

\$5 U.S. \$6 Can.

THE MAGAZINE FOR FULL AUTO ENTHUSIASTS!

Vol. 9 No. 8

MACHINE GUN NEWS

JANUARY 1996

The Stoner Chronicles

*Gene Stoner's
Earliest Prototypes*

**Parker Hale
.22 Rimfire
Silencer**

**NFA Weapons
in the
Alaskan Interior**



LONG MOUNTAIN OUTFITTERS



**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
MG173 H&R M16A1 reweld
MG497 S.W.D. M11A1, NIB
MG610 Steyr Aug 20 in Green
MG561 Steyr MPI-69 Pre-86 DS
MG739 Colt M16 w/14.5 in bbl.

**Very limited quantity of Fleming
HK Sears.....ACT NOW !!!!!**

LMO13 Madsen M50 Pre-86 DS
MG805 Springfield SAR 48, as new
MG071 FN Model D, Pre-sample
MG072 1941 Johnson Pre-sample
MG074 Madsen 1950 reg. rec.
MG081 Celco PPS-43 reweld
MG077 British MK 1 Lanchester
MG084 S&H Arms Ingram Model 6
MG203 Micro UZI, like new, .45 cal.
MG511 Uzi .45, NIB
MG522 FNC Paratrooper folder
MG560 Steyr Aug DS
MG037 MP43 done by Fleming
MG039 Sidarme 1915 Chauchat
MG040 Madsen M50 by S&H Arms
MG041 VZ 58 folder, have pair
MG044 Original Zastavia 56
MG049 Maadi ARM AK-47 in 7.62

MG056 S&H Arms 08/15 reg. rec. gun
MG060 BSA Lewis 1914 w/access.
MG580 H&R 008 Pistol new reg. rec.
MG693 Auto Ord 1928 w/Lyman Sights
MG603 IMI Uzi Pre-86 DS
MG065 N. Korean PPSH 41, w/orig. drum
MG097 1918 Marlin Rockwell, mint
MG758 Early Ruger AC556, neat wood
MG825 R.P.B. M1 Carbine
MG822 Smith & Wesson Model 76
MG824 Original AR-18 Armalite
MG846 Fleming G3, HK91 conversion
MG842 Military Arms M10A1A, unfired
MG843 Fleming FN FAL, test fired only
MG848 Fleming FNC w/col. stk.
MG851 Suppressed Browning rifle
DD001 Solothurn S18-1000, museum quality
MG852 Paws ZX5, test fired only
MG064 Soviet Union PPSH 41
MG066 Universal U.S. Carbine
MG067 M78 Valmet, like new
MG069 Beretta 38/42, reparked
MG823 Neat 1928 Colt drum & mag.
MG860 H&R Arms M14 w/1 mag.
MG858 Fabrique FN G1, good shape
MG850 Fleming MP5A3 in 90% cond.
MG845 New Fleming G3, call for info.
MG833 Walther MPL, DS
MG832 Group HR4332, Post-86 sample
MG853 Colt M16 carbine, 14.5" bbl.

Coming in Soon

Beretta PM12S, Pre-86 DS
Rock Island M60, real neat piece
H&K MP5 Springfield, Post-86
sample

Hard Times UZI, 9mm
Colt M16A1, as new
Beretta PM12S, Post-86 sample
Colt M16 carbines

Celco AK 47 in 7.62x39
H&K M21, belt-fed
HK MP5A3 by S&H, as new
HK MP5 SD w/reg. rec.

Sendra M16
Ingram in 9mm or .380 cal.
Browning .22 cal., supp. rifle
Galil SAR in .223, Post-86 sample

**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.



P.O. Box 45, Harmony, ME 04942
(207) 683-2169 ■ Fax (207) 683-2172
Class 10
LMO4MGS@AOL.com

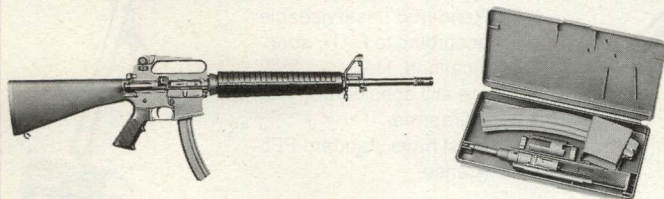


Jonathan Arthur Ciener, Inc.

Ammunition prices continue to rise. The government continues to try to restrict supply.

.22LR CONVERSION KITS

Save your valuable ammunition AND still enjoy your shooting sport AND do more for less money.



The "ATCHISSON" MKIII .22 LR Conversion Kit for

AR-15

\$139.00 w/10-rd. mag.
\$179.00 w/30-rd. mag.
Spare 10-rd. mag. \$23.00

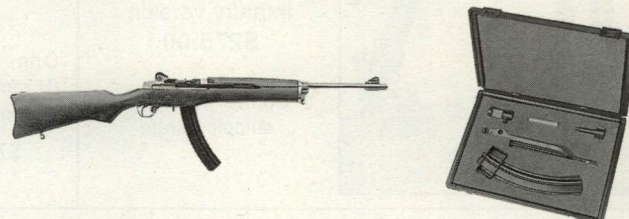
M16

\$159.00 w/10-rd. mag.
\$199.00 w/30-rd. mag.
Spare 30-rd. mag. \$59.00

The "HOHREIN" .22 LR Conversion Kit for

Mini-14/AC556

\$119.00 w/10-rd. mag. **\$159.00** w/30-rd. mag.
Spare 10-rd. mag. \$23.00 Spare 30-rd. mag. \$59.00
Standard kit fits serial number prefix 181 thru 187.
Prefix number 188 kit, add \$10.00. AC556 uses standard 30-rd. mag. kit.



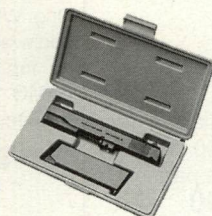
The "CIENER"

1911A1 .22LR CONVERSION KIT Patented

Models for full size, Combat Commander, and Officer's .45 ACP pistols (specify)

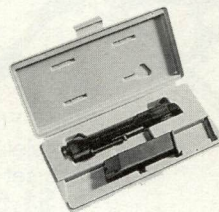


From .45 ACP to
.22LR in 10 seconds
for just
\$179.00
Spare 10-rd. mag. \$35.00

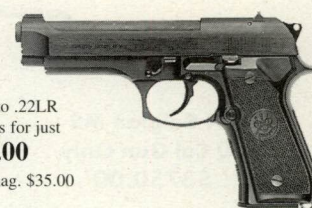


Kit on Series 80 Colt

Kit in Fitted Case



Kit in Fitted Case



From 9mm to .22LR
in 10 seconds for just
\$199.00
Spare 10-rd. mag. \$35.00

Kit on Beretta 92FS

Rifle kits consist of all the parts necessary to change your firearm to function with inexpensive .22LR in moments.

The pistol kits consist of a new slide, .22LR barrel, return spring and guide rod, recoil buffer and magazine in a fitted plastic case.

The pistol kits and magazines are offered in Gloss Black, Matte Black, and Silver finish at no additional charge.

They function **FLAWLESSLY** (guaranteed) using quality High Velocity ammunition. The pistols kits can even use Hyper and Standard Velocity.

Order direct: No FFL required. Send Cash, Certified Check, Money Order or C.O.D. Personal check orders held two weeks to clear.

Include \$5.00 shipping per kit. Due to limited quantities, handgun kit orders are prepaid only.

Jonathan Arthur Ciener, Inc.

Manufacturer of the Finest in Suppressed Firearms

"The Standard For Comparison"



Ruger MKII Government Model Pistol
with "HIGH VOLUME" Suppressor
Parkerized or Stainless ONLY \$599.00



Ruger M77/22 Bolt Action Rifle with integral Suppressor
Blue ONLY \$725.00, Stainless Steel ONLY \$715.00

Shipping

- \$5.00 per Pistol/Supp., \$10.00 per rifle. NFA Dealer's fee is included.

Does not include Federal Transfer Tax.

NFA Licensees send a copy of FFL with EIN number and Class for our illustrated informative catalog and confidential dealer price list.

All others send \$5.00 for catalog or \$14.00 for catalog and distinctive logo T-shirt or Baseball cap (specify).

CURRENT RETAIL PRICES EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1996

RUGER MARK II Pistol with Suppressor.....	\$499.00
RUGER MARK II Stainless Steel Pistol with Suppressor.....	\$575.00
RUGER MARK II Pistol with 8" "High Volume" Supp. (Park. or S/S).....	\$599.00
RUGER MARK II 10" Barrel Stainless Steel Pistol with Suppressor.....	\$599.00
WALTHER TPH Stainless Steel Pistol with Suppressor.....	\$799.00
Suppressor fitted to your firearm.....	\$399.00
WALTHER PPK, PPK/S Pistol with Suppressor (Blue or S/S).....	\$889.00
RUGER 10/22 Deluxe Sporter Rifle with Suppressor.....	\$399.00
BROWNING BA22 .22LR Auto Rifle with Suppressor.....	\$575.00
RUGER M77/22 .22LR Bolt Action Rifle with Suppressor.....	\$725.00
RUGER K77/22 .22LR Stainless Steel Rifle with Suppressor.....	\$715.00
MARLIN 880 .22LR Bolt Action Rifle with Suppressor.....	\$715.00
REMINGTON 700 BDL Varmint Rifle w/Suppressor and Barrel cover.....	\$995.00
Suppressor and Barrel Cover fitted to your Heavy Barrel.....	\$495.00
RUGER M77V Heavy Barrel Rifle w/Suppressor and Barrel Cover.....	\$995.00
Suppressor and Barrel Cover fitted to your Heavy Barrel.....	\$495.00
AR-15/M16 Suppressor (Fits A1 & A2).....	\$375.00
M1A/M14 Suppressor.....	\$375.00
RUGER MINI-14 Suppressor (GB model only).....	\$375.00
MAC 10 (.45 or 9mm) MAC 11 (.380), or SWD M11/9 (9mm).....	\$375.00
UZI SMG or S&W M76 & MK760 Suppressor.....	\$399.00
BARREL/SUPPRESSOR ASSEMBLY for UZI semi, M3/M3A1 Grease Gun, or Sten MKII.....	\$449.00
BARREL/SUPPRESSOR ASSEMBLY for HI-STANDARD .22 Auto.....	\$399.00
BARREL/SUPPRESSOR ASSEMBLY for THOMPSON "CONTENDER" (.22 only).....	\$559.00

WANTED: PARTS FOR MINIGUN and MK19 Mod. 3 GRENADE LAUNCHER

8700 Commerce Street

Dept MGN.

Cape Canaveral, FL 32920

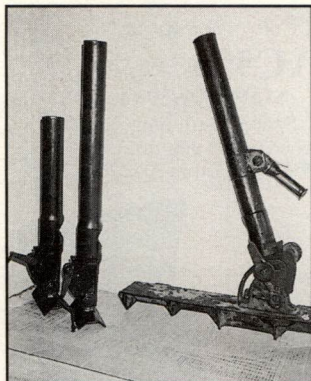
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Ohio Ordnance Works, Inc.

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

BRITISH 2 INCH MORTAR

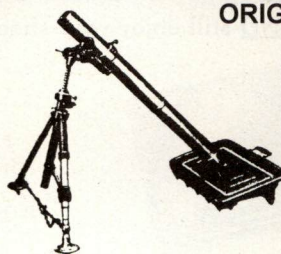


Airborne version
(short or long)
\$150.00

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

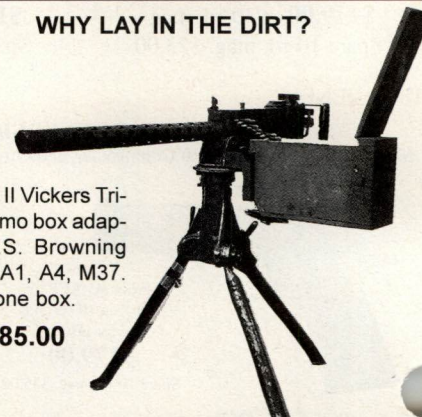
ORIGINAL FN BELGIAN M2 50 CAL.



**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.

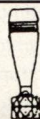
\$385.00

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/flinned 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		B (ea)	\$ 30
original carrying can	\$ 75	10 for	\$ 250
FND BAR .30-06	\$ 15	Reising 30-rd. new-made, guaranteed ..	\$ 55
L2A1 30-rd., unissued cond.	\$ 75	Sterling 45-rd. exc. plus.	\$ 55
MP41 32-rd., very good.	\$ 55	10 for	\$ 500
MP38/40 flat side mag	\$ 55	Orig. WWII Thompson 50-rd drum,	
Bren 8mm 20-rd. mag	\$ 65	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.	
FND Barrel .30-06	\$ 100	new unissued barrels, chrome-	
FND Barrel 8mm	\$ 200	lined (ea.)	\$ 100
FND Barrel .308 cal. excellent.	\$ 250	2 for	\$ 170
1908 Maxim sled mount top strap	\$ 250	3 for	\$ 250
1908 Maxim steam condensing hose.	\$ 100	1919A4 IMI .308 cal. links, new in	
Orig. Bren mag. chest with 12 mags		wrap 2,000 for	\$
new unissued ea.	\$ 35	10,000 for	\$
M2 30 cal. tripod pintle T & E UK		1919A4 .30-06 barrels, used	\$ 25
mfg.	\$ 350	5 for	\$ 100
MG3 MG42 .308 Conversion set barrel,		1919A4 .30-06 barrels, new	\$ 50
flashhider, top cover, feed tray,		3 for	\$ 100
Rheinmetall Mfg.	\$ 850	Orig. Vickers left-side plate	\$ 200

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

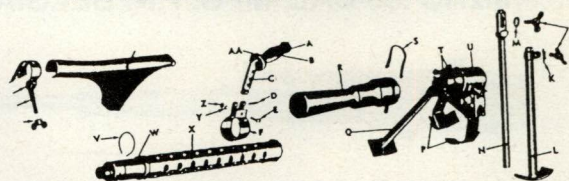
COMPLETE MG34 .308 CONVERSION KIT

\$650.00



.308 chrome-lined barrel & bolt comp.
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 conversion
buttstock, .308 barrel, bar-
rel jacket, bipod, flashhider,
carry handle new condition

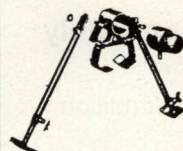
\$350.00

With .30-06 Barrel
\$250.00

1919A6 FLASHHIDER BOOSTER

\$75.00

Very Rare!!



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.

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.

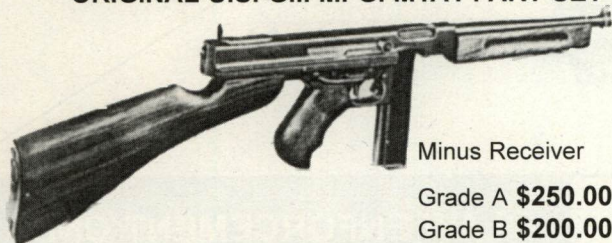
\$350.00

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

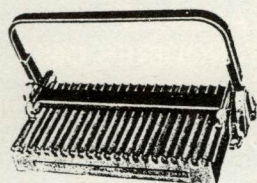
ORIGINAL U.S. G.I. MFG. M1A1 PART SET



Minus Receiver

Grade A **\$250.00**

Grade B **\$200.00**



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 |

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**



Orig. WWII G.I. issue
50-rd. Drum
Exc. plus cond.

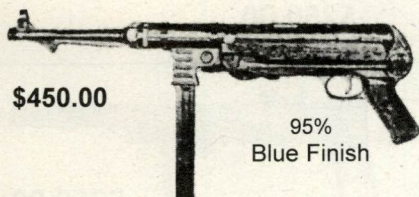
\$300.00

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

Shipping crate
\$65.00



Bipod
\$250.00

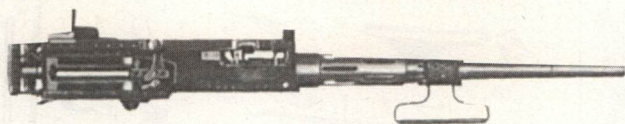
Fully transferable on Form 4
to FFL individual or dealer

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.

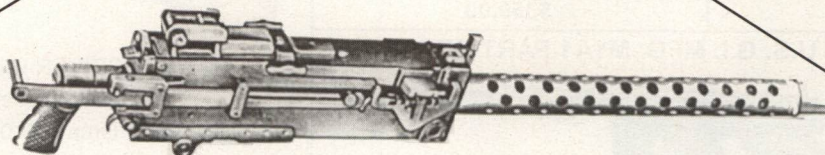


These Guns are
Like-New Condition

(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

LAW ENFORCEMENT ONLY

CLASS III DEALERS &
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

Bergmann MP-35 9mm SMG German Military Proofed AJF 44 in very good condition with 2 mags.....	\$2000
Bergmann MP-35 9mm SMG commercial firearm in very good condition.....	\$2000
MP 18 1 converted to take stick mag. very good condition.....	\$1800
MKI Lanchester in excellent condition.....	\$1850
Sten MKII original British WWII good condition.....	\$1100
MG-08 H MG in excellent running condition complete with sled mount, optical sight, spare barrel, spare lock, water hose and can	\$4500
VZ O.R.-24 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
1917 Savage Lewis in very good condition in .303 cal. with U.S. Navy acceptance proofs with one spare drum. . .	\$2800
1917 Savage Lewis in .303 very good condition.	\$2500
1915 B.S.A. Lewis in .303 very good condition.....	\$2500
MG15 WWII German water-cooled ground gun complete in original crate with spare barrel, gunners wallet, spare parts, maintenance tools, and drum loading tool.	\$4500
Jap Type II LMG 6.5 cal. in very good condition.	\$2000
Jap Type II LMG 6.5 cal. in good condition.	\$1750
MG-17 Air Craft in very good condition.	\$1500
1918 Chauchat .30-06 cal. in good condition	\$1500
1915 Chauchat 8mm in good condition	\$1100
1914 Hotchkiss with mount, 8mm, Lebel	\$3500
1909 Benet-Mercie mfg. by Colt.....	\$2500
Breda Model PG 7mm mfg. for Costa Rica in very good condition with 10 spare magazines.	\$1850

Transferable Guns

Valmet M71 .223 cal. in mint condition with 4 mags.....	\$2000
AR-15 Model 614 Colt Mfg. in excellent condition.	\$2200
Jap Air Craft .50 cal. receiver only.....	\$ 800
M10 9mm in very good condition with 6 mags.	\$ 650
M11 9mm in very good condition.	\$ 550
Iver Johnson carbine.....	\$ 750
Uzi bolt only .45 cal.....	\$ 450

Pre-May Samples

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

Destructive Devices

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

More firearms available, call us.

Machine Gun News

THE MAGAZINE FOR FULL-AUTO ENTHUSIASTS

Volume 9 Number 8

January 1996

From the Publisher:

With the approach of our 10th anniversary year, we are introducing some changes to our publication. The January '96 issue will be the starting point for the new look. We are planning more design changes and you should see those take place in coming issues.

This issue also unveils "The Stoner Chronicles." This monumental series records the development of the Stoner family of weapons which includes the M16 and ends with the SR-25. Some of these historically significant firearms have never been photographed before, and we are very pleased to be able to share them with you.

Vida Ford

Features

ATF Magazine Ruling	10
By Capt. Monty Mendenhall	
The Stoner Chronicles	18
By Dan Shea	
Owensby Solution	32
By Capt. Monty Mendenhall	
NFA Weapons in the Alaskan Interior	34
By CPT. Will Dabbs	
Parker Hale .22 Rimfire Silencer	40
By Al Paulson	
Magazine Parts and Accessories	46
By Frank Iannamico	

Departments

Raffica	12
Focus On: The .55 Boys Antitank Rifle	50
The Forms	54
Archive Photo of the Month	62
Classifieds	64

On the Cover: The three Stoner prototypes that led to the AR-10 series guns. From top to bottom: M5, M8 and the M6. Photos by Jim Bonis.

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.

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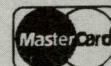


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REVIEW:
RT 1200B
Case Trimmer
Page 14

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Page 16

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ATF Magazine Ruling

The following ATF letter was published in the Nov/Dec issue of Front Sight Magazine. Front Sight Magazine is the official journal of the United States Practical Shooting Association. A member, Steven W. Kendrick, petitioned the BATF for a ruling about the legality of repairing a preban large capacity magazine. The BATF's reply was surprising.

DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY
BUREAU OF ALCOHOL, TOBACCO AND FIREARMS
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20226

E:CE:F:TE:GKD
3311.4

Mr. Steven W. Kendrick

Dear Mr. Kendrick:

This refers to your letter of May 20, 1995, requesting information on the legality of converting and repairing magazines with reference to the provisions of the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of 1994, hereinafter referred to as "the Act".

Your first question related to the legality of converting a magazine made to hold ten rounds or less of ammunition into a magazine capable of holding more than ten rounds, if that magazine was manufactured prior to the effective date of the Act, that is September 13, 1994. As an example, you mentioned removing the rivet and spacer from a Colt Sporter magazine that limit that magazine from holding more than five rounds.

Generally, any magazine that has a capacity of 10 rounds or less that was manufactured prior to the effective date of the Act may not be altered to hold more than 10 rounds. This would constitute manufacture of a large capacity magazine as defined in the Act. However, in the particular case of the Colt Sporter magazine you used as an example, this magazine, because of the nature of its construction, is considered to be a large capacity magazine. Hence any magazine of this type manufactured prior to the effective date of the Act could have the rivet and spacer removed, allowing it to hold more than the original 5-round capacity.

Your second question related to the legality of replacing the entire body of a large capacity magazine if the original body has been damaged beyond repair, using a magazine body manufactured after the effective date of the Act. You also asked if the repair could be accomplished by private individuals or if such repair had to be done by a licensed importer or manufacturer.

A replacement magazine body manufactured at any time may be used to replace the body of a large capacity magazine that was manufactured before the effective date of the Act. As there are no requirements for a magazine manufacturer to be licensed under the Federal firearms laws, such repair may be done by an unlicensed individual.

We trust that the foregoing has been responsive to your inquiry. If we may be of any further assistance, please contact us.

Sincerely yours,

Edward M. Owen

Chief, Firearms Technology Branch

Mr. Owen did not state any need to prove that the new postban magazine body was being used with old preban magazine parts. A few readers may be thinking, "Well, why can't I just buy all new parts, from different manufacturers, and assemble new magazines? No one at the BATF will ever know."

That would be illegal. It would be a big risk. If President Clinton is reelected or if the liberal Democrats regain control of the House and Senate, I would expect a vigorous renewal of BATF enforcement tactics. IT is not worth the risk.

Anyone who buys a replacement magazine body for a preban magazine should, at the very least, store the damaged magazine body in a safe place. If the BATF ever questions the legality of the repair and the owner produces a damaged body for every new one bought, he should be on safe ground.

Don't risk trouble by doing anything illegal. Don't be paranoid either, but do document a repairs in case you are asked to prove it later.

—Capt. Monty Mendenhall

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MG-0617	AK-47 Trainer German	.22 lr	10 rds	New	\$19.90	\$6.90	\$5.50
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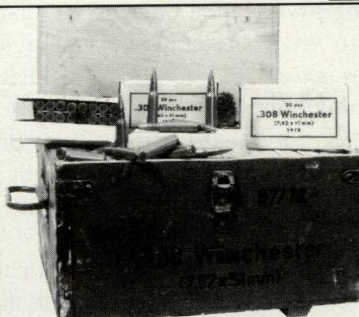


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7.62 NATO AM-0502-C1060	CZECH Gov't Arsenals	1960s	Brass	Lead Core FMJ	20rds	1060 rds	63 lbs	No	No	\$129.90 (\$12/rd)	13.50	19.50	28.00	308W O 78
7.62x54r LIGHT BALL AM-0510-C320	German Military Arsenals	1980s	Steel	Steel Core FMJ	20rds	320rds Plastic Sleeve	20 lbs	No	No	\$44.50 (\$14/rd)	5.75	9.00	12.00	85 72
30.06 Steel Core G.I. BLACK TIP AM-0485-C250	F.N. Belgium	1960s	Brass	Steel Core FMJ	250rds	250rds .30 Cal Can	20 lbs	YES	No	\$87.50 (\$35/rd)	5.75	9.00	12.00	FN 67
30.06 Ball AM-0447-C250	F.N. Belgium	1960s	Brass	Lead Core FMJ	250rds	250rds .30 Cal Can	20 lbs	YES	No	\$72.50 (\$29/rd)	5.75	9.00	12.00	FN 67
30.06 Blank ON LINKS BELTS AM-0480-C250	F.N. Belgium	1970s & 60s	Brass	Star Crimp	250rds	250rds .30 Cal Can	16 lbs	YES	No	\$27.50 (\$11/rd)	5.00	8.00	10.00	FN 65
30.06 Blank, Star Crimp Bulleted AM-0482-C400	I.M.I. Israel	1990s	Brass	N.A.	20rds	400 rds .50 Cal Can	35 lbs	YES	YES	\$49.00 (\$125/rd)	7.50	13.00	18.75	IMI 30 91
30.06 Blank GRENADE LAUNCHING AM-0484-C800	F.N. Belgium	1960s & 50s	Brass	N.A.	100rds	800 rds	45 lbs	YES	No	\$128.00 (\$16/rd)	9.00	16.00	24.00	FN 65
7.65 Argentine 7.65x54 AM-0326-C1500	Argentine Military Arsenals	1980s	Brass	N.A.	15rds	1500 rds	90 lbs	YES	No	\$172.50 (\$115/rd)	33.00	35.00	38.00	7.65 SF 81

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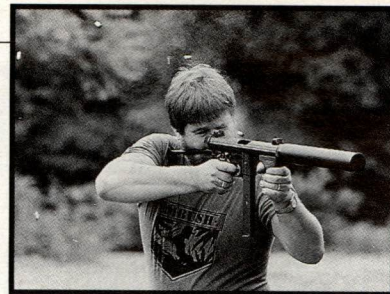
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Raffica

(full-auto)

by DAN SHEA



"Since Roger Bacon, Berthold Schwartz, or some unsung Chinese philosopher first blew the Thursday night stew out through the roof by getting a few stray chemicals too near the cook-stove, gun bugs have been arguing about how to make guns and how to use them. Probably very few of the disputants have been one-hundred-per cent right. Certainly, in the rare cases when someone was, no one else admitted it. Out of all the tumult, shouting, and shooting has come the progress in firearms from the days when it was necessary to build a fire under a gun to make it go off—to the "you press the button and they do the work" automatic arms of the present day."

—Captain Melvin M. Johnson, Jr.

After doing the investigative work on the Stoner prototypes, I was struck by something that has been remarked on in "Raffica" before. Here was a man, who, in his basement workshop, designed and built a series of firearms that would redefine the modern small arm. Stoner, Browning, Colt, Kalishnikov... the list of designers goes on and on. Each man starting his designs on his own, and through personal genius and lots of sweat, changing the course of history. Many times it was hand tools and a bench vise that started an idea and took it to the final working design.

Each time I think of these men and their accomplishments, I wonder where the next generation of designers is coming from. With the current manufacturing bans, the one on machine guns in 1986, and the more recent assault weapon aberration in 1994, it becomes harder and harder each day for someone with an idea to work it through.

We are legislating genius out of business. I guess that is one more reason to fight all the anti-Second Amendment legislation. I get to talk with so many innovative people in the industry who have gone through the process and have the proper licenses. I talk with ten times that many creative thinkers who are totally put off by the federal systems regarding firearms. I wonder where the next Eugene Stoner is

going to come from? Where is the new John Browning? Putting his energy into designing Ronco kitchen appliances? Seen on UHF channels at 3 a.m.? If you are an inventor/tinker/gunsmith, please remember that the spirit of the great designers has always been one of rugged individualism: forging ahead, testing, trying, adapting. Don't let the system hold you back. Get the licenses, make the prototypes.

I get depressed just thinking about all the innovations that are put off by overbearing modern regulations.

MYSTERY PHOTO

Be sure to send in your "educated stabs" at the identity of this month's "Mystery Photo." You might be a recipient of the Coveted Order of the RKI, "Raffica's" version of Knighthood. You will be the proud owner of a certificate, suitable for framing, that proclaims that you, heretofore just another expert on firearms, are in fact, a "Reasonably Knowledgeable Individual" and are entitled to all that goes with the title.

MP The November Mystery Photo is the assembly fixture for locking roller in HK bolt heads. Do I get extra credit for the part number? 1013-02.06VI

Tom Dresner

MP Upon close inspection of the photo in November MGN of ar-

ticle aforesaid mentioned, under different lighting conditions, naked eye, 10x loupe and finally from a safe distance I came to the conclusion that the November Mystery Photo is an H&K assembly fixture for replacing locking rollers on bolt head for HK family weapon system, i.e. MP5, etc., part no. 1013-02.06 VI. (Also could use a clamping sleeve retaining tool [PN# 1013-101.53 WI] and a plastic hammer!)

Bill Hedges

P.S. Keep your powder dry!

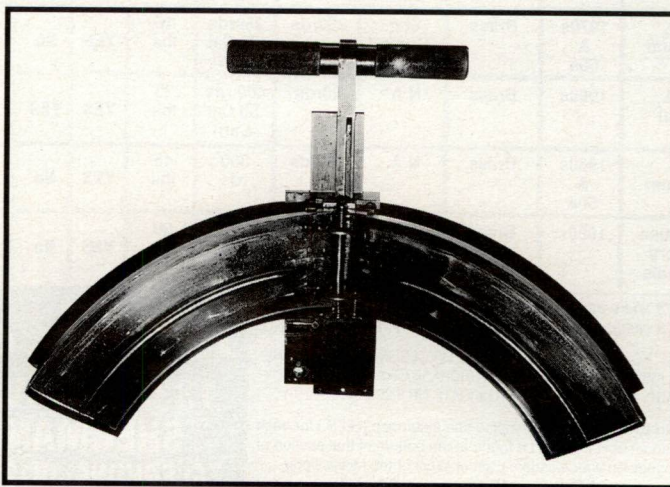
A rousing hand of applause, and a quick award of the Coveted Order of the RKI. I was surprised that there were any answers on this one. I honestly had never seen one until Jim Schatz at HK introduced the concept while I was down there this summer.

MP But of course! The item in question is a Heckler & Koch assembly fixture. This \$600.00 slab of metal is used to aid in the assembly of HK G3 / 91 / 33 / 53 / 93 / MP5 / 94 bolt heads. More specifically, replacing the locking rollers. You thought you could stump me? Ha!

P. Farina

Enterprising Securities

A You are the proud recipient of the Coveted Order of the RKI. Bragging rights are conferred to you for knowing the cost of this item. I suppose that it is important for the Rafficarians to understand that this is the same jig that the Germans use to assemble the bolt heads. It is intended to last forever without ANY loss of tolerance, like most German made tools. I am not sure that the sm police department Class 2 manufacturer could amortize the cost of this device over how many times a year they



January Mystery Photo.

need to use one, but you HK collectors out there might be able to justify buying one to put in your tool box and show it off at shoots... the ultimate accessory.

On to Rafficaria...

Q You may think this an odd request, but I can't help wondering—if there is a Sten MK II and a Sten MK III, shouldn't there be a Sten MK I? I have never seen it anywhere. There must have been one. If there was, did they make many? Am I missing something, or has someone imported some?

Paul

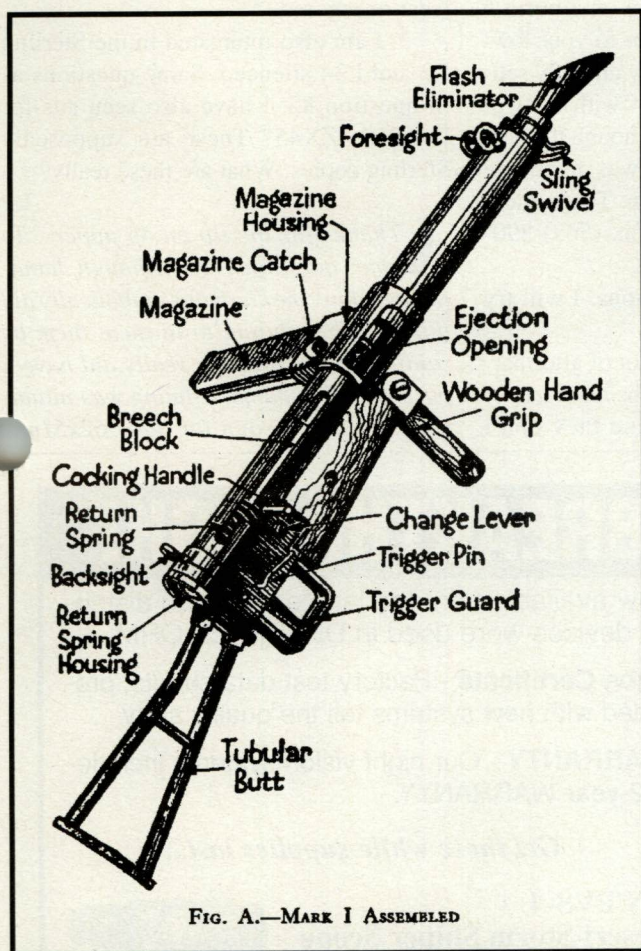


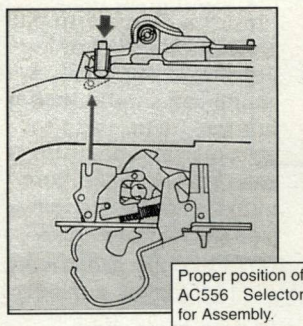
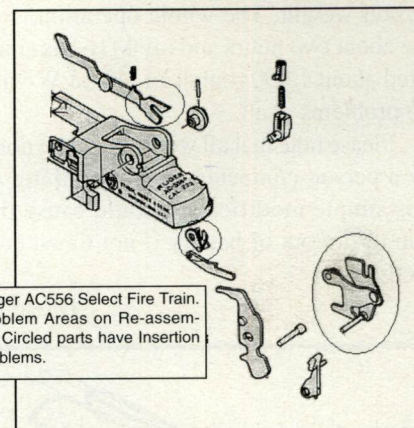
FIG. A.—MARK I ASSEMBLED

A You are correct, there WAS a Sten MK I. It was quickly replaced by the MK II model. The MK I had a tubular steel frame buttstock and a dowel-style wooden handle at the front of a wooden forearm. There was an odd conical flash hider, and the front sight had protecting flaps on each side. Other than the above, function and looks were similar to the Sten MK II. It used the standard Sten magazines. I have only seen one up close, and that was in a pile of Stens that was being cut up for a parts dealer. I screamed, "NO—you

CAN'T cut that one up!" and was quickly calmed down by having it explained to me that it was headed for a museum. Whew.

Q I have a Ruger AC556 and took it apart for cleaning. Since putting it back together, I haven't gotten it to function at all. I took it apart again, and there were two little pieces of sheet metal that looked like part of the mechanism, and they were broken off. Do you know where I can get any of these parts?

TW



A Not an uncommon problem with the AC556. Some of the metal inside is not really as strong as I would like to see it. I have run into several like this. (Once or twice in the shop here—my ears are burning a little red—how do you think that I KNOW this stuff, anyway?) The hammer must be cocked, the safety must be in its "ON" position, and the selector switch must be in the semi-automatic fire position before attempting re-assembly. The link positioner assembly and selector arm must be positioned as shown in the diagram, as you start assembly. If they are not, the trigger mechanism cannot be properly reassembled into the frame. Note the "properly." This is probably where you ran into trouble. If the positions are at all different from those in the diagrams, the sheet metal yokes can be forced out of shape and broken—apparently what happened to your AC556. Parts are unavailable for the selector, and Ruger wants the gun returned to them in order to repair it, which they will general-

ly do for free. Call them at (603) 863-3300. Blame it on the person you got the AC556 from, "It came in this way."

Q Great magazine. Keep up the good work. In regards to Tom R.'s questions in the November 1995 issue on M16 uppers firing .45acp, I have had some similar experiences that I'll share to give some insight to the problem.

I purchased an upper receiver assembly from SGW/Olympic in .40 S&W. Just like Tom R. said in his letter, the State of Washington has made it illegal for the manufacture of full-automatic parts for domestic, civilian sales. However, this law only pertains to manufacturers in Washington and not citizens who are otherwise able to use these parts.

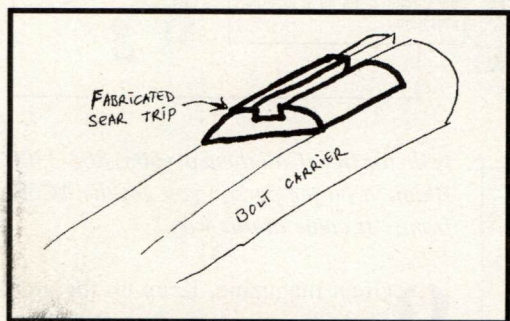
The only difference between the current semi-auto upper receiver manufactured by SGW and previously sold full-auto versions is the auto sear trip/notch on the bolt carrier. Replacing the pistol caliber bolt carrier with an M16 carrier cannot be done easily. The bolt carrier on the pistol caliber uppers are slightly different than regular .223 bolt carriers in that the twisting slot for camming of the .223 bolt has not been cut and instead the bolt is directly pinned to the bolt carrier and secondly, a weight has been inserted into the carrier to retard the cycling speed as the pistol caliber upper is based on a blow-back operation.

What I did was to fabricate a small semicircular piece of metal, shaped to approximately match the dimensions of the standard M16 and bond it to the bolt carrier to act as the original sear trip. I used a piece of stainless steel, shaped like the drawing below and bonded it in place with epoxy followed by two small, counter-sunk flush mounting screws into the bolt carrier.

er/bolt weight. The whole operation took me about two hours and my M16 has since fired about 1,000 rounds of .40 S&W with no problems at all.

Please note that all work should be done by a person competent in gunsmithing as this simple modification could cause the gun to fire out of battery if not timed correctly.

David L.



Fabricated sear trip and bolt carrier.

A I really haven't much experience with these caliber conversions. "Raffica" is going to rely on the readers for this series of information. I have reviewed it carefully and think that David L.'s answer and the following also are good, solid advice,

worth considering for those of you who find yourselves with caliber conversions that can't be supported by the original equipment manufacturer.

Q I'm writing in response to Tom R.'s letter (Nov. 95) on M16 full auto .45 uppers. True, Washington state does not allow sales of full-auto uppers to civilians; however, Oregon does. You need to call Police Automatic Weapons Services in Salem, Oregon. They stock full-auto Olympic Arms uppers in all pistol calibers and various barrel lengths. The only downside is that you have to send them your weapon on a Form 5 so they can fit the upper to your lower. As far as I know they are only selling the older style uppers with the two-piece magazines, even though the new style one-piece mag was available long before the mag ban. The number is (503) 399-1443 or fax (503) 390-6073 to either Bob or Joyce.

I also have a few questions; I will try to keep them short.

1. I have been seeing a lot of aftermarket MP5K PDW barrels on the market lately. I have a few of them and they don't

have the fluted chamber like the original barrels. Will these barrels function in full-auto without the flutes? If yes, who would be the best to send it to, to have the barrel installed and a flipper mag installed? If not, is there any source for original HK MP5K PDW barrels? I know that a few people make adapters that lengthen the stock barrel to PDW length, but I have heard that welding these on will adversely effect the accuracy of the gun?

2. I am interested in the Beretta PM12S submachine gun. Are there any transferable originals in this country? If not, were any semi's imported and then converted (sear or reg. rec.)?

3. I am also interested in the Sterling L2 and L34 silenced. Same questions as in question #2. I have also seen ads for P.A.W.S. ZX45? These are supposedly Sterling copies. What are these really?

LP

A Thanks for the tip on 45 uppers. To your questions: 1. Although hand-loaders think the Germans diabolically did this chamber fluting to torment them by ruining all the brass, it really did have a purpose. The chamber fluting was initially in the rifle design for the 7.62x51mm

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NATO cartridge. The fluting aided in extraction by helping to break the pressure of the brass against the wall of the chamber after unlocking occurred. HK's are smooth extractors—nice and positive. In the .223 versions and the 7.62x39mm versions, the chamber fluting continues this extraction aid. As far as 9mm goes, it really isn't needed. The mechanical act of inserting those flutes requires EDM technology, which is very costly. Since it is superfluous in the 9mm, most of the aftermarket barrel makers do not bother. I have no problem with that, personally. Some of the HK purists out there might insist on fluting in the chamber, but I'd rather spend the money on ammo.

2. Beretta PM12S submachine guns were the second in the Model 12 series. They were manufactured after the 1968 ban on importation for private ownership that was in the GCA-1968. (This is where the "Pre-86" Dealer Sample designation came in.) Since all original PM12S's came into the U.S. after the 1968 date, they are ALL Dealer Sample machine guns and cannot be owned by individuals unless the individual is a Class 3 who owned one that was a Pre-86 DS and dropped his SOT sta-

tus. There may have been several Beretta Modello 12 submachine guns that came in before 1968, which would make them fully transferable to individuals. I have heard rumors but never seen the guns. The one in the photo at the beginning of the "Raffica" column is a Pre-86 Dealer Sample that I used to own.

3. The P.A.W.S. ZX series submachine guns were indeed Sterling clones. They are not exact duplicates, but the design is close—so is the black crackle finish. Overall, they are a pretty reliable SMG. I have never seen an original transferable Sterling or the suppressed version (L34A1). There are some transferable conversions of the Sterling semi-autos floating around. There are some amnesty-registered fully-transferable Canadian C-4 SMG's, and Patchett's from UK, which are close enough for most collectors, if not a little more intriguing than a standard Sterling.

Q I was wondering if I could install my registered HK machine gun sear in a 4-position 3-shot burst pack.

Richard S.

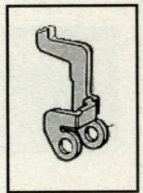
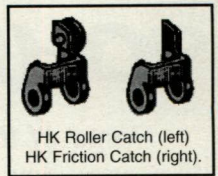
A It's going to be a lot of work. I have included some of the different origi-

nal catches that are in HK trigger packs. These are what is generally referred to as the "sear" by Americans. You

should note that most of the registered conversion sears are of the "friction" catch type in appearance. I did not include the other burst-type catch here for lack of a picture. As you can see, there is a lot of modification that might have to be done for a correct installation.

Q First, thanks for a great publication; it's the only one I know of of its kind. I look forward to it most of all every month and read it cover to cover. I am not a machine gun owner, as I am a disabled vet, and the cost of the transfer would be out of my reach, and the fact that NONE of the gun clubs in The Peoples Republic of Massachusetts that I know of will allow full-auto fire.

However, over the years of going to flea markets and yard sales, etc., I have



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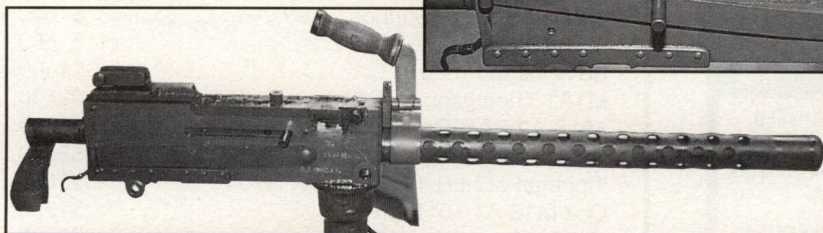
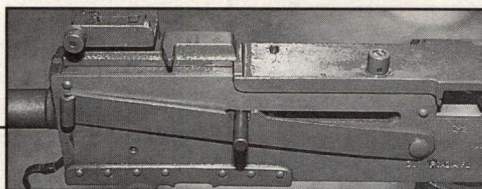
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put together a very modest library of owner manuals of various firearms, most of them full-autos. These are all original government publications.

The latest addition to my collection is "Caliber .50, M2 Browning Machine Gun. How The Gun Works." It was printed by AC Spark Plug Division (GMC) and Frigidaire Division (GMC) in 1942. The Library of Congress number is "Frig. Form G 780458-50M-10-42." I doubt if you can still request it.

At any rate, it covers the aircraft (air-cooled, weight 64 lbs.), anti-aircraft (water-cooled, weight 121.5 lbs.), and land and field (air-cooled, weight 81 lbs.) and is very complete.

Why should I enjoy all of these great books all by myself? I am not a selfish person and never have been—pass this wealth around! The following is what I am willing to do:

1. Send me a letter-size, self-addressed envelope and I will tell you if I have the book or not.

2. If I have the book you want, I will go to the copy company and have it duplicated and send it to you with the amount that it cost me for copy fees, postage, etc. You will send me a check for the amount of my costs when you get it. (I have never been shafted by a full-auto person yet.)

3. I will hang onto your name and if I come across another interesting book about the same topic I will let you know about it.

Granted, this is not as terrific as having the real book, but it is the next best thing. I cannot list the books that I have because of space (and my typing isn't that good, but I will do my best).

Roger A. Leffingwell
P.O. Box 114
Seekonk, MA 02771

AIn the interest of the free flow of information, I am including Roger's name in "Raffica." If you are looking for a manual, send him a letter, and see if he has it. Tell him you read about him in "Raffica." If he has your manual, and goes through all the trouble of copying it for you, send him a few extra bucks. He'll probably spend it on more manuals, if he's anything like the rest of us...and then you can get more copies. There is a range in MA that allows pistol caliber full auto. Bob's Tactical (508) 465-5561 —Dan

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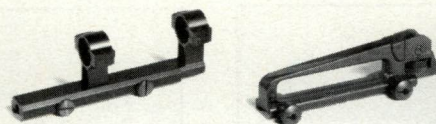
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Early 1970's: The sun was hot...hotter than I had ever imagined myself enduring. The newly-issued steel helmet pressed down on my head, its leather band a strange ring that circled my forehead and seemed to make my head wobble when I moved. The men I was with were strangers, not only to me but to each other. We had a common bond—we were all going through the same hell and being tormented by the same brutal master. "Private Shea! Front and center—on the double!" I ran to the front of the neatly formed group of men, executed an awkward left turn, snapped to attention, and waited for the worst. "Private Shea, you will now instruct this platoon in the **PROPER** use of the U.S. Rifle, M16A1." I was dead silent. I knew that this was my karma for opening my mouth at the back of the platoon, when I should have been listening. I had earned whatever was coming. I owned it. "Well, I don't know anything at all about it, **DRILL SERGEANT!**" I mumbled. He exploded in front of me, with his violent energy flying around, flailing arms and red face, spittle flying from his mouth as he raged, "WHAT THE BLUE HELL WERE YOU DISCUSSING BACK THERE WHILE I WAS TEACHING YOU ABOUT THE ONLY FRIEND YOU ARE EVER GOING TO HAVE, THE ONLY THING THAT MAY SAVE YOUR WORTHLESS LIFE SO THAT YOU CAN DRAG YOUR WORTHLESS BUTT BACK FROM VIETNAM AND GO BACK TO WASTING MY TAX MONEY ON YOUR HOPELESS QUEST FOR AN EDUCATION?" I was stunned, as usual, and had no answer. "GET DOWN AND GIVE ME FIFTY!" In the process of "assuming the position" to do the fifty pushups that this man seemed to constantly need, my newly acquired M16A1 rifle touched the ground. "DON'T YOU UNDERSTAND THAT A CIVILIAN NAMED JODY GETS A PAYCHECK FOR ENSURING THAT MATTEL TOY CORPORATION KEEPS A CONTRACT FOR MAKING THESE RIFLES? IF YOU DAMAGE THAT RIFLE, YOU WILL BE MAKING WORK FOR HIM, WHICH GIVES ME A MAJOR CASE OF THE RED ASS BECAUSE—YOU KNOW HOW MUCH I HATE CIVILIANS!"

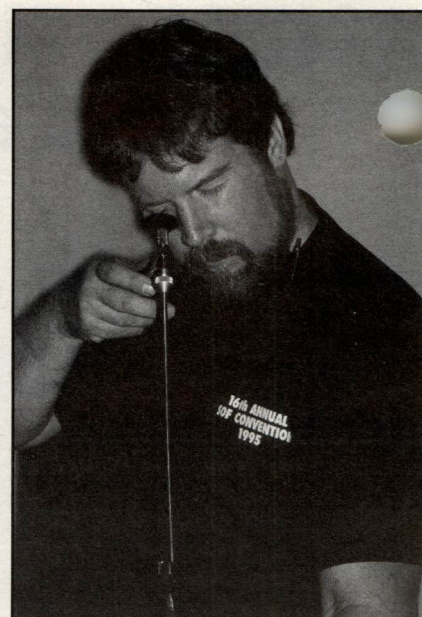
I soon learned that Drill Sergeant Leslie did indeed hate civilians, and until we were graduated from basic, proficient with that rifle, we were still "civilians." I also personally pushed Ft. Jackson, South Carolina most of the way to the Atlantic coast, thereby developing the upper body strength that the Drill Sergeant deemed necessary for the survival of the worthwhile individuals who might need me to do manual labor to save their lives, possibly saving my own worthless existence in the process.

You are not about to read my story. I **DID** eventually learn from Drill Sergeant Leslie that Mr. Charles Cong, in addition to mutilating me in my sleep (therefore I was being trained to not **NEED** to sleep), would be prone to dumping handfuls of sand or mud into the action of my M16A1, forcing me to repeat the cleaning drills that I had practiced, and that the same company that made Mickey Mouse toys made the M16A1. I learned that the only thing that I needed to know about that rifle was how to point it, clean it, clear it, perform immediate action, and get water out of it. This was a pathetically inadequate, yet typical introduction of an American fighting man meeting the premier battle rifle of our current Armed Forces.

What you **ARE** about to read is the story of the birth of the Stoner Systems, concentrating on the changes that they went through in the phases of development. In a way, this story affects all of us alive today, from 16 to 65, whether you were in the military or not. Much has already been written on this subject. There are a number of books that are very good and worth reading. Machine Gun News is not attempting to redo the work that has been done before. In the following series of articles, we are going to attempt to tell a different story—the story of the development of the Stoner family of weapons. We are going to take this journey "point by point."

We at MGN feel that this is a wonderful and interesting story, and through the help of Mr. Reed Knight, have prepared the following photographic and technical series on the birth of the Stoner systems....I just wish Drill Sergeant Leslie could see me now...

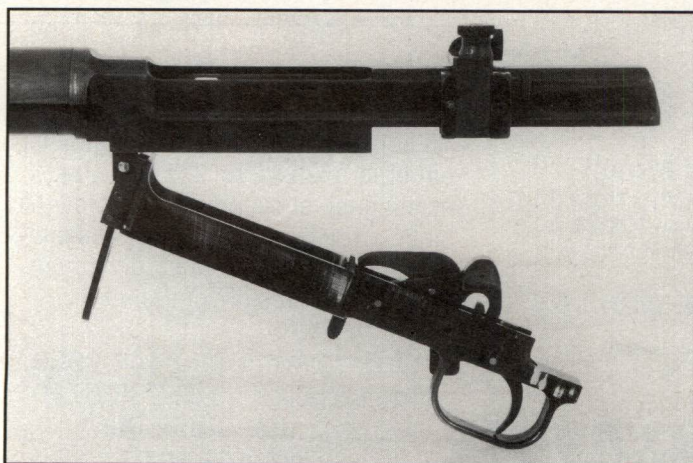
—Dan



MGN Technical Editor Dan Shea examining Stoner prototype M8 for gas port hole position with bore examination tool.

The Early Stoner Designs:

- M1 (1943)** .30 Caliber Carbine. Submachine gun, receiver and action only. Whereabouts unknown.
- M2 (1943)** .30 Caliber Carbine. Submachine gun, receiver and action only. Whereabouts unknown.
- M3 (1944)** .30-06 Rifle. Recoil operated, Semi auto. Steel receiver. Whereabouts unknown.
- M4 (1945)** .30-06 Primer activated rifle. Semi auto. Design only.
- M5 (June 1952)** .30-06 Aluminum receiver, locking bolt, Garand-type recoil system.
- M6 (1953)** .30-06 Aluminum receiver, locking bolt, Garand-type recoil system.
- M7 (AR-3) (August 1954)** Similar to M6, .308 cal, fiberglass stock.
- M8 (AR-10 #1) (Feb 1955)** Select-fire rifle, .30-06, steel tube, appearance of the new gas system.



Stoner M5 upper and lower—the first of the aluminum receiver firearms. Eugene Stoner's first design that led to the Stoner family of weapons.



M16A2 (enhanced). The M16 at the other end of the evolution. Upper and lower opened for inspection.



The Stoner Chronicles

Part I: GENESIS

Text: Dan Shea Photos: Jim Bonis

"In the beginning, there was the Garand..."

—old soldiers proverb

Eugene Morrison Stoner was born in Gasport, Indiana, in 1922. He was raised in Long Beach, California, and graduated from high school there. After leaving high school he worked installing aircraft armament equipment (guns, turrets, bomb racks) at a factory called Vega Aircraft, known today as "Lockheed." The experiences at Vega cemented an interest in armament and aircraft that has followed Stoner all through his life. He enlisted in the United States Marines in Aviation Ordnance, and during World War II was stationed at El Toro, California, toured the South Pacific, Philippines, Okinawa, and ended the war in North China.

While a young marine in El Toro (1943), Stoner started on his first firearm designs: the Stoner M1 and M2. These were submachine gun designs in .30 caliber carbine. Both were completed as receivers only, and he left them in the possession of one of the other machinists that he worked with. Stoner's M3 in 1944 was a .30-06 caliber recoil-operated, semi-automatic rifle. It had a steel receiver. The whereabouts of the Stoner M3 are unknown. In 1945, Stoner designed his M4 Rifle. It was a .30-06 caliber primer-activated rifle in semi-automatic mode. Stoner's M4 was a design only; it never left the drawing board. It is interesting to note that his taste for new technology is evident at this point. Garand had a primer-activated rifle, as did Springfield Armory and several other designers. Essentially, a primer activated rifle has a well behind the primer on the bolt face, which allows the primer to expand backwards as the burning propellants reach higher pressures. This pressure to the rear is used to unlock the bolt—an early type of delay mechanism—as is used in modern gas-type or roller-delayed blowback arms. The primer actually would push back and drive the mechanism of the gun; there was enough energy out of that backwards force to activate the gun. It basically was a locked

breech-type gun. The primer-activated method may be different and the end result not as successful, but the idea of delaying the unlocking of the bolt until the pressures have subsided has opened up the modern world of lightweight firearms, which is where Gene Stoner pioneered and prevailed. He improvised, overcame, and adapted.

This young United States Marine and "basement machinist" started his project in the mid 1940's, and in the process led the charge into new technologies, blending the new miracle metal "aluminum" with the futuristic technology of fiberglass and new, innovative bolt locking and gas systems. His designs over the years have revolutionized the military rifle, on a par with John Browning and Mikhail Kalashnikov.

Like most great inventors, Stoner did not start out knowing that his tinkering would have such a profound effect on history. He was just a young man who had some ideas about firearms and liked to tinker with them. We have good information on some of these firearms because of notes that he kept during the Armalite years. Many of the dates used here come from his notes dated August 21, 1958.

Our chronicle now enters into the relevant age.

The Stoner Model M5

Up until this article, there has never been any information on this rifle—not even a picture. Mr. Reed Knight helped to take the Stoner M5, disassemble it, and supply what information that he could to help us reconstruct the evolution of the series.

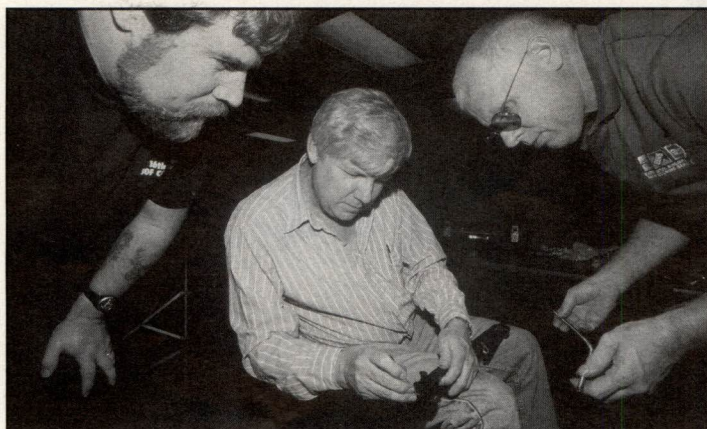
Stoner was living in southern California. In his garage, he had his own small machine shop that he had built. There he had a Bridgeport milling machine, a small lathe, and some other general workshop tools. He worked during the day at Whittaker, a special aircraft company, and on his firearms projects in his off time.



Stoner M5 rifle. Right-hand side.



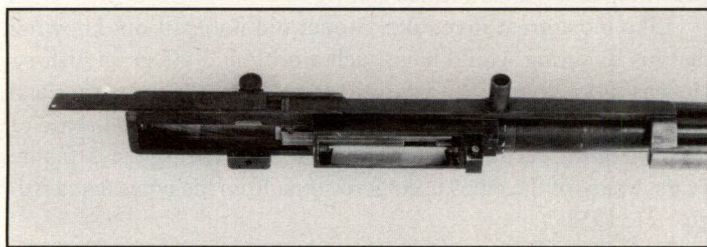
Stoner M5 rifle. Left-hand side.



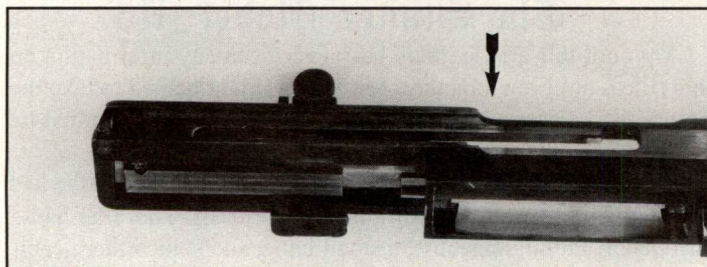
(Left to right) *MGN* Technical Editor Dan Shea, Knight Armament Company President Reed Knight, Knight Armament Company Engineer Doug Olsen disassembling Stoner Prototype M5.



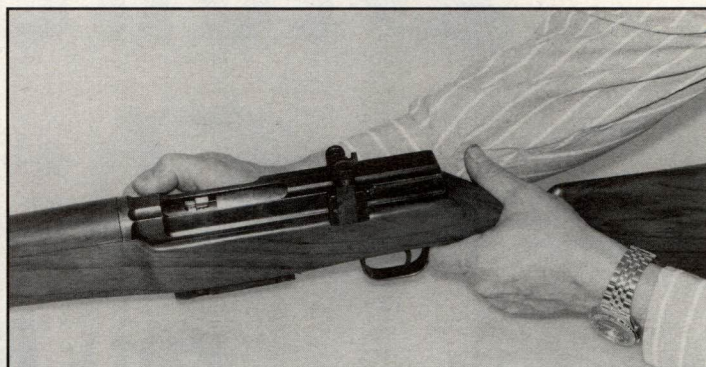
2. Lifting upper receiver, lowering trigger assembly.



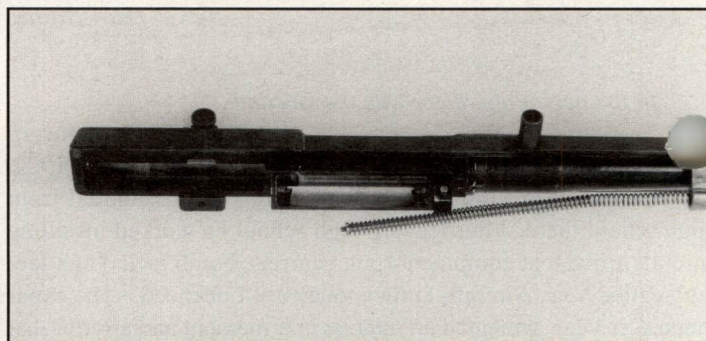
4. Removing operating rod sliding cover—to the rear.



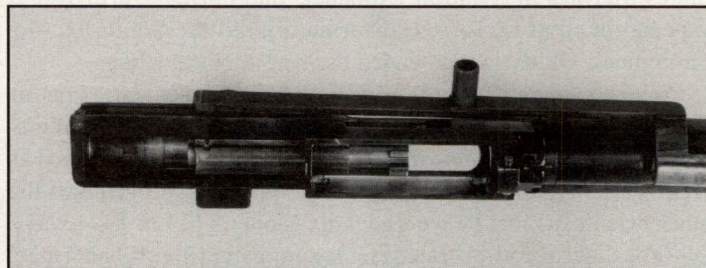
6. Slide bolt carrier to the rear.



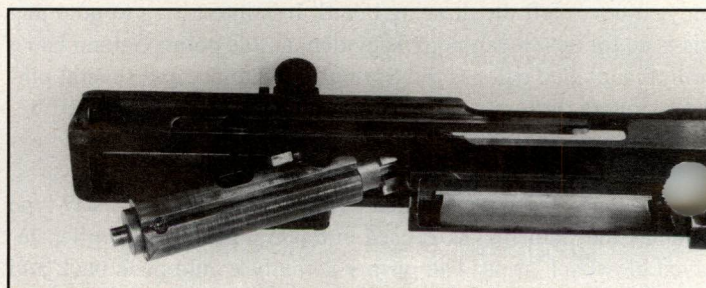
1. Retracting the bolt on Stoner M5.



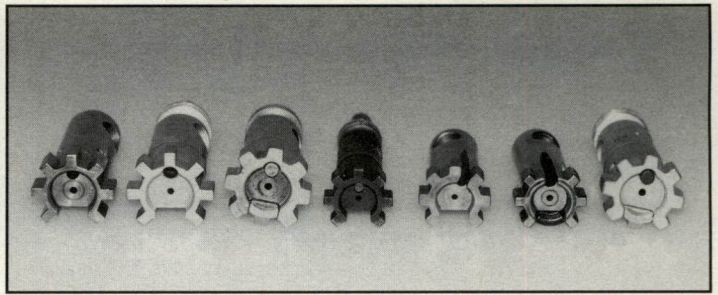
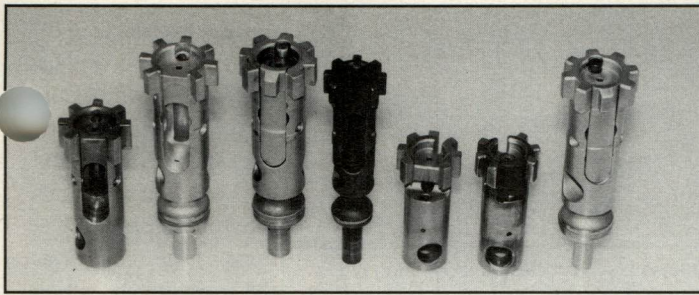
3. Disengaging recoil spring.



5. Move bolt carrier to the rear, and lift operating rod so that the connecting lug frees from the bolt carrier. Note dings on the front edges of the slide guides on the receiver.



7. Bolt removed to the lower rear. This was a big moment for those of us there. The first full look at Gene Stoner's first eight-lug locking system.

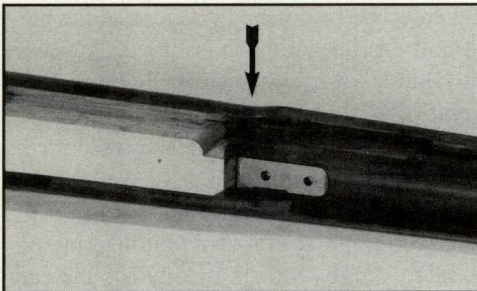


Forty-three years of innovation: Stoner-designed bolts from June 3, 1952 to November 11, 1995. (Left to right in each photo) M5, AR-10 US, AR-10 Dutch, M16, Stoner 63, Ares LMG and SR-25.

In June of 1952, he made the M5 rifle. It was basically a sporting rifle design. The innovation doesn't show in some space age-looking contour. The innocuous looking rifle pictured here has a receiver made out of what appears to be 7075 aircraft aluminum—the new miracle metal. Stoner was able to make this lightweight sporting rifle for his own use because of the unique locking system he had designed. His new system utilized a steel barrel extension to lock up the eight lug-bolt head while the pressure of firing a shot was there, then it cammed and unlocked as the gas takeoff drove the operating rod back. The operating system was a fairly standard Garand type, and the esthetic "lines" of M5 were quite traditional.

Up to this time, most semi-automatic rifles had used locking lugs that set into the steel receiver for lock-up, and the barrel threaded into the steel receiver. Stoner's use of the steel barrel extension, that threaded on to the back of the steel barrel allowing the bolt locking lugs to be independent of the receiver, allowed his aluminum receiver. The pressure of igniting the propellant in the cartridge was entirely taken up by the bolt lugs and the barrel extension.

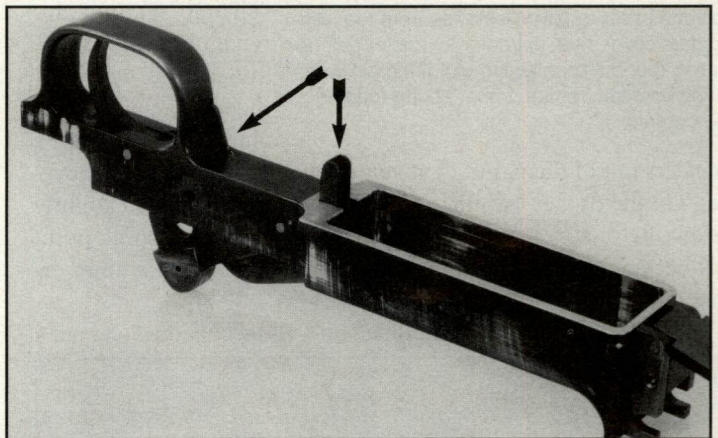
The barrel extension on the M5 was heat-/shrink-fitted into the aluminum receiver. Aluminum expands a lot faster than steel when it's heated. There is a guide pin in the lower part of the barrel channel that kept the barrel correct during installation. Both pieces were machined to fit together at very close tolerances. Once the receiver was heated, and the barrel extension slid into it, the cooling aluminum of the receiver contracted around the barrel extension.



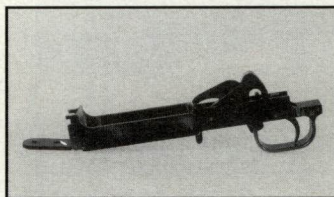
Aluminum insert in buttstock for mounting the front of the receiver to.

Stoner then "witness marked" the two for any indication of movement—or in the case of working on it—needing to repeat the jiggling exactly. On the AR-15s and the AR-10s, Stoner replaced this system with a barrel nut that actually threaded onto the aluminum receiver. The SR-25 rifle manufactured by Knight Armament Company under Stoner's guidance has both procedures used. The barrel extension is shrink-fitted into the receiver as well as having a threaded barrel nut.

Stoner chose .30-06 caliber for his first two rifles. The ammu-



Mag well/trigger housing, viewed from the bottom. This is machined from aluminum. It appears that the magazine well had been deeper and had been cut off. Note magazine release and safety at the front of the trigger guard.



Left-hand side of lower receiver/trigger group.



Right-hand side of lower receiver/trigger group.



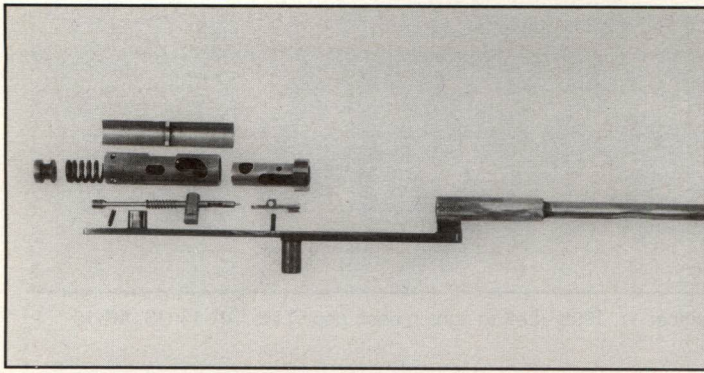
Removal of operating rod showing light recoil damage to aluminum receiver guiding rails.



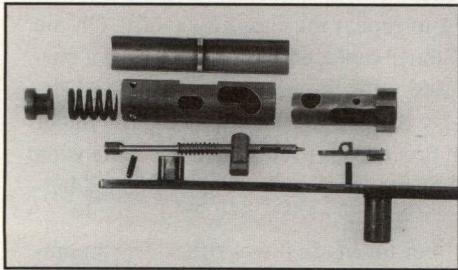
Reed Knight removes bolt carrier assembly from Stoner prototype M5.



Stoner prototype M5 locking lugs compared to barrel extension.



Operating rod and bolt carrier assembly. (Disassembled.)



Bolt carrier assembly. Clockwise from top: sliding dust cover, bolt, extractor, extractor pin, operating rod, buffer retaining pin, firing pin with spring and cam, buffer, buffer spring (center-bolt carrier.)

nitition was readily available, battlefield and hunting proven, and ballistically pleasing. It still is. Because of his choice of caliber, and the desire to have a quick change feeding device, 1918A2 BAR magazines were utilized. He cut them off and made five

rounders out of them, but the twenty rounders still work in the rifles. On the Stoner M5, the magazine well had extended slightly below the receiver for support of the magazine. At some point this became cumbersome, and Stoner milled it off to a more ergonomic height.

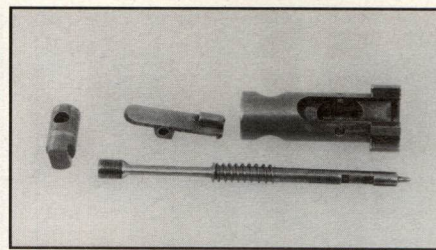
In order to unlock the eight-sided bolt, Stoner adapted Garand's



Safety is on, hammer is in cocked position.



Safety is off, hammer forward.



Bolt assembly. (Clockwise) bolt, firing pin with spring, cam pin, extractor. (Missing: ejector and ejector spring.)

design. Gas is taken off from the bore out towards the front of the barrel. This gas jet drives an operating rod backwards. The operating rod is part of the mass of the reciprocating mechanism, which allowed him to use a shorter bolt. Basically, the system has a piston, a driving spring (for return and resistance), and a flat charging handle section that runs alongside the receiver and connects to the bolt carrier. As the bullet passes the gas port, gas is bled off against the piston of the operating rod which recoils, with its charging handle section sliding backwards in its channel. This drives the bolt carrier to the rear, which causes the camming pin to turn the bolt, thereby unlocking the bolt lugs from the steel barrel extension. At no time is there any severe pressure on the aluminum receiver. Ingenious.

We did notice some chafing and splitting on the aluminum receiver rails that the charging handle reciprocated in. This problem is dealt with in the Stoner M6. One other "problem" area that we noticed was that the pressure of recoil appears to have centered almost entirely on two small areas of wood in the stock.

Many of the parts in the Stoner M5 were adapted from existing firearms. The buttplate was Pachmeyer. The barrel appears to be a Springfield '03A3; although we could not be certain. There are marks that point towards the gas system on the M5 having been further out towards the muzzle. Perhaps Stoner thought the gas system should be like the Garand. The Garand's was way out on the end of the muzzle. It appears that this could have been shortened later, leaving some of the marks that confused us as to the origin of the barrel stock. The wood of the stock is California walnut.

Eugene Stoner paid attention to detail. The M5 rifle shows it. As the bolt moves to the rear, there is a point where dust and dirt could enter the receiver. If you look at the photo of the disassembled bolt carrier, you will notice a flat, curved piece of metal. That "shuttle" was a dust cover that traveled with the carrier. At the rear of the bolt carrier is a buffer and spring—evidently because of the bolt carrier connecting with the back of the receiver. Sighting is a Lyman peep sight at the rear with full windage and elevation, while the front is a hooded dot.

The firing pin has its own return spring on it, to keep it to the rear. Interestingly, Stoner already has the cam pin/firing pin/firing pin retainer system in his bolt carrier assembly in this first prototype. Take apart an M16 today, and compare it to this picture.

In the Spring of 1953, Stoner decided to build another .30-06 caliber lightweight rifle for his wife to use on target and hunting expeditions. For the Stoner M6, he chose a Carlow walnut stock and worked the blank into a Monte Carlo-type cheekpiece. Once again, the traditional lines of the rifle were evident in his design. He used the same basic design of an aluminum receiver but made it a little longer. His new design of the recoiling mechanism necessitated that extra length, and the bolt carrier is proportionally longer. There is no longer a slot for the dust cover; that is eliminated. The firing pin is virtually the same but somewhat longer to meet the new hammer position.



Stoner M6 rifle, right-hand side.



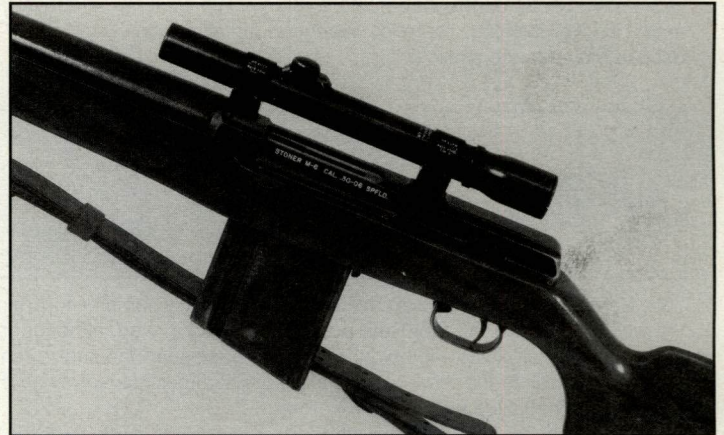
Stoner M6 rifle, left-hand side.

A Turning Point The M6

One of the first things that we looked for on the M6 was the cracking on the sides of the rails where the charging handle reciprocated. Our logic was that a man as thorough as Stoner must have noticed it and would have tried to fix it on the new model. The most prominent change is that the charging handle section of the operating rod is about twice as thick as the one on the M5. The second thing is that the operating rod has a bolt stop on it that allows it to lock back as a manual bolt hold open when it gets to the rear of the stroke. The operating rod actually strokes back further. As noted earlier, the M6 receiver is a little longer than the M5 receiver. The cover over the operating rod slides off to the front on the M6, as opposed to being locked in with a plunger and sliding out to the rear as on the M5. The manual bolt stop is rotated around to release the cover.

The aluminum rails that the operating rod slide in appear to be about the same thickness, and these rails are also cracked the same as the rails on the M5 were. By making the op rod thicker, Stoner did not solve that problem. There is a tendency to push the op rod outward from the receiver during recoil. This caused the front of the rails to crack. Stoner apparently tried to solve the problem by thickening the operating rod.

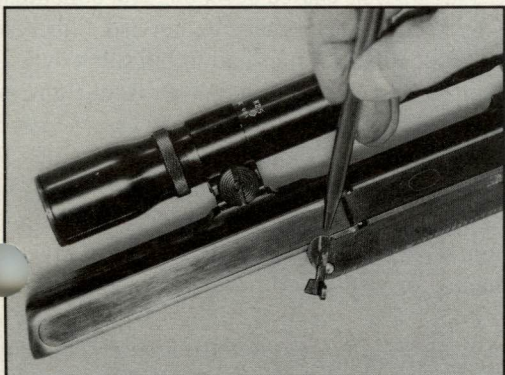
It is often said that "necessity is the mother of invention." The problems here in recoil are apparently what caused Eugene Stoner to develop the gas system that has become the hallmark of many of his designs. In the next firearm we examined (M8), he has the new system. Because this part of the receiver failed, it caused him to invent a system that has since dominated small arms manufacture.



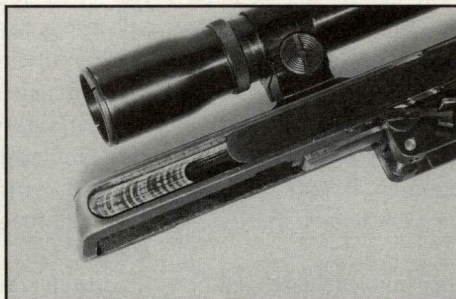
Stoner M6 .30-06 Springfield with 20-round BAR magazine. Left-hand side.



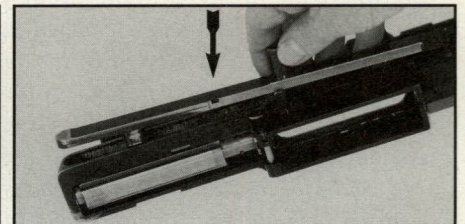
Upper receiver raised from stock, hinged trigger group in down position. Note: the new design hinges the trigger group at the rear of the magazine well.



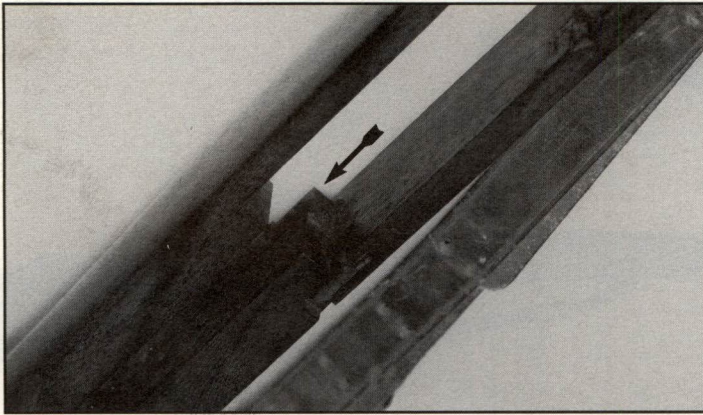
Op-rod retaining cover and the new manual bolt hold-open/dust cover release.



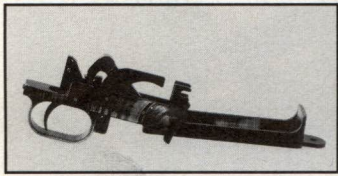
Op-rod retaining cover/dust cover coming off to front, in contrast to the initial design of M5, which came off to the rear. The newly-designed cover does away with the floating dust cover that was on the bolt carrier of the Stoner M5.



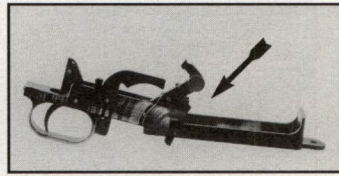
Lifting the operating rod from the bolt carrier. Note: the much thicker operating rod extension. It appears that Stoner tried to solve the problem of battering the guide rail ends by adding thickness. This is a critical note in the evolution. Solving the problem here was accomplished by the newly-designed gas system that appears in the Stoner M8 model.



Inletting in stock shows recoil wear. Virtually all of the recoil is applied to two small spaces on the wood where the receiver rests, just above the magazine well inletting. There is no longer a metal insert; a wood screw is used to mount to the stock.



Left: Safety off, hammer cocked. Note the change in hammer form and the weight added to the top. Sear position has also moved, although the same purpose is served—to hold the hammer back after one shot, even if the trigger is still to the rear. Right: Safety off, hammer forward. Note the hinge at the magazine well.



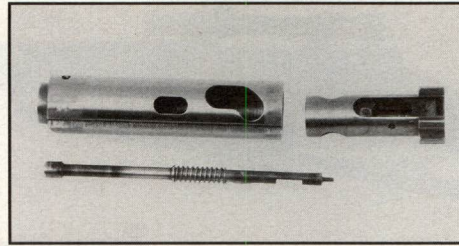
Stoner fixed it in the next firearms by not having to have an operating rod at all.

There were some other changes from the Stoner M5 to the M6. The sighting system is built specifically to use a scope. The one that is mounted is a Weaver K2.5x. He retained the hooded front sight in case of needing to use it at a later point.

The trigger group swings down from the rear of the magazine well, instead of at the front of the well as on the M5. The bolt carrier has a buffer on the rear of it with a large, heavy recoil spring, which appears to be the same as the M5. A bolt hold open device activated by hand is installed on the M6, so that you could leave the bolt back. This device also flips over 180 degrees to remove the cover.

Dan's note: One of the major problem areas in the development of the AR-10/AR-15 series of rifles was in the hole in the bolt where the cam pin went through and in the hole in the cam pin where the firing pin went through. The earlier designs had sharp edges on these holes. This led to cracking in the metal under stress of use. We were all very curious to see if the earlier Stoner guns had signs of these problems, and at what point he became aware of it and needed to fix it. In the prototypes that we examined for this first chapter of "The Stoner Chronicles," M5, M6, and M8, they all had sharp edges around the holes. We examined them for signs of stress, and there were none apparent in these first three designs.

The sling swivels on the M6 are Jaeger quick releases, and a standard one inch military leather sling is attached. The butt pad that's used is a recoil-absorbing Pachmeyer. The stock on this one no longer has a metal shim on the inside for the lower trigger group housing to attach to. Stoner used a wood screw to connect



Bolt, bolt carrier and firing pin. Bolt carrier still has a built-in buffer at the rear. There is no dust cover, the firing pin has been thickened, and a firing pin spring is still utilized. Firing pin and bolt carrier are longer than the one on the M5.

to the forward part of the stock to the magazine well. The barrel is installed in the same manner as on the M5, pressed into the aluminum receiver with a heat-shrink fit. The barrel on M6 doesn't show any signs of being turned down; it appears to be originally manu-

factured in the configuration it is in—built one time, not converted from something else.

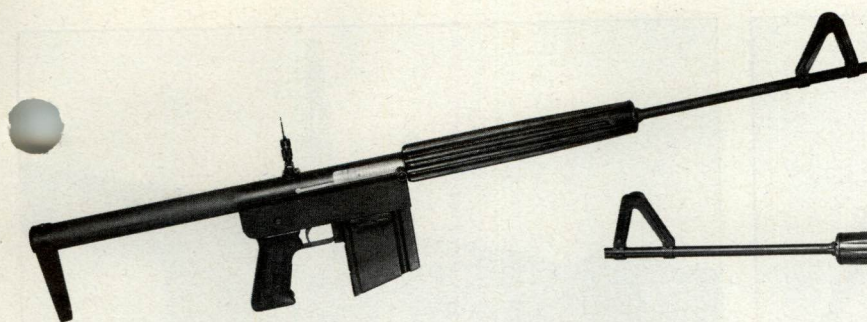
Stoner used a Garand style of holding the hammer back during firing. When the hammer is back, the trigger holds it back. Pull the trigger, the hammer rotates forward and strikes the firing pin. As the bolt recoils back, it cocks the hammer again. If the trigger has not been released, there is a sear that catches the rear notch on the hammer to keep it from following the bolt forward and firing again. Once the trigger is released forward, the front notch of the hammer is engaged by the trigger notch again, and the spring on the sear releases the rear notch. You are ready to fire again. Trigger pull on both the M5 and the M6 rifles is about 4 - 4 1/2 lbs. From the appearance of the wear on the trigger guard, the M6 was carried quite a bit but apparently not fired much. This would be in keeping with a firearm that was essentially used for hunting.

Armalite

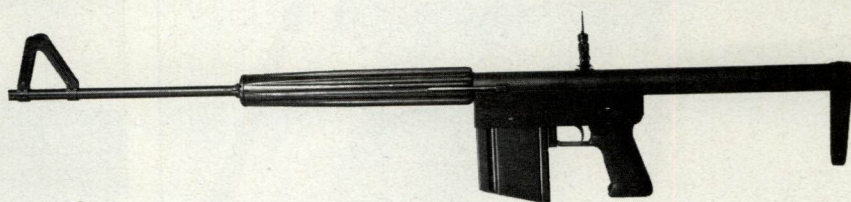
It was at this point that Gene Stoner decided to promote his name—his pride in his work. Prominently featured on the Stoner M6, is an engraving of his name and the model. His timing was good. One Sunday afternoon, he was out at the range shooting and he had this gun, the M6. George Sullivan, who had just started a new company called "Armalite," happened by. Sullivan's new company was a division of Fairchild, and he was gearing it toward firearms made with the new technologies of aluminum and fiberglass. When Sullivan saw Stoner's aluminum receiver design, he immediately engaged him in a conversation that culminated with an invitation for Stoner to work at Armalite as a weapons designer.

Stoner completed two projects before starting with Armalite. The first project was the Stoner M7, sometimes referred to as the AR-3. On August 1st, 1954, he started designing and building the M7. It physically looked like the Stoner M6, but had a fiberglass stock and was in .308 caliber. Stoner had to build his own 20-round magazine for the M7. It used a new type front sight, and the rear sight was a peep sight like on the M5. The M7 used a very similar gas system and bolt hold-open device as on the M5 and M6, with a trigger mechanism very similar to the M6. The extended magazine well guide was very similar to what Stoner made on the original M5 but later cut off. Armalite gave the firearm the designation of "AR-3."

(Dan's note: Stoner M7/AR-3 was not available for my examination at this time.)



Stoner prototype M8 right-hand side.



Stoner prototype M8 left-hand side.

The New Space-Age Firearm: Stoner M8 Rifle

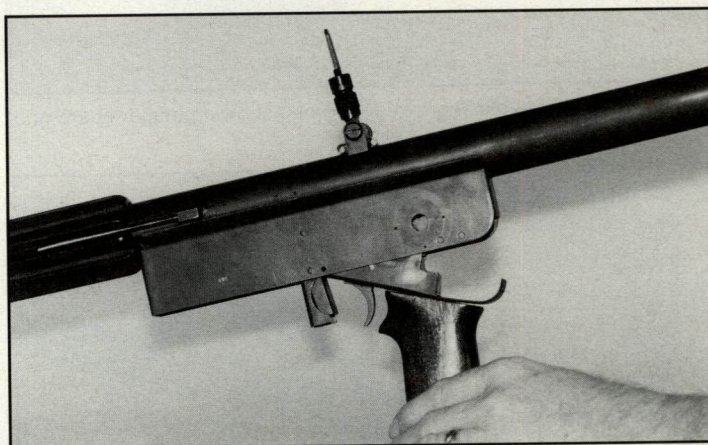
The second firearm that Eugene Stoner manufactured before going to work at Armalite, was the weapon referred to as Stoner M8 or the AR-10 #1. The M8 represents a radical departure in appearance from his previous designs; it appears to have been a design vehicle to carry out his new gas unlocking system. The .30-06 was the chosen caliber, and he utilized 1918A2 BAR 20-round magazines with a slight modification of welding a magazine well stop on the right-hand side. M8 is marked (X-01).

The start of the AR-10 project (M8) was in July of 1954. This firearm is characterized by its tubular construction. The barrel has an extreme contour, thick at the barrel extension, which is the type of eight-lug interlocking design as was on the M5 and M7, and it is tapered to the muzzle. The barrel extension is spot-welded to the steel tube receiver. The steel magazine well/trigger action housing is also spot-welded to the receiver tube.

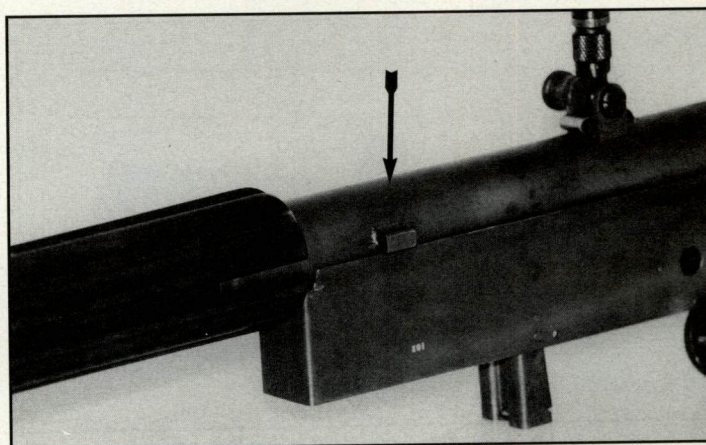
Stoner's new gas bolt unlocking design is evident on the front left side of the receiver. At first we were unable to locate the actual position of the gas port, because the walnut forend on this model is a one-piece, hand-carved tube that we were initially unable to view underneath. It is really a beautiful piece of workmanship. The attention to detail is typical of Gene Stoner's thoroughness: even on a prototype that was for his experimental gas system, he did top quality hand-carving on that wooden forend. Looking underneath the forend through some ventilation holes, we could see an aluminum block about halfway up the length of the forend. The gas transfer block on the receiver was in line with this apparent port location, so it made sense to assume that **WAS** the port location.

Since this is the first appearance of that ingenious unlocking system in any of Stoner's designs, Reed Knight, Doug Olsen, and I decided to run a bore inspection tool down from the muzzle before we started disassembly. What we found was interesting. The gas block was actually built into the front forend mount. The part we had seen under the forend was a support clip. Removing the gas tube and the gas block in one piece was necessary because of the system design. Reed drove the pin out from the forend mount and slid it forward. This exposed a gas take-off hole in the barrel (diameter .109"). The gas take-off block on the receiver side is brazed into position.

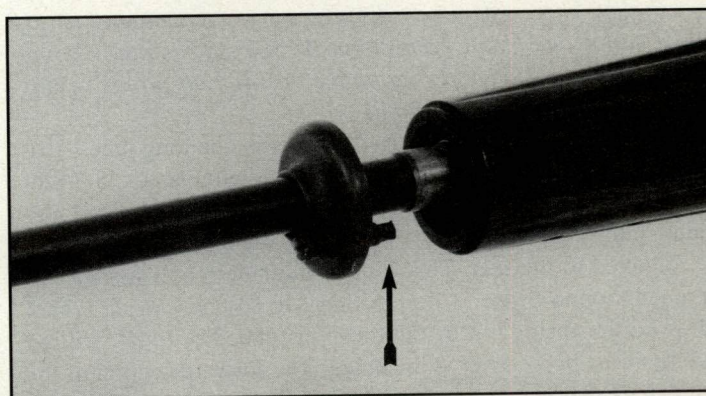
Having seen this end of the new gas system, we now wanted to see the initial design of the other end. This was on the third day of tearing these firearms down, and we were working late in-



After removing pistol grip screw in the base then the trigger guard comes off to the front, allowing the pistol grip/trigger assembly to drop down. Note: Gas tube on side of receiver toward the front.



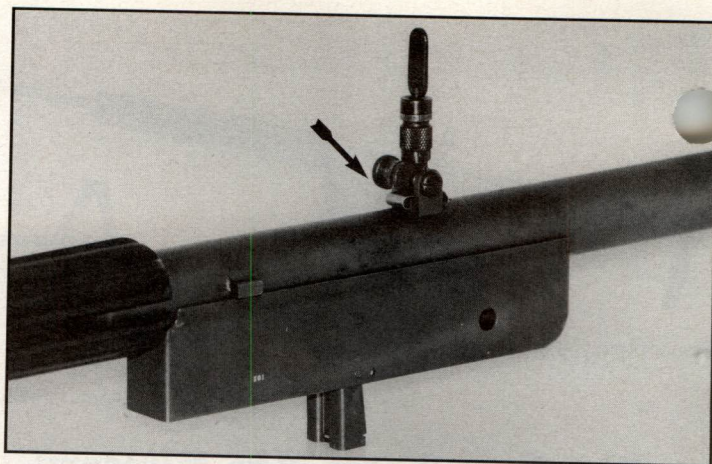
Gas tube has been removed, showing gas block. Note: "X01" marking.



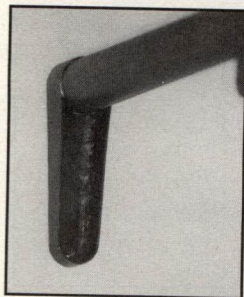
Gas tube removed from handguard. The forend retaining ring/gas port block is pulled forward. Note: Gas port in barrel .109" diameter hole.



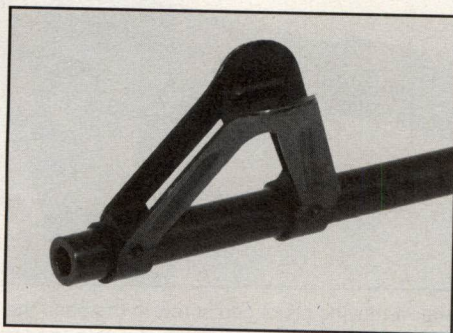
Stoner prototype M8 pistol grip/trigger group showing trigger guard and assembly bolt.



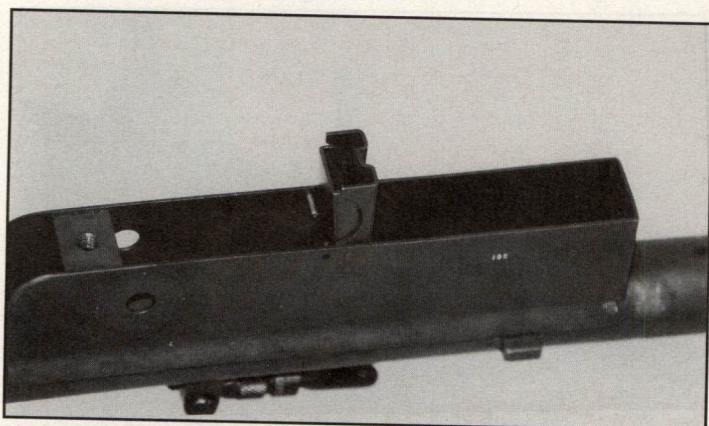
1941 Johnson LMG rear sight (Lyman). Note: Homemade leaf spring.



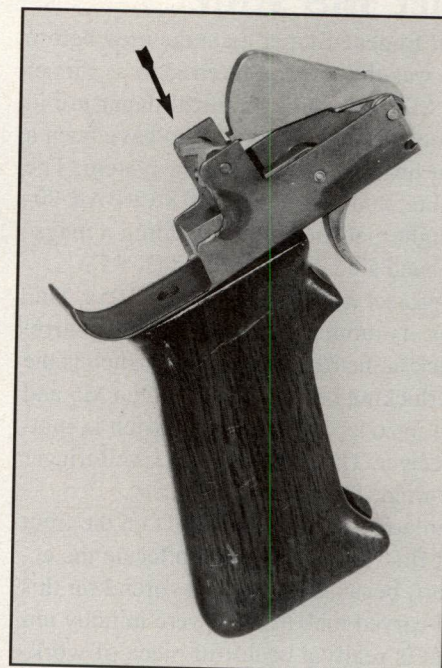
Buttstock of M8 showing interior welds. Sheet metal construction.



Front sight base is pinned to the barrel.



Magazine well and mag release. Note: Spot welds that attach lower housing to receiver tube.



Stoner prototype M8 trigger group hammer back. Note: Auto sear is now present.

about six inches long brazed to the rear of it. This rear tube apparently evolved into the buffer that is used behind the bolt carrier in the modern M16. In this design, Stoner has it attached to the bolt carrier, and at the very rear of the buffer section, he has the same buffer with heavy spring t is in the M5 and M6.

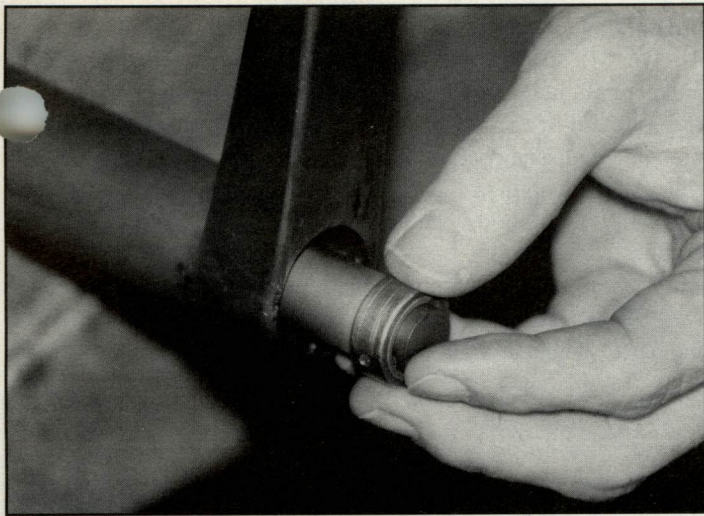
Looking at the forward section of the bolt carrier, on the left-hand side, is a single gas port hole at 45 degrees, positioned to meet the corresponding gas port on the inside of the receiver, when the bolt is all the way forward.

HOW THE NEW SYSTEM WORKS

The M8/AR-10 #1 prototype gas unlocking system works as follows: The trigger is pulled to the rear, releasing the hammer, which rotates upward and strikes the firing pin. The firing pin moves forward, striking the primer of the cartridge, firing it. As the bullet is propelled down the bore by the expanding propellant gases, it passes the gas port that is about 10 inches from the chamber. Gas under pressure fills the gas tube, escaping from the tube into the receiver gas block, which is parallel to the port that is on the side of the bolt carrier. This pressure is used to unlock the eight bolt lugs that are positioned inside the barrel extension, by exerting pressure rearward on the bolt carrier and causing the cam pin to move in its slot, turning the bolt head. Now the bolt carrier assembly is free to continue in recoil, the chamber pressures having been reduced to a safe level by the bullet exiting the barrel. Excess gas is blown out into the receiver interior. As the bolt carrier recoils to the rear, it pushes the hammer down, cocking it, and on the forward path, the bolt face strips another round of ammunition off of the magazine, up the feed ramp and into the

to each day. There was a new discovery every ten minutes or so, with a major one about every hour. We were fortunate in being able to call Mr. Stoner for guidance at different points in this process, and he was quite helpful.

The receiver of this first AR-10 model is one long tube—that includes the buttstock. At the very rear of the buttstock, a 3/8th-inch diameter pin is pushed through a detent in an anodized aluminum plug. Pushing out that pin released the recoil spring, which we removed to the rear. That long handmade recoil spring was wrapped around Stoner's first design AR-10 bolt carrier, which followed the spring out of the receiver tube. The most striking feature of the bolt carrier is its length. The forward section of the bolt carrier that actually carries the bolt is much longer than the designs in the M5 or even the M6. It also has a length of tubing



Bolt carrier assembly being removed from rear of buttstock after spring and end cap were removed.

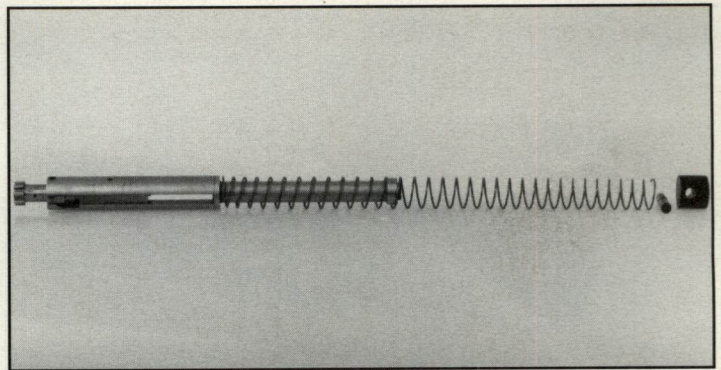
chamber. As the eight lugs of the bolt reach the forward part of the barrel extension, the bolt carrier continues in its path, causing the cam pin to travel and twist the bolt lugs into the locked position in the barrel extension. The process is ready to be repeated.

In this manner, Eugene Stoner defeated the problems of the recoiling operating rod and the pressures on the receiver that had previously required a heavy steel receiver for rifle caliber cartridges. Somewhere between 9 and 10 million firearms using this system are in active use around the world today!

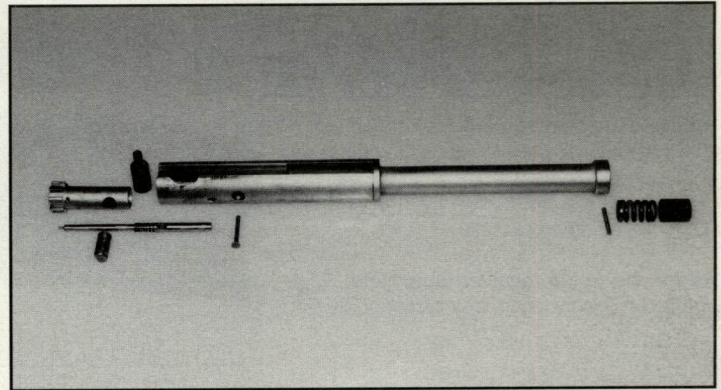
Many of the other characteristics of the M16 series firearms can be seen even at this point in the prototypes. The evolution of these features is truly amazing to see, and having the prototypes available for inspection was a tremendous asset.

Aside from the meeting with George Sullivan at the shooting range, Stoner was unfamiliar with the Armalite group. While he had been building his prototype sporting arms (M5 and M6), Sullivan had been actively drumming up support for the new company he wanted to start. Fairchild Engine and Airplane Corporation formed up its Armalite division on October 1, 1954, with Charles Dorchester as the General Manager.¹ Sullivan and Dorchester were committed to the new enterprise-making lightweight firearms for the sporting market. Eugene Stoner came to the table with his designs that he had diligently worked on since the chance meeting with Sullivan at the range and was employed as Chief Engineer. The only design so far that gave any outward appearance different from a standard rifle, was the Stoner M8.

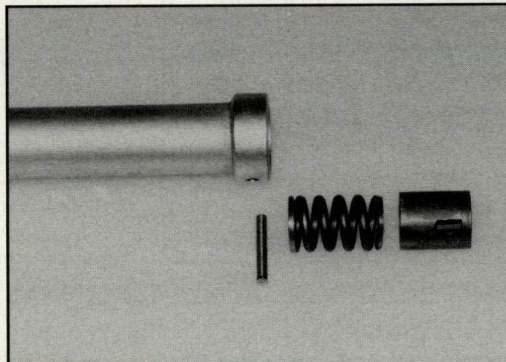
Several internal differences between the M8 and the M6 model are that the bolt carrier of M8 has a staked solid pin as a retaining wall for the heavy internal buffer spring; the M8 bolt carrier itself has a slot in the upper part that slides into the key way that is riveted to the inside of the receiver tube. The M8 has one of Stoner's standard-type cam pins, and the firing pin is held in position by a pin that is horizontal to the plane of the bolt, much in the same manner as the cotter pin that is used in the M16. The firing pin is very heavy, has a return spring on it, and is a little less complex than the ones in the M5 and the M6. It is retained towards the rear of the bolt, as opposed to the front of the pin



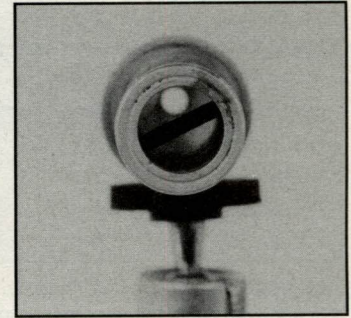
Stoner prototype M8/AR-10 recoil system. Note: The buffer is attached to bolt carrier, making it appear to be much longer.



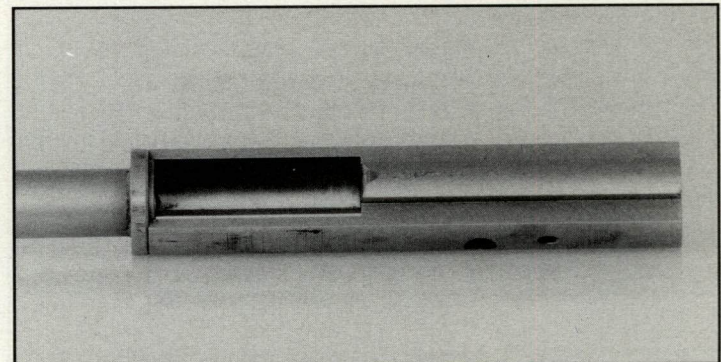
M8 bolt and carrier disassembled. (Clockwise from top) Bolt carrier, buffer, buffer spring, buffer retaining pin, firing pin retaining pin, firing pin with spring, cam pin, bolt and cocking handle.



M8 buffer system disassembled.

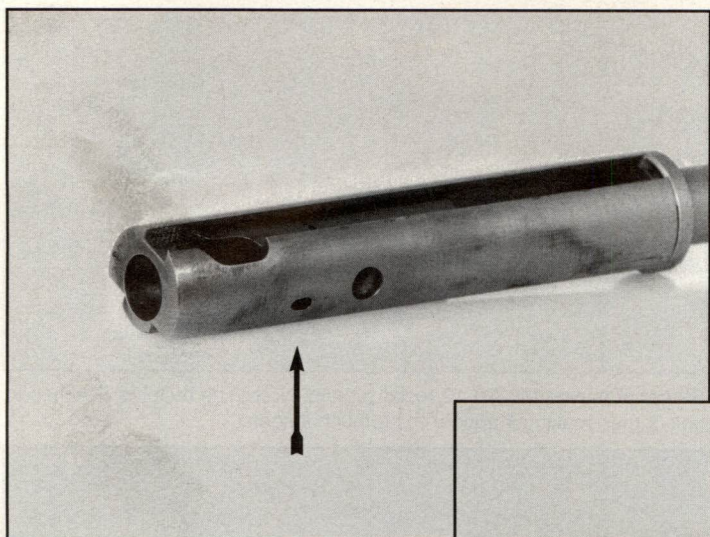


Interior of bolt carrier, buffer section. Note: Cross pin is there to internally stop buffer spring.



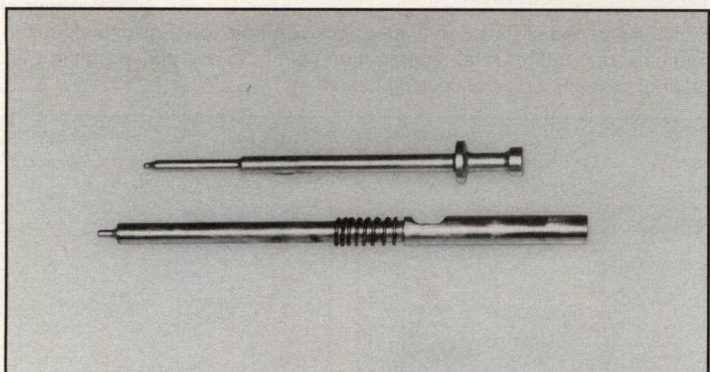
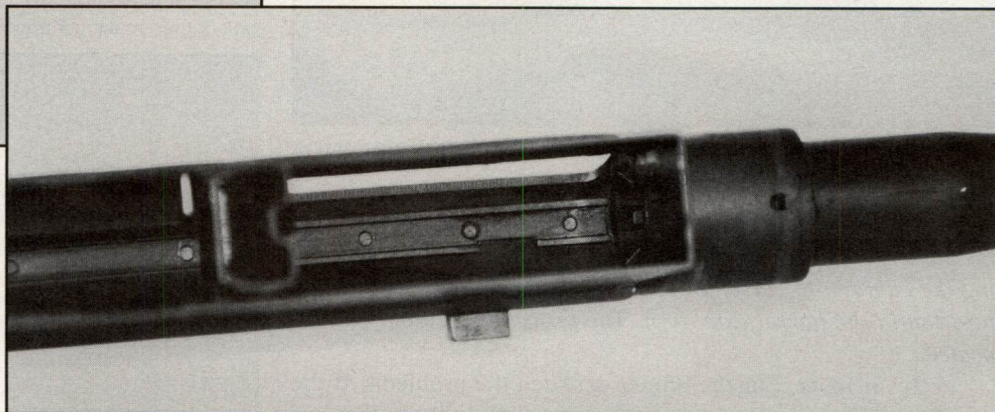
Bolt carrier underside. Note: Hammer access port.

which the other ones were. The bolt carrier and the bolt are both steel and chrome, because of the gas residue that is inherent in this design. The bolt at this point has evolved fairly closely to what the bolt is today in the Stoner systems, except there is no

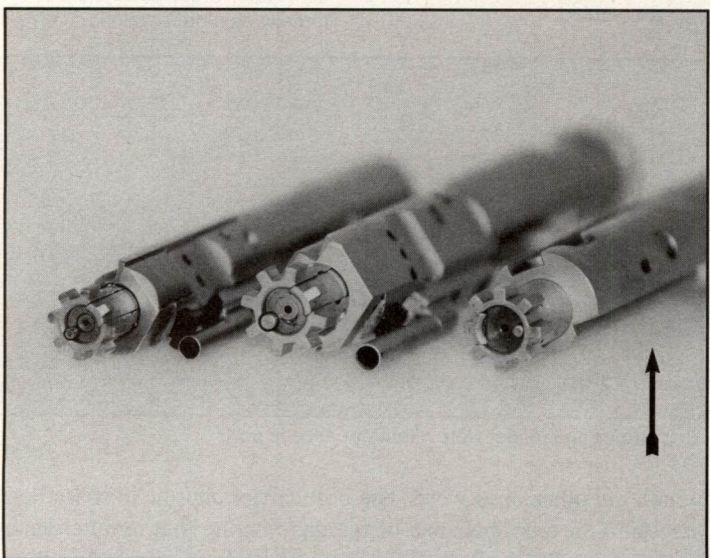


Above: Bolt carrier of M8. The guide slot in top that matches rail in photo to the right. Cam pin operates inside the slot. Note the gas port hole in side of carrier, directly in front of the firing pin retaining pin hole.

Right: Inside M8 receiver tube. Note: Spot-welded rail up inside for bolt carrier guide slot.



At the top: Modern M16A1 firing pin. Bottom: Stoner prototype M8 (AR-10 #1) firing pin—still has the spring on it. Form of the firing pin has changed from the M6 model.

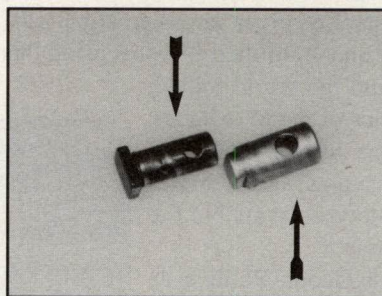


Left to right: M16A1 Bolt carrier, AR-10 bolt carrier, M8 bolt carrier. Note: Gas release holes on front side of M8 bolt carrier.

tail on it and there are no gas rings.

The M8 still has the sharp edges around the firing pin hole and cam pin hole, which would indicate that at this point in 1957 the problem of the shattering metal around those holes still not appeared. The cocking handle slides directly into the bolt carrier, a fairly common placement, reciprocating with the bolt carrier. The M8 is almost the last of Stoner's designs that have this feature.

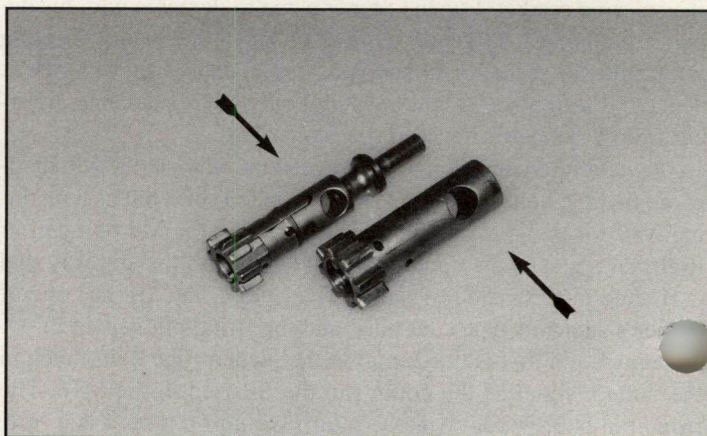
The front sight is a buckhorn type made out of sheet metal, two roll pins holding it into position, with the base wrapped around the barrel. The rear sight is from a Johnson Model 1941 light ma-



On left: Modern M16A1 cam pin. At right: Stoner M8/AR-10 #1 cam pin. Note: Sharpness of the edge in the firing pin hole compared to the chamfered edge on the M16 cam pin.

chine gun, which utilizes Lyman parts. Stoner made a sight base and leaf spring to suit his design and riveted it to the rail that's up inside the receiver tube. Line of sight is well above the barrel—this is ergonomically pleasing. A tube-type stock is an atrocious cheek rest, and the sights on the M8 manage to place the shooter's head at a more comfortable angle.

The trigger housing is a sheet metal formed group that also holds the hammer, in which the spring is amazingly like the modern day AR-15 hammer spring. The disconnecter sear is present, and several solid axle pins are horizontal through the group hold-



On left: Modern M16A1 bolt. At right: Stoner M8/AR-10 #1 bolt. Note: Sharpness of the cam pin hole edge on M8 bolt, compared to the chamfered edge in modern M16 bolt.



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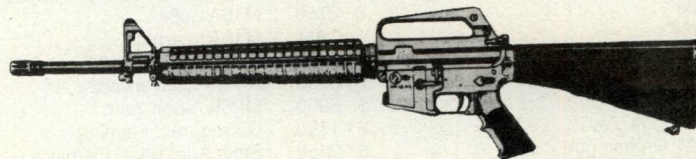
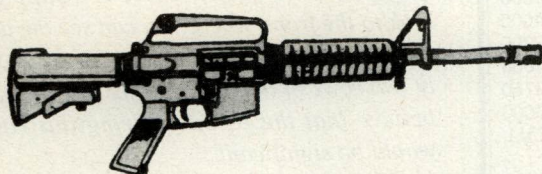


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ing all in position. The trigger has a disconnector in it. The pistol grip is of the same walnut as the front forestock and is turned and oiled. The trigger guard is a piece of sheet steel that "clicks" into position. This assembly is held to the receiver by a 4-inch long, quarter-inch round head bolt.

Dan's Note: The M8 is a very light firearm. The forward edge of the magazine shows signs of a strong recoil throwing the magazine backwards, allowing the pointed tips of the .30-06 cartridges that are sitting in the mag to "punch" the front of the magazine from inside. There is a stippled look to the front, where you can see the actual cartridge positions. There are actually two rows of dots there. This leads me to believe that the recoil of firing this rifle would be significant.

The stage has now been set. By the completion of the M8, Stoner has achieved the four basics of his new designs. The eight-lug bolt system is an accomplished fact, surviving four working designs. His barrel extension taking up the stress of firing is perfected, so the lightweight aluminum receivers are now "real world." The gas system in the M8 succeeded in getting rid of the moving parts that were a problem in the original designs. Fiberglass has been successfully tried as a buttstock.

All that needs to be done is to bring them all together in one firearm....

TO BE CONTINUED IN THE NEXT ISSUE OF MACHINE GUN NEWS.

MGN Technical Editor Dan Shea continues "The Stoner Chronicles" next month, by taking the reader into the Armalite story; wherein Gene Stoner takes his designs to the first production model of the AR-10 rifle. If you have information to add to these chronicles, the whereabouts of prototypes by Stoner, or anecdotes regarding the Armalite days, contact Dan you can fax at (501) 525-7519, by e-mail MGNews@aol.com, or leave messages at MGN (501) 525-7514. To reach Mr. Reed Knight with information on the Stoner series or the location of relevant firearms, call (407) 562-5697 or fax at (407) 569-2955.

Machine Gun News would like to thank Mr. Eugene Stoner for his help, Mr. Reed Knight for his working with us to develop this series, and Mr. Jim Bonis for his standing photography.

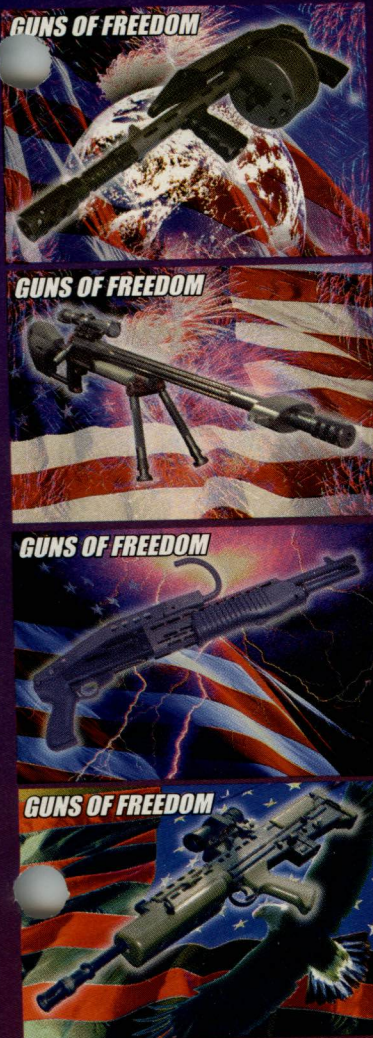
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¹ Tom Nelson, *The World's Assault Rifles*, p. 413.

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THE OWENBY SOLUTION

by Capt. Monty Mendenhall

Bill Owenby won the 1995 NFA Rapid Fire Championship with a modified S&W M76. A "stock" M76 competes in the modern class. By lightening the bolt, and using other tricks, he sped his gun up to 1400+ rpm. Owenby can exchange his modified M76 parts with the original parts and enter modern class with his M76, too.

Owenby has a tip for all S&W M76 and MK 760 owners. Unlike Swedish Ks, neither of the former guns have slotted barrels. Even if their barrel nuts are tight, the barrels often rotate as the gun fires. Since their barrels are rarely concentric, the bullet's point of impact constantly changes. At close range, this makes little difference. When shooting small targets at forty yards, such as bowling pins, the error frequently causes misses.

Owenby cured the "spinning barrel" problem by placing a thin rubber washer on the M76's barrel. It grips the barrel and keeps it from turning.

Owenby has a second tip that is applicable to many machine gun owners. Feeding problems occur when magazines do not fit the gun's magazine well closely. If the magazine is loose, it can rock forward or aft. The angle of the bullet, contacting the gun's feeding ramp, changes when the magazine rocks. This can be a frustrating prob-

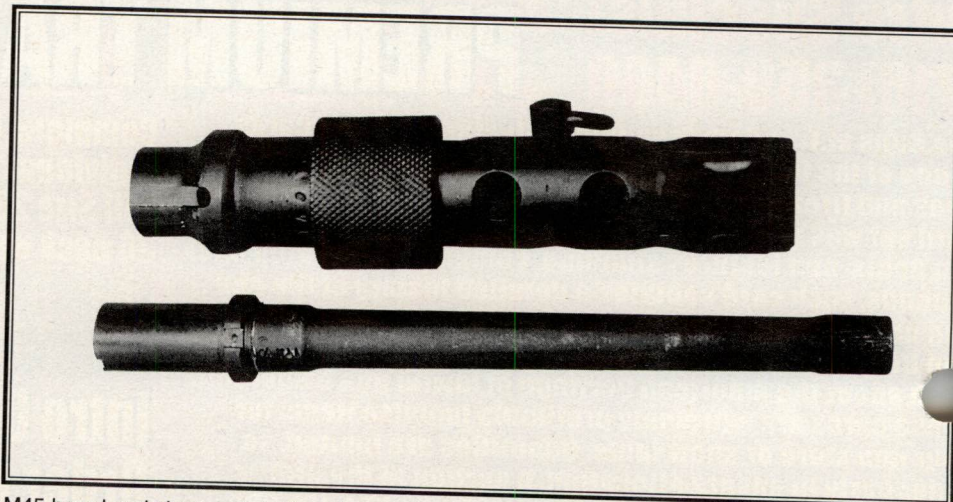
lem if it goes unrecognized. The gun works fine for a while and then jams for no apparent reason.

Owenby solved this problem by using contact cement to glue pieces of hard rubber to the front and back of his loose magazines. These pieces fill the void and prevent rocking.

Machine Gun News [Volume 8, Number 11] contained an article that recommended ways to maintain high capacity magazines and cure feeding problems. (Back issues are available from *MGN*.) In it, the author suggested preventing "magazine rock" by TIG welding metal blocks to the magazine. Owenby's method is easier and should work just as well.

Machine gun enthusiasts enjoy a friendly camaraderie that is enjoyed by few other competitive groups. They are anxious to share the things that they learn with others. This helpful attitude is commendable. By using someone else's solution, we avoid "reinventing the wheel" each time that we encounter a problem.

Any reader who wishes to share a tip on any firearm related subject, should contact Captain Monty Mendenhall in care of *Machine Gun News*. All submitters of tips printed in *MGN* will receive a Certificate of Merit that will earn points toward one of Dan Shea's coveted RKI awards. *MGN*



M45 barrel and shroud. Note the alignment slots on both. This Swedish K has slots. The S&W M76 does not.



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NFA Weapons in the Alaskan Interior



There are few places left on this planet where a human being can actually find himself somewhere other than the top of the food chain. Over-hunting, industrial development, and habitat encroachment have served all but to eliminate the really major-league predators from most areas people could reasonably be expected to habitate. One of the few notable exceptions to that lamentable statement is the extraordinary expanse of Alaska. With a land area more than twice that of Texas and winters that consistently see things below zero or lower for four months straight, the Alaskan interior enjoys an ecosystem that has not been significantly impacted by what we euphemistically call civilization. One of the neat fringe benefits of this hostile but natural environment is the relatively high density of Volkswagen-sized carnivores.

by CPT Will Dabbs

With a properly-adjusted, extra-wide sling the cut-down Remington 870 does not interfere with common outdoor activities and provides peace of mind in the Alaskan bush not attainable with a conventional handgun.

Every year in Alaska a handful of people find themselves in the wrong place at the wrong time and fall victim to moose or bear attack. Moose, which lack the brains God gave grass, are as thick as rodents, as big as Clydesdales, and as unconcerned about a human presence as they would be a piece of lawn furniture. Moose get hungry and grouchy in the winter and generally attack because of a perceived need to defend their young or hypersensitivity over their absurd appearance. A professor was stomped to death recently by a moose on the campus of the University of Alaska in Anchorage.

Bears, on the other hand, attack humans to defend a kill site, protect their young, or get an easy meal. Alaskan black bears can reach 400 pounds or more, fish-fed Browns more than a thousand, and Polar bears appear to outweigh most main battle tanks. Given the undeveloped nature of the Alaskan wilderness, bears thrive throughout the state and bear encounters are commonplace. While Alaskan outdoorsmen (read that all real Alaskans) can debate endlessly on the minutiae of muzzle energy, penetration, and projectile expansion, the one aspect of defensive handgun selection that they can generally all agree on is that the chosen weapon should have the front sight ground down or removed. This is so that when the bear takes your pistol away from you and rams it up your backside, the event is no

more painful than it has to be. With this in mind, I set out to build myself a defensive firearm that delivered the maximum firepower allowed by law in the most portable package possible.

I started out with an off-the-shelf Remington 870 HD (Home Defense) 12 gauge slide-action shotgun. While there are a half dozen or so proven slide action shotgun designs on the market today, the 870 HD comes from the factory with a durable all-weather finish, excellent synthetic stocks, and the shortest overall action length of the group, with a forearm that partially encompasses the receiver when fully retracted. The 870 also enjoys a plethora of aftermarket accessories which allow a weapon system easily adaptable to multiple requirements with minimal fuss. I even picked up an additional 28-inch barrel for the weapon and plan to use the piece for turkey when I eventually get back home to Mississippi.

The day after I received the weapon (a birthday present from my adorable wife who, incidentally, once gave me a grenade launcher for Christmas), I filled out a BATF Form 1, obtained the requisite signatures and fingerprint cards from the Provost Marshall on the military post where we live, and initiated the process of applying to manufacture the piece as a short-barrelled shotgun. Three months later I was in my basement joyfully yet painstakingly cutting away the offending furthest six inches of the gun's barrel with a hack saw. Ten minutes of careful sawing and a little touching up with a dremel tool and I beheld a firearm at least as sinister-looking as its fast-firing Class 3 brethren.



The factory Remington folding stock locks open positively and provides a stable shooting platform. The length of the stock is appropriate for an average-sized shooter. MK Arms MK-760 (bottom) included for size comparison.

After an exhaustive search I obtained an original "For Law Enforcement Only" Remington top-folding stock for the gun and had a local gunsmith mount a simple bead front sight to the newly-modified barrel. The original Remington folding stocks can be found periodically from various distributors in *Shotgun News*. I would suspect that the Choate top-folding stock is a little more comfortable with which to shoot as it is encased in that wonderful synthetic material for which they are so famous. However, the Remington version, being custom-designed specifically for this weapon, wraps around the gun a bit tighter, making a more compact package and simply looks cooler as a result. The Remington stock is also spring-loaded and therefore deploys smoothly and quickly with a little practice. After a few dry-firing drills to imprint the action in your mind, an operator can extend the stock and bring the weapon to bear quickly and accurately from almost any position. The two major drawbacks to the Remington stock are the lack of a meaningful buttplate and the conventional blued finish. While a blued finish is aesthetically appealing, I much prefer a mil-spec baked-on finish or parkerized treatment for a weapon intended for exposure to the elements while fishing, hiking, hunting, or camping. The exposed edges on the stock rails look as though they could inflict vicious wounds during a stiff recoil sequence, but I did not experience any problems of this sort even when firing magnum loads. Uncle Mike's sling swivels and an extra-long padded sling complete the ensemble for a big-bore bear deterrent designed for extended comfortable carry.

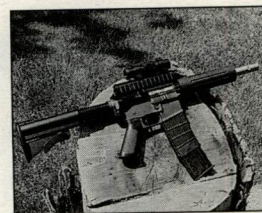
The sling swivels are of the quick-detach variety, which make them quite versatile, but do require a little metal work to mount to the magazine cap. The swivels are universal to all slide-action shotguns and the hole in the magazine cap, as issued from the factory, must be reamed out about one third larger than factory specs. This is a minor inconvenience but one that must be addressed with either a drill press or dremel tool.

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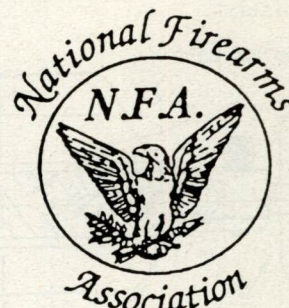
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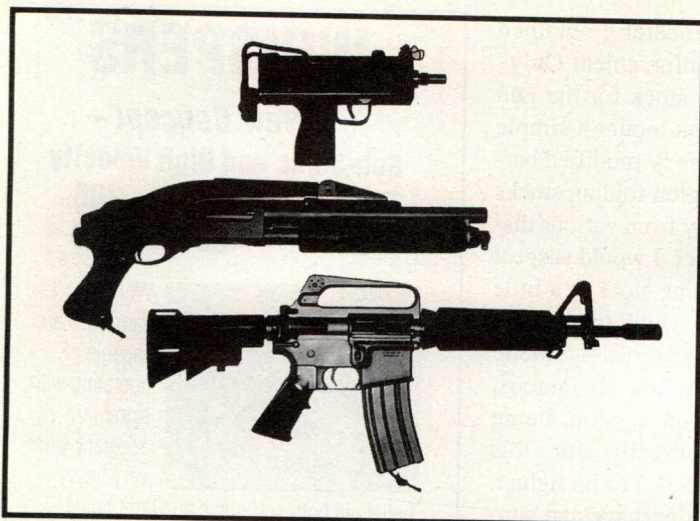


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Highly modified Remington 870 HD shotgun (center) compares favorably with common submachine guns in both portability and compactness. Also shown are 9mm RPB M10 (top) and 5.56mm Colt Commando (bottom).



The finished weapon, complete with Remington stock, shortened barrel, and Uncle Mike's sling swivels, is handy and comfortable to carry. Which piece would you prefer for defense against a malevolent predator which weighs half a ton?

With the folding stock installed, there is no truly satisfactory method of mounting the rear swivel without some basic restructuring. I filled the hollow pivot pin of

the stock with JB Weld, an automotive epoxy which is immensely durable and easy to work with, grindable when set, and extremely tough. JB Weld is inexpensive and

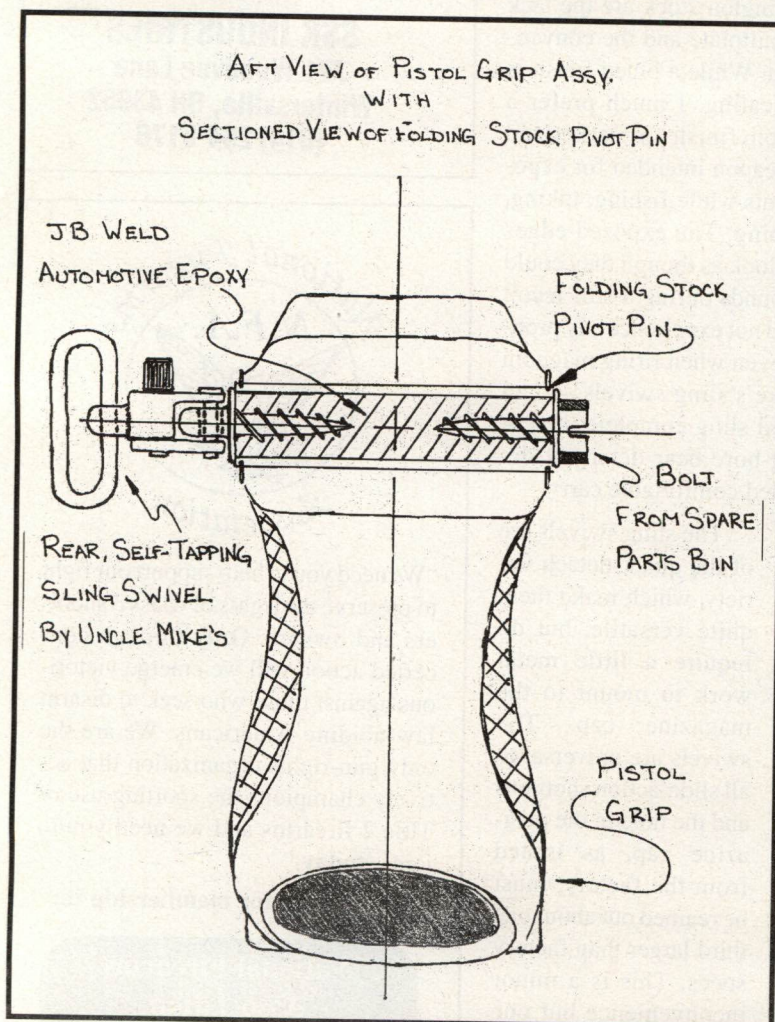
may be purchased at any auto parts store. On the right side of the pivot pin hole I set a bolt from my spare parts bin (see diagram) and on the left side I set the rear sling swivel. JB Weld sets completely overnight and care must be taken to lock the parts in place exactly before leaving the material to set. If the parts are misaligned even a tiny bit during the setting process, they will remain so positioned until the end of time. As the front swivel

rotates freely through about 270 degrees, the weapon can now ride across your back comfortably in a natural shooting position, pistol grip down. Left handers should obviously install the rear swivel on the right side of the weapon. The pivot pin rotates freely so the installation of the sling swivel does not interfere with deployment of the stock.

The resulting weapon is compact, handy, and substantially lighter than the full-auto Colt Commando I used to lug around on fishing and camping trips. The short-barrelled 870 loaded with five rounds of Premium copper-plated hollow-point sabot slugs may not drop an irate thousand-pound grizzly instantaneously, but it's the best weapon for the task I can imagine within the confines of U.S. firearms law. While I would prefer an M79 "Whippet" loaded with a high explosive, dual-purpose round if I actually had to defend myself against one of these awesome animals, the 870 is the next best thing.

As a survival weapon, few could question the versatility of a short-barrelled shotgun. Loaded with slugs, it is proof against all but the largest of predators, while it is equally effective for taking ptarmigan and grouse when charged with birdshot and used at moderate ranges. An operator possessing basic fieldcraft skills and a couple of boxes of ammunition could survive in the wilderness with this weapon throughout an Alaskan summer so long as the insect repellent held out.

On the range, the weapon behaves about as one might expect. At twenty-five meters, rifled slugs group out at around four to six inches while birdshot and buckshot



The Remington folding stock pivot pin provides a natural mounting point for Uncle Mike's detachable sling swivels. Filling the hollow pin with JB Weld automotive epoxy and mounting the swivel base opposite a bolt in the pin provides a sturdy sling mount at the optimal position for comfortable carry.

will liberally splatter the entirety of a man-sized silhouette. While this sounds like a dismal performance, given what the weapon is intended for it is ideal. Any practical engagement range in a defensive bear encounter will be significantly lower than twenty-five meters and the situation would not lend itself to painstaking application of the eight steady hold factors of rifle marksmanship. This being the case, slug groups are well within requirements and a liberal shot pattern is actually desirable. Should one desire to tighten the gun's pattern, a screw-in Rem choke would do the trick. I have fired a Scattergun Technologies Witness Protection 870 with a 12 and 1/2 inch barrel and screw-in full choke that patterned like a dream in spite of its cut-down barrel. Any full-service gunsmith would be able to thread the shortened tube for an add-on choke.

The one truly remarkable aspect of firing this weapon is the recoil. The gun will devour low-brass bird shot by the box painlessly and pleasantly but slugs and magnum buckshot are another matter entirely. The Remington folding stock seats too tightly on the barrel when folded to allow for a recoil pad of any significance. The stock comes from the factory with a thin rubber adhesive spacer for the buttplate, but this is more to protect the finish on the top portion of the barrel than to facilitate any meaningful recoil attenuation. As a result the raw steel/shoulder interface and light weight combine to make recoil with heavy loads absolutely brutal. Having fired just about every major military shoulder arm in the world, I was shocked by the violence of the piece. Suffice it to say that running a couple of boxes of magnum loads through this gun pretty much pegs out the funmeter for an afternoon shooting excursion.

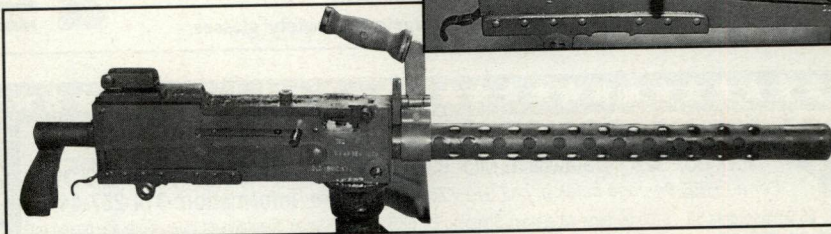
Alaska is a marvelous place where Americans still behave as God intended. Rural Alaska is a gun society unlike any other in America where anybody who spends any time at all outdoors is armed. As was said of the rural South before the Civil War, "An armed society is a polite society" and in my experience Alaskans in the interior have been without exception friendly and courteous. On the rare occasion that you might bump into someone in the bush, no one so much as raises an eyebrow at a sawed-off shotgun or subgun over your shoulder. Fairbanks, Alaska actually sports an extensive municipal range right

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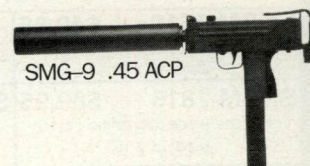


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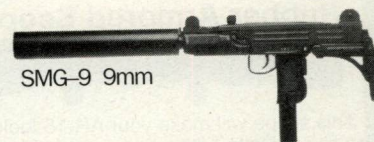
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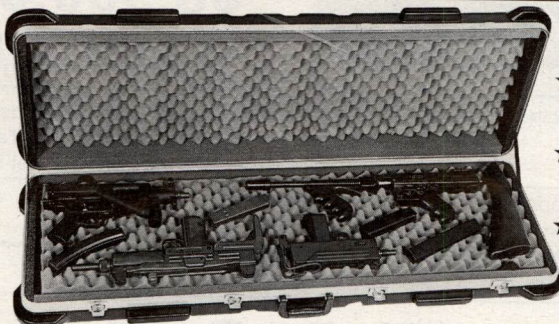
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on the outskirts of town which is maintained by the city, open free to the public, and whose only posted rule is "Clean Up After Yourself."

As with most do-it-yourself projects such as this, individual accessories soon combine to make up a significant expenditure. With the price of the weapon, stock, swivels, and transfer tax summed up, the entire project runs about \$600. However, considering the legislatively inflated prices of automatic weapons and military-styled semiautomatics, \$600 is a reasonable price to pay for a reliable piece of exotic weaponry which also possesses some real-world utility. Over-armed husbands running low on viable excuses to use with their wives to expand their arsenals should pay particular attention to the utility aspect of this weapon. I carry this piece whenever I go into the bush and feel that it is an appropriate weapon for use against both two and four-legged predators.

A number of professional guides here in Alaska have opted for marine flare pistols for bear defense over more conventional, lethal hardware. With this in mind I discussed with a friend who is a long-time resident of this area his opinion of carrying my new shotgun loaded with four sabot rounds in the magazine and a Dragon's Breath flamethrower round in the chamber. I supposed that the awesome spectacle of one of these magnesium incendiary rounds might defuse an up-close bear encounter and avoid the necessity of attempting to use lethal force on one of these massive beasts. The gentleman pondered my question for a moment and answered, "Nope, son, I wouldn't try it. The only thing in the world I can think of that would be worse than facing the charge of an angry grizzly bear would be facing the charge of an angry grizzly bear on fire."

MGN



John Hyde

The black bear weights 125-400 lbs. It is brown to black in color with a white patch on the front of its chest. The estimated population of the black bear in Alaska is more than 50,000.

German WW1 120-round cloth ammunition belt with brass spacers. Well preserved in very good condition, quantity limited.

Interwar 250-round ALUMINUM belt developed for easy hand loading for use with the 08 Maxim, the .303 Vickers and 08/15 Maxim using the 08 feed pawl without finger guide. Works wonderful. (See Devil's Paintbrush, page 350, 2nd edition.)

Three belts. \$100.00 (XM1000a)
Similar Interwar belt to the Aluminum model but of steel construction, presumably for heavy duty use, scarce.

German WW1 Steel ammunition Can (PATRONENKASTE 15). This model 1915 all steel 250-round can was the forerunner of the WW2 MG34 can commonly encountered. Very slightly different in construction to the WW2 can, this was the first 250-round steel can to be adopted by the Germans. WW1 production. Good/Very Good condition, empty can.

German WW1 Water Can Model 1916. These are the original rectangular water cans that were designed to be the same size as the 1915 ammunition can for ease of carrying. Extremely difficult to find, complete with swivel water spout. (See Devil's Paintbrush, Page 196, 2nd edition.)

German WW1 08/15 100-round Ammunition Drum (Trommel Patronenkasten 1916). These drums attached to the side bracket of the 08/15 to allow easy weapon maneuverability. German markings. Complete with reel, good to very good condition, very scarce. (See Devil's Paintbrush, page 166, 2nd edition.)

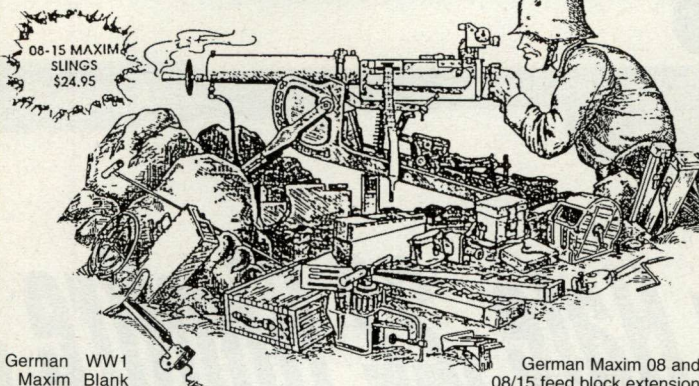
German WW1 Maxim Barrel Carriers, made to carry either one or two barrels. Wartime issue was four barrels per gun so carriers were an essential accessory. Carriers came in all steel or in leather-covered wood and are offered in very good condition as follows:

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Note: The double barrel steel carrier is also fitted with a compartment to carry a cleaning rod (not present). (See Devil's Paintbrush, page 192, 2nd edition.)

German 08 Maxim barrels, 7.92mm, best grade, almost like new.

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We have a few Blank firing attachments NOT in cans at \$250.00 (XM1008)
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German Maxim WW1 Optics direct fire sight made by Emil Busch of Rathenau, fully operational, complete in original leather case. (See Devil's Paintbrush, page 182, 2nd edition.) Very Good condition. \$350.00 (XM1037)

German Maxim WW1 Optics direct fire sight made by Ernst Leitz of Wetzlar, fully operational, complete in original leather case. All these direct-fire optics sights were 2.5 power and officially designated "Zielfernrohr 12" commonly referred to as "ZF 12". (See Devil's Paintbrush, page 182, 2nd edition.) Very good condition, very few only, very rare model. \$495.00 (XM1038)

German-made Sight Director use in directing combined fire of a platoon of guns, illustrated on page 185 of Devil's Paintbrush. Combination western and Turkish numerals, complete in leather case. Very scarce, terrific German quality, excellent. \$350.00 (XM1040)

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German WW1 Maxim Cartridge Case Tongs, used to remove cartridge cases that have dropped into line receiver. Issued with each Maxim tool kit and fitted to each Sled Mount. (See Devil's Paintbrush, page 187, 2nd edition.)

German WW1 Maxim Chamber Cleaning Tool, angular construction to reach into chamber without disassembling barrel. Issued with each Maxim tool kit and fitted to each Sled mount. (See Devil's Paintbrush, page 187, 2nd edition.)

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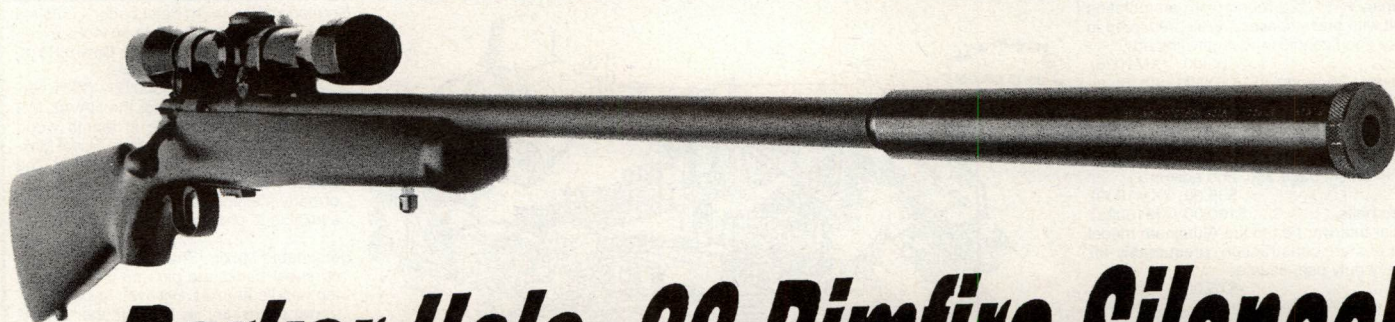


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The crude French 1/2x20 TPI threading of the Parker Hale clone will not permit fully seating the suppressor on a barrel threaded for a Maxim Model 1921 silencer. This is ironic since the clone is ultimately a copy of the Maxim silencer.



Parker Hale .22 Rimfire Silencer

by Al Paulson

Under one name or another, the Parker Hale .22 rimfire silencer has been in continuous production longer than any other silencer in the world. Soon after the introduction of the Maxim Model 1910 silencer, the British firm "A.G. Parker & Co. Ltd., Rifle Experts, BIRMINGHAM" began to market .22 caliber Maxim silencers. The extensive Parker catalog produced in 1913 listed the Maxim for £21 plus an additional £5 for fitting the silencer to the rifle.

"The Silencer," according to the catalog, "consists of a cylinder in which a number of baffle plates and chambers are arranged, the function of the last two named being respectively to intercept and delay the gases of combustion. These functions they perform so successfully that the 'muzzle blast,' responsible in the ordinary way for most of the noise when a rifle is fired, is cut out and the discharge thus rendered practically silent.

"To test the efficiency of the silencer," the catalog continues, "the rifle fitted with it should be fired straight into the air. Noise in this case is practically absent. When fired at an object, the passage of the bullet through the lower air and the striking of the bullet against the object create some noise. This, of course cannot be prevented. The silencer makes the use of a rifle possible for target practice in the gardens of well populated districts, and is of course great assistance when shooting rabbits with a rifle."

This passage in the Parker Hale catalog was illustrated with the picture of a BSA No. 6 rifle (which had a Martini sin-

gle-shot action) fitted with a Maxim Model 1910 silencer. The complete package sold for £68/6. The company also offered the BSA Model 12 fitted with a Maxim, which the catalog described as "another good Rook and Rabbit Rifle," for £56.

When Maxim replaced the Model 1910 with the Model 1921 silencer, Parker Hale marketed the new model. Catalog 10E (circa 1926) devotes four times the space to the Maxim silencer as the 1913 catalog—clear evidence that silencers had become quite popular in England. Parker offered both rimfire and centerfire Maxims, and illustrations showed Maxims fitted to Colt and Reising .22 pistols, as well as Winchester Automatic and Remington No. 12 rifles.

The catalog included an expanded section explaining how a silencer operates. "The silencer checks the muzzle blast. Instead of powder gases being liberated into the air instantaneously when the bullet emerges from the muzzle, they are caught by the silencer and allowed to escape gradually.

"This is accomplished by the SILENCING CHAMBERS, which are so constructed as to offer a very high resistance to a rapid flow of gas through them but very little resistance to a slow flow of gas.

"The hole in the silencer is much larger than the bullet and the latter does not touch anything in passing through, and consequently, accuracy of flight and velocity are just the same with or without the silencer."

The catalog goes on to discuss how much a silencer reduces the noise of a gun-

shot. "The silencer annuls almost all the noise of a gun report. On high power rifles it also reduces the recoil by over two-thirds. The reason for this is that there is a very strong tendency for the silencer to be blown off the end of the gun. This tendency amounts to a forward pull on the gun barrel. The forward pull counter-balances part of the backward kick.

"The only noise the silencer does not control is the noise made out in the air be-

Sound Moderator

.22 CALIBRE

PARKER-HALE

Everything for shooting

Cover of the current Parker Hale factory brochure. Polly Walter photo.

Machine Gun News - January 1996

yond the gun by the bullet in flight. This noise is a 'crack' like the crack of a whip and not a 'whistle' or 'shriek' as is commonly supposed. The noise is made by the same thing that causes the air to crack when a whiplash is snapped.

"This noise cannot be avoided when the bullet velocity exceeds 1,075 feet per second, no matter how quiet we make the gun. .22 Short and .22 Long Rifle ammunition is below this, and flies quietly. .22 Long and .22 W.R.F. and all high power ammunition are above the critical velocity and usually give bullet flight noise.

"Shot cartridges up to .45 calibre work perfectly in the silencer and make noiseless miniature trap shooting possible without disturbance or danger. On single shot target pistols, it improves marksmanship to a surprising degree as it avoids nearly all recoil or 'flip.'

"The Maxim Silencer will not operate on revolvers. No revolver can ever be silenced. If you stop the noise at the muzzle, it makes its escape at the gap between the cylinder and the barrel. Every revolver must have this gap."

The catalog goes on to assert that the Maxim Silencer is a practical device for use on all Repeating, Automatic, Single Shot Rifles and Single Shot Target Pistols. It is made in all calibres from .22 to .45."

A testimonial appeared in the catalog from H.C.M. Shaw, who declared that the ".22 cal. silencer works very well. A partridge sat and allowed me to have four shots

at it, evidently hearing nothing. The last shot killed it." The Parker catalog offered to provide a booklet filled with American testimonials upon request. The catalog concluded with a note declaring the intent of the company to design a suitable silencer for the .410 shotgun, which customers were apparently demanding. Parker Hale would market the shotgun silencer for many years.

When Hiram P. Maxim began to turn his attention from firearm silencers to the vastly more profitable realm of silencers for internal combustion engines in the late 1920s, A.G. Parker & Co. began to make Maxim silencers, presumably under license. Unfortunately, the records at Parker Hale Limited no longer include records of early contracts, or even when each different model of silencer was manufactured. No production records survive, either.

But Roger Hale, who is the managing director at Parker Hale Limited (Dept. MGN, Golden Hillock Road, Birmingham B11 2PZ, England; phone +44-21-766-6996; fax +44-21-772-0129), was able to bring the story up to date. "For the past 30 years," Hale said, "the only type of sound moderator which we have produced is the .22 rimfire model, which has undergone some minor changes in the method of manufacture but not in the basic design. The debt to Maxim is fully acknowledged."

Regarding the legalities of silencer ownership in the UK, Hale explained that "silencer ownership in Great Britain is permitted on rimfire rifles provided that the

prospective purchaser has a variation on his or her Firearms Certificate to allow this. An air rifle may be fitted with a silencer without any restriction. Full bore weapons may also be equipped with a silencer, also provided the owner has the appropriate variation on his or her Firearms Certificate. Such variations are relatively hard to come by."

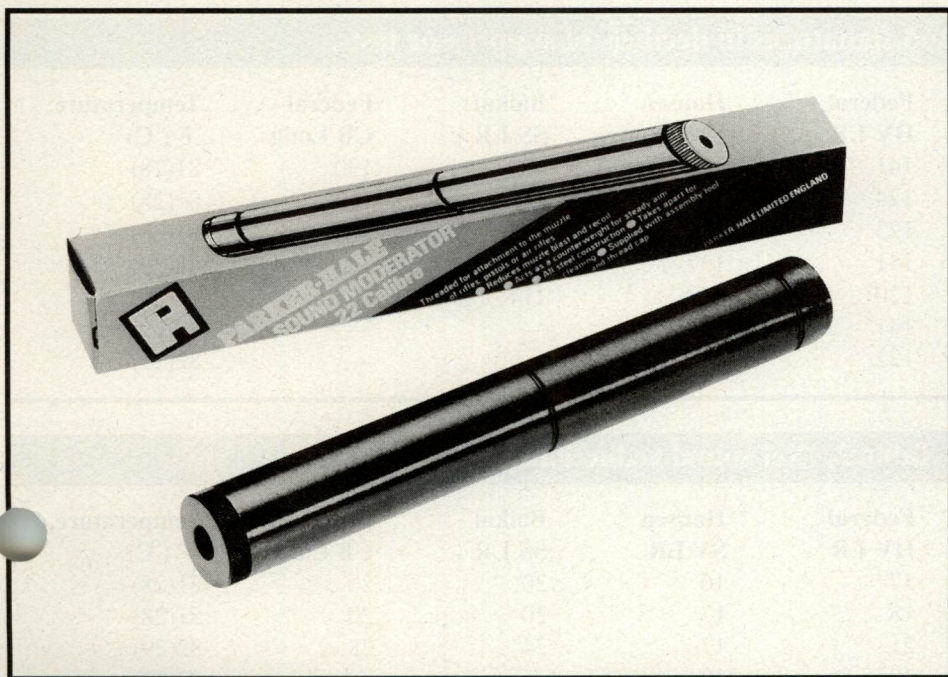
Parker Hale produces three different silencers today. "We have adapted," Roger Hale said, "the basic multi-baffle design to make it more appropriate for use on air rifles and now offer an aluminum body air rifle silencer, Model MM2, in addition to the all steel [.22 rimfire] Model MM1 and the .22 rimfire aluminum bodied MM1A. Between 40 and 50% of annual sales are made in the UK, the rest being exported to those countries, mainly in Europe, which still permit the sale and use of sound moderators."

I had the chance to test and evaluate the performance of an unauthorized French clone of the Model MM1 Parker Hale silencer. Constructed entirely out of steel and given a blued finish, the suppressor has an overall length of 7.0 inches (177mm) and a diameter of 0.93 inch (23.6mm). The muzzle can weigh 6.9 ounces (195 grams). The silencer was tested on a Winchester 63A rifle using Federal high velocity, Hansen standard velocity target, and Baikal Junior Brass subsonic LR ammunition. Federal CB Longs were also used.

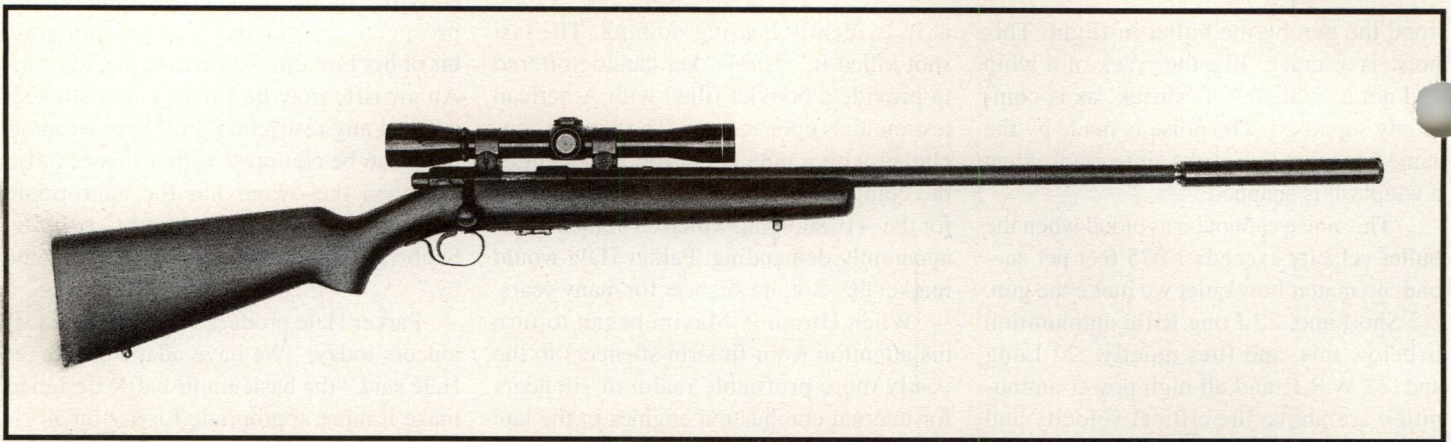
TESTING METHODOLOGY

The silencer was tested on a Winchester 63A rifle using Federal high velocity, Hansen standard velocity target, and Baikal Junior Brass subsonic LR ammunition. Federal CB Longs were also used.

Sound signatures were measured using a Bruel and Kjaer Type 2209 Impulse Precision Sound Pressure Meter (set on A weighting and peak hold) with a B&K Type 4136 1/4-inch condenser microphone, which is a pressure-type microphone. This is one of the few sound meters that has a fast enough rise time (20 microseconds) to accurately record very brief sound impulses such as gunshots. The microphone was placed 1.00 meter away from the front of the suppressor or muzzle, at a 90 degree angle from the bullet flight path to the right of the firearm. The pressure microphone was pointed straight up toward the sky so that the plane of the diaphragm intersected the suppressor or muzzle. The meter was calibrated just before and just after the tests



The currently produced Parker Hale MM1 silencer with factory packaging.



Unauthorized French clone of the Parker Hale MM1 silencer tested for this article, mounted on a Winchester 63A rifle.

with a B&K 4230 calibrator. No instrument drift was observed.

These procedures, including the use of A-weighting, generally follow NATO testing procedures specified in Document AC/243 (Panel 8/RSG.6) D/9, the ISO 1994 draft international standard for testing of silencers in situ, U.S. Army testing procedures specified in MIL-STD-1474C, and procedures used by the Finnish Army and academic researchers as specified by Tampere University of Technology Publication 117.

The ambient temperature during each test is always given. Velocities were measured in feet using a P.A.C.T. MKIII timer/chronograph with MKV skyscreens set 24.0 inches apart and the start screen 8.0 feet from the muzzle (P.A.C.T., Dept. MGN, P.O. Box 531525, Grand Prairie, TX 75053, (214) 641-0049). At least ten rounds

were fired to obtain an average sound signature or muzzle velocity.

INTERPRETING SOUND DATA

Since few people have an intuitive grasp of decibels, a few comments will help put these sound test data into perspective. Decibels are a logarithmic rather than a linear scale that approximates the response of the human ear much more closely than raw sound pressure levels as measured in Pascals. The threshold of human hearing is 0 decibels, a quiet conversation is about 56 dB, an IBM Selectric II typewriter is 84 dB, a Daisy Red Ryder BB Gun is 101 dB, an integrally suppressed Marlin 780 rifle from Jonathan Arthur Ciener is about 124 dB, a .22 CB is about 131 dB and a standard velocity long rifle is about 137 dB when shot from a bolt-action rifle, hearing damage begins at about 140 decibels, the pain threshold is about 141 decibels, an

MP5 is about 157 dB, a .45 pistol is about 162 dB, an M16 is about 165 dB, a 122mm Howitzer is about 183 dB, and death of the observer can occur in the neighborhood of 220 dB. Most adults can distinguish a 1 decibel difference between impulse sounds such as suppressed gunshots.

Purists will note that a conversation is continuous (RMS) sound, while the other values are impulse sound. And the body does respond differently to these two types of sound. For example, the pain threshold is commonly 140 dB for RMS sound and 141 dB for impulse sound. But including an RMS value in this series of benchmarks is still appropriate, since there are few impulse sounds in our common experience quieter than a BB gun.

It is important to note that the unsuppressed "sound signatures" (more properly called "sound pressure levels") differ from

Table 1. Sound signatures in decibels of suppressor tests.

Gun	Suppressor	Federal HV LR	Hansen SV LR	Baikal SS LR	Federal CB Longs	Temperature, °F (°C)
Winchester 63A	None	141	137	137	130	81(28)
Winchester 63A	Unique	124	121	117	110	81(28)
Winchester 63A	Parker Hale	123	120	117	110	81(28)
Ruger 77/22	None	141	137	138	132	82(29)
Ruger 77/22	AWC Archangel I	120	120	114	104	82(29)
Marlin 780	None	141	138	—	—	82(29)
Marlin 780	Ciener	122	119	—	—	82(29)

Table 2. Net sound reductions.

Gun	Suppressor	Federal HV LR	Hansen SV LR	Baikal SS LR	Federal CB Longs	Temperature, °F (°C)
Winchester 63A	Unique	17	16	20	20	81(28)
Winchester 63A	Parker Hale	18	17	20	20	81(28)
Ruger 77/22	AWC Archangel I	21	17	24	28	82(29)
Marlin 780	Ciener	19	19	—	—	82(29)

test to test. This is because different atmospheric conditions (such as temperature, humidity and altitude) affect the burning characteristics of gunpowder. Even the speed of sound changes with the temperature. Therefore, the unsuppressed weapon signatures were remeasured each day of testing, as a control or benchmark. It is also important to remember that each reported sound signature is the mean (average) of at least 10 replicate samples (i.e., suppressed or unsuppressed gunshots).

The best way to compare suppressors tested under different conditions is to subtract the suppressed sound signature from the unsuppressed sound signature, to get the AMOUNT of suppression. This more useful number is called the net sound reduction.

PERFORMANCE

The sound signatures of the suppressed and unsuppressed rifles appear in Table 1, which also includes test data on the French Unique silencer mounter on a Winchester 63A rifle, the AWC Archangel I (AWC is now building the third generation Archangel III) mounted on a Ruger 77/22, and data on a Ciener integral suppressor on the Marlin 780 rifle. Net sound reductions are shown in Table 2.

The Parker Hale clone performed fairly well. Looking at the net sound reductions listed in Table 2, the Parker Hale clone outperformed the Unique by 1 decibel using high velocity and standard velocity LR ammunition, while these two cans produced the same level of performance with subsonic LR and CB Longs. Remarkably, a Ciener integral suppressor on the Marlin 780 rifle only provided 1 dB better performance than the Parker Hale clone with high velocity ammo and 2 dB better performance with standard velocity fodder. The excellent but out-of-production Archangel I provided 3 dB better sound reduction than the clone with high velocity LR, the same performance with standard velocity LR, 4 dB better performance with subsonic LR, and an impressive 8 dB better performance with CB Longs.

Clearly dated technology, the 70-year-old design of the Parker Hale MM1 nevertheless provides enough sound suppression to make shooters better neighbors through Britain and those European countries with the good sense to allow honest citizens to mitigate the noise pollution and hearing loss associated with sport shooting.

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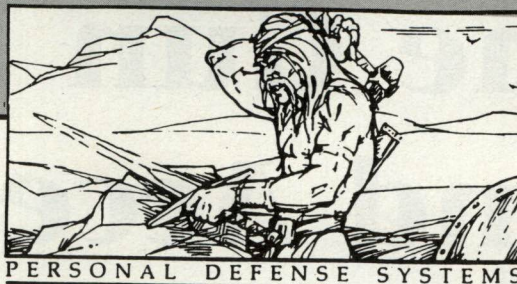
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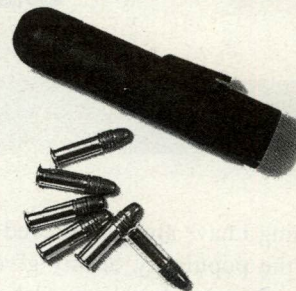


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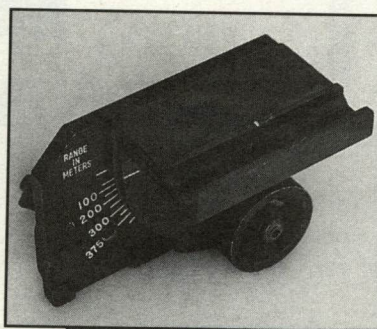
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Machine Gun Parts and Accessories

by FRANK IANNAMICO

One thing I have always believed is that the popularity of any given firearm is directly related to the availability of parts and accessories for that particular arm. Of course, there are many other things that make guns desirable to collectors such as rarity, special markings, or personal experience with any given gun, but everyone loves to buy and collect pouches, magazines and an endless list of other things for their favorite toy. Looking for and finding that elusive part or accessory (at the right price) is part of what makes this hobby fun and interesting. Everyone is always looking for something. Just by counting the number of parts dealers out there is testimony to the fact.

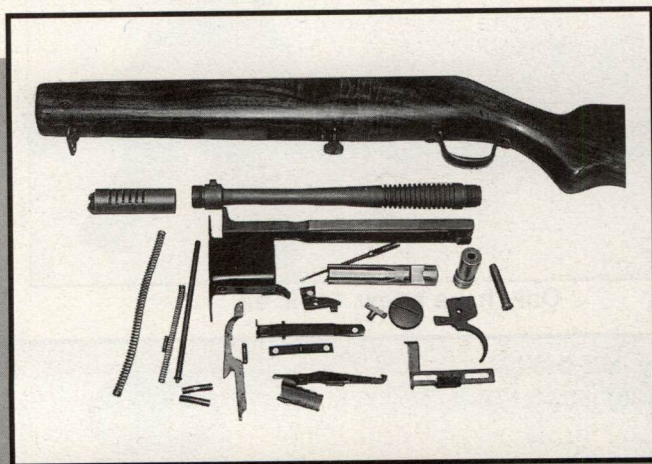
There are many sources for parts: publications such as *Shotgun News*, *The Gun List* and of course *Machine Gun News*. Gun shows can be a very good source as well, and the very best show for Class 3 guns, parts and accessories is at the Knob Creek shoot which is held in the spring and fall every year. Many dealers offer lists and catalogs for a nominal fee or free.



Magazines, mag loaders, and pouches are popular collector items.

There is a trend to old parts; what is today plentiful and in abundance may be unobtainable tomorrow. As a friend once told me, "Get it or forget it." Every once in a

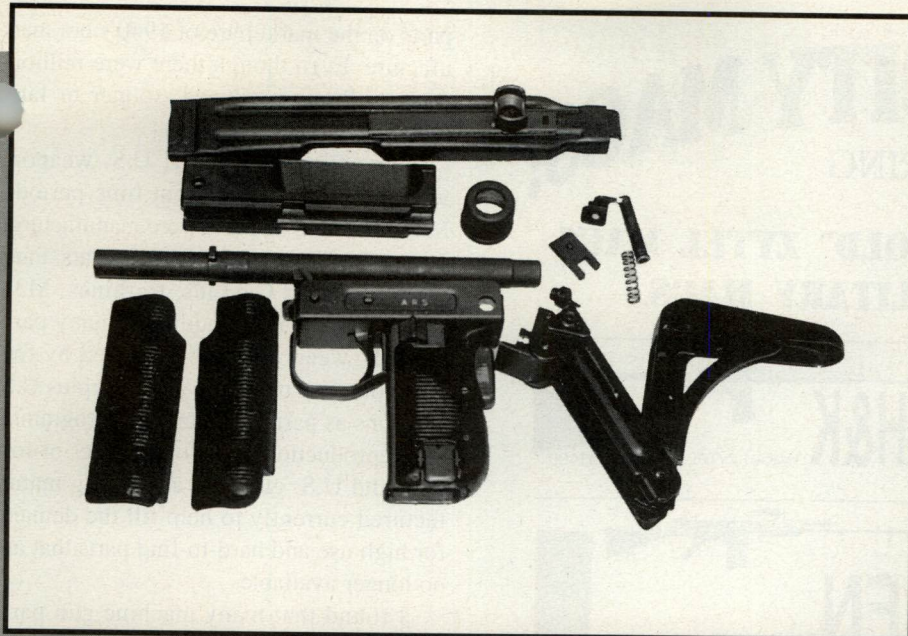
while some parts dealer will discover a cache of treasures in some forgotten warehouse in some nameless country. I remember just a few years ago when brand new,



Reising parts set.



M1A1 Thompson parts set.



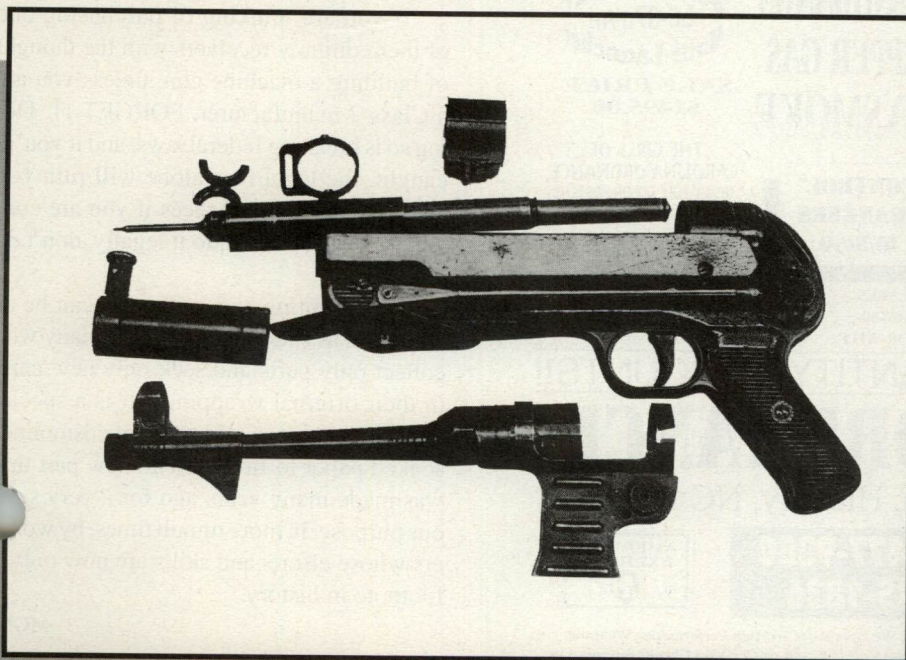
Uzi parts kit.

in-the-wrap Thompson 1928 Savage barrels were discovered and sold at \$25.00 each! New in-the-wrap BAR barrels as well. Needless to say, they weren't around long. You have to be aware, alert and just keep looking, and when you find it, buy. If you wait until later, chances are good the item will be gone, or the price will have gone up. Remember STEN kits? They were everywhere, but try to find one today. Although, sources tell me the kits will soon be available once again.

I have found that it is usually more economical to simply buy an entire parts set, rather than individual parts for any gun. You never know what you may need in the

future, and you can always sell what you don't need. The very basic spare parts for any future needs would be extractors, bolt assemblies, springs, and a spare barrel. Be careful when buying full-auto parts. Some, such as M2 carbine or M16 parts, can get you into trouble. Another item that will get you into trouble is installing a short barrel on a semi-auto receiver. However innocent you think this may be, you are breaking the law. Get educated on what is legal and what is not.

Spending money for spare parts is like money in the bank. The prices are almost certain to go up, and the parts can usually always be easily sold. A lot of the spare



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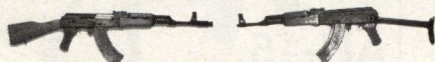
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parts on the market are of 1940's era manufacture. Even though there were millions upon millions produced, sooner or later these parts will dry up.

Parts for many WWII U.S. weapons were produced at different time periods. Many post WWII parts were manufactured during the Korean and Vietnam wars. Parts were made for Garands, Carbines, M3's and many others. In addition, many parts for U.S. weapons were produced by foreign countries that were given surplus U.S. weapons as part of military aid programs.

Reproduction parts for all types of foreign and U.S. guns are also being manufactured currently to help fill the demand for high use and hard-to-find parts that are no longer available.

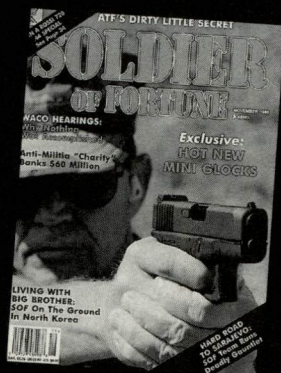
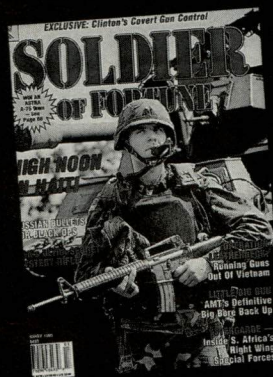
I found that many machine gun parts sets are being used to build dummy guns for use on restored military vehicles or as display items for dens or gun shops. There are many companies making dummy receivers for that purpose. A few years ago, I visited one such company that manufactured these dummy receivers. The owner told me he had a very hard time keeping up with the demand for dummy receivers. In the shop area were pallets filled with receivers in various stages of machining; the amount of them amazed me. I seriously doubt if any of these dummy receivers are used for dubious purposes. As much machining that would need to be accomplished to make them operable, one would need to be a highly skilled machinist with a well equipped shop, and I don't mean a dremel tool.

If you are thinking of purchasing one of these dummy receivers with the thought of building a machine gun, unless you are a Class 2 manufacturer, FORGET IT. Doing so is breaking federal laws, and if you're caught, the legal fees alone will ruin you let alone the consequences if you are convicted. If you cannot do it legally, don't do it at all.

Parts hunting and collecting can be as much fun as shooting. There are many who collect only parts and seek only new parts in their original wrappings. It is a special thrill to open up an old piece of cosmoline-soaked paper to find a brand new part that was made many years ago for a very serious purpose, in more tumult times, by workers whose efforts and skills are now only a footnote in history.

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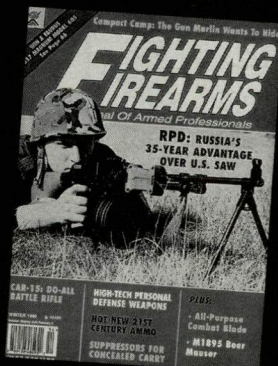
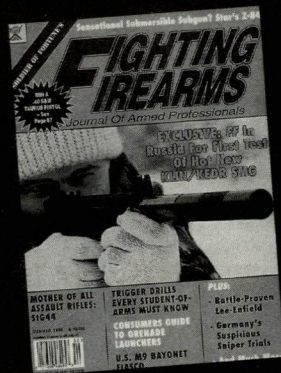
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FOCUS ON:

The .55 Boys Antitank Rifle

by **CARL SILVER**
dba **SELECT FIRE**

This month's column will focus on the British 0.55 caliber Boys antitank rifle. The history, design, operation, and ammunition will be reviewed. As stat-

HISTORY

The British Small Arms Committee developed this gun in the mid 1930's. The head of the design team was Captain Boys.



Picture 5: Inglis manufactured Mk I .55 Boys antitank rifle.

ed in my previous antitank gun articles, 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.

The gun was originally code-named "Stanchion," but when Captain Boys died while the gun was being prepared for manufacture, the committee renamed the gun in his honor.

The Boys was produced in greater quantities than any other antitank rifle. The original British manufacturer was Enfield, then BSA (Birmingham Small Arms) was also contracted to make them. John Inglis, of

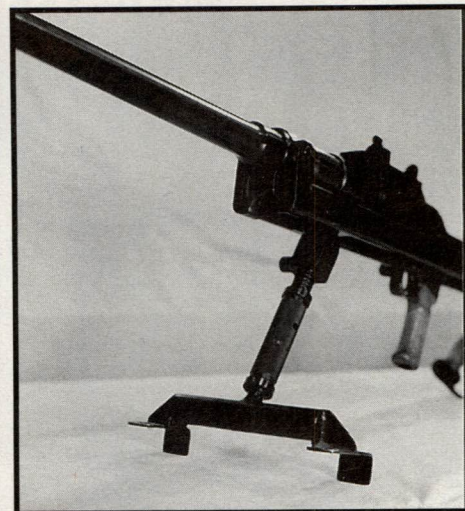
Canada, also built the Boys under United States lend-lease contracts. These guns were marked: "U.S. GOV" PROPERTY (picture 1).

In the early days of W.W.II, the Boys were used in Bren gun carriers (a small, tracked, open-topped Armored Personnel Carrier). Thousands were issued to the home guard. Though they were less

effective on the increasingly thicker tank armor, they were useful on thin-skinned military vehicles and pill boxes.

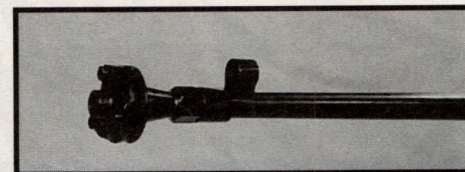
POSTWAR HISTORY

The Boys were the least expensive surplus antitank guns offered for sale to U.S. shooters in the late 1950's and 1960's. The selling price for the rifle was \$74.95, and ammunition was \$1.00 a round.

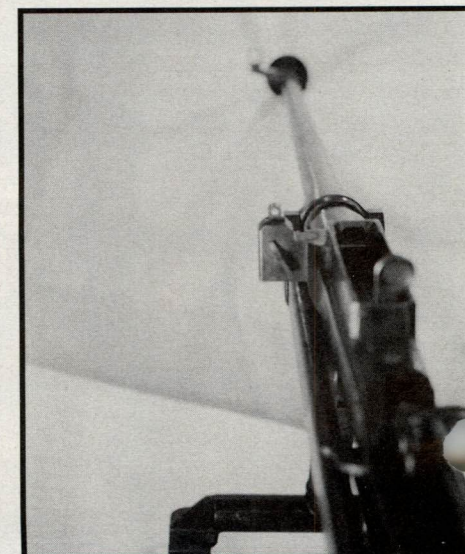


Picture 2: Early "T" type adjustable monopod.

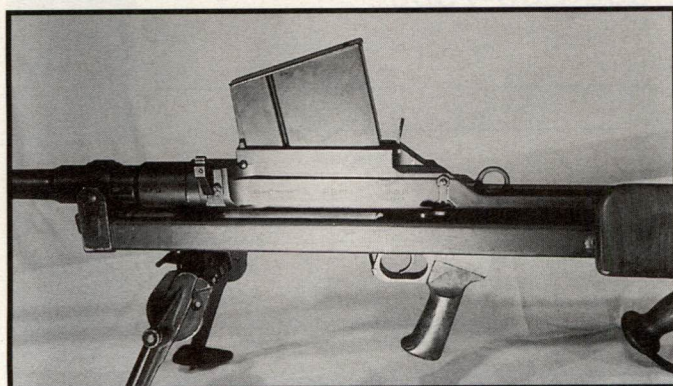
After the Gun Control Act (GCA '68), the Boys was determined to be a Destructive Device (DD) requiring a \$200 transfer tax. Many of the rifles were rebarreled to .50 BMG to avoid the extra tax and registration.



Picture 3: Early circular baffle style muzzle brake.



Picture 4: Two-position (300 and 500 yards) rear sight.



Picture 1: Left side of the Inglis manufactured Mk I Boys, with "U.S. GOV" PROPERTY markings.

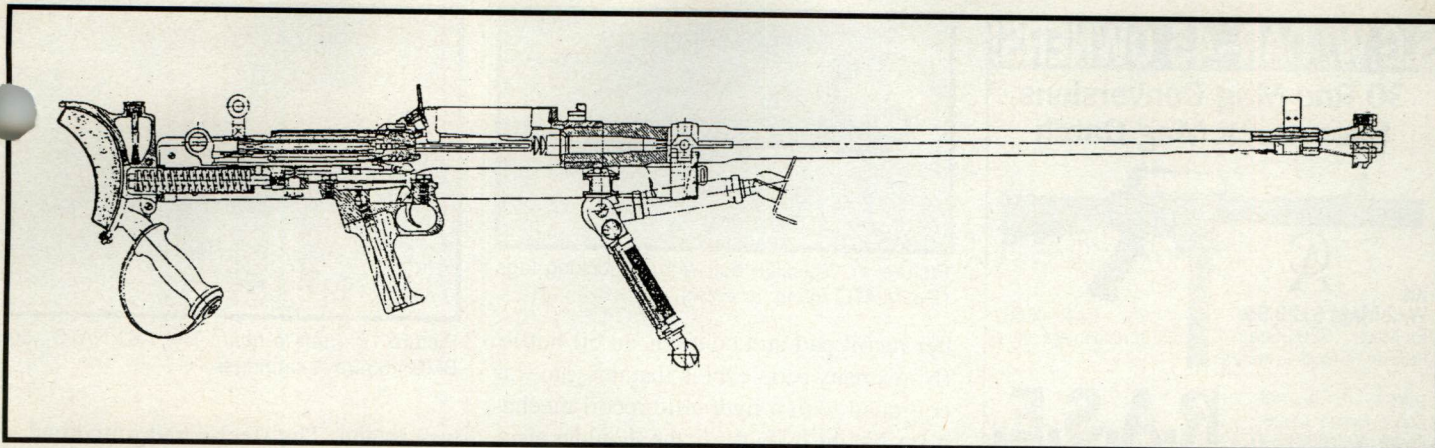
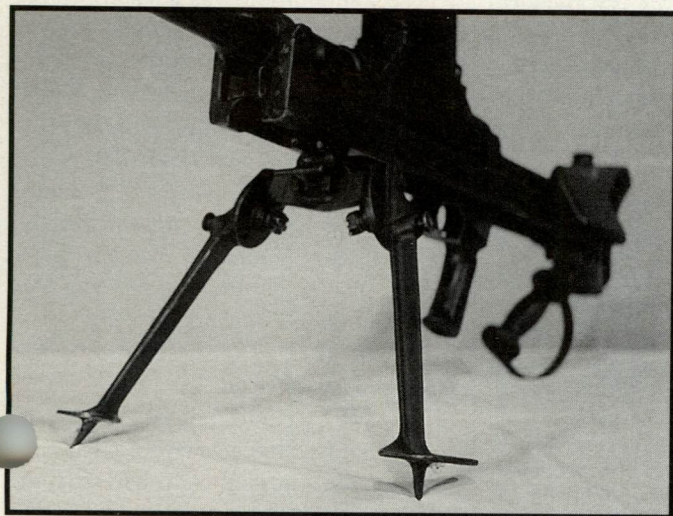


Figure 1: Mechanical drawing of the early British .55 Boys antitank rifle.



Picture 6: Mk I Boys nonadjustable bipod.

SPECIFICATIONS

The Boys is 64 inches long and weighs 36 pounds (unloaded). The barrel is 36 inches long and is equipped with a muzzle brake. It was designed to defeat 14mm (0.055 inches) of armor plate at a twenty-degree angle at 500 yards.

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION

The Boys was an enlarged bolt-action rifle (figure 1). Like the Bren, the 5-round magazine is mounted on top of the gun. This necessitated offsetting the sights to the left side of the gun. There were two different models manufactured.

The original British model possessed an adjustable height, T-shaped monopod (picture 2) to support the gun, a circular baffle style muzzle brake (picture 3) and a two-position (300 and 500 yards) rear sight (picture 4). The Canadian manufactured MK I gun (picture 5) had a nonadjustable bipod (picture 6), a long, flat har-

monica style muzzle brake (picture 7) and a fixed rear sight.

The barrel and action slide on a pair of rails to help control the enormous recoil. The barrel is supported by lugs inside a guide ring (picture 8). A large coil spring is com-

pressed between the action and the shoulder pad during recoil. The shoulder piece (picture 9) has a support hand stock, a rub-

Right: Picture 7: Mk I Boys harmonica style muzzle brake.

Below: Picture 8: Barrel assembly slides under recoil in the support ring.



Picture 9: Shoulder piece with support stock and integral oil bottle.



Picture 10: Wooden cheek piece.

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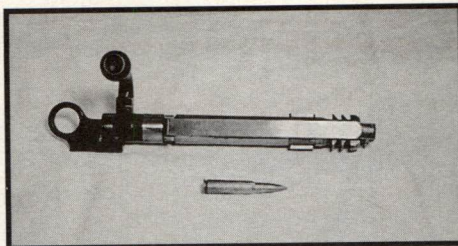
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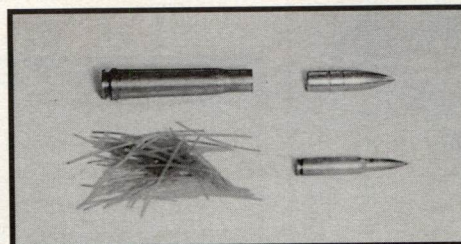
Machine Gun News, P.O. Box 459
Lake Hamilton, AR 71951



Picture 11: Massive bolt with six locking lugs (7.62 NATO round for scale).

ber recoil pad and contains an oil bottle. (Note: many people think that this gun was equipped with a hydraulic recoil mechanism, but the oil bottle in the shoulder piece is *only* an oil bottle.) On the left side of the gun is a small, wooden cheek rest (picture 10).

The bolt (picture 11) has six odd-shaped locking lugs. There is a ring attached to the firing pin that could be used to recock the gun if a round failed to fire.

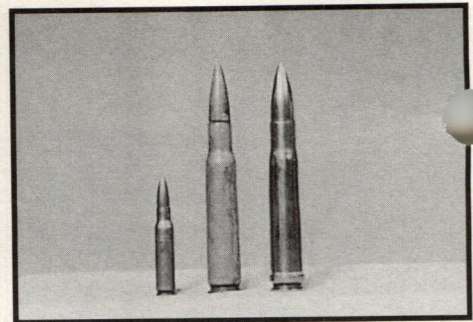


Picture 13: (Top): A .55 Boys case, 924 grain steel-cored projectile. (Bottom): Extruded propellant, 7.62 NATO round (for scale).

AMMUNITION

The .55 caliber cartridge is similar in size but slightly less powerful than the U.S. .50 BMG round (Browning Machine Gun, picture 12). The rimless, belted (*flanged* in British terms) case is 3.90 inches long and Berdan primed. The Cordite propellant (see next section) is spaghetti-like, with amber colored pieces 2.375 inches long and 0.055 inches in diameter (picture 13) with a total weight of 190 grains.

The original cartridge loaded for the .55 Boys used a 924 grain projectile (picture 13) with a steel core surrounded by a gilding jacket (it is 0.5630 inches in diameter and 2.3175 inches long). In 1940, a tungsten-cored bullet in an aluminum jacket



Picture 12: (Left-to-right): The 7.62 NATO, .50 BMG, .55 Boys cartridges.

was issued. The steel-cored round had a muzzle velocity of 2500 feet per second.

The ammunition was packed in both loaded magazines and slinged canvas pouches. The steel ammunition box (picture 14) holds eight magazines for a total of forty rounds. The canvas ammunition pouch (picture 15) is marked "P.B. & Co, Ltd, 1938," and holds two "stripper" clips of five rounds. (*What the clips are for, I do not know. They will not work on the single-column magazine, and another gun was never chambered for this cartridge. Perhaps some MGN readers can provide me with more information.*)

CORDITE

Cordite was the standard British military propellant used in cartridges from the .303 and larger. Developed in 1889, it was one of the first successful smokeless powders.

A double-based propellant, it was made by mixing guncotton (nitro-cellulose) and nitroglycerin together with acetone and mineral jelly (Vaseline). The ratios were: 65% guncotton, 30% nitroglycerin and 5% mineral jelly.

The resultant colloid was pressed through dies forming cords of circular or oval cross section. The acetone was evaporated off, and the cords were cut to the desired length. It was originally manufactured at the royal gunpowder factory at Waltham Abbey.

RELOADING COMPONENTS

Brass bushings, and a little machining, are used to convert the Berdan primer pock-

CARTRIDGE COMPARISON

Cartridge	Bullet Weight [grains (ounces)]	Muzzle Velocity [feet/second]	Barrel Length [inches]	Muzzle Energy [foot-pounds]
.44 Magnum	240 (0.55)	1560	8.375	1,298
7.62 NATO	165 (0.38)	2650	24	2,575
.50 BMG	710 (1.6)	2930	45	13,546
.55 Boys	924 (2.1)	2500	36	12,834

$$\text{Energy (ft-lb)} = \{ \text{bullet weight (grain)} \times \text{bullet velocity (ft/sec)}^2 \} / 449,960$$

ets to take standard .50 BMG primers. The several propellants that work in the big Browning also burn well in the 0.55 Boys. Dangerous Dave has the press and dies for resizing and loading the cases.

AVAILABILITY

There are several Destructive Device dealers that advertise in *Machine Gun News* who often have Boys rifles in stock. Also, the two rifles featured in the article are for sale (see *Sources*). Prices vary, dependent on the condition of the gun and the number of accessories and ammunition.

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Gary

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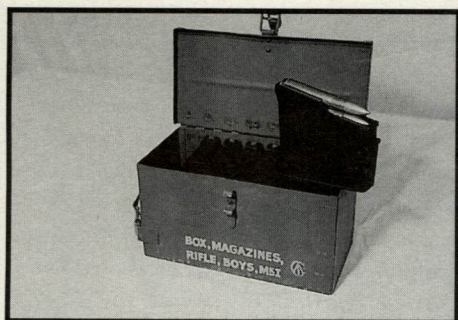
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Picture 14: Magazine box with loaded magazine.



Picture 15: Clip of five .55 Boys rounds, canvas ammunition pouch.

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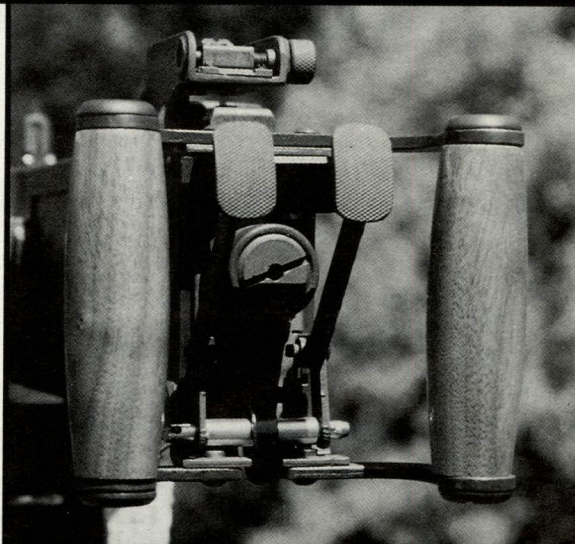
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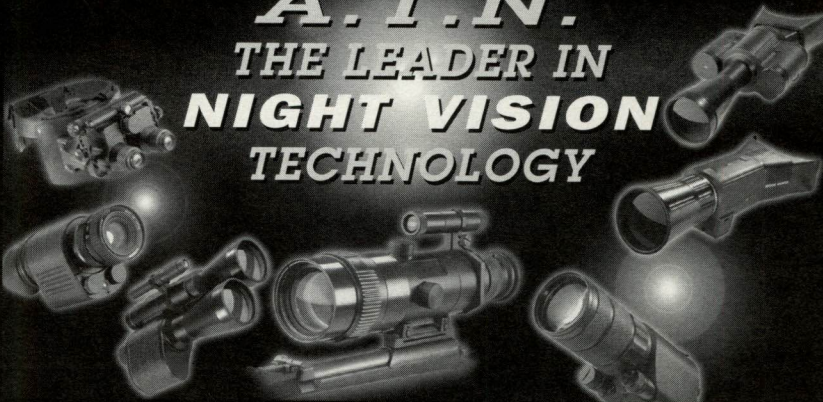
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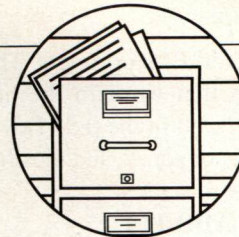
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The Forms

by DAN SHEA



The Forms has a little "housekeeping" to do before we can get started on questions. Two issues ago (MGN Vol. 9 No. 6) I had some information about the previous year's Special Occupational taxpayers. I have finally gotten the information regarding tax year 1996—the SOT's who have paid their tax until June 30, 1996.

	1995	1996
Class 3 Dealers	2001	1873
Class 2 Mfg	122	114
Class 2 Mfg Reduced	390	377
Class 1 Importer	68	63
Class 1 IMP Reduced	27	27
Total	2608	2454

As you can see, there was a reduction in SOT's of 154 taxpayers. This is a reduction of less than 7%, in the year that most people expected a critical drop that would match the massive drop in FFL holders. These numbers should bear out the hypothesis that most Class 3's are pretty seriously in the business.

"The Forms" has some interesting correspondence on procedures and the continuing debate on the Second Amendment, but first there is some new info coming out of ATF in D.C. Mr. Thomas Busey is no longer Chief of NFA Branch; he has returned to the Alcohol Division. As of this date (12-13-95), a replacement for him has not been named. I will keep you updated as soon as more information surfaces. There was a mistake in last month's information on ATF personnel changes. Terry Cates is not retiring; he has been reassigned. His new job appears to be as some sort of firearms industry liaison, and I have not gotten a title for him yet.

Captain Monty Mendenhall has unearthed an interesting letter from Technology Branch, ATF, on the repair of Large Capacity Feeding Devices, and it is reprinted on page 10. This is "must" reading for all concerned Class 3 owners.

The new guide to Federal Regulations is out now. It is referred to as the "Yellow

Book" in replacement of the old "Red Book" that we have been using since 1988. It is still ATF P 5300.4, but the technical title has been changed from "(Your Guide to) Federal Firearms Regulation 1988-89," to "Federal Firearms Regulation Reference Guide." The format is a little better, and I am going to try to avoid my urge to write an "MGN Book Review."

The dry sense of humor of the author comes through in such sentences exemplified by section VI—"It shall be unlawful for a person to manufacture, transfer or possess a semiautomatic assault weapon, and this shall not apply to those items listed in Appendix A (a list of hundreds of lever, bolt, and slide action rifles, including shotguns of the over and under variety)." The subtle humor here is indicative of that found throughout the book.

In reality, the new Yellow Book is much easier to read than the old one, because of the format and indexing. The same chapters exist: GCA-68 (amended with Brady and various bans), Title 26 U.S. Code, the Arms Export Control Act of 1976, Title 18 Excerpts, Parts 47, 178, and 179, and the Rulings, Procedures, Industry Circulars, and General Information sections. The indexing by subject in the latter chapters is more thorough and seems to cover most of the bases.

If you haven't gotten your new copy, write to ATF Distributions Center, PO Box 5950, Springfield, Virginia 22150 or call (703) 455-7801.

QIn the spring of 1987, I sent an AK47, followed about four weeks later by a Galil .223, to a Class 2 manufacturer for full-auto conversion. At the time, the manufacturer was using his "registered transferable sears" for the conversion. During the time my guns were in the shop, ATF ruled the "registered sears" illegal and, as you know, no more conversions were allowed. The AK was sent back, fully converted with a "conditional letter" affixed,

saying the gun and sear were married. No problem. The Galil, on the other hand, took over a year to come back on a Form 4 (at the time I was not an FFL holder or dealer) and there was some indication that ATF was going to rule the Galil a "post-May" Dealer Sample. At any rate, they did transfer to me on a Form 4 without a conditional letter as was on the AK. Question: I am now considering selling this weapon but buyers are scared by the fact the Form 4 says nothing about the host gun and in fact the auto-sear serial number actually begins with "M16-###" (just like the AK). Do I have an illegal machine gun? Is there a chance ATF will never allow me to transfer the weapon or worse yet confiscate the gun? Why did the AK get a conditional letter attached but not the Galil?

Your advice and guidance would be most helpful.

Anonymous

AYour potential buyers are right to be nervous. This firearm gives all the appearance of being a contraband firearm, even though it is not. During the period immediately following the 1986 Ban on further manufacture of machine guns for private ownership, a lot of "transposing" went on. Registered Sten tubes gave birth to MK II/RPD's, MK II/M2HB's, and a host of other strange offspring. Several of the Class 2 manufacturers who had large quantities of M16 and HK registered sears, started "installing them" in AK47's, Galil's, FN's, you name it, and they became transferable. When the ATF went out to investigate, they found that the sears in many of the firearms were not, in fact, HK or M16 sears, or AK sears, or that there was receiver modification necessary to install them. The sears that were sitting on the shelf as "AK" or other sears were allowed. The sears that had been used in conversions, and were already in the host firearm, were individually inspected and then allowed out as transferable firearms.

That is where your AK with the letter came from. In order to satisfy your customers, you are going to have to risk inspection, and get a letter from ATF.

I would suggest that you call the NFA Branch in Washington, and ask to speak with one of the specialists there. Explain the circumstances, and make sure that you have receipts showing when the work was done and by whom. Include the Form 4 in your information pile. I believe that the ATF will honor that transfer on the Form 4 and give you the letter that should have been with it. You are, of course, risking that there was something improper in the original installation, and it slipped by the examiner on the first transfer. In this case, ATF will make a determination on it. Hopefully, it will be to your benefit.

Q I was reading through the back issues of *MGN* that you are kind enough to supply, and in Vol. 5 No. 1 (June 1991) I came across something very interesting.

It seems to answer a question that has been gnawing at me for a long time, and that is, "Why are the anti-gunners so vehement?" What is it that compels them to such a pitch of fanaticism, especially in light of many things that time and history have on the plus side of the Second Amendment to the U.S. Constitution? I have long suspected that it goes much deeper than just guns, and in Vol. 5 No. 1 page 6 I got my answer. Sarah Brady is a socialist.

This would not be so bad except that I have information about Al Gore, which I received from a source other than *MGN*, that outlines Gore's socialism and that his problems derive from some new age religion that he follows.

If you combine Gore, Brady, and Bill Clinton, and I suspect Schumer-Bidey and Feinstein, it spells trouble and this is what all firearm enthusiasts have been getting for a while.

I want to be able to document the quote on page 6 in the "Raffica" section of *MGN*.

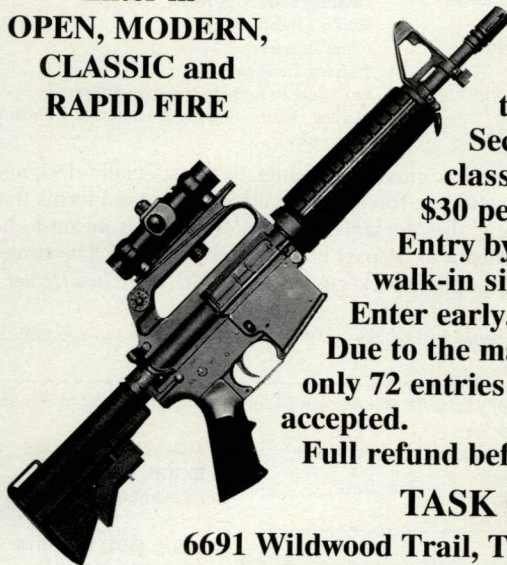
If you can provide me with a way to ascertain and certify when and in who's presence Sarah Brady said to former U.S. Senator Howard Metzenbaum, "Our task of creating a socialist America can only succeed when those who would resist us have been totally disarmed."

TASK

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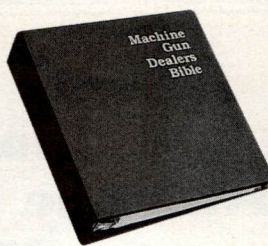
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I intend to send this information to many people including, but not limited to, the NRA Republican National Committee and lots of others.

James

A James, this is an issue that rears its ugly head occasionally. The quote came to me from Kent Lomont, who had gotten it from someone who was usually reliable about things like this. MGN printed it, unfortunately without chasing the base further than that. It fit so well and was no surprise to any of us here. Supposedly, in a group of so-called "friendlylies" to the anti-Second Amendment fanatics, Sarah uttered those words. Immediately, there were shock ripples all around, and we were sent scurrying for the depth of the source. Because it is either fabricated, or someone was trying to cover up their position "inside" the enemy camp, the trail ended quickly and MGN did the responsible thing: we quickly retracted it with full apologies. Once in a while, someone who has bought the back issues gets this and puts it out on the internet or the general media, and we have to confront our old ghost.

Me, personally? I believe wholeheartedly that she said it. Can I prove it? No. Let it drop, and keep your eye on their actions....

Q This is not a question about Class 3 transfers but I think all FFL holders will be interested. If an FFL purchases a firearm from another FFL and the seller has the buyer fill out a Form 4473, is the buyer required to enter this firearm in his bound book and then fill out another Form 4473 to himself if the intention of the buyer is to purchase this firearm for his personal collection and not for resale? If the answer is affirmative, then this would create a duplication of Form 4473 to the same buyer for the same firearm and some confusion for the ATF. I think they are looking for one Form 4473 for each individual buyer of that particular firearm. My understanding is that if an FFL decides to sell a firearm from his personal collection, it then must be entered into his bound book, and at the time of sale, the non FFL buyer will fill out a Form 4473. The ATF requires all firearm sales by FFL'S to be entered into their bound books, even firearms from their personal collection.

I do not believe federal firearms laws

and ATF circulars address the issue of firearms purchases between FFLs when the buyer does not use or exchange copies of his FFL to purchase a firearm but does fill out a Form 4473 from the seller. In this scenario, the buyer's intention is to keep the gun for his own collection and not place it in business inventory. Again, do ATF regulations still require this purchaser to enter the same gun in his bound book and then fill out another Form 4473 to himself if he wants to keep it as part of his personal collection?

Anonymous

A Well, this is an issue that we do need to address. Many times we have skirted the issue on the 4473 being filled out by the sole proprietor FFL dealer who is taking a firearm for personal use, because of such conflicting input from the ATF. In the new Yellow Book mentioned at the start of this article, ATF has provided a statement as follows from the General Questions page 106, D-3:

D-3: Does a dealer have to execute ATF Form 4473 to take a weapon out of his inventory for his own use?

No. However, the "bound book" must be properly posted to reflect the disposition of the firearm from the business inventory to personal use.

I would say that answers that one for good: no 4473's for dealers signing a firearm out of their own inventory.

(An aside on keeping firearms that are personal in the same place as business inventory, the personal ones should be tagged "personal, not for sale.")

You only need to enter a firearm from your personal collection into your bound book in order to sell it, if it has been in your personal collection for less than one year. This precludes a dealer signing out a firearm to himself, then selling it without a 4473 to someone, as a regular practice. It would seem to be good form for a dealer to sign ANY firearm he is selling into his book and do the 4473 for the new owner. This would avoid any sense of impropriety in any inspections that you may have.





Picking up a firearm from another dealer, filling out the 4473, and bringing it to your personal collection is not permissible—you are a sole proprietor dealer. You are required to sign in all firearms that you take possession of. Remember that you are supposed to be keep-

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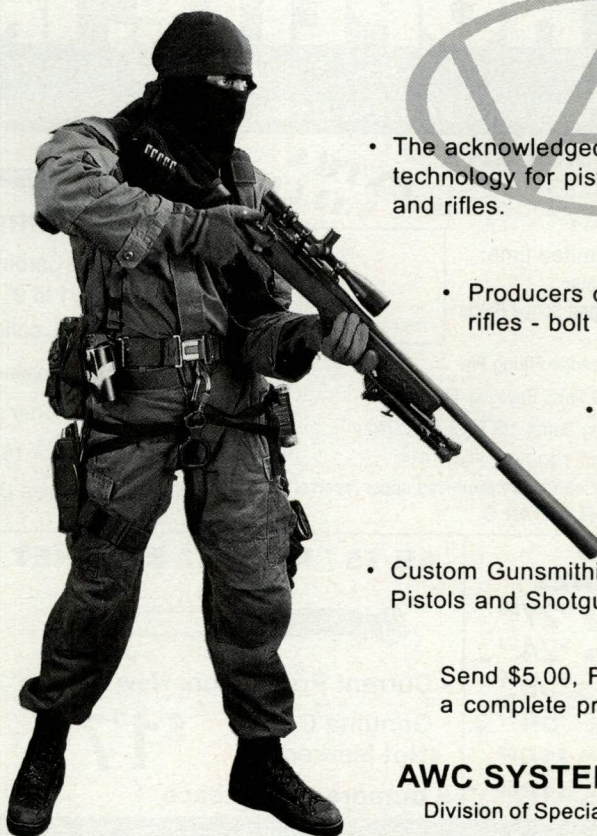


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ing a personal firearms book of firearms you acquire after becoming a licensed FFL. You then sign the firearm out of the business book to yourself personally. For reference on this, I refer you to that same Yellow Book, page 59, section 178.125a "Personal Firearms Collection."

At this point, "The Forms" collapses under the burden of the letters in the Second Amendment debate and includes the following for those of you who are following this with bated breath.

Q Having read the recent debate concerning Dr. Rumes' statement that the Second Amendment is not fundamental and a statement by "Bill" that it is absolute, let me try to shed some light without writing a book. (I am not a constitutional law scholar, and it has been years since my civics and law classes, but here goes.)

The right to free speech, freedom of religion and due process are fundamental rights, they are not conditional and can never be taken away. The right to own a gun and to vote are conditional. The conditions being the eight questions asked on the Form 4473.

A little simple logic will make this seem reasonable. A con in the joint for example, can practice Hinduism, call the warden a jerk, and be assured that the warden cannot summarily execute him for his exercise of free speech. The con does not have the right to have a Model 1911 Colt in his possession or to vote (the consequences of having it otherwise are obvious).

The rub comes when additional conditions are added to the ones listed on the Form 4473. Where do the conditions stop?

Of course all Congress has to do is pass enough laws that pretty soon make everyone a criminal in some way or another and you won't even try and outlaw guns since criminals can't own guns....

Hope this helps explain the "logic" as Bill wanted rather than the law. You may use my name if your print this since the feds already know who I am, and my neighbors are too p.c. to read MGN anyway.

Doug Melton

A Nice clear logic, Doug. I do disagree on your division of the "Fundamental" Rights and the "Conditional" Rights. The Rights in the "Bill of Rights" are ALL

"Fundamental." You can't judge what some citizen can or cannot do according to what criminals do or what freedoms they give up. I cannot imagine explaining Patrick Henry that because a man was jailed for not paying a tax to the king that he could lose his God-given right to defend himself and his family....You are one hundred percent about "the rub comes when additional conditions are added to the ones...."

Now for Kevin Rumes again. Go get out your back issues, folks, he is going point by point.

Q I had no idea I would cause such a stir! I feel I must respond as "Bill" took the time to do the same.

First I'll answer (late) your question of what we should do about interpretation of the Constitution in a previous issue. All one can do is vote for a like-minded judge or vote for and campaign for people who will appoint like-minded judges.

Responding to "Bill":

RE: #1: Slander is simply used to show that rights are not absolute, even fundamental rights. You're correct, it's considered a misuse but it is an infringement

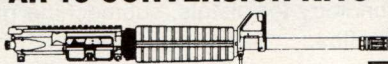
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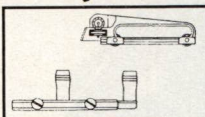
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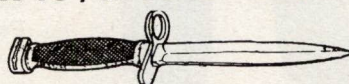


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speech.

The most famous examples of government interest superseding individual fundamental rights were from WWII when the U.S. imprisoned Japanese-Americans. This was upheld by the U.S. Supreme Court because the government had a compelling interest (a perceived interest) in containing these people. Since that time, the government has lost every time a citizen's fundamental right was to be stripped by the government (the government interest must be extremely high with no alternative means to accomplish the government end).

Explain the logic: I can't, I don't believe it's logical. Justice Black and yourself (I assume you believe this) are similar in believing all the Bill of Rights are fundamental. Your in very good company.

No right granted: O.K. "the right of the people" recognizes a right already existing. I believe nothing is more fundamental which pre-exists and is recognized and promoted for future generations ("shall not be infringed") good question.

Federal Constitution: The Constitution simply was a document to limit the powers of the Federal Government to those powers specifically enumerated in it. If it's

not listed, the feds haven't the power. Much of the federal power comes from the "Commerce Clause" because almost everything affects commerce interstate. Gradually, the U.S. Supreme Court through "incorporation" has determined that some rights are so fundamental that to deny a citizen violates due process and those are rights which states may not deprive a U.S. citizen.

Federalist Paper #84: Hamilton argued that it was unnecessary to include a bill of rights as the whole Constitution was a bill of rights. He said there was no reason to tell the government it could not do something it hadn't the power to do (remember only enumerated powers). He also argued to add a bill of rights "would be dangerous" because by disallowing powers the government doesn't have, it may be inferred that the government has the power initially. In other words, why say the government may not interfere with the freedom of religion when no power was granted to interfere with the freedom of religion. By stating on can't do "x" it may be assumed "x" once had the authority to do so; this is the implication which Hamilton believed was dangerous. Hamilton firmly believed that the Constitution limited the

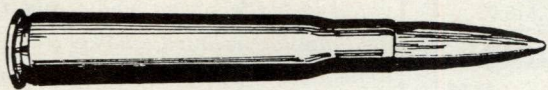
federal government to "those powers specifically enumerated." This is clear—great question.

Re #2: Obviously ownership of military weapons, e.g. M16s, are not protected (Morton Grove, Washington D.C., anyone who can't get sigs, etc.). I agree that per McReynolds, if it was to be used as a military tool, it was protected (or could be used/had value as such). Correct, Miller only relates to a sawed-off shotgun. Correct, they didn't consider the 1934 NFA Act, but a fundamental right (as you have suggested) may not be taxed; that would violate the Equal Protection Clause (eg. poll taxes).

If the Court agreed that the 2nd Amendment was a fundamental right, you've got it, the 1934 NFA would be struck as unconstitutional unless the government could show a compelling interest in retaining it and no other has restrictive means existed to accomplish compelling interests. (The government hasn't won such an argument since WWII.)

RE #3: It is not constitutional to tax a fundamental right (that's why churches pay no taxes, etc.). You're correct. Poll taxes violate Equal Protection and are unconsti-

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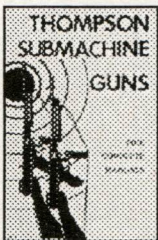
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tutional. Once a right is granted, a government (federal or state) may not base the exercise of that right directly or indirectly on the income of a citizen.

Infringement of the right to vote was an issue of the civil rights movement, yes. The right was recognized as a right during that era (interesting, voting was not determined to be a "right" before).

RE #4: Bill, constitutional lawyers have argued no better—beautiful. I want you with me if I can get a Second Amendment case to the Supreme Court!

Kevin Rumes

AI am considering opening a forum here in MGN so that we can beat this discussion around a little more. I happen to be a purist on the issue of the Second Amendment and believe that the only way you can lose the right is to abuse it—to endanger society, per se. I find it interesting that you point out that voting was not really considered a general "right" for all. It was intended to be for the land owning, nondebtor white men of a majority age of 21 or older, to vote in the representative government that would be fiscally responsible. I believe this had much to do with Jefferson's comments on "needing a revolution every 20 years." The apparent ability of all men to vote led to de Tocqueville's comments about how amazed he was that the rabble hadn't just voted in leaders who would give them anything they wanted, quickly losing the Republic. Maybe it just took a lot longer than young Alexis thought.

Well, there isn't really any one of the Bill of Rights that hasn't had its detractors and its day in the sun. The Tenth is about to come around: look at the Lopez decision and the land fight out west. Sadly, the Second Amendment—the final check in the system of checks and balances—falls a little more each time we allow our opponents to dictate the terms of the debate. We need to stay strong and keep hitting hard with the truth.

Don't let them talk about hunting and sport shooting. Make talk about self-defense and fundamental rights.

Questions to:

Dan Shea c/o MGN

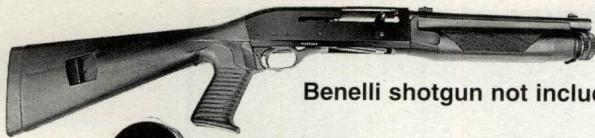
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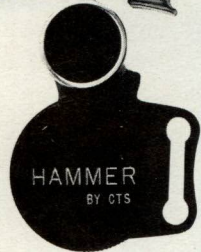
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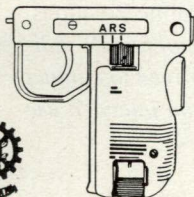
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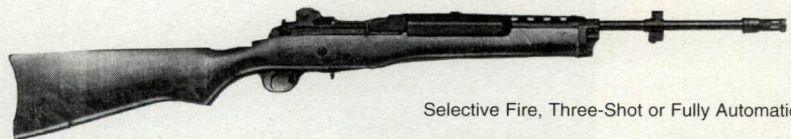
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☐ Wanted 110

☐ Ammunition 115

☐ For sale 120

☐ Fully Transferable 125

☐ Dealer Samples 130

☐ C&R 135

☐ MG Shoots/Shows 140

☐ Gun Parts 145

☐ Handguns 150

☐ Rifles 155

☐ Services Directory 160

☐ Suppressors 165

☐ AOW 170

☐ Destructive Devices 175

☐ Miscellaneous 180

☐ Magazines 185

☐ Books/Videos 190

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MGN ADVERTISER INDEX

Advertiser.	Page No.	Landies, Robert	6, 7
ADCO International	68	LMO	2, 9, 44, 45
ATN	53	Lomont, Kent A.	3
AWC Systems Technology	57	Maine Cartridge Comp. Inc.	55
Briklee Trading Co.	11	MGN, Binder	52
C3 System	59	MGN, Bulk Sales	47
Carolina Ordnance	48	MGN, Internet Info.	57
CD Surplus	56	MGN, Master Index	60
Class Three Supply	61	MGN, MGDB Update.	56
Delta Press	60	MGN, Subscription.	32
Dillon Precision Prod., Inc.	10	MGN, T-Shirt Ad	56
DLO Manufacturing	16, 37	Model "I"	29
DPMS	47	N.I.C. Inc.	60
E & L Manufacturing, Inc.	15	Navy Arms Company	33
Ernie's Class III Weapons	15	NFA	35
Excalibur Enterprises	14	Ohio Ordnance	4, 5
Galati International	38	R.A.S.E.	37, 52
Gemini Technologies, Inc.	43	Range Master Outfitters	66
Gene's Hunting Supplies	47	Select Fire.	53
Gunmachines	63	Soldier Of Fortune	49
Guns of Freedom Trading		Sound Technology	66
Cards	31	SSK Industries	35
Hoplite, Inc.	58	Stan's Gunsmithing.	52
I.M.A. Inc.	39	TASK Championship	55
J&T Surplus	43	The Hunting Shack, Inc.	59
John's Guns	16	Ultimate Weapons Systems.	57
Jonathan Arthur Ciener, Inc.	3	Vintage Pneumatics Corp.	38
Kiesler's Wholesale	17	Vollmer.	

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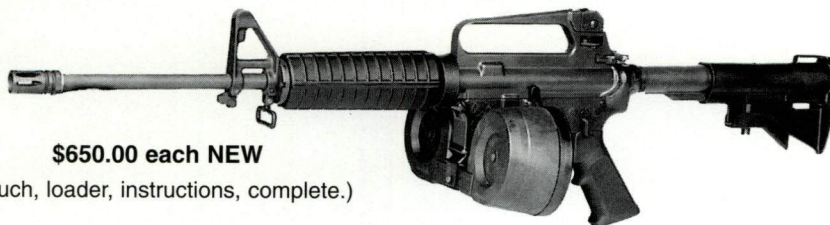
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