

# Disguised Guns

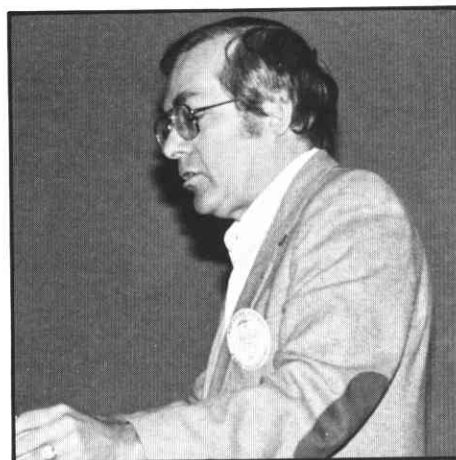
David H. Fink

It wasn't long ago that a defector from an iron curtain country was shot with a tiny poison pellet as he was boarding a bus in London. The gun firing the fatal shot was disguised as an umbrella! Neither the assassin nor his umbrella were captured.

Putting a gun in an umbrella is cunning and clever, but not original. The piece shown in Figure One is a classic example of a British gentleman's bumbershoot. The fine black umbrella is marked "Armstrong reg. British Make" and "Best London Maker." The shaft of the umbrella is a blued steel underhammer percussion rifle. The bore is .36 caliber. The ramrod fits into the barrel with the point serving to disguise and protect the end of the bore from damage and fouling. The handle is marked "Richard Grinell 1860." I suspect that Grinell was the owner of this piece, rather than the maker, as I have not been able to find any evidence of a gun maker by this name in this period.

The Grinell piece is especially unusual as it uses the entire shaft of the umbrella as a barrel. Other examples of umbrella guns have been observed where a small pepperbox revolver is concealed in the handle and withdrawn from the shaft for use.

Hiding a gun in a lock can result in some startling surprises. Figures Two (front) and Three (back) illustrate a much-pictured firearm whose pedigree goes back to the famous Charles Noé Daly collection. It was one of the most prized pieces in the collection of Eddie Reider. This piece, sometimes referred to as the "Knock Knock Who's There" gun, is a puzzle, a trap, an alarm, and a disguised gun. It purportedly came from the door of a treasure room in an Austrian castle. One must be both sober and careful to unlock this piece without getting shot. The mechanism has three secrets. The first is finding the key hole. The place for the key is revealed by pushing the lintel above the door to the left, pushing up on the right column, and then pushing the bottom of the door frame to the right. The little doors then pop open, revealing the key hole. The key is then inserted in the hole, and the real test is at hand: there are different "depths" to which the key may be inserted in the lock. If you go to the wrong depth or turn in the wrong direction, the little decorated cover over the door flies open, the hammer at the back of the lock falls, and a .36 caliber ball is discharged out of the two inch barrel. The last secret



involves re-cocking the piece. This is also done by using the key, which is inserted to a cocking depth and turned to arm the piece.

There are other lock combinations, but very few that became the subject of a U.S. patent. Figures Four (closed) and Five (open) show what appears to be a common brass steamer trunk lock. This piece was patented by Dr. Edward N. Case of Chicago, Illinois, in 1898. It is loaded with a .32 center fire blank, cocked and locked. The device is only triggered if someone slides a tool behind the hasp and attempts to pry the lock off the trunk. Very few, probably less than ten, of these steamer trunk guns are known. Dr. Case also patented cartridge firing bicycle locks; there are several surviving examples of these.

One well known English firearms maker applied his patented action to at least three different disguised combinations. In 1823, John Day of Barnstaple, Devon, England, was granted a British patent for an underhammer action cane gun. Item 2 of Figure Six shows the Day patent cane gun with its detachable stock. The cane looks innocent enough at a distance, but when ready for use, the stock is taken from hiding and attached: presto, an efficient shotgun. The Day cane guns are very well made and many examples survive. The Day truncheon pistol also appears to have been made in some quantity as there are numerous examples. Item 3 of Figure Six is a standard Day patent truncheon pistol. These are sometimes found cased, gold washed, and with barrels in varying lengths.

The rarest of the Day's patent underhammers is the pistol concealed in a buggywhip, Figure Six, Item 1. The

*Photographs by L.D. Eberhart*

pistol action inserts into the base of the buggywhip. With a twist of the handle, it can be withdrawn, cocked and fired. This piece has a blackened lacquer finish and the end of the action is in the shape of a brass hammer, possibly for resetting loose horseshoe nails. The action on this piece bears a brass plaque with the Day's patent coat of arms and legend reading "Hubbard New Gate Street." This brass plaque is found on many of the Day cane guns. The meaning of the "Hubbard" marking remains for further research.

The disguising of a firearm as a cane is so common that only a few examples will be touched upon in this article; there are hundreds of different examples. For those who wish the definitive reference, I suggest Mme. Catherine Dike's excellent book, *Cane Curiosa*.

The cane gun in Figure Seven is exceptional for several reasons. This is a concealed *flintlock* design: the nature of a flintlock did not lend itself to easy concealability. Henry William Vander Kleff was granted British patent number 3837 of 1814 for "Method of Constructing a Walking Staff to Contain Pistol, Powder, Ball and Screw Telescope, Pen, Ink, Paper, Pencil, Knife and Drawing Utensils." Kleff probably found a very limited market for the canes containing such a full line of paraphernalia, although examples are known. There are more examples of the cane hiding only a sword and a gun. This example is marked "Dobson and Baker London." Most examples carry a Kleff marking, but almost identical pieces are found bearing different maker's names. These may be licensees or retailers of the Kleff design.

The next cane gun, Figure Eight, is also a double weapon, containing both gun and blade. This French piece was patented by P. Touchard in 1884 and is marked, "P.T. Brevet SGDG." It has a single action 6 shot .22 rimfire pepperbox, with a five inch four sided bayonet, extending from the center rim. A brass snake with red glass eyes coiled around the exterior of the cane distracts from the real threat inside.

The Japanese made an extremely well-disguised cane gun. This (Figure Nine, Item One) is a copy of the standard European bayonet action cane gun that pulls apart, exposing the chamber for a 15mm centerfire shot cartridge. The Japanese markings indicate Tokyo manufacture about 1930. A silver band near the handle is twisted to expose the concealed trigger. The piece is blued steel machined to look like bamboo. There are similar examples in other calibres.

American inventors were not blind to the possibilities of concealing a gun in a walking stick. Figure Nine, Item 3, shows a rare Robert Lambert patent cane gun. This complex piece of machinery was patented on February 27, 1832. To operate, the cane handle is pulled backwards, exposing the action, which is in the ivory

handle. A further pull causes the cap at the cane tip to drop away, exposing the muzzle. Pushing down on the action automatically cocks the piece and drops the trigger for firing. This heavy and complicated piece is purported to be the first firearm manufactured by Ethan Allen, who went on to manufacture all manner of rifles, pistols, and shotguns which are so familiar to collectors. Exact Lambert cane gun production is unknown, but surviving pieces are very rare and, when found, are often modified or in battered condition.

The final cane gun shown here, Figure Nine, Item 2, is one of the best-disguised pieces. This is the standard Remington .22 rimfire calibre cane gun with a doghead grip. The doghead on this piece has special features including ivory eyes, silver teeth and a silver plaque between his eyes. The barrel is only 9 inches long from the action; the balance of the cane from the front of the barrel is a hollow tube. The gun was operated by unscrewing the action from the barrel, putting in a cartridge, screwing the action back on, cocking the piece with a pull to the rear. The piece was then fired by pressing a small button.

These Remington pieces, made from 1858 to 1861 in percussion and from 1862 to 1885 in cartridge, were patented in 1858 by John F. Thomas and made in four handle types: ball and claw, bulbous, plain, and dog's head. Current research indicates a production of approximately 2,300 of all types.

Legend has it that jailers wanted to have a gun handy at all times when dealing with dangerous criminals. The large jail keys lent themselves well to being bored out and vented to provide a crude pistol. It is rare that there isn't at least one example at any large gun show. The problem is that it is almost impossible to tell if that old key became a gun 150 years ago, or two weeks ago. The following two examples appear to be authentic, but certainty on these objects is almost impossible.

The first, Figure Ten, is a matchlock key of derringer size. It is all iron construction with a combination matchholder and trigger. The addition of a flash pan improves its function as a fire arm. Like most key guns, it is totally unmarked.

The second key gun, Figure Eleven, is more interesting. This brass key is marked on the right frame, "C. Bechtler" and "Rutherford North Carolina" on the left frame; another Bechtler firearm bears similar markings. The markings are in well executed script. Christopher Bechtler was a gunsmith and jeweler who minted some of the gold discovered in North Carolina in 1830's and 40's. This piece is a pill lock, using a small pellet of fulminate to ignite the charge in the barrel.

The truncheon pistol in Figure Twelve, believed to be of American origin, is completely unmarked. The

hammer folds flush with the body of the piece: cocking the hammer exposes the concealed trigger of this well made and well concealed firearm.

The standard Japanese writing kit included an ink pot and a handle which held the brushes. One of these is illustrated in Figure Thirteen, Item 2. The scribe kit shown just above it holds not only a brush and ink, but also a very fine pill lock pistol. The "brush holder" is actually the pistol barrel. The highly embossed cleaning rod shown below the pistol unscrews to reveal the scribe's brush and a small dagger. Included with this piece is a small silver dipper to measure the correct powder charge. This piece in its Japanese lacquered box is shown in Figure Fourteen.

Another more common Japanese disguised gun is illustrated in Figure Fifteen. In the 1870's, the Samurai were forbidden to carry the Katana long sword. One could still carry what looked like a purely defensive Tanto and still be well armed by carrying a "Tanju Aikuchi" disguised gun. The action of this piece was tailored to fit into a knife scabbard. These pieces are found plain and highly decorated. Some have attached dagger blades, making them not only disguised weapons but combination pieces.

As the band marched off to the Civil War, there was one flute player who felt more secure than the others. He had a .32 caliber percussion pistol built into his Firth, Hall & Pond flute. The long slender bar at the left end of the flute controlled the percussion hammer for firing the 2½ inch barrel on the concealed pistol. Ivory fittings and silver plated furniture show this fine instrument (in Figure Sixteen) was meant to play as well as shoot.

Figure Seventeen shows a very well-made percussion shotgun. The action folds entirely within the stock. The barrel unscrews and can be carried as a cane with the rest of the piece concealed. Marked, "PAR Brevet Resset & Cie."

The item on the right in Figure Eighteen shows what looks like a cheap pocket watch, slightly larger than a silver dollar. This watch doesn't tell time because the interior has been removed and replaced with an ingeniously designed percussion pistol that fires out of the stem of the watch. When the piece is loaded and cocked, it is fired by pressing the small button just to the right of the stem. The barrel is 1½ inch long and fires a .22 ball. This piece is unmarked. The origin and date of manufacture are not known. A design for a cartridge watch gun was patented in the U.S.A. (patent number 1,073,312) in 1915 by Leonard Woods. The author has never seen a verifiable example of the Woods gun.

Bicycles were the rage of the 1890's. Many bicyclists feared attack by dogs and being ambushed by muggers. Things haven't changed too much. Figure Nineteen shows

one inventor's answer to this problem. This gun is disguised to look like a handlebar grip. The "sheath" part locked to the end of the handlebar with a locking nut. The pistol fits into the sheath with the nose of the pinfire hammer locking to the sheath. A slight pull on the trigger raises the hammer and releases the gun. Marked "I Herman Brevet" and "Belgium."

A well known disguised gun is the purse pistol patented by O. Frankenau in 1877 (Figure Twenty). The 5 mm pinfire revolver is built into a lady's evening purse. Pressing a button on the side of the purse causes a gun port to open and a trigger pops out. It can be fired six times without opening the purse. Patented in both the United States and Great Britain, serial numbers indicate a total production of approximately 1,000 pieces.

The appearance in 1981 and 1982 of some very fine ring guns caused a ripple of excitement among curiosa collectors. No similar pieces had ever come to light before. The rings were engraved and very well finished. The design was ingenious and each was beautifully "French" cased in a "ring box" of the 1880 period. A silver plate is set in the lid of each case (Figure Twenty-one). The single shot percussion pieces are engraved "Le Petit Protecteur" on the ring and on the silver plate of the case. The three shot pinfire model is marked "Le Petit Guardian."

Figure Twenty-two shows the .17 caliber percussion dome ring. The firing chamber rotates to permit easy capping. The case is complete with tiny caps to fit the nipple. The piece is cocked by moving the hammer with the fingernail and fired by the lever on the opposite side of the ring. Figure Twenty-three shows the 3 shot pinfire model. This operates on the same mechanism as the "dome" model but uses a 4 mm (.161 inch) pinfire cartridge in a 3 shot hand-rotated cylinder. The cylinder is blued and has a Belgian ELG proof mark. A five shot model is also known. Two empty pinfire cases came with the set.

Each of these rings appears to be hand made and the examples are all in different sizes and metals: brass, German silver and sterling silver. Most of the dome models have a fixed chamber and do not revolve as does the one in Figure Twenty-two. These pieces are extremely clever, well crafted and unique miniaturized designs. The rings were purported to be part of a cache from the estate of an English gunlock maker who died many years ago, which were not sold until the current heirs decided to part with them. Unfortunately, the story hasn't been verified and we must wait until confirmation or confession reveals their true source. They are not serial numbered; approximately 15 (all types) of these originally appeared. Since then, they have received the compliment of being copied, with most copies being relatively

crude and cheap in construction.

Guns concealed on or in a belt have always fascinated collectors. The earliest patented piece known was patented in 1858 in England by Henry Ball. His belt pistol was meant to counter an attack from the rear and was worn on the backside of the belt. His patent describes his invention as, "An anti-garrotter' firearm attached to the belt . . . for use by people afraid of being garroted."

Figure Twenty-four shows an American copy of the metal portion of the Ball patent gun. The original configuration of the piece included a leather belt to which the gun was riveted. A string traveled from the trigger mechanism on the percussion pistol, through the belt, up the sleeve and attached to a ring on the wearer's hand. By rapidly raising the arm, the gun was fired. This would ruin the wearer's sport jacket, but would certainly deter anyone who might have just put a rope around your neck.

In 1934 a German inventor named Louis Marquis patented the multi-shot belt pistol shown in Figures Twenty-five and Twenty-six. This is a pepperbox design which chambers 12, .22 short cartridges. It is a double action system that fires each time the lever on the left bottom is operated. There are only two known examples of this firearm and it is believed that this is the first time this firearm has been pictured. It was part of the Eddie Reider collection for many years prior to his death.

Louis Marquis did not cease his design efforts after the creation of the 1934 model belt pistol. The puny .22 cartridge of the 1934 model was almost as long as the chamber from which it was fired and it is likely that it was inadequate in both power and accuracy. Louis Marquis went on to design and build what has become known as the Nazi belt pistol. Figures Twenty-seven and Twenty-eight show an example of the 1943 Nazi belt pistol believed to be authentic. It is chambered for a .32 caliber ACP cartridge; the bores are not rifled. A signed statement from an Army officer who served in the OSS during World War II claims he was present when a box of ten of these two shot belt pistols were turned in to his unit by the G.I.s who captured them.

The piece shown in Figures Twenty-seven and Twenty-eight operates as follows: The lid is dropped manually and the levers above and below the triggers are squeezed. This causes the folded barrels to pop out and lock. The two triggers are then pressed; each trigger fires one barrel. Another of these fine and fully functional two barrel belt pistols is illustrated in the April, 1978, issue of *Guns and Ammo*.

These Nazi belt pistols have fascinated me for many years. I have kept a research file on these since 1968. I have photographs of over 20 different guns. These come in many different configurations and designs. They range

from the very-good-try category to the unbelievably crude. The *Waffen-Revue* printed a lengthy exposé in 1972 outlining the spate of copies that appeared in late 1960s and early 1970s. I hope some day to obtain the "Rosetta Stone" of verifiable Nazi belt pistols and do the definitive article that will clear forever the uncertainty surrounding this legend of Nazi firearms.

The next belt pistol is also a product of World War II. Figure Twenty-nine shows what appears to be a small Japanese belt and buckle. Figure Thirty shows the back side of the buckle and a rather crude mechanism which will fire a tiny 4 mm rimfire cartridge. The hammer is held by a notch on the face of the receiver. A small knob at the catch point is used to nudge the hammer free, which falls and fires the gun. The belt had to be unhooked to fire: see Figure Thirty-one. It may have been that when the sword was surrendered, the belt would be unhooked and this buckle could then be fired as a last hostile shot or as a "hari-kari" bullet. This is the only known example of this Japanese belt pistol.

Pens have been used to conceal firearms since the introduction of the fountain pen. Most examples are homemade items or gas shooters of little interest to collectors. Figure Thirty-two shows a true quality firearm in a pen gun. This is an all blued steel piece manufactured by R.F. Sedgley, Inc. of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania and so marked. The *rifled* barrel unscrews to accept a .22 short cartridge. The cocking lever is pulled to the rear, exposing a button that locks the firing pin and is pushed to fire the gun. The three inch barrel makes a nice shooting, relatively accurate firearm. This item was patented in 1928 and made only until 1933.

While pen guns are common and even Colt made a gas-shooting pen gun in the 1960s, a pencil gun is the exception. Figure Thirty-three shows a mechanical lead pencil that will also shoot a .32 S&W gas cartridge. The range for this piece was stated to be 4 to 12 feet.

Probably the most interesting of all the pen guns are the military examples made for the OSS. Figure Thirty-four shows two different models. The top piece has a slender barrel which was replaced with a heavier barrel in the second model shown below. These pieces are only 3¼ inches long and fire a .22 short. They are not reloadable and are meant to be fired and discarded. The piece was manufactured cocked and loaded. The pocket clip was the operating trigger. To fire, the pocket clip was raised, moved rearward until the two ears rested above the wire spring that acted as a sear. The clip was then depressed causing the wire sear to move outward releasing the striker and firing the gun. These pieces appear to have had a very low survival rate and are rarely seen today. They are eagerly sought after by collectors of OSS and military guns.

A piece of similar purpose of the Viet Nam era is the Stinger produced by Military Armaments Corp. of Powder Springs, Georgia. These were made for sale to the CIA and special forces personnel as a last ditch backup weapon. It fires a .22 long rifle hollow point cartridge and was intended to have effective range of up to 15 feet. Figure Thirty-five shows this stubby little killer with its garter for fastening to your underwear. Unlike the earlier stinger, this piece is reloadable; it also has a safety. These pieces were the creation of the legendary Mitch Werbell, soldier of fortune and the maker of the MAC submachine gun.

Another of the "pen gun" type designs is a seemingly harmless lipstick case of late 1960s manufacture, Figure Thirty-six. This piece is unmarked. It was owned by an Army officer who stated that it was one of two pieces created for undercover personnel. The other piece was a .22 built into the handle of a common safety razor. The lipstick is cocked and fired by maneuvering and turning the ring at the center of the lipstick. It can be reloaded and appears to be a safe and effective design. No examples of the razor gun are known.

Seeing these disguised guns suggests that there are back rooms in the bowels of "agencies" of many governments where gnomes toil away at creating covert weapons. The makers do not patent or even mark their creations; not only do they fail to take credit for their ingenious designs, they would probably deny involvement if confronted. War time changes this environment and the covert becomes the overt. A good example of this is the patented (and marked) disguised weapon known as a "Fist Gun," Figure Thirty-seven. The fist gun patent was filed by Stanley M. Haight, United States Navy, on February 29, 1944, and granted July 8, 1947. Haight stated in his patent application that the gun attached to the back of a glove was "... to provide the wearer with a lethal weapon which he may keep attached to his person at all times ... due to the surprise nature of modern combat, ... the attacked personnel are frequently caught ... unarmed in that they have laid aside their normal arms while engaged in other duties. (While the Haight gun is worn) the wearer need only double up the fist of the hand to which the weapon is attached, and strike his adversary."

Haight's other claims for his design were its concealability and that it could be used as an effective "brass knuckle" even after its single shot was discharged. The piece is reloadable, but the demands of hand to hand combat might make reloading inconvenient.

Figure Thirty-seven shows the production model of the first pistol, which fires a .38 S&W cartridge. It is fully marked, showing the maker as R.F. Sedgley, Inc. It is serial numbered and stamped "US Navy Property." From

the numbers known, it is likely that there were approximately 50 of these produced.

Figure Thirty-eight shows the pre-production, or patent model Haight pistol. The action is contained in a plexiglass block; the design is the same as shown in the patent application. It is chambered for a .41 caliber cartridge; the patent states the gun was intended to fire a shotgun shell. This was abandoned in production, in favor of the more conventional .32 S&W cartridge. The Haight guns are some of the rarest Navy "hand guns."

Haight mentions another rare hidden firearm design in his patent application. He refers to Elek B. Juhasz of Lebanon, Pennsylvania, who was granted a patent on August 27, 1927, for a weapon attached to the wearer's arm. This "sleeve" gun was strapped to the underside of the wrist (see Figure Thirty-nine). A string from the trigger is clipped to a ring on the wearer's hand. The wearer fires the gun by extending his arm and raising his hand. The rarity of these pieces is probably due to the fact that part of your hand and arm were directly above and in front of the gun when it fired. One trial shot was probably enough to cause this gun to be tossed aside while the wearer sought first aid for powder burns. The patent drawing shows the intention of the wrist pistol was to shoot a centerfire ball cartridge, but the known examples of this gun seem to indicate that it was chambered for a gas cartridge.

Attaching a flashlight to a gun is nothing unusual, but it is a "man bites dog" situation to find a gun incorporated into a flashlight. S.P. Cottrell & Son of Buffalo, New York, produced a standard two cell flashlight with a seven shot .22 caliber double action revolver built in (Figure Forty). The markings indicate a 1923 patent and an advertising folder states, "Aiming is unnecessary as the bullet must travel to the center of the light." The price was \$12.00. There must not have been many sold, as these are rare today.

An even rarer example of a gun concealed in a flashlight is the "Protecto-O-Lite," Figure Forty-one. This heavy duty flashlight takes two .38 special rounds in removable chambers. The reflector is set to the side in the larger face of the flashlight, allowing space for the muzzles of the barrels beside the reflector. It came with a set of .22 chambers that could be substituted for the .38 caliber ones. The only known example is marked to indicate manufacture in Los Angeles, California. This heavy, well manufactured and marked piece was probably in conflict with federal firearms restrictions and the manufacture was stopped before any significant production was achieved.

No article on disguised guns would be complete without some mention of knives constructed to conceal a firearm. Fortunately, Gordon Frost has given exhaustive



coverage of this subject in his excellent work, *Blades and Barrels*, which is highly recommended to all collectors of oddities and disguised firearms.

Some knives conceal a firearm so well it is difficult to find the gun even as you hold the knife in your hand: such is the Resl knife pistol shown in Figure Forty-two. The barrel lies parallel to the back of the knife. The hammer folds to disguise its presence and the serrated "screw" in the middle of the grip is actually the trigger which fires the weapon after the hammer is cocked. This gun fires a .22 short round and dates circa 1895.

Who would suspect a gentleman sitting quietly holding an unlit pipe in his mouth of concealing a deadly weapon. The pipe is the culprit. Figure Forty-three, Item 2, shows an aluminum-stemmed piece marked "Sweetheart Patent Pending" and "Made in USA." The gun is loaded by removing the mouthpiece, unscrewing the barrel and chambering a .22 short. There is a spring loaded firing pin that is pulled back by a knob and released to fire the round. This piece looks like it came into being as a pipe in the 1930s or 1940s and was made into a gun by a clever gunsmith.

The next pipe gun, Figure Forty-three, Item 1, was meant to be a gun from the beginning. The black enamel barrel is the mouthpiece. The barrel is unscrewed to load a 7mm cartridge and fired in the same manner as the "Sweetheart." The bowl of this gun has a metal cover marked, "Bukson DRGM." When the cover is removed, it exposes the "bowl" of the pipe, which is drilled to store four cartridges. This is the only example of this gun known to this author; it is of German manufacture, circa 1935.

This sampling of disguised guns, although lengthy, is not a complete listing by any stretch of the imagination: guns have been disguised as the shift lever of an automobile, a Volkswagon jack handle, socket wrench, Japanese saki bottle, a Zippo lighter, an ivory pill box, etc. There is the story told about Eddie Reider, a lifelong collector of firearms curiosa, who displayed his collection at an American Society meeting years ago. In his display was a beer can which contained a well disguised gun. He set up his display in the evening, but when he came into the room the next morning, the "beer can" was gone from the display. How could a gun be stolen from a locked room with guards watching at all times; and if it was stolen, why was that one gun taken from all treasures in the room? It was soon deduced that the cleaning crew had seen the empty "beer can," tossed it in the trash and thrown it out. It was never recovered.

A highly skilled machinist and gun collector heard the story of Eddie Reiders' beer can gun and decided that my collection needed such a piece. Figure Forty-four shows what appears to be a Pepsi can: this Pepsi can has

a .50 caliber percussion pistol built into it. The muzzle is flush with the hole left after the pop top is removed. The nipple and hammer are inside the can and the trigger is in the bottom where it can be reached with only a slight movement of the hand. The action seen to the right in Figure Forty-four is exposed by unlocking a clip in the bottom of the can and sliding the mechanism from the body of the can.

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The Pepsi can is a good example of some of the fascination in collecting disguised guns as well as some of the problems. Many disguised guns were made for activity that was clandestine or criminal; the makers of these guns did not want to advertise their handiwork. The result is a group of firearms which are very rare or unique, are unmarked or deceptively marked, and are difficult to authenticate. The information I have indicated here about these firearms is as authentic and verifiable as my research and 29 years of collecting experience can provide. Yet I acknowledge that there is room for other opinions on many of the pieces described. Please feel free to contact me and set me straight wherever your research or experience brings you to a different conclusion than the one I have stated here.

Any treatment of the subject of disguised guns would be incomplete without a few words about the Gun Act of 1968 as it applies to these pieces. Some of the disguised guns pictured here come under the National Firearms Section of the 1968 Gun Act. This section requires registration with the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco & Firearms (BATF) of any firearm falling under the definition of an "any other weapon" as set out in the Act. Once a gun is registered, it can be transferred by making application to the BATF and paying a \$5.00 transfer fee. A gun that is required to be registered and is not registered, cannot now be registered. The last "amnesty" for registering "any other weapon" firearms expired in 1968.

The question that always arises is whether or not a particular piece falls within the definition "any other weapon" requiring registration. This is not always an easy question to answer. To give some idea of the difficulty in applying the Act to a particular weapon, the Haight fist pistol described in this article appears in two places on the BATF regulations. It appears as an "OSS glove pistol, caliber 38 S&W" in Section III.a as a curio and relic removed from the provisions requiring registration. It *also* appears described as a "Sedgley, glove pistol .38 centerfire . . ." under Section IV for firearms that require registration. I can only suggest that one use caution and seek expert advice if there appears to be any question about a particular firearm.

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### DISGUISED GUNS RARITY SCALE:

1. 10 or less examples known
2. Very rare — seldom seen
3. Rare — difficult to obtain
4. Scarce — difficult to obtain good examples
5. Common — good examples often available

This is a subjective scale prepared from the author's experience; the scale is keyed "RS-1," "RS-2," etc. in the captions.

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29. Tylerson, A.W.F., *The Revolver 1888-1914*, London, 1971.
30. Winant, Louis, *Firearms Curiosa*, New York, 1955.

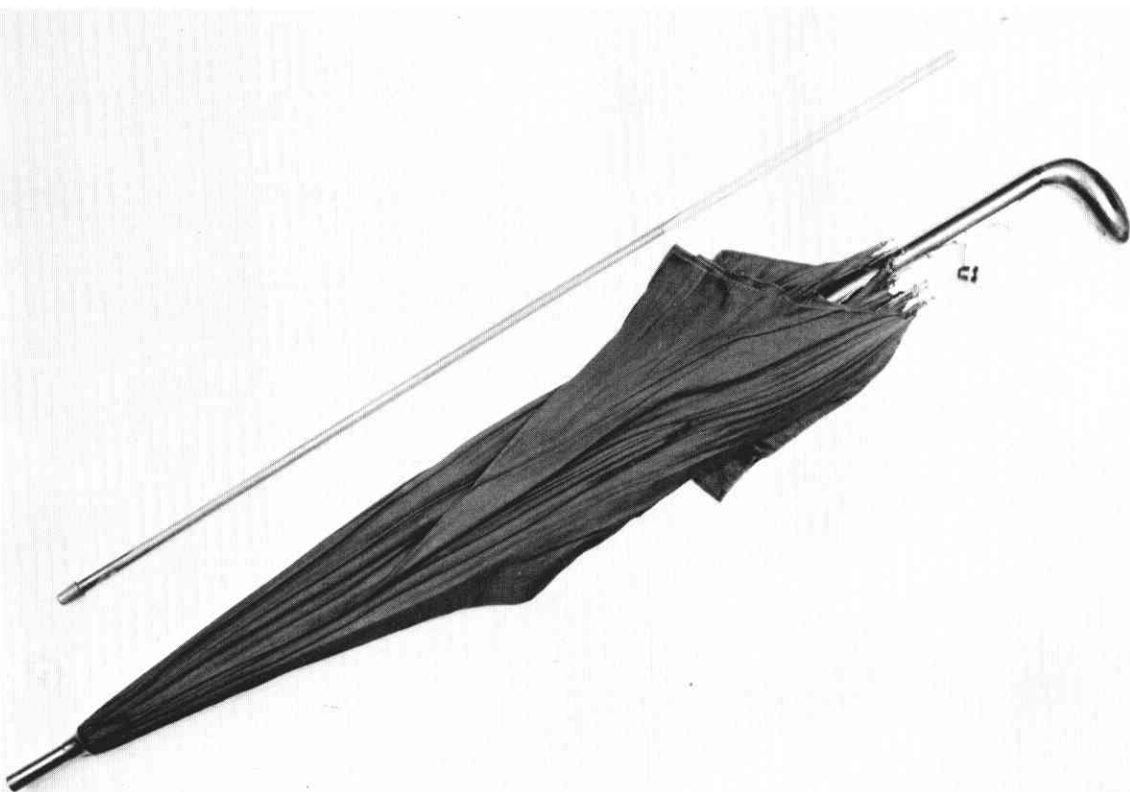


Figure 1. Umbrella Gun. .36 percussion; England; circa 1860. 34" overall. Marked "Richard Grinell 1860." RS-1



Figure 2. Treasure Room Lock Gun. Austrian; circa 1840. Face 4¼" x 2½"; lock mechanism 4¾" x 4¾". RS-1

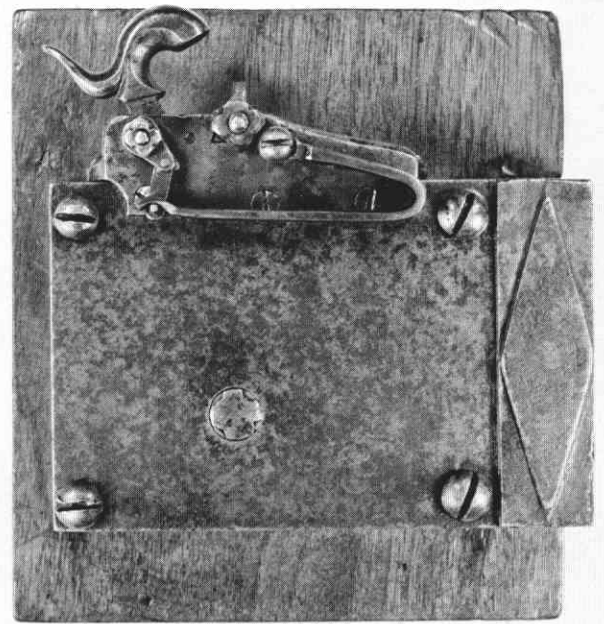


Figure 3. Treasure Room Lock Gun, Rear view.

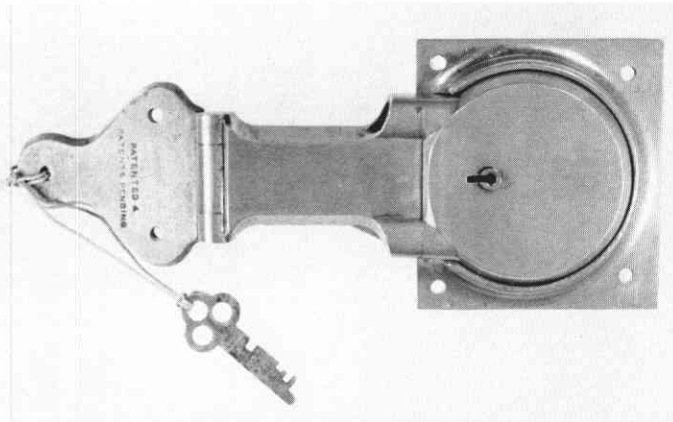


Figure 4. Steamer Truck Lock Gun. USA patent 1898 by Dr. Edward W. Case, Chicago, IL. RS-1

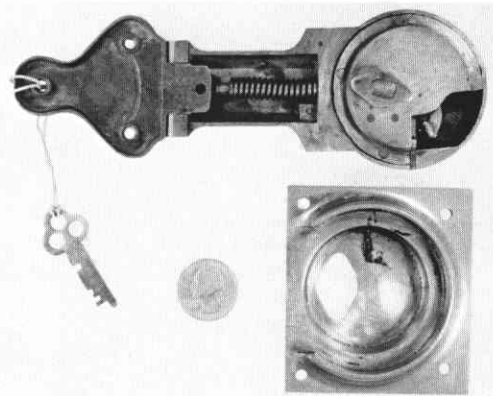


Figure 5. Steamer Truck Lock Gun. Open view. .32 centerfire (blank) caliber.

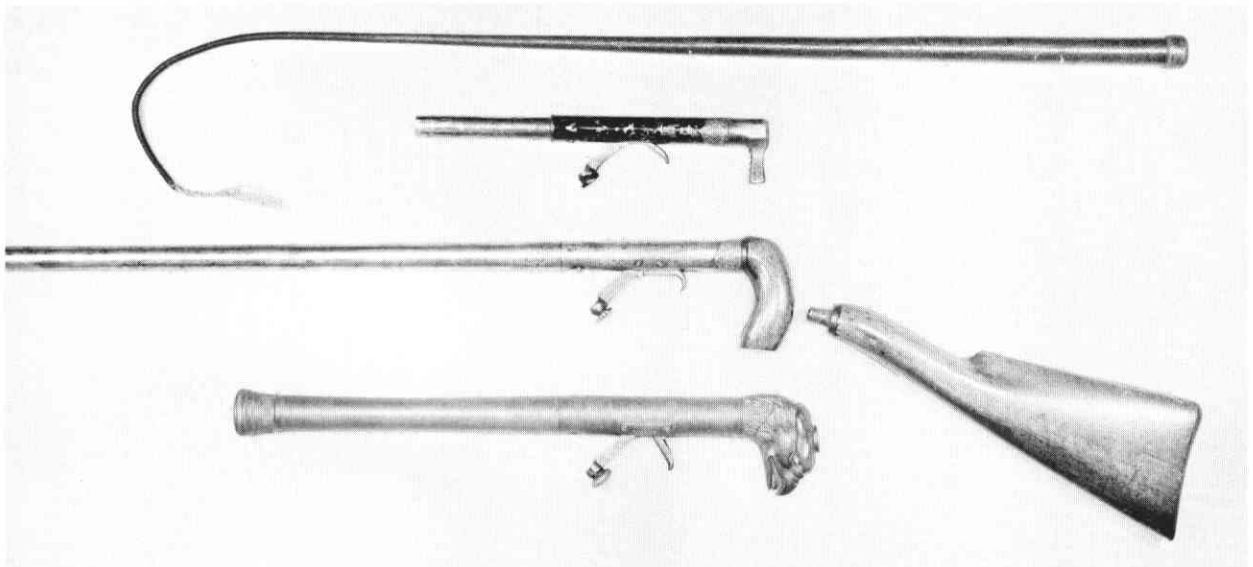


Figure 6. Item One: Day's Patent Buggy Whip Pistol. Circa 1840; .42 caliber. Serial No. 72. Action 10½"; 42" overall. RS-1. Item Two: Day's Patent Cane Gun with detachable stock. Serial No. 8; .50 caliber percussion. RS-3. Item Three: Day's Truncheon Pistol. English patent 1823. 16"; .65 caliber percussion. RS-3.



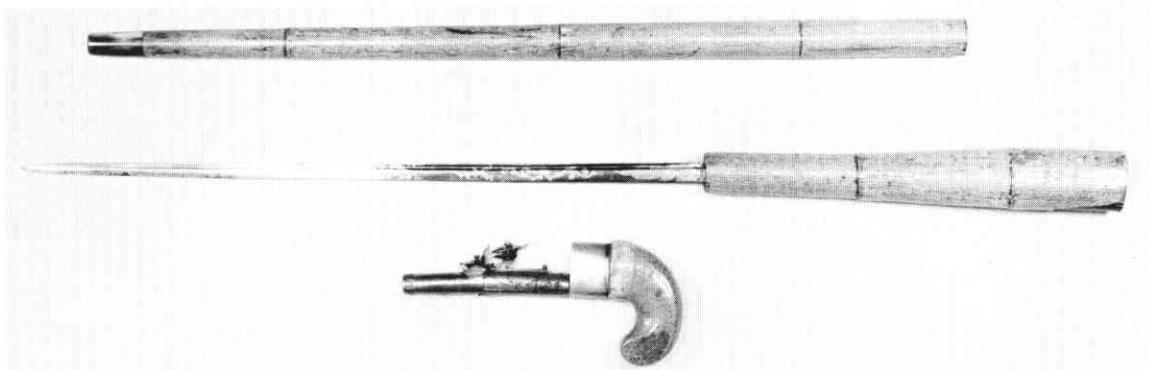


Figure 7. Vander Kleft Flintlock Cane Gun. English patent 1814. Marked "Dobson & Baker London" with blued and fire gilt blade. 35½" overall. RS-1

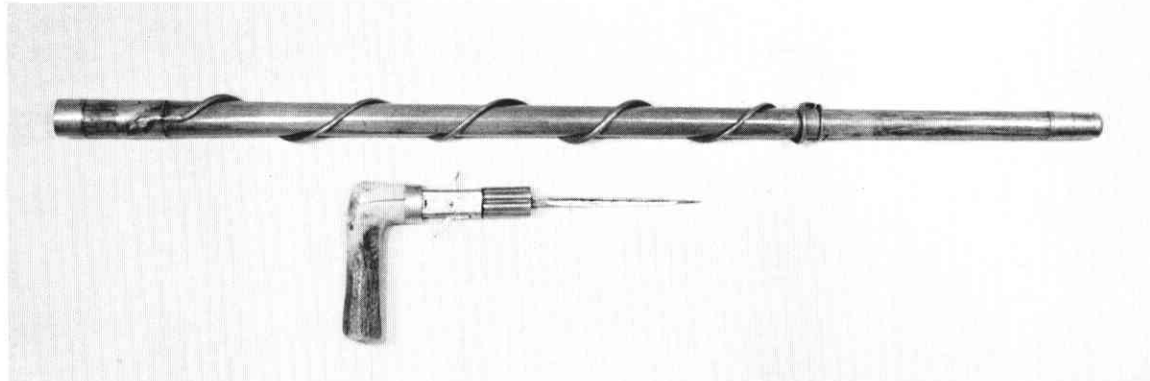


Figure 8. P. Touchard Brevet Pepperbox Cane Gun with dagger. French; circa 1890; .22 rimfire. 31" overall. RS-2.

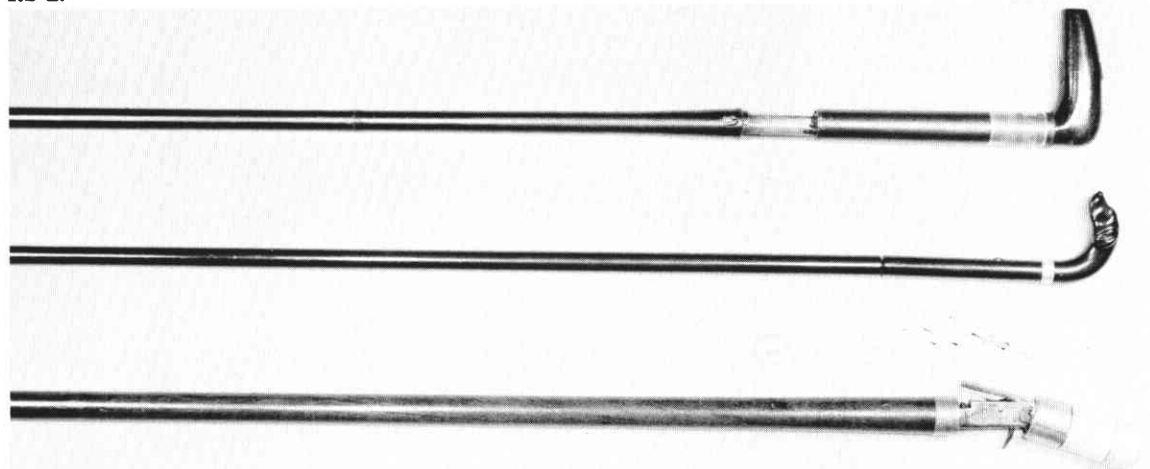


Figure 9. Top: Japanese Cane Gun. Circa 1930; 15mm centerfire shotgun. 32¼" overall. RS-3. Center: Remington Cane Gun with dog head. Circa 1875. Serial No. 286; .22 rimfire. 33" overall. RS-3. Bottom: Lambert Cane Gun. USA patent 1832; .32 caliber. Marked "Lamberts Patent." .36" overall. RS-1.

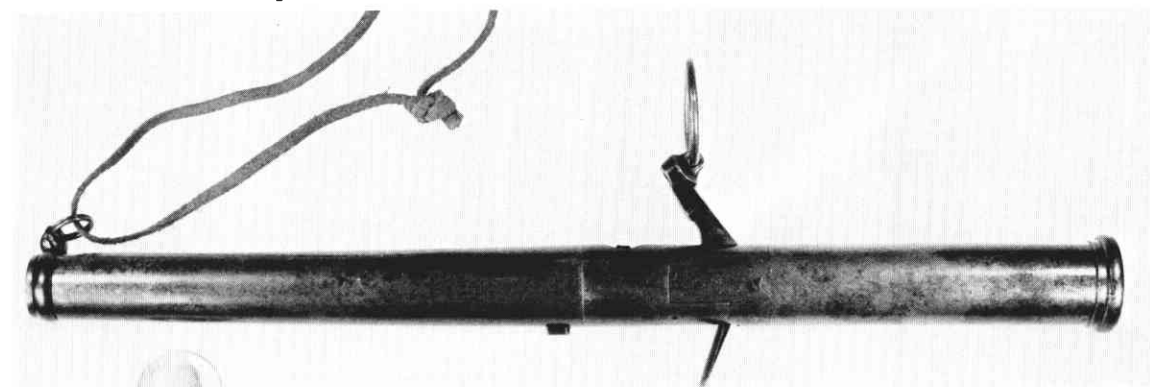


Figure 12. American Truncheon Gun. Circa 1850; .58 caliber percussion. Unmarked. 11¼" overall. RS-1.

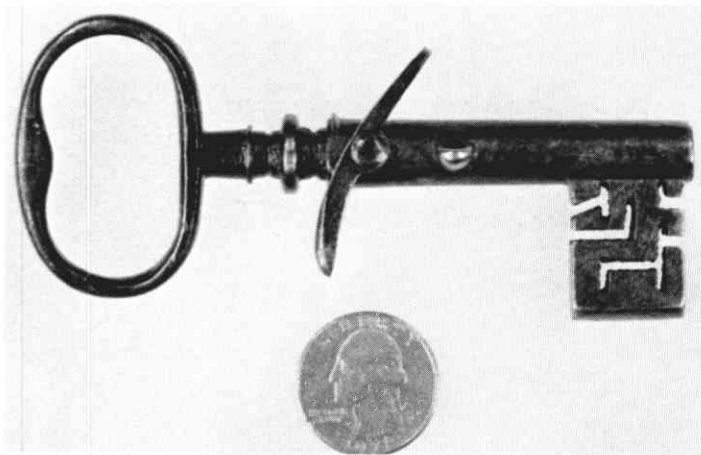


Figure 10. Iron Key Gun. European, circa 1700; .30 caliber. 4 1/4" overall. RS-1.

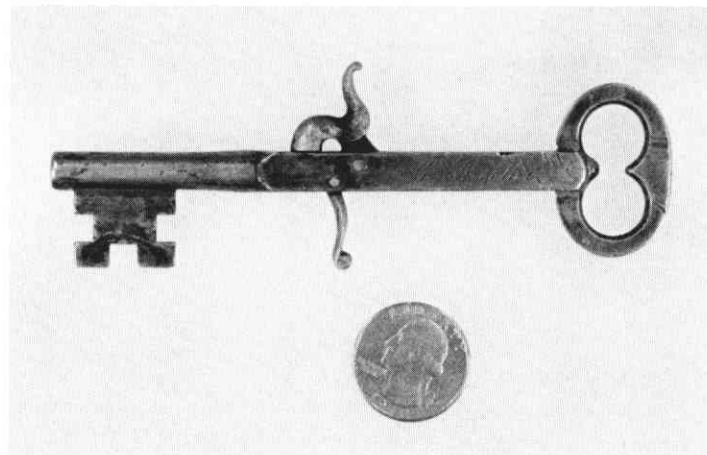


Figure 11. Bechtler Key Gun. Engraved, "C. Bechtler Rutherford, North Carolina." .18 caliber pill lock. 4 1/4" overall. RS-1.

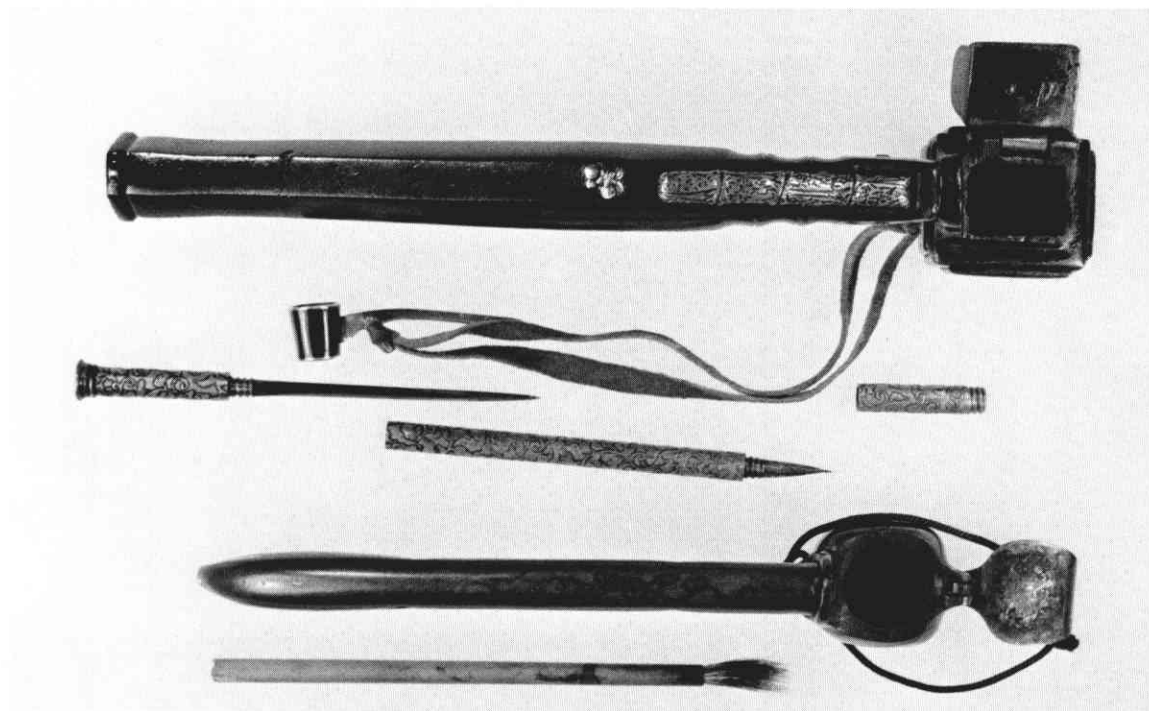


Figure 13. Upper Item: Concealed Japanese Scribe's Gun. Circa 1780; .44 pill lock. Lower Item: Common scribe's kit, without firearm.

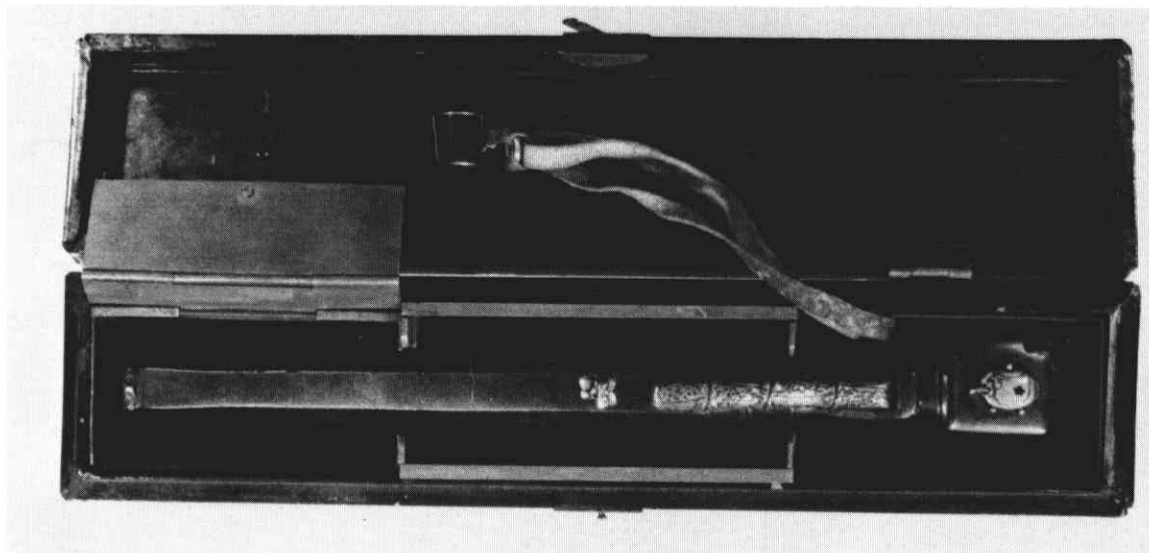
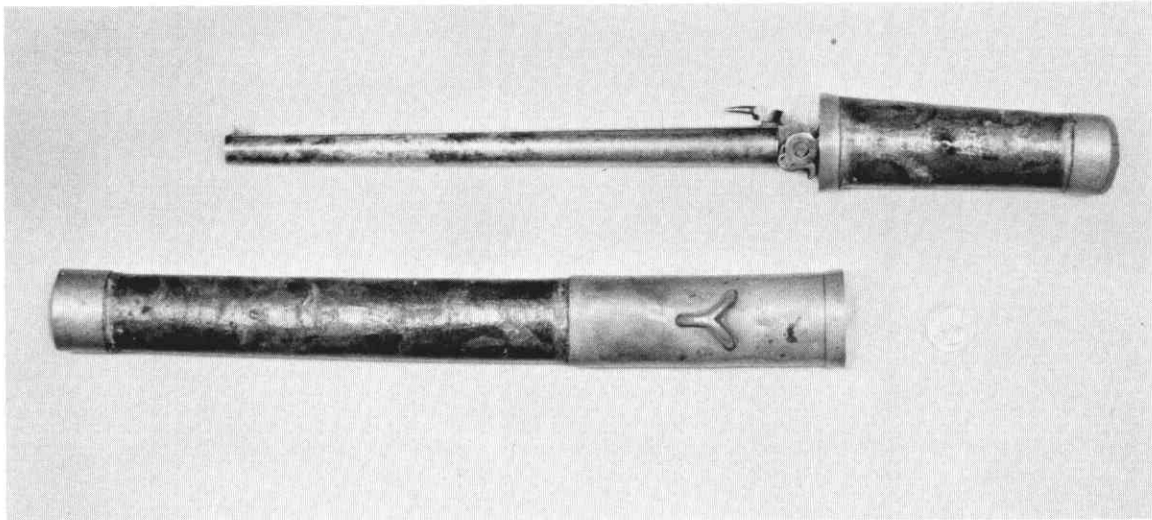
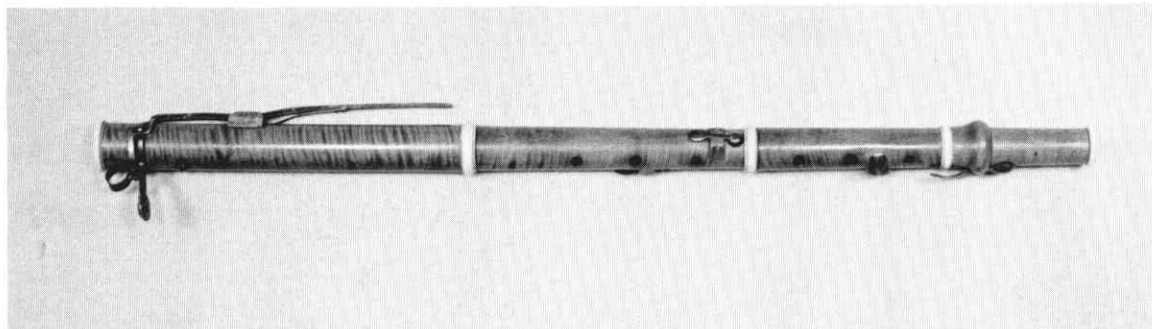


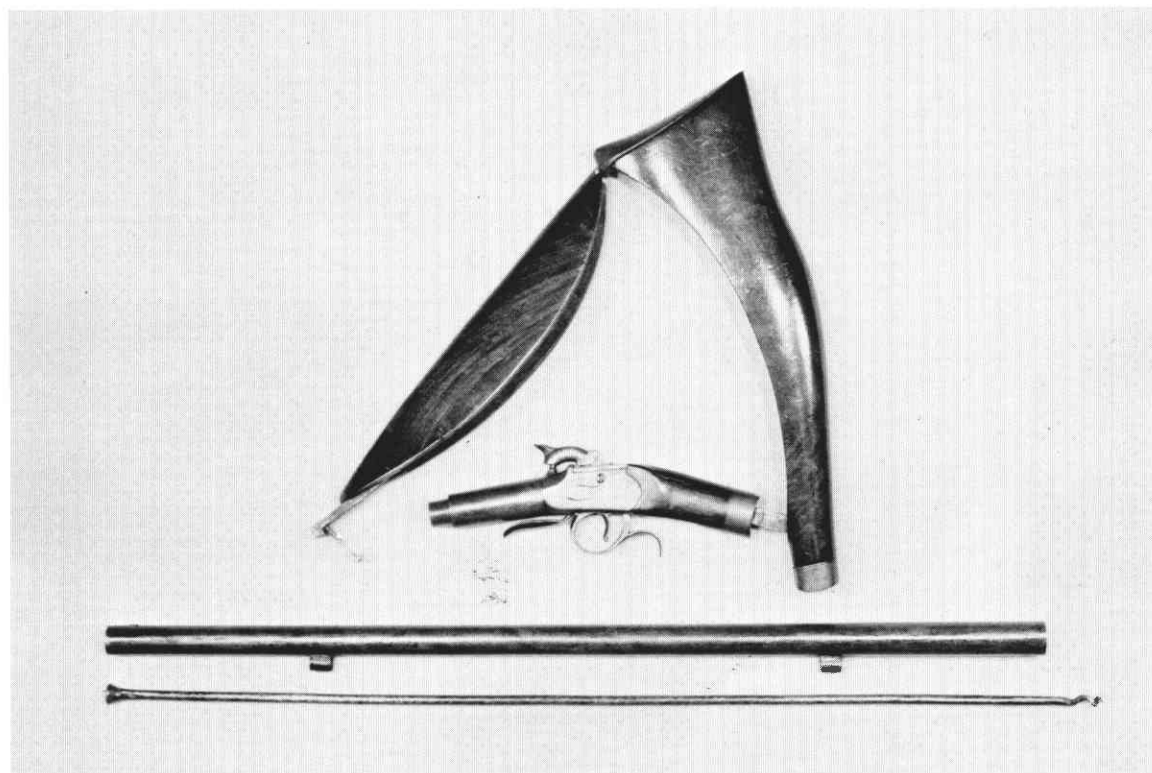
Figure 14. Scribe's Gun in case. Gun 8 1/4" overall. RS-1.



**Figure 15. Tanju Aikuchi. Gun disguised as a dagger. Japanese, circa 1870. .48 caliber percussion. 20½" overall. RS-3.**



**Figure 16. Flute Pistol. US; circa 1860. Flute furniture of ivory and silver. .32 percussion; 23¾" overall. RS-1.**



**Figure 17. Folding Shotgun. French, circa 1865. 10 gauge percussion. Marked, "Resset & Cie." RS-1.**

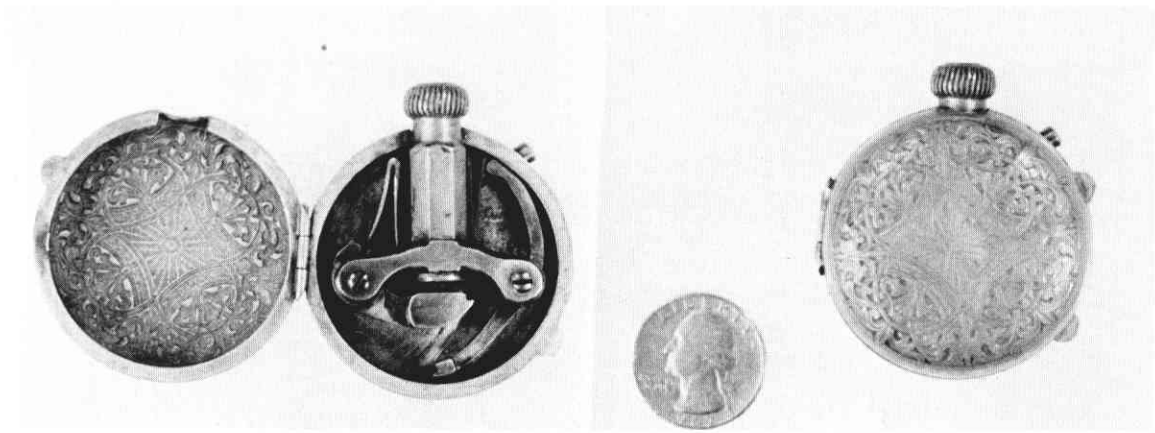


Figure 18. Pocket Watch Gun. Unknown period and provenance; .22 caliber percussion. 1½" diameter. RS-1.

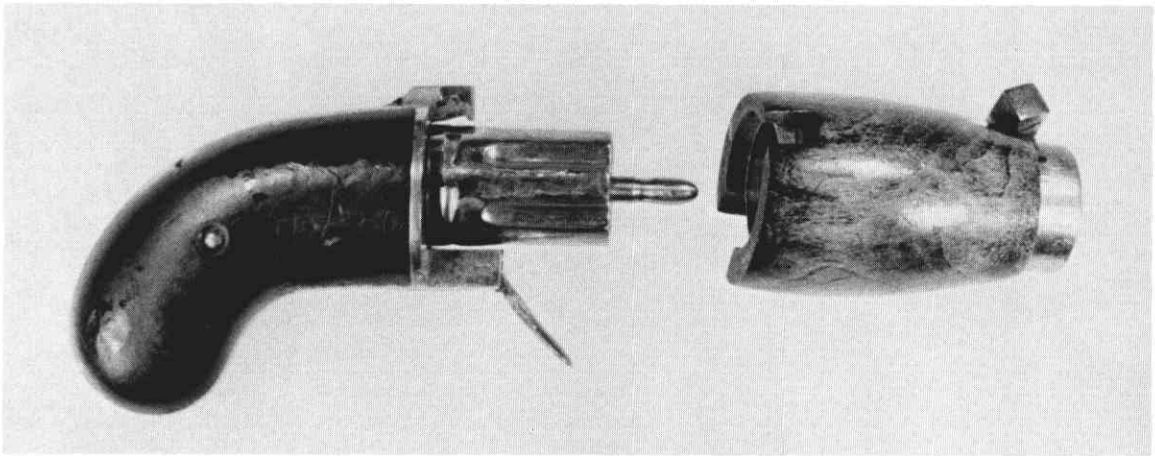


Figure 19. Handle-Bar Pepperbox. Belgium, circa 1890. I. Herman Brevet patent. Serial No. 179; 5mm pinfire. 4¼" overall. RS-2.

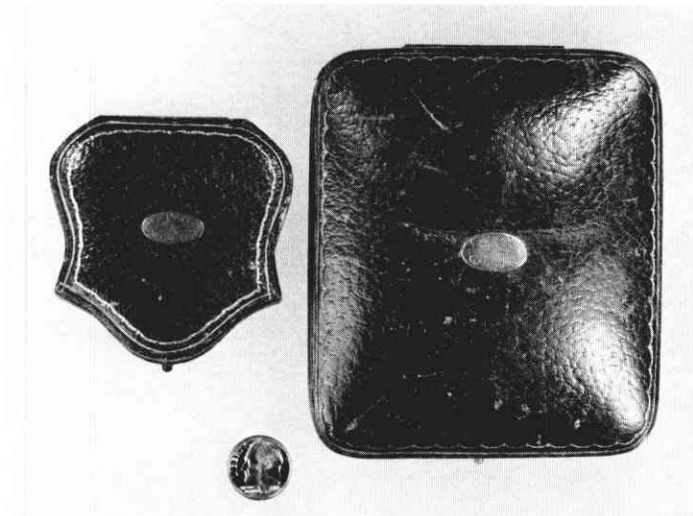


Figure 21. "Le Petit Protecteur" cases with engraved silver case plates.

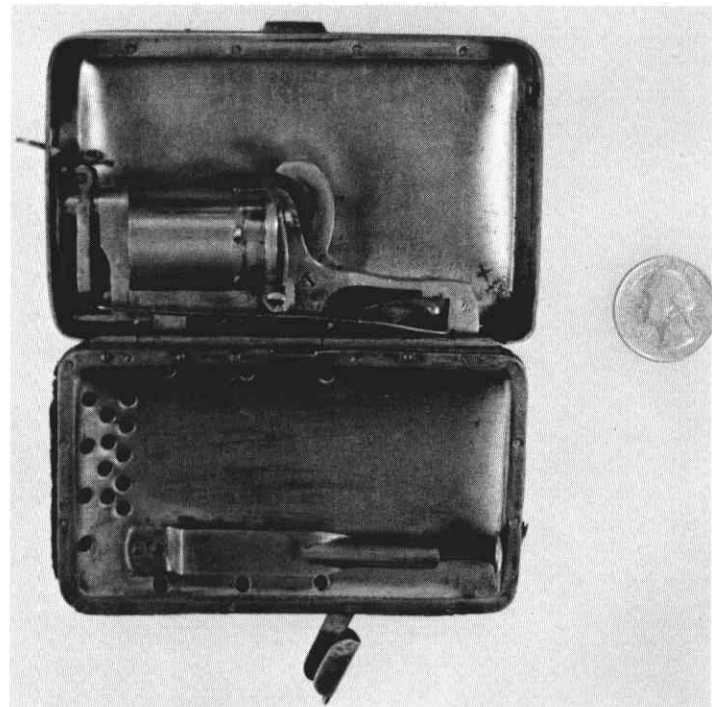


Figure 20. Franenau Purse Pistol. Belgium, circa 1877. Serial No. 973; 5mm pinfire. 4¼" overall. RS-4.



Figure 22. "Le Protecteur" Ring Gun. Unknown period and maker. .17 caliber percussion. RS-2.

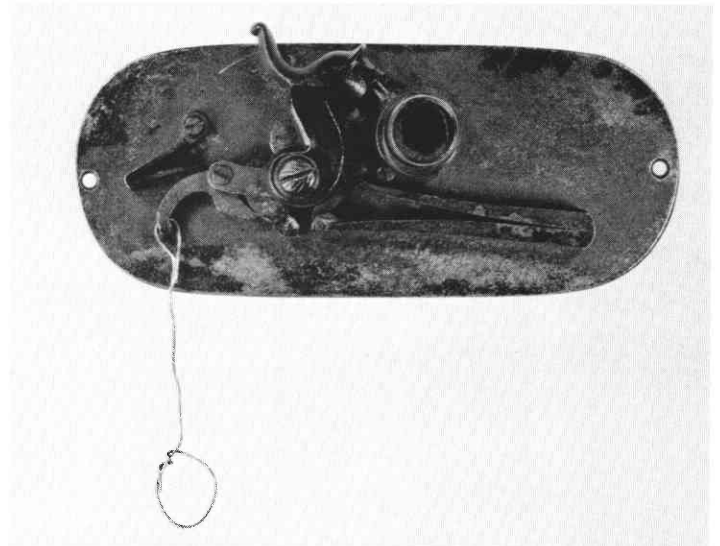


Figure 24. American percussion belt pistol. Circa 1850; .38 caliber. Anti-garrotter gun. 5 1/4" overall. RS-2.

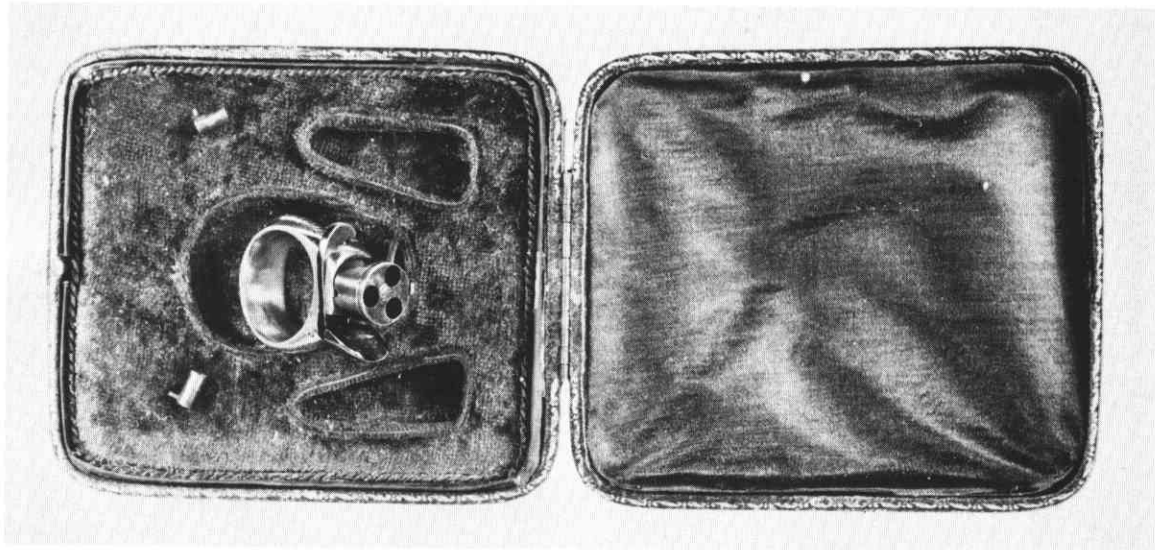


Figure 23. "Le Petit Guardian" 3 shot pinfire ring pistol. Unknown maker and period. RS-1.

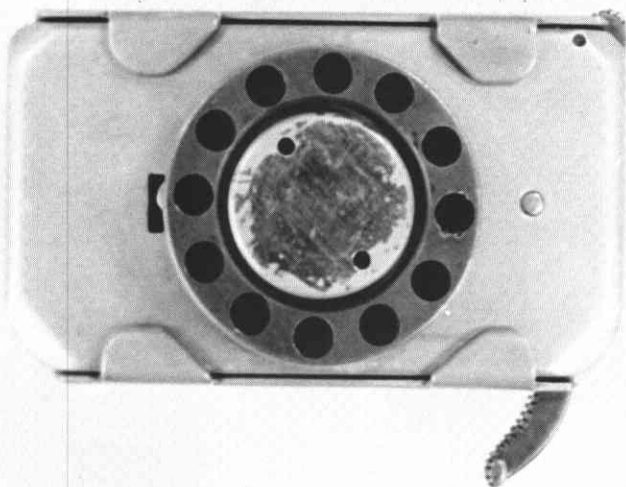


Figure 25. Louis Marquis Belt Pistol. German; circa 1934. .22 short. Serial No. 5. RS-1.



Figure 26. Louis Marquis Belt Pistol. Back view.



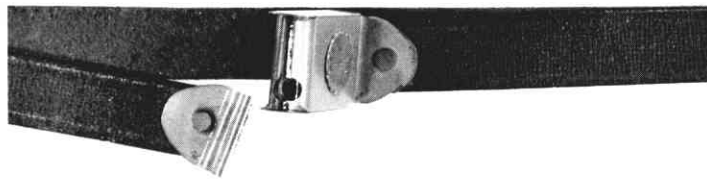
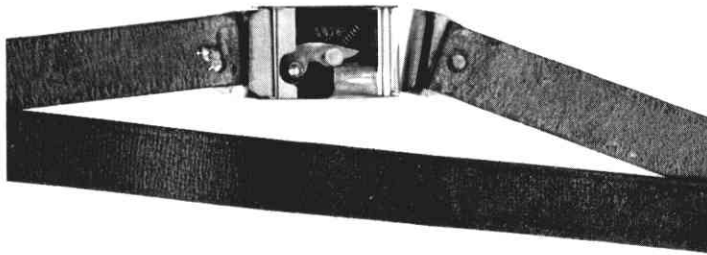
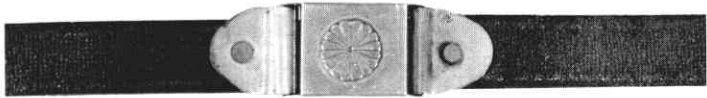


Figure 29-31. Japanese Belt Pistol. Unknown maker; circa 1940; 4mm rimfire. 1½" overall; RS-1. Backview, and view with muzzle exposed.

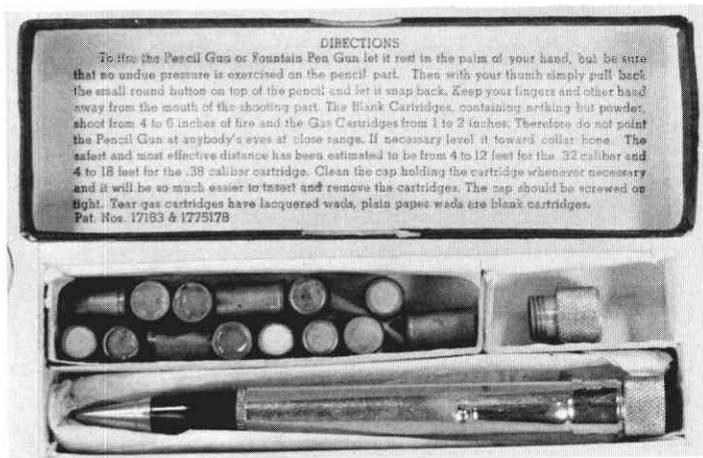


Figure 33. Mechanical Pencil Gun. Circa 1930; .32 S&W (gas). 5½" overall. RS-5.

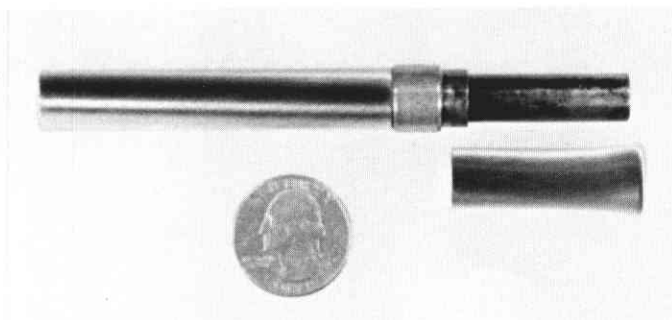


Figure 36. Lipstick Gun. Unknown maker. Circa 1970. .22 short. 4½" overall. RS-1.

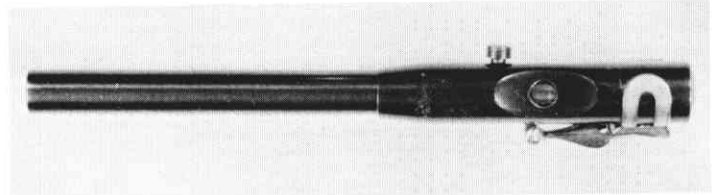


Figure 32. Pen Gun. Made by R.F. Sedgley, Philadelphia, PA; circa 1928. .22 short. 5½" overall. RS-3.

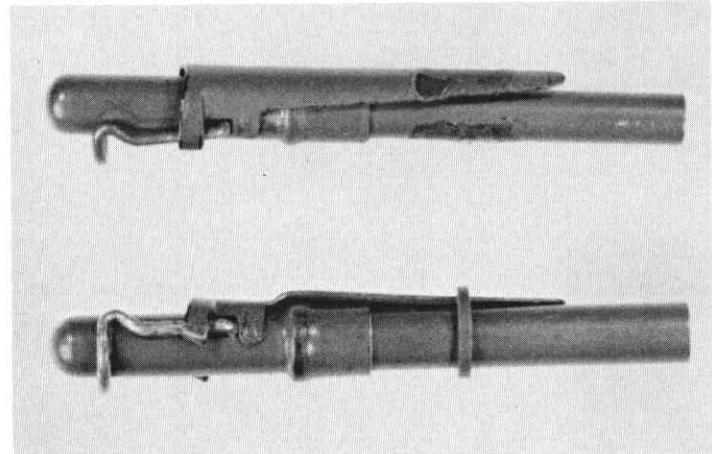


Figure 34. OSS Pen Guns. Rite-Rite Mfg. Co., Downers Grove, IL., maker. Top: 1st Model (T1). Bottom: 2nd Model (T2) .22 short. Circa 1943. 3¼" overall. RS-1.

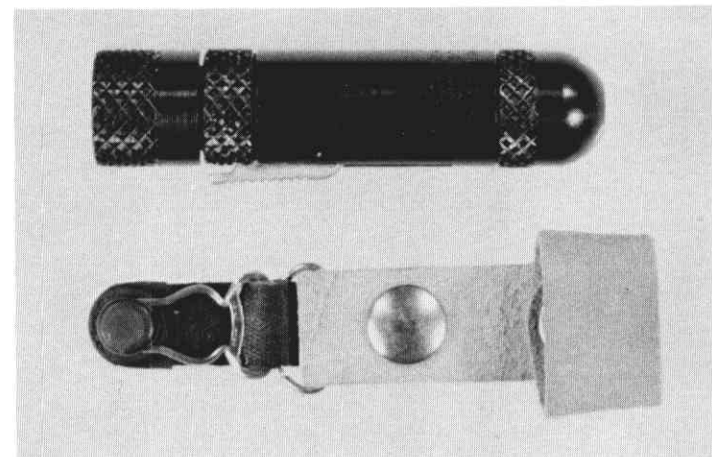


Figure 35. "Stinger" Underwear Gun with 'garter' type attachment device. Military Armaments Corp., Powder Springs, GA, maker; circa 1971. .22 1r; 3¼" overall. RS-5.

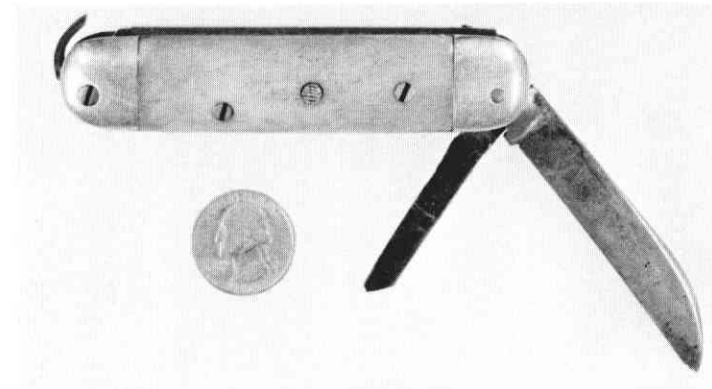


Figure 42. Resl Knife pistol. German, circa 1895. .22 short. 4¼"1 overall. RS-1.

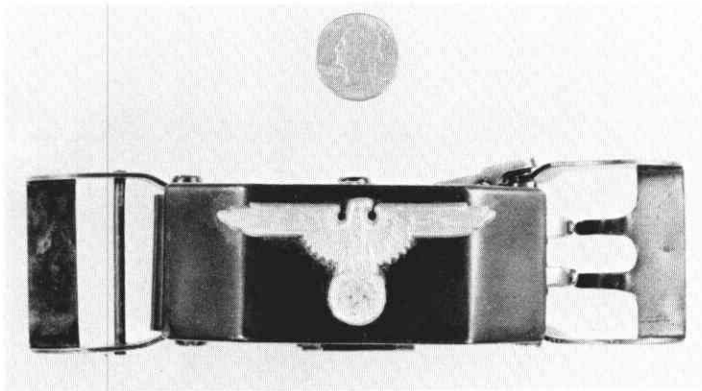


Figure 27. Nazi Belt Pistol. Louis Marquis, maker. Circa 1943. Two shot; .32 ACP. RS-1.

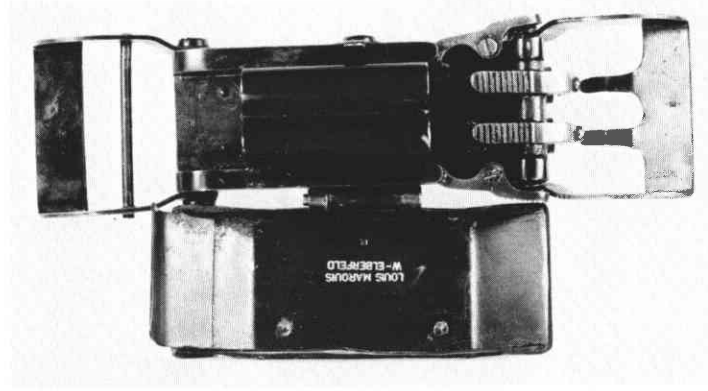


Figure 28. Nazi Belt Pistol. Shown open with barrels folded.

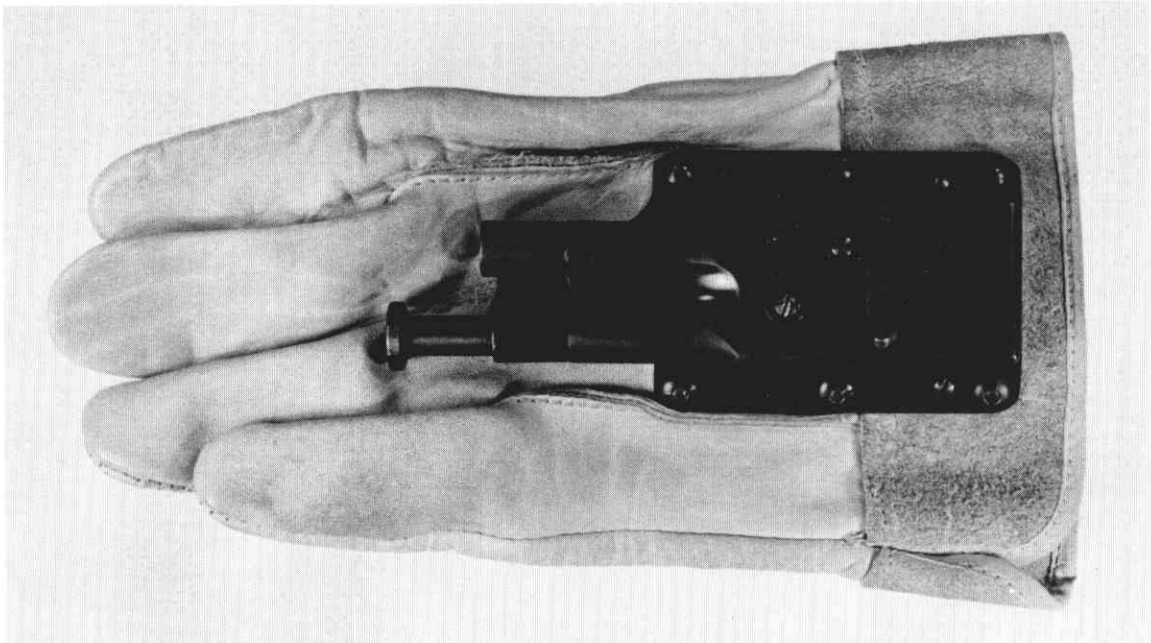


Figure 37. Fist Pistol. R.F. Sedgley, Philadelphia, PA; circa 1945. Serial No. 23; .38 S&W. Marked "U.S. Navy Property." 5" (gun) overall. RS-2.

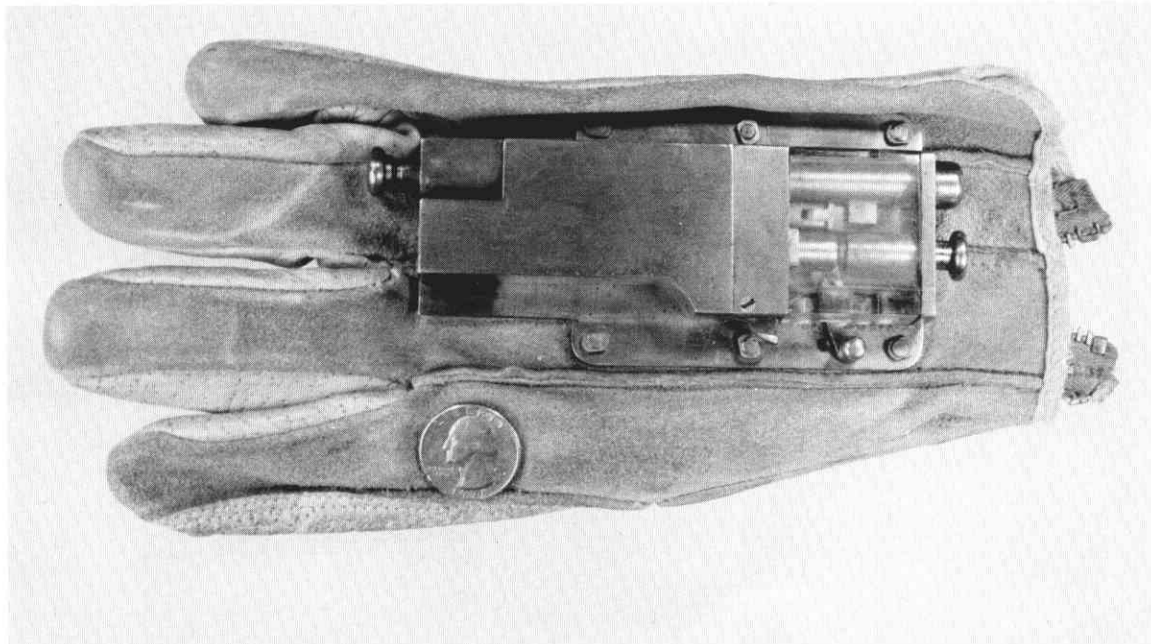


Figure 38. Fist Pistol. Preproduction or patent model. .41 caliber, plexiglass covered action. Serial No. 6. RS-1.

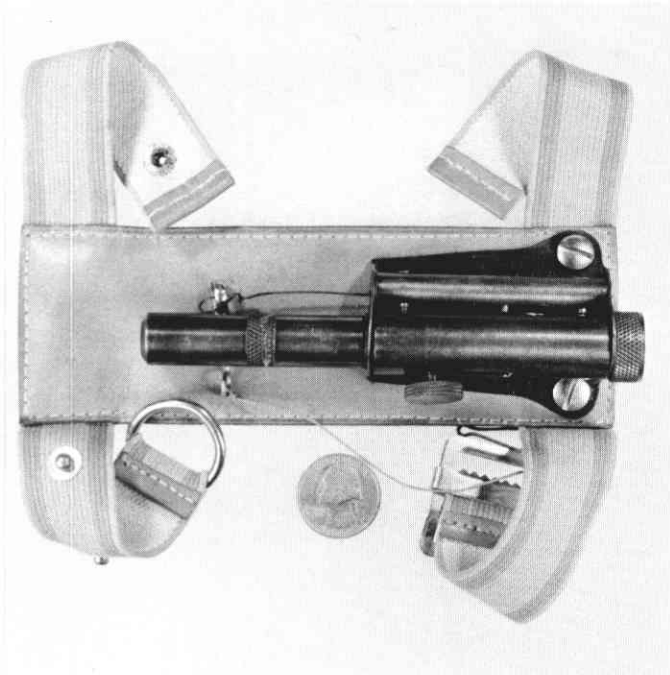


Figure 39. Wrist Pistol. Juhasz patent. Lebanon, PA. circa 1929. Serial No. 1176. Marked "Patented E. Carlstrom 4852 May St. USA." 5 1/2" (gun) overall. RS-2.



Figure 44. Pepsi Can Gun. (Can to left, mechanism to right) USA 1980. .50 percussion. Anonymous maker. Serial No. 5. RS-1.



Figure 40. Flashlight Revolver. Marked "S.P. Cottrell & Son Buffalo, N.Y. Patent US, July 10, 1923; Pat. Can. Dec. 26, 1922." .22 caliber, 9" overall. RS-2.



Figure 41. Flashlight Pistol. Marked "Protect-O-Lite, L.A. Calif." .38 special & .22 lr. Circa 1933. RS-1.



Figure 43: Item One: Pipe Gun. (top) German, circa 1930. Marked "Bukson DRGM" 7mm. 5 1/4" overall. RS-1. Item Two: Pipe Gun. (bottom) USA, circa 1940. Marked "Sweetheart Made in USA, Pat. pending." .22 short. 5 3/4" overall. RS-1.