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FIREPOWER

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THE MAGAZINE OF EXOTIC WEAPONRY

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## .45 MINUTEMAN SMG

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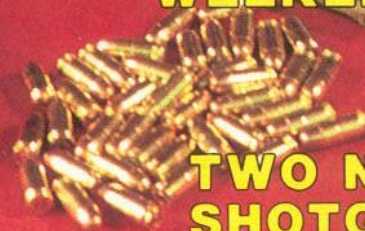


FAMILY  
FIREPOWER  
WEEKEND

## UZI

FULL AUTO  
CONVERSIONS:

MICRO UZI/UZI CARBINE



TWO NEW  
SHOTGUNS



WIN  
THIS GUN

SEE PAGE 59





# CONVERTING THE UZI CARBINE



By Nolan Wilson

# TO

# SELECT FIRE

In the July issue of *FIREPOWER*, we made the statement that the Uzi carbine was the most logical semi-automatic weapon to convert to select fire. To reiterate why, we refer you to that issue. In this article we want to take an overview into practical ways to accomplish the conversion. Also, we're assuming the reader is already familiar with the carbine mechanism.

Conversion methods have, because of BATF rulings, changed from what was done in the beginning. Early attention was focused on the bolt. Before commercially made, open firing bolts were available, only the skilled machinist would attempt to alter the existing bolt. Soon, bolts were marketed that were designed to replace the original. They were the same size and used the original recoil spring and large rubber buffer block. This, naturally, resulted in a faster than normal cyclic rate. These bolts had a groove machined into the side to clear the blocking bar. IMI had welded this bar inside the receiver to prevent the use of their standard SMG bolt. By altering the select lever, or simply removing it, full auto fire could be achieved with the new style bolts.

Before too long the BATF ruled that such a bolt constituted a machine gun by an interpretation of the statute that says: "... any part or group of parts that can readily convert ...". This means that possession of this bolt — now a legally defined



Starting them young on full auto is easy with this pint-sized "squad auto". Our basic select fire Uzi carbine is adorned with an Aimpoint sight and mount, a 22 inch barrel from Scherer, a flash hider from Feather Enterprises and a Ramline bipod.

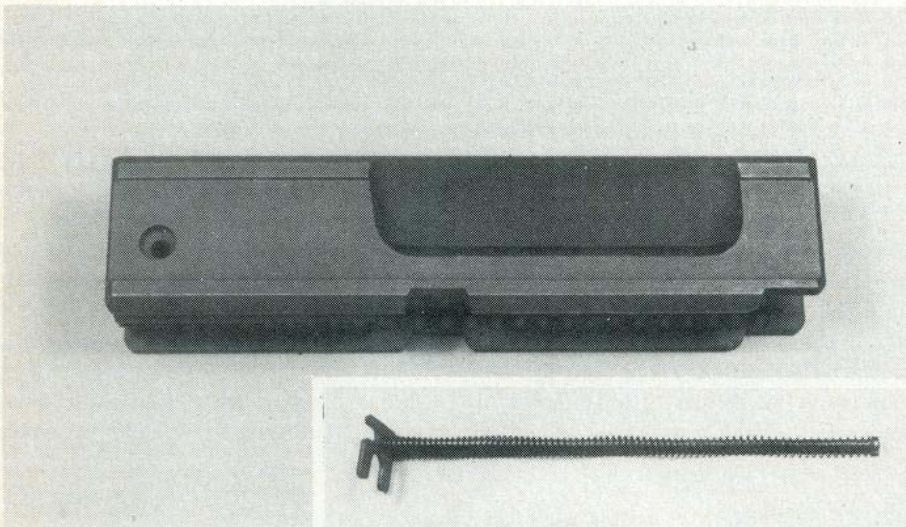
machine gun — must be accompanied by a \$200 tax stamp. The "machine gun" can then legally be installed into your carbine. However, don't add a short barrel to your "carbine" as this transforms it into a "short barreled rifle"! A bit confusing to say the least.

Today, such bolts have all but disappeared. The only thing that comes close is some that are still available where the slot has been plugged and welded. The user must remove the plug and has the responsibility of obtaining a BATF Form 1 approval before doing so. To complete this type of conversion, a new buffer/spring assembly must be added. These bolts are full (SMG) size and utilize a longer

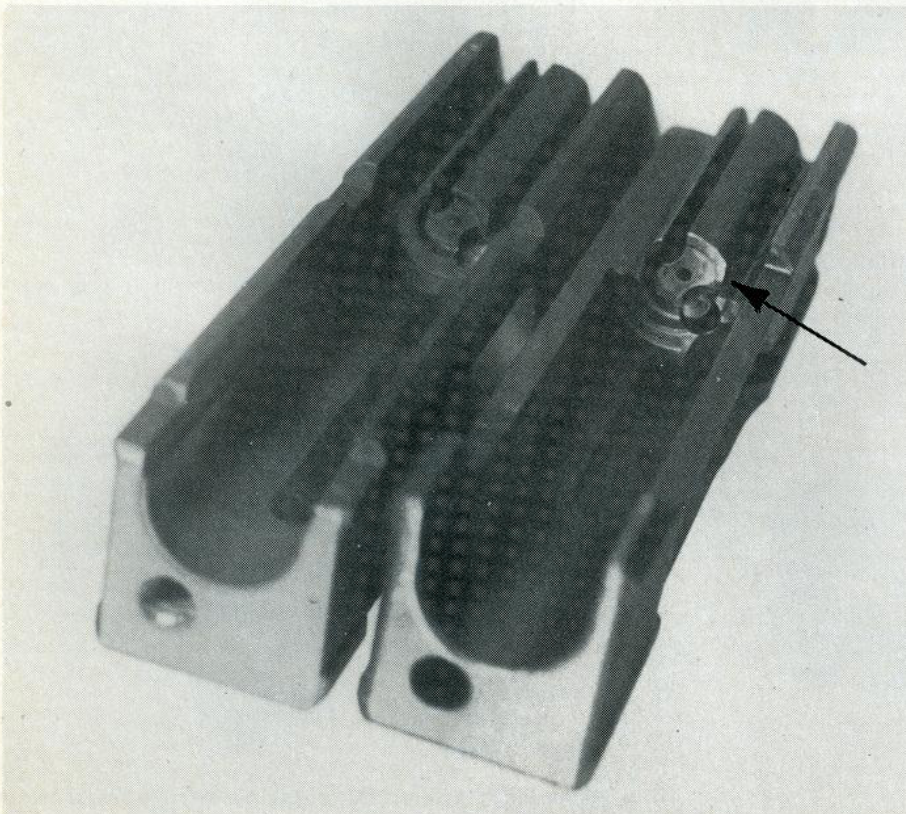




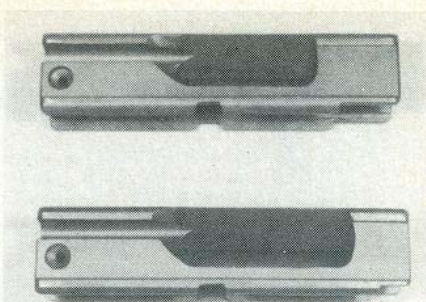
Uzi carbine in original configuration.



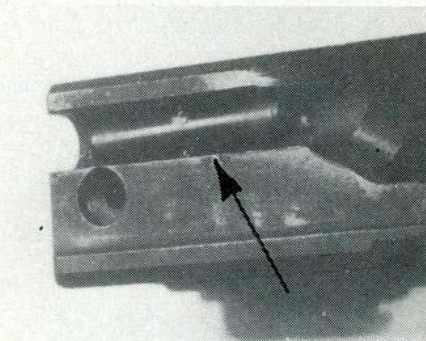
The bolt shown here is typical of the "open firing" type now available. The lack of a clearance groove requires altering the receiver to accept it. Presently, this bolt is not considered an NFA item. Inset: Replacement buffer/recoil spring assembly.



SMG bolt at left, semi-auto carbine bolt at right. Note how the rim of the bolt face has been removed on carbine bolt.



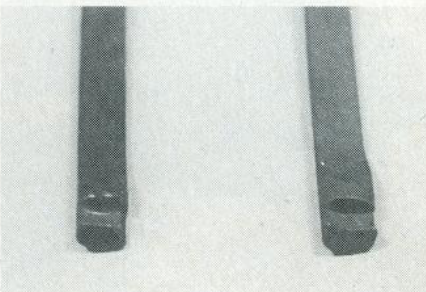
Top: One of the first replacement bolts to become available used original recoil spring and buffer. Bottom: "Full stroke" bolt required replacing buffer/recoil spring. Note that they both featured grooves to clear the receiver blocking bar. These type bolts have been declared "machine guns" by the BATF and are no longer available, except on Class III transfer.



Some manufacturers are getting around the BATF ruling by welding a bar into the groove. CAUTION: When the user removes this bar, a machine gun (by legal definition) has been created!

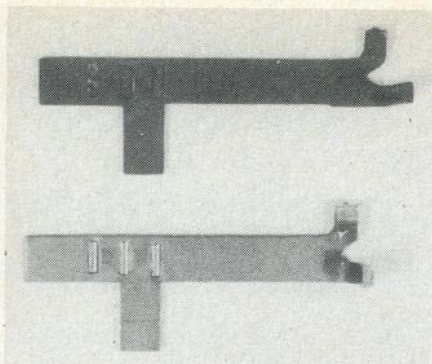
stroke. This necessitates elongating the rear of the cocking knob slot by 5/8 inch.

The trigger housing can be permanently altered into near "factory original" configuration or you can install one of the replacement levers such as the "Kicker" by Arm-Tec, Inc., and the "Two-Step" by Best Tool & Equip. Co. These selectors are cleverly made in such a manner as to allow select fire. Still providing a "safe" position, they require no machining of the lower housing. While



Replacement extractor at right has wider lip than original and is highly recommended when converting an Uzi.





This photo shows the original semi-auto select lever with a commercially available one, The Kicker. Note the dimensional differences between the two.

not necessary, a better appearance can be had by affixing a plate, either permanent or removable, that indicates the three selector positions.

Another method of conversion is to utilize an open firing bolt that is devoid of any clearance groove. These bolts are readily available and at this time are legal to purchase and possess. When you alter the receiver to accept one, then you need prior BATF approval. This complete conversion method is clearly

described in Firepower Publications title FP-4, *Select Fire Uzi*. When carefully done, it produces a nearly "factory original" submachine gun.

A small amount of machine work is required and can be accomplished with the most basic of tools. Probably the most difficult job is "neatly" using number and letter stamps to correctly indicate the select lever positions and to place your identification on the receiver.

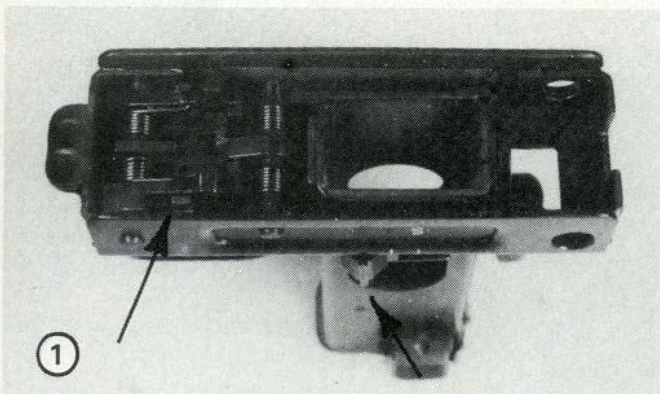
From an economic standpoint, you will have a good investment. A weapon will have been created that is worth more than was spent on the entire package. As we stated in the last issue of *FIREPOWER*, it makes little sense to make a select fire weapon when the cost exceeds what you would pay for a factory made one. However, in the case of the Uzi, the *only* select fire models which are legal for civilians to possess are those which have been converted from semi-auto *after* being imported into this country.

Besides the bolt, you will need a new buffer/spring assembly. Machine gun type extractors are also available and are a wise investment. The carbine

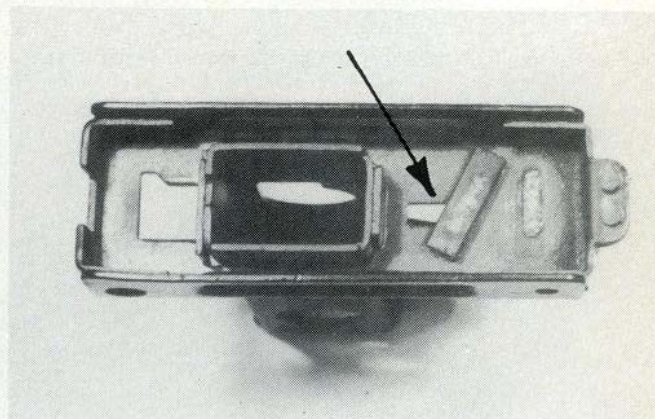
comes with an extractor that has had a corner machined off. The replacement features a wider lip and is considered more reliable. Another item which you might want, although the difference is purely cosmetic, is the small cover plate that covers the cocking knob slot. The original has some writing stamped on it while the replacement is plain.

One last replacement item that we feel is worthy of mention is the select lever knob. The original is molded from plastic and is rather small for quick, reliable operation. Best Tool & Equip., Hico, TX 76457, makes an ideal replacement knob. It is larger and is made of aluminum. It is available not only in black, but also in red or blue anodized finish.

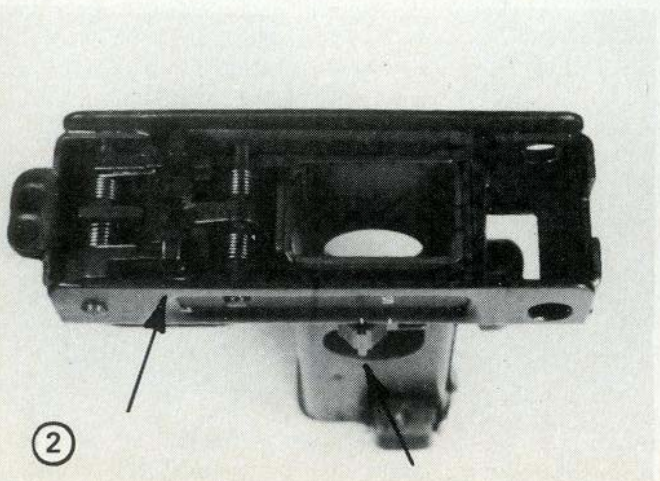
With all the short barrels available, one shouldn't even consider cutting the original carbine barrel down. Keep it as it is. Replacement barrels, in 10 inch length, can be purchased plain or threaded 1/2-28 with a removable adapter to fit the 9mm (MAC 10) Sionics suppressor. On the long side, a 22 inch "sniper" barrel is available from Scherer, Gilberts, IL 60136. We have



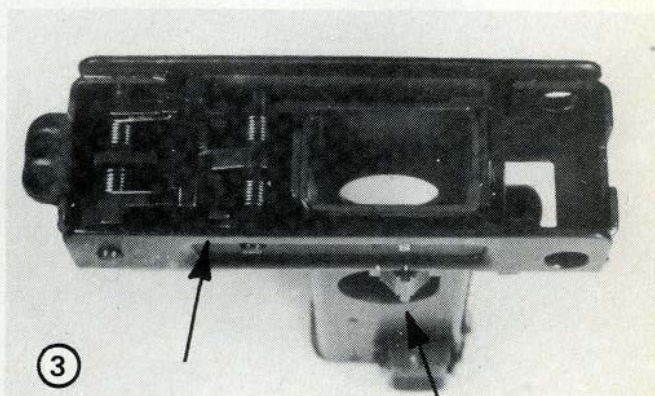
The trigger housing here has The Kicker installed. Note how it moves forward approximately 1/4 inch further than the original. In the position shown, semi-auto fire will result.



For conventional conversion (factory original) this block must be removed.



The Kicker in the center (safe) position (arrows).



The Kicker in the rear (full auto) position (arrows). Note that the original markings on the housing don't correspond to the function. A small plate with new markings could be epoxyed to the housing.



## LIST OF SUPPLIERS

Arm-Tec, Inc.  
976 Murfreesboro Rd.  
Nashville, TN 37217

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Pecan at Second  
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Gilberts, IL 60136

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1872 Marietta Blvd.  
Atlanta, GA 30318



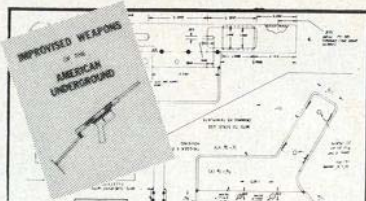
For a neat job the "F" is over stamped into an "R" and an "A" is stamped in the normal full auto position.

one installed and shown in this article. Equipped with a Feather Enterprises barrel shroud and flash hider, an Uzi wooden stock, Aimpoint sight and Ramline bipod, our "squad auto Uzi" is a real crowd pleaser, especially with the younger shooters (see page 60).



Left: Original selector knob. Right: Replacement knob, larger and made of aluminum, is a worthwhile addition.

## MINUTEMAN SUBMACHINE GUN



Improvised Weapons Of The American Underground is the original source of plans for the Minuteman SMG featured on pages 20-25 of this issue. In addition, it also includes articles on how to make nitroglycerin, plastic explosives, impact ignition & incendiary devices and silencers. Compiled from actual handbooks & other publications of various para-military

groups that were active in the 1960s. Of great academic interest to any student of arms development, pyrotechnics or paramilitary armament. Large 8 1/2 x 11 format, softcover. No. 110 . . \$6.95 + \$2.00 postage & handling.

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