefer the taper crimp and use it on all my reloads.

A friend of mine, Herb Plummer, casts his own bullets for his 7.62x39 shooting. He uses a Lyman 311410 mold. This is a 130 grain, flat-base bullet that doesn't use a gas check. Using a charge of 16.5 grains of WC680, it launches the 130 grain slug at 1500 fps. Herb has found that this is a minimum load that will function his Russian SKS. As a bonus, it deposits the spent cases in a neat pile close to the shooter's feet. Leading has been minimal and confined to the piston on the op rod. This lead is easily removed with a soft wire wheel.

**\* WARNING \***

**BEFORE RELOADING ANY CARTRIDGES, CONSULT A RELIABLE RE-**

**LOADING MANUAL FOR SAFETY PRECAUTIONS. RELOADING, IF DONE IMPROPERLY, CAN CAUSE INJURY OR DEATH. THE ABOVE LOADS MAY OR MAY NOT BE SAFE IN YOUR FIREARM. KNOW AND WATCH FOR SIGNS OF EXCESS PRESSURES.**

There was a lot of controversy a few years ago about potential problems using reloads in AKs with its floating firing pin. The primers that are available for reloading are not as hard as the ones in military cartridges. The problem was the inertia of the firing pin could cause it to strike the primer when the bolt carrier slammed forward and could possibly cause a round to fire before the bolt locked. This problem was countered with the introduction of a spring-loaded firing pin and bolt assembly for the AK rifle. I would advise that you purchase one of the spring-loaded bolts if you want an extra margin of safety. The AR-15 and M16 rifles also use a floating firing pin. I have fired a lot of reloads in M16s and AKs with floating firing pins for over ten years without any problems, but I am NOT suggesting that it's not possible.

Now you can sell all that Chinese 7.62x39 you've been hoarding to your buddies, buy yourself some reloadable 7.62x39. Then drag out those 100- or 75-round drums and those AKs and SKSs—load 'em up and start shooting again.

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# the Blue Press

**REVIEW:**  
RT 1200B  
Case Trimmer  
Page 14

**NEW!**  
XL 650  
Video  
Page 18

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Pages 42-44

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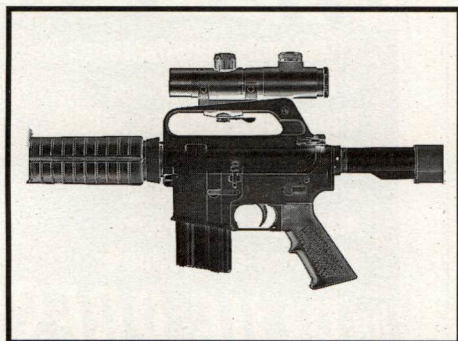


# What's New

by CHRIS A. CHOAT

## SPECIALIZED OPTICS FROM COMBAT MILITARY ORDNANCE, LTD.

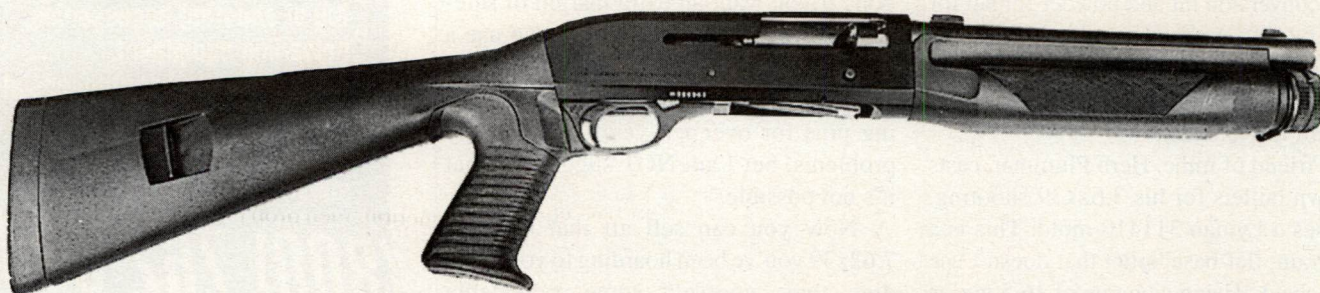
A line of specialized scopes are now being distributed in the U.S. by a company called Combat Military Ordnance Limited. The scopes are divided into two series, the Marksman series and the Big Game series. The company is carrying a full line of scopes but two really stand out for full-auto, military and police applications. The first is their MARKSMAN ELITE IR, a 4x21mm compact scope that was originally developed for the AR-15/M16 rifle. The scope features a Bullet Drop Compensator, "drop-in" M16/AR-15 mount and a built-in power source that allows the reticle to be illuminated. The lighted reticle greatly enhances target acquisition under all lighting conditions. The scope has 11 different power settings for the lit reticle to allow the shooter to select the desired amount of illumination. The ELITE IR is available with either a standard



tri-post reticle or the new "sniper" reticle which allows the shooter to determine both range and target size. An optional dovetail mount made exclusively for



Combat Military Ordnance by B-Square is also available that allows the scope to be used on other rifles including the Ruger Mini-14, FN-FAL, H&K 91 and many others. The second scope is one of their "Big Game" series. Although listed as a big game scope the new scope has much broader applications in military and police circles. The scope is 5-20 power with a huge 56mm objective lens. This scope also features an illuminated duplex reticle, bullet drop compensator and a 30mm tube size. (Editors note: I am currently testing both of these scopes for a future article and both look to be very outstanding.) For more information contact Combat Military Ordnance, Ltd., 3900 Hopkins Street, Savannah, GA 31405. Phone: (912) 238-1900. Fax: (912) 236-7570.

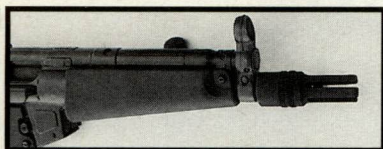


## CLASS THREE SUPPLY'S 10.4" BENELLI CONVERSION

Class Three Supply, Inc., is now offering a 10.4" barrel conversion for Benelli M1 Super 90 and "Entry Gun" shotguns. The conversion is available on Benellis that do not have a fixed 7-round magazine. All later production models will accept the conversion including the ghost ring sight versions. Called the M1K "Hammer," the conversion includes shortening your barrel and relocating the front sight. A new magazine cap will be provided and your original mag extension will be returned to you. Your shotgun will retain the ability to accept optional barrels and mag extensions. The M1K "Hammer" is registered as a short-barreled shotgun and may be transferred to individuals on a Form 4. Specifications include a 10.4" barrel, 31.7" overall length and a magazine capacity of three rounds. For more information contact Class Three Supply, Inc., P.O. Box 1119, Hermitage, PA 16148. Phone: (412) 962-1890. Fax: (412) 962-1891.



## GEMTECH MP5-FH FLASH HIDER



Gemtech of Boise, Idaho, has just introduced a high efficiency flash hider for the Heckler & Koch MP5 series 9mm submachine guns. Utilizing an optimized offset prong design, the Gemtech MP5-FH flash hider features the Gemtech exclusive Tri-Lock\_ (patent pending) coupling device. The Tri-Lock\_ coupler permits quick, easy, and secure installation or removal on the 3-lug barrel in less than two seconds with a simple push and twist action. Although the efficiency of the Gemtech MP5-FH significantly exceeds that of the original HK MP5 flash hider, the cost is significantly less at \$100 postpaid. Quantity discounts are available.

### GEMTECH EXPANDS

Gemtech of Boise, Idaho, is pleased to announce the affiliation of Gregory S. Latka and GSL Technology, Inc. With a 29-year involvement in the aerospace manufacturing business, Mr. Latka has an extensive background with automatic and CNC machines and the machining of both aerospace and exotic materials. Known for the GSL 7/8 inch Slimline .22 suppressor, he holds U.S. patents for innovative suppressor designs. Gemtech welcomes the integration with GSL Technology, Inc. Gemtech (division of Gemini Technologies, Inc.) began operations in 1993, through the merger of Dr. Philip Dater's Automatic Weapons Company (the original AWC, Boise, ID) and James Ryan's JR Customs Company (Selah, WA). The focus of the company is design and production of innovative sound suppressors, cutting edge suppression technology, and specialized firearm-related products. The Gemtech 1995-1996 full catalog is available for \$5 ppd from Gemtech, P.O. Box 3538, Boise, ID 83703. A short form product listing is available for a stamped, addressed #10 envelope. Phone: (208) 939-7222.

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**\*EXPIRATION\***

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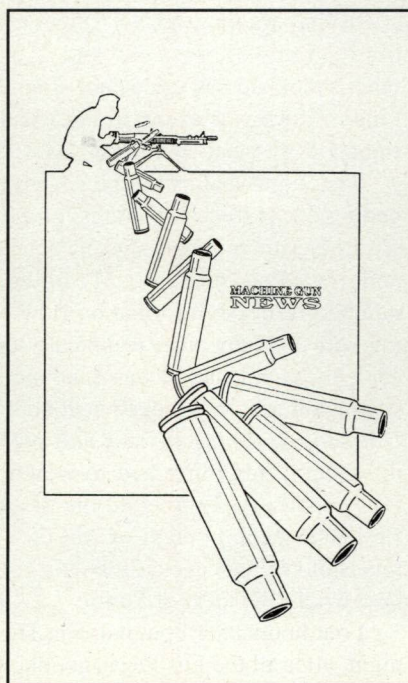
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# MGN Book Review

**UNINTENDED CONSEQUENCES** by John Ross, 861 pages, hardbound. \$28.95 + \$3.05 s&h (U.S. mail). MO residents add \$2.15 (tax). Available from Accurate Press, 7188 Manchester Rd, St. Louis, MO 63143. Phone (314) 645-1700. Reviewed by Dan Shea.

WARNING: THIS FICTIONAL WORK IS AN ADULT-ORIENTED BOOK, WITH VIOLENCE, SEXUAL VIOLENCE, ANTIGOVERNMENT VIOLENCE, AND SOME VERY DISTURBING EVENTS.

John Ross is a Class 3 dealer and general Reasonably Knowledgeable Individual around the firearms industry. I have known him for a long time and knew that he was in the process of writing a book, partially because of the occasional phone calls when he was checking on some historical fact or technical detail that he was including in his writing. I had honestly not realized the scope of his project until I ran into him at the Soldier of Fortune Convention in Las Vegas. He was standing next to a poster of a blindfolded woman lying on the ground, half naked, the scales of justice laying next to her, and a man in a black tactical team outfit holding her down with an MP5 at her throat.

"Hey, Dan! Come on over—I have my book finished, and a special run of 1000 for the convention and prepublication sales."

"Hi, John. Howzitgoin? Your book, yeah, that's right; you had one you were working on. SWEET JESUS—is that it? John, that's not a book, that's an encyclopedia!"

"Here. (John starts laughing.) That's thirty bucks. It's a story of the gun culture in the United States and the almost inevitable end that the government is leading us to."

(Buys one.) "John, This is eight hundred and sixty pages long....(looking at the poster). And, what's with this half-naked

babe being assaulted by the guy in the tactical suit with an MP5?"

"That, my friend, is the cover of the book. I haven't gotten them back yet from the printer, so I had one made into a poster to show people what it looks like. That is the "Rape of Justice." On the actual book covers, the background is the Constitution of the United States, burning."

It was at this point that I decided that I had somewhat of an idea of what John had written about. It would be interesting to see how he approached the subject.

"Well, thanks for showing me the four-bore, John, and I'll catch you later during the show." (John had some amazing single rifles on the table: a four-bore, and a two-bore, the latter looking like a cross between a fine English double rifle and an M79 40mm barrel.)

"See you around, Dan, and do you think that you could finish this by the end of the week and get a review into MGN right away?" John never even cracked a smile as he said this. I was in shock from his suggestion, and then I realized he was serious—eight hundred and sixty pages serious. I had to be delicate in how I phrased my answer to him.

"What are you, NUTS? I can't possibly read this in one week and do all the other sh\*t that is on my menu! (John looks kind of downcast at my tirade.) Well, alright, I'll try—but NO PROMISES."

That night, bathed in the never-ending neon glow of the casino lights on Las Vegas Boulevard South, I sat in my hotel room and reviewed the day. My mind was numbed from the information flow of being with so many other technically-oriented "gun" people, and I was in no mood for writing an article. I looked at John's book *Unintended Consequences* and picked it up. Damn, this thing had to weigh in at four pounds. As I turned to the first page, I remember the thought of, "Man, I hope this isn't boring, cause if it is, it's going to be a whole BUNCH of boring."

Four hours later I put it down. The next night, after all the Las Vegas hoopla, I was back in the room reading. On the plane home, I was reading. Each night since I got back from Vegas, I have been reading.

This is a good book. It is well written, and thoroughly researched.

I was reminded of James Michener's earlier works, the epic novel that covers many generations and a lot of historical ground. John has chosen to document the "gun culture" in the United States, starting in the late 1800's and going into a dark future. His main story line is, in fact, a crafted web of smaller story lines, following different families and individuals as they experience the major events of our times. Then the lines converge, and all of the main characters fall into place, already introduced to the reader, with full backgrounds and familiar personalities. John has built much of the story around historical fact, with many names and events being true to life. Among others, he covers the Miller trials, the Ken Ballew incident, and on up to Waco and Ruby Ridge. There is a whole lot of historical fact and documentation inserted into this fictional story. It is very well done and an interesting read. The stories of the Class 3 world and the competition shooters are particularly interesting; you feel as if you are right there with the people, they are so realistic. (I actually have been there for many of the incidents in the story, as have many of the other folks who have been to Knob Creek, for instance.)

Now for the warnings: This is an adult book, covering adult subjects and some pretty dark fantasies. I do not normally choose to read stories such as these, with some of the adult situations (rape, murder, torture) that are in here, and I advise anyone who is easily offended to stay out of this book. The author has chosen to write with a heavy bias against the federal government. His story is about a coming violent revolution with quite a bit of murderous conflict between the BATF, the FBI, and the members of the author's "American Gun Culture." These "gun culture" folks do not lay down and die; they take the fight right back to their "enemy." This is a very disturbing fantasy, but it is extremely well written, and looking back historically, one of many possible futures. I just hope it is not a likely one.

MGN





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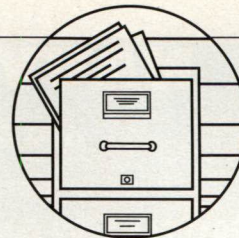


(2% surcharge applies)



# The Forms

by DAN SHEA



Several new changes down at NFA in Washington... Terry Cates is retiring from ATF, after all these years. Terry has held a number of positions there, including Chief of the National Firearms Act Branch, ATF, during one period after the 1986 change in the McClure-Volkmer Law banning the further manufacture of machine guns for private ownership—He was instrumental in settling many of the problems that arose in that period. He has been the Chief of F&E (Firearms and Explosives) Regulatory Division, ATF, that supervises the NFA Branch, Import Branch, and the Firearms and Explosives Operations Branch. His replacement is Mr. Wally Nelson, who was previously the CFO (Chief, Field Operations) of Midwest Region based in Chicago. For the general information of the readers, Mr. Wayne Moran, formerly Chief of NFA Branch, is the District Director of the Midwest Region.

Carmen Lewis (Allston) has also retired from ATF, effective 1 October 1995. Carmen has been the Chief of Imports Branch, ATF, and is being replaced by Mary Jo Hughes, who is coming over from the Liaison at Public Information.

I have also been told that Virginia (Ginger) Alford is retiring from Import Branch, ATF after 38 years with the agency. She is one more person inside ATF who will be missed, she is taking all those years of experience and problem solving ability with her.

**Q** Now I'm totally confused. I am new in this MG business and really enjoy reading *MGN*. I am still waiting for my first SMG to arrive. The confusion is on Capt. Mendenhall's article on AR-15 drop-in sears. My understanding is that you (I) cannot make a machine gun. Period. End of story. I asked this of what I thought was a knowledgeable Class 3 collector here in Texas: "Can I buy a fully transferable Thompson receiver and a Thompson parts gun and make an operational Thompson at a fairly decent price?" The answer was yes...but only if you want to spend some time making license plates.

Now along comes this article which

says I can take a registered auto sear and place it in a semi-auto converting it to full auto, or use the lightning link with the same result. Did I misunderstand the article? It was confusing. At one point Monty says "Don't buy a legal Pre-1981 drop-in auto sear. There is no way to use it legally." But earlier in the article he says "When the registered drop-in auto sear is installed in the AR-15, it makes everything legal..."

So can you, or can't you?

Jim Q.

**A** Jim, Monty was pretty clear on that one; it is just a matter of understanding the terminology used. A "registered, transferable" drop-in auto sear or lightning link is a legal machine gun conversion unit. It was registered before May 19, 1986, as a machine gun, as required by law. You may take one of these items and install it in a semi-auto AR-15, and convert it into a machine gun. It is the conversion part that must be registered in this process. Licensed Class 2 Special Occupational Taxpayers (commonly referred to as Class 2 manufacturers) may make and register them today, but these will be restricted to use by the law enforcement agencies and Class 3 dealers. They cannot be sold to individuals. The "legal pre-1981" drop-in auto sear is an entirely different story, which I have gone through pretty thoroughly in "The Forms" several times. Briefly, in November 1981, the U.S. government ruled that the so called drop-in auto sears for the AR-15 were a machine gun conversion unit, requiring registration under the National Firearms Act. Units that were manufactured prior to that ruling were grandfathered regarding ownership and sale. **HOWEVER**, even though it is not a crime to possess one of these "legal pre-1981" drop-in auto sears, possession of one of these so called "legal" units and a semi-automatic AR-15 would require registering as a machine gun, and you can no longer do that. If you own a "legal" drop-in auto sear, that is not "registered" pre-1986, make sure that you do not have an AR-15 style rifle. I wouldn't have one around, anyway—it is a big risk. If you want to shoot full auto, buy a tax paid, regis-

tered machine gun or conversion unit. The \$200 tax and the added collector value of a registered piece may make a several hundred to several thousand dollar difference in cost to a so called "legal" drop in, but you should balance that against the legal fees and loss of freedom incurred on a Federal prosecution situation!

**Q** Yet another question for the RKI of the Class 3 world. This is one of those M16/AR-15... upper/lower... can we/can't we.... questions: I have an integrally suppressed, 9mm Olympic Arms upper assembly with a full-auto bolt carrier, which I graciously paid \$200 tax to Uncle Sam for the privilege of owning the suppressor portion. This item is usually utilized on a full-auto M16 lower. Can I install this assembly on a post-ban AR-15 lower assembly for semi-auto shooting? If it is not legally acceptable to do such an unpolitically correct thing, can I do so if I purchase a semi-auto bolt carrier for the upper assembly?

SRB

**A** Yes... make sure that you do not have possession of the M16 full-auto bolt carrier when you are around that AR-15. You could conceivably put yourself in jeopardy by having one of the forbidden M16 parts and a semi-auto AR-15, which would constitute possession of an untaxed, unregistered machine gun—a felony. Get yourself a semi-auto bolt carrier.

**Q** I have a JR Customs Co. "Navy" suppressor can for my Ruger MK II pistol. I'm in the process of having the Ruger pistol fitted with a permanent integral type suppressor, and want to use the Navy can on a Ruger 10/22 rifle. Can I have the 10/22 barrel cut back below 16 inches and have the Navy can permanently mounted to the barrel, to have a total length of 17 inches? If so, do I need to notify ATF since the Navy can was transferred via Form 4 as a stand alone component? I want to avoid a \$200 tax on a short barreled rifle. Thank for the great column, and thanks to all the folks who sent information in concerning my quest for an M4, 14" Colt M16 barrel.



The responses helped me a lot.

**A** Well, you can permanently mount the suppressor to the barrel and have the barrel cut down. If it is a Class 2 manufacturer doing the work, no problem, have him amend the Form 5 going back to you from repair to say "Permanently attached to semi-automatic rifle—Ruger 10-22 Serial #- - - - Barrel length:- - Overall Length: - -." If you want to do it yourself, make sure you remove the barrel from the gun, cut it, install the suppressor permanently by welding, then re-install it on the Ruger, making sure that at no time did that rifle ever have a barrel shorter than 16" on it. Then, amend your Form 4 that registers the suppressor to you, by typing the above in section 4H. Then send a copy of your form to NFA Branch with a letter explaining that you are amending your form.

**Q** Like Paul E.J. (Incoming/August 1995), I have a C&R license and a state license to possess. I had been looking for a particular LMG for two years when, about two years ago, I was given information on MGN. I subscribed. I really enjoy the magazine, especially "Raffica," but it has proven useless in helping me find a gun. I only responded to a small percentage of your advertisers, but the results fell into two categories: 1. Messages left on answering machines and/or letters were not answered. 2. People advertising transferables who will not sell to individuals. I suspect that group 1 people are just and/or lazy group 2 people. I doubt that your wake-up call will produce any changes. For some reason, a lot of dealers only want to sell to other dealers and that is not going to change.

Bill S.

**A** Well, being in the business, this letter disturbs me. I don't want to see customer's requests going unanswered—you can't make sales that way. I will tell you that many of the Class 3's do not want to go through the retail sales channels because they get cut out by the local dealer as soon as they send the retail customer to him to do the transfer. It is also much easier to just file a Form 3 to another dealer or a Form 5 to a law enforcement agency than to go through the Form 4 process with a new buyer—that is very labor intensive. Hopefully most of the dealers will look at this and think

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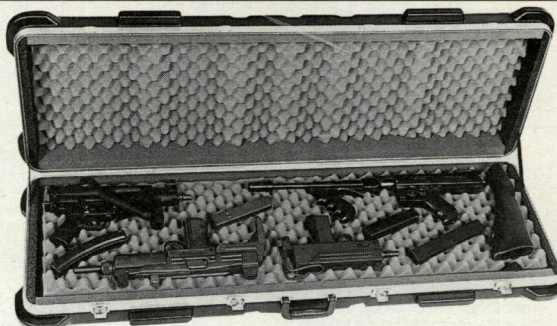
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how many other folks there are out there who don't bother to take the time to write in—all lost sales, and negative about the Class 3 business when they talk with their friends about us.

**Q** With the passage of the crime bill, I have been told that dealers may possess firearms and magazines banned by the crime bill, for sale to law enforcement. May I purchase a banned semi-auto rifle from a police officer or agency? If I sell one to an officer or agency what do I need in order to make the transfer and show proof of its lawful transfer? What do I put on the 4473 to show that it was transferred to a lawful recipient? May I have post-ban magazines in my inventory? What do I need to do to show lawful transfer of these magazines?

Larry S.

**A** Larry, you can possess all of the banned firearms, as a Federally Licensed Firearms dealer. You may NOT sell them to any individuals. All of the above banned items need to be marked according to the laws, including the notation "For Law Enforcement Use" and the date of manufacture or importation, in addition to a serial number. For the firearms, you will need to supply the manufacturer or importer a letter that it is being purchased as a sales sample for your law enforcement business. There is no Federal requirement that I am aware of for a letter from a law enforcement agency requesting a demo. Various manufacturers or importers may require one from you for their records, as proof that there is indeed a law enforcement connection to your sales operation. The law DOES require that they prove that each firearm in a banned configuration that left their premises was sent out only for the law enforcement community. Magazines do not require any law enforcement letters, only that you keep records of the disposition and can prove that you only sold them to law enforcement. The dealer connection on this has not been entirely laid out, to my knowledge. I would proceed cautiously with any purchase from someone other than a manufacturer or importer, and any individual trying to sell me a marked post-ban large capacity feeding device, well, I would check his police ID and record numbers, as well as giving him a receipt.

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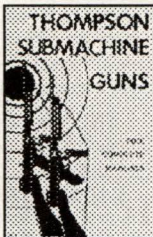
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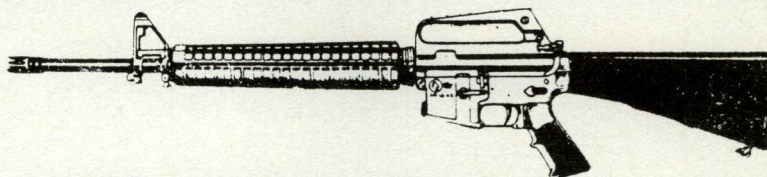
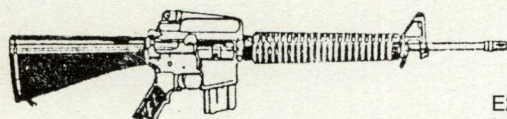


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# Archive Photo of the Month

*From the Robert Bruce Collection*



**Camp Lee, VA, June 1918.** An unidentified "Doughboy" demonstrates the capabilities of the U.S. Army's .30 cal. Model 1917 "Potato Digger" machine gun. Note the extra wooden ammo boxes and spare barrel. According to Col. George Chinn, this was a version of the venerable Browning Model 1895 modified for relatively quick barrel change. Some 1,500 are said to have been supplied by Colt by the end of the war. Credit: U.S. Army Signal Corps/National Archives. Copyright © 1995 **ROBERT BRUCE PHOTOGRAPHY.** *Editor's Note: Robert regrets that he cannot handle individual requests for photographs. However, publishers and documentary film makers, 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.***





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110

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