

**RIGHT:** Hinged buttplate on the original UZI stock for access to storage compartment.

not accepted, and the design of a new stock was undertaken by Moti Zilbestien, a member of Galili's engineering department. Zilbestien was a skilled craftsman who had made much of the tooling used to put the UZI into production. It was imperative that the new stock provide a more stable shooting platform than folding stocks found on other guns. The centralized location of the UZI pistol grip left a natural gap under the rear half of the receiver. Zilbestien wanted to make use of that space for the folding stock, and his solution was inspired by motion of the human arm bending at the elbow and wrist.

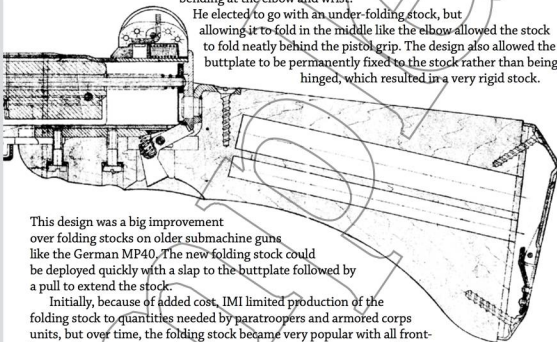
He elected to go with an under-folding stock, but allowing it to fold in the middle like the elbow allowed the stock to fold neatly behind the pistol grip. The design also allowed the buttplate to be permanently fixed to the stock rather than being hinged, which resulted in a very rigid stock.

**RIGHT:** IMI drawing of the original wooden UZI stock, including cutouts for the storage of cleaning supplies. (Courtesy Uzi Gal estate)

**BELOW:** Translation of UZI receiver markings. Note that the white brackets are not on the actual receiver markings. They appear here only to make it easier to understand what is being translated.

*Standard production (top):* Revisions tracked by major and minor version numbers.

*Preproduction receiver (bottom):* Preproduction test guns were marked with series "N" and Maflan, the small arms division of IMI.



This design was a big improvement over folding stocks on older submachine guns like the German MP40. The new folding stock could be deployed quickly with a slap to the buttplate followed by a pull to extend the stock.

Initially, because of added cost, IMI limited production of the folding stock to quantities needed by paratroopers and armored corps units, but over time, the folding stock became very popular with all front-line combat troops. Since the folding stock did not require any modifications to the receiver, existing UZIs could be retrofitted with the new stock, and many were.

**TRANSLATION**  
(right to left)  
[UZU] [machine gun]  
[3] [version] 2 [number]  
[Taas/IMI]



**TRANSLATION**  
(right to left)  
[N] [UZU] [machine gun]  
[Maflan]



Otomatik (Automatic)    Bodedet (Single)    Natzur (Safe)

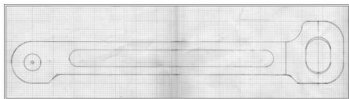


**ABOVE:** Guns produced for the IDF had Hebrew markings on the selector switch.

**LEFT:** IMI used three different sets of markings on the selector switch (shown from top to bottom): IDF-issued guns had Hebrew markings; standard export guns had English markings (Automatic, Repetition, Safe); guns made for the German military had German markings (*Dauerfeuer, Einzelfeuer, Sicher*)

**RIGHT:** Original hand drawing by Uzi Gal of the disconnecter for his Model 201. The drawing shows the tedious process of updating hand-drawn designs. This one was drawn on May 17, 1984, then updated May 22 and June 20 of that year. The actual part is shown with the drawing for comparison.

**RIGHT:** An early mock-up of the Model 201 with an aluminum lower receiver and pistol grip. It was not capable of hosting any of the fire control parts and was assembled for the purpose of evaluating the ergonomics of the design.



## The Model 201

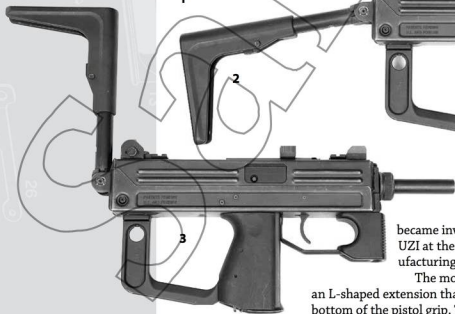
Gal's new design, eventually named the Model 201, was in many ways similar to his original UZI submachine gun. It had a square stamped steel receiver, a magazine that inserted into the pistol grip, an UZI-like bolt that telescoped around the barrel and a cocking handle on the top of the receiver. The Model 201 included functional improvements to all of those components, but Gal was particularly interested in enhancing the controllability of the gun when fired from the hip and shouldered positions. He believed firearm ergonomics played a significant role

in the success of a weapon and carefully considered it in his new design. The Model 201 was Gal's effort to improve the usability of his original UZI submachine gun. The time he could devote to the Model 201 project was limited because he was quite busy with the design of a new assault rifle for Action Manufacturing.

**RIGHT:** The Model 201 stock could be used in three positions:

- (1) Folded down, it made the gun compact for storage and could be shot like a pistol, using the off-hand to steady the resting bar against the shooting arm;
- (2) In the extended position, it made a comfortable and steady stock for shouldering the gun;
- (3) Folded up, the butt rests in the shooter's armpit to steady the gun when firing from the hip.

(Sturm, Ruger & Co., Inc. collection)



Gal asked Yehuda Webb, an engineer Gal had worked with at IMI, to move to the United States to assist him with the project. Webb moved in 1977, and the two began work on the new UZI. Progress on the Model 201 was delayed when Gal and Webb became involved in designing a civilian version of the UZI at the request of Harry Stern, owner of Action Manufacturing.

The most notable part of the Model 201 design was an L-shaped extension that connected the rear of the receiver to the bottom of the pistol grip. The bracket formed a resting bar that the

At least some senior members of the German army were dissatisfied with the UZI submachine gun. Several of their complaints about the gun revolved around the safety issue that had arisen, though there seemed to be an underlying resentment that a German-made weapon was not selected. Some in the German army strongly supported the Walther MPL submachine gun, even though it wasn't ready for general release until 1963. A letter was sent to IMI on August 9, 1960, that contained a long list of criticisms about the UZI. It included many references to the Walther MPL, suggesting that it was a superior design. The letter was forward to Uzi Gal for a response, even though Gal was no longer engaged with ongoing production of the UZI. The concerns expressed in the letter included:

- The opinion that it should not be possible to cock the gun when the selector is on safe.
- The gun occasionally fires two shots when the selector is on semi-automatic.
- The opinion that the grip safety was an unnecessary part of the design.
- The belief that the barrel mounting system was fragile.
- The opinion that the UZI had poor ergonomics, making it hard to handle.
- That the UZI was too heavy to fire one handed.

**FAR RIGHT:** Uzi Gal meets with German Minister of Defense Franz Josef Strauss in 1963.  
(Courtesy Uzi Gal estate)

**BELOW:** The February 1964 monthly status report sent from IMI to the German military showing the status of the order placed on October 10, 1961. The report shows the number manufactured, the number proof tested, and the number delivered.



- That the UZI magazines were not as good as the Walther magazines.

Gal sensed the biased tone of the letter and responded with an eight-page letter of his own, suggesting that the German correspondence was misleading, unprofessional and unwarranted. He strongly defended the UZI on the first five points but conceded that the last two points were valid. However, their impact was exaggerated.

#### Arsenal Marking

Sankt Wendel	"W"
Darmstadt	"D"
Hesedorf	"H"
Hedckler and Koch	"HK"

**Table:** Weapons that have been refurbished for the German army are typically stamped with the arsenal's marking. MP2s have been seen with the "W" and "D" markings. The marking is sometimes followed by a month and year indicator.

Despite the concerns expressed by some in the German military, orders for the MP2 continued. The agreement between Germany and Israel allowed the German military



## ISRAELI MILITARY INDUSTRIES

HEAD OFFICE  
TEL-AVIV P.O.B. 7929  
Cable: MISRAEL TEL-AVIV  
Telephone: 23-7341

EUROPEAN OFFICE  
PARIS

100 Bd. de la Defense Industrielle  
Cable: MISRAEL TEL-AVIV  
Telephone: 23-7341

TEL-AVIV 1.3.1964

TOUR NO.

OUR NO.

Monatsmeldung für den Monat Februar 1964

Auftragnummer: IM I Co/01/03171/001/1 vom 10.10.1961

#### Vertragsbestandteile:

5.000 Maschinepistolen Type "UZI" vollständig, mit abklappbarer Schließkammer  
22.500 " " " " " " " " mit Holzkolben  
165.000 Magazine zu je 33 Schuss  
55.000 Fragetaschen  
Erstattelle: 86 verschiedene Teile = 290.280 Stk.

#### Bisher wurden

	Gefertigt:	Übergeliefert:	Voranndt:
Maschinepistolen mit abklappbarer Schließkammer	1.000	5.000	5.000
Maschinepistolen mit Holzkolben	32.500	22.500	32.500
Magazine	165.000	165.000	165.000
Fragetaschen	55.000	55.000	55.000
Erstattelle	180.280 Stk.	180.280	199.400

#### In Monat Februar wurden:

	Gefertigt:	Übergeliefert:	Voranndt:
Maschinepistolen mit abklappbarer Schließkammer	-----	-----	-----
Maschinepistolen mit Holzkolben	-----	-----	-----
Magazine	-----	-----	-----
Fragetaschen	-----	-----	-----
Erstattelle	-----	-----	10.800 Stk.*

Deutsche Güteprüfstelle      Israeli Military Inspectorate.      Israeli Military Industries.

H. Dittgen 2001



Z. Lidor




**BELOW:** The new UZI required relatively few modifications to meet the U.S. Secret Service's specifications and could have been put into production by IMI with little impact to the gun's manufacturing cost. (Knights Armament, Inc. collection)

The initial request for a proposal from the Secret Service seemed specifically designed to eliminate the UZI as an option. Mossberg contested the RFP and did get some changes made, but the UZI still did not meet the requirements. The only option was to update the design of the 45-year-old gun, so UZI America worked with IMI to implement modifications that would enable the UZI to meet the new requirements set out by the Secret Service. At the June 1997 U.S. Secret Service Regional Combat Pistol Match, UZI America showed the new UZI submachine gun. The biggest change was that it fired from a closed bolt. While the bolt was similar in design to the closed bolt used in the semi-automatic UZI carbine, it had two important differences.




The bolt had a fully supported lip on the bottom of the bolt face, and it had a larger ejection port cutout. Both changes were needed to ensure reliable operation during full-auto fire. Unfortunately, the larger ejection port reduced the weight of the bolt, further increasing the gun's rate of fire. Other changes to the gun included an ambidextrous selector switch, a polygon rifled barrel, and a bolt hold-open device. The hold-open device was a simple addition


**BELOW, LEFT:** IMI letter certifying that the ten UZIs submitted to the U.S. Secret Service evaluation had undergone proof testing at the factory. **BELOW, RIGHT:** IMI letter certifying that the UZI submachine gun met U.S. Secret Service durability requirements. (Both are courtesy of Jonathan Mossberg)

  
התעשייה הצבאית לישראל בע"מ (תנש"מ)  
ISRAEL MILITARY INDUSTRIES LTD. (I.M.I.)  
WEAPONS GROUP קבוצת הנשק

פנטל "מגן" "MAGEN" PLANT  
אשרור כי יצא תוצר זה בדיוק  
CONFIRMATION of PROOF FIRING/PLI

שם הפרט: Uzi S.M.G. 9mm  
חומר: 10  
תאריך: 04 June 97

שם המאשר: A. Aspis  
חתימת המאשר: 

  
ISRAEL MILITARY INDUSTRIES LTD.

June 3, 1996

IMI - Small Arms Division manufactured and tested the delivered SMG's according to the requirements and guidelines of the IDF - Israel Defense Forces.

According to these requirements, the SMG's undergone a firing test of 6000 rounds.

During this firing session, the following is needed:

- a) 12 malfunctions that can be overcome by "immediate action" are allowed.
- b) Out of the above 12, two stoppages are allowed, which require disassembling of the SMG and the use of tools to replace parts.
- c) During the first 3000 rounds, no cracks or breakage in any part of the SMG is allowed.
- d) During the next 3000 rounds, no more than 2 parts to be replaced are allowed, except for the receiver, barrel, breach block and pistol grip (magazine housing), which are to remain perfect along the whole test.

We hereby declare that the SMG's submitted to you passed the above requirements successfully.

Dorot Cohen  
Marketing Dept.

P.O.B. 1044 Ramat Hasharon 47100 Israel ☎ 972-3-548588 FAX: 972-3-548589

**RIGHT:** Walther produced three versions of the UZI in .22 LR

- (1) The UZI Pistol,  
(2) the UZI International for countries without barrel length restrictions, and  
(3) the UZI Rifle with 18-inch barrel and fake suppressor for the United States.  
(Courtesy of Carl Walther GmbH)

**BELOW, LEFT:** Walther receivers are metal injection-molded and then milled to ensure that important dimensions are within specs. Milling also completes small areas that cannot be cast.

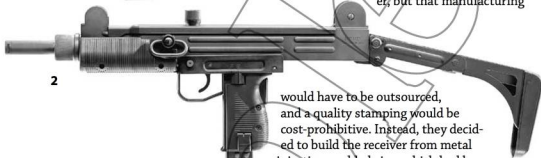
**BELOW, RIGHT:** A 3D CAD design station in Walther's research and development group. (Both photos courtesy of Carl Walther GmbH)



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the look of the UZI as close to the original as possible, while changing the internal construction in whatever way necessary to deliver a reliable and cost-effective gun. They knew these two goals were sometimes in conflict but essential to the success of the project.

IWI frequently used polymer components in its firearms and recommended that the new receivers should be made out of the same material, but the Walther designers knew that a metal receiver was needed to give the gun a weight and feel similar to the original UZI. The designers first considered using a stamped steel receiver, but that manufacturing



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would have to be outsourced, and a quality stamping would be cost-prohibitive. Instead, they decided to build the receiver from metal injection-molded zinc, which had been successfully used on other Walther firearms.



3

The walls of the receiver were made substantially thicker than the original UZI to yield a similar weight, and the thickness resulted in a very durable gun. The receiver was cast in two halves and was joined by two cross-bolts. The front-most bolt was also used to secure the front sling swivel on the UZI Rifle, which was positioned in the normal location. The barrel nut screwed over both halves of the receiver, which helped to secure the two receiver sections together and supported the barrel.

