

DO-IT-YOURSELF MACHINE PISTOLS

BY THE
KENTUCKY
RIFLEMAN

Building an SMG from scratch is not an easy job for most people, even though excellent plans are available from various sources. Not everyone has the shop, tools or skill required. Converting a semi-auto pistol would seem to be a more practical approach.

These conversions still appear to be difficult to most folks, who believe that complex machine work and hard to get parts are needed.

All of these objections are true sometimes, for instance, to change an M-1 carbine to M-2 (a favorite) requires a set of parts that are costly, rare, and watched by the Federal boys.

The AR 15 rifle needs the lower receiver re-machined plus new parts before it will fire fully auto.

The new Thompson M1927A1 looks like a natural, but it would be a difficult job indeed to convert it because it was designed just to stop such a project.

But take heart! There is a way out for the resourceful individual. There are weapons that can be altered to be useful, useable, and in some ways, about ideal.

Many modern automatic pistols are easily and cheaply convertible to full auto, and in a lot of cases no one can tell the difference unless they shoot it.

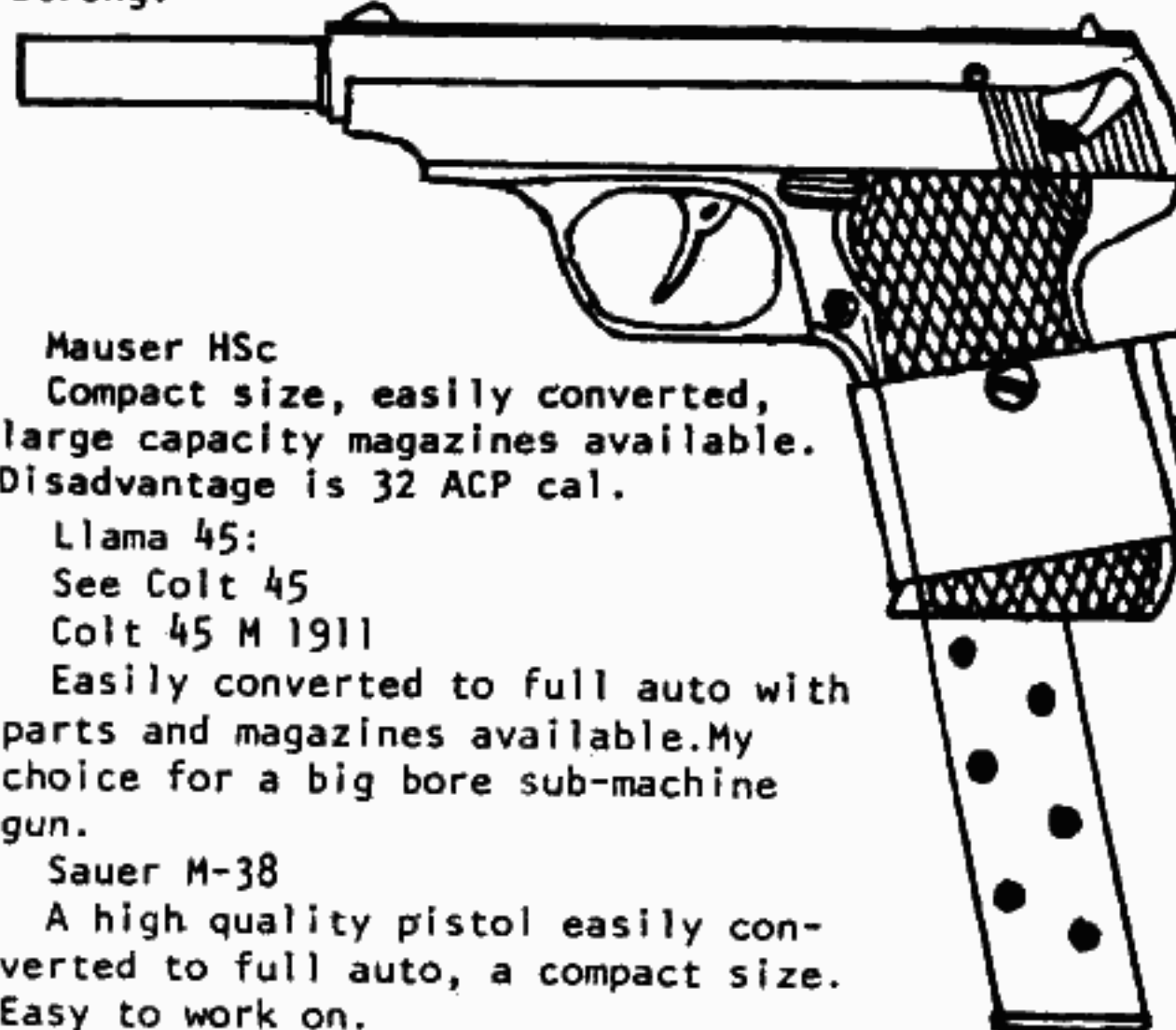
After examining many pistols I can offer the following list of suitable guns, along with a few comments.

Walther P-38

An easily converted pistol with good handling and reliability. It's biggest disadvantage is its high cost, both new and used.

Browning Hi-Power

Very good design with large magazine and larger ones available. Very strong.



Mauser HSc
Compact size, easily converted,
large capacity magazines available.
Disadvantage is 32 ACP cal.

Llama 45:

See Colt 45

Colt 45 M 1911

Easily converted to full auto with parts and magazines available. My choice for a big bore sub-machine gun.

Sauer M-38

A high quality pistol easily converted to full auto, a compact size. Easy to work on.

To put together your custom gun, you will need a long barrel, an over-size magazine (I suggest at least 25 rounds), a custom-made shoulder stock, and the time and desire to put them together.

The long barrels are available from various parts dealers for some pistols. Other guns may need custom made ones. Check around and read the Shotgun News. Lots of places carry the magazines, again, check around. The stock is easily made from a piece of steel or aluminum strap (see drawings).

The Colt M1911 in any cal is a natural because of simplicity and ruggedness.

After you have your pistol and the new parts, you must do the alterations.

The first order of business is to strip the pistol. If you are working on a Colt 45, a military manual can be a big help. For any make or model of gun, a copy of Small Arms of the World by W.H.B. Smith is invaluable in helping you to understand the works.

After you have the slide, barrel and spring off your 45, notice the disconnecter sticking up from the frame just behind the magazine well. This is the part that must be shortened to convert the 45 to full auto. Remove the disconnecter and shorten it by either filing or grinding it just enough to be flush with the frame. Then re-assemble the pistol using the longer barrel (if you wish) and if you wish, a buffer unit and

a stronger recoil spring to insure reliability.

All that is left is to install the new shoulder stock, give the whole thing a good safety test and you're in business!

The Sauer M-38 is even easier to alter than the Colt. Start by stripping the gun. The Sauer is stripped by pulling down the latch in the trigger guard, then pulling the slide all the way back and up, then letting it go forward off the frame. Then remove the grips.

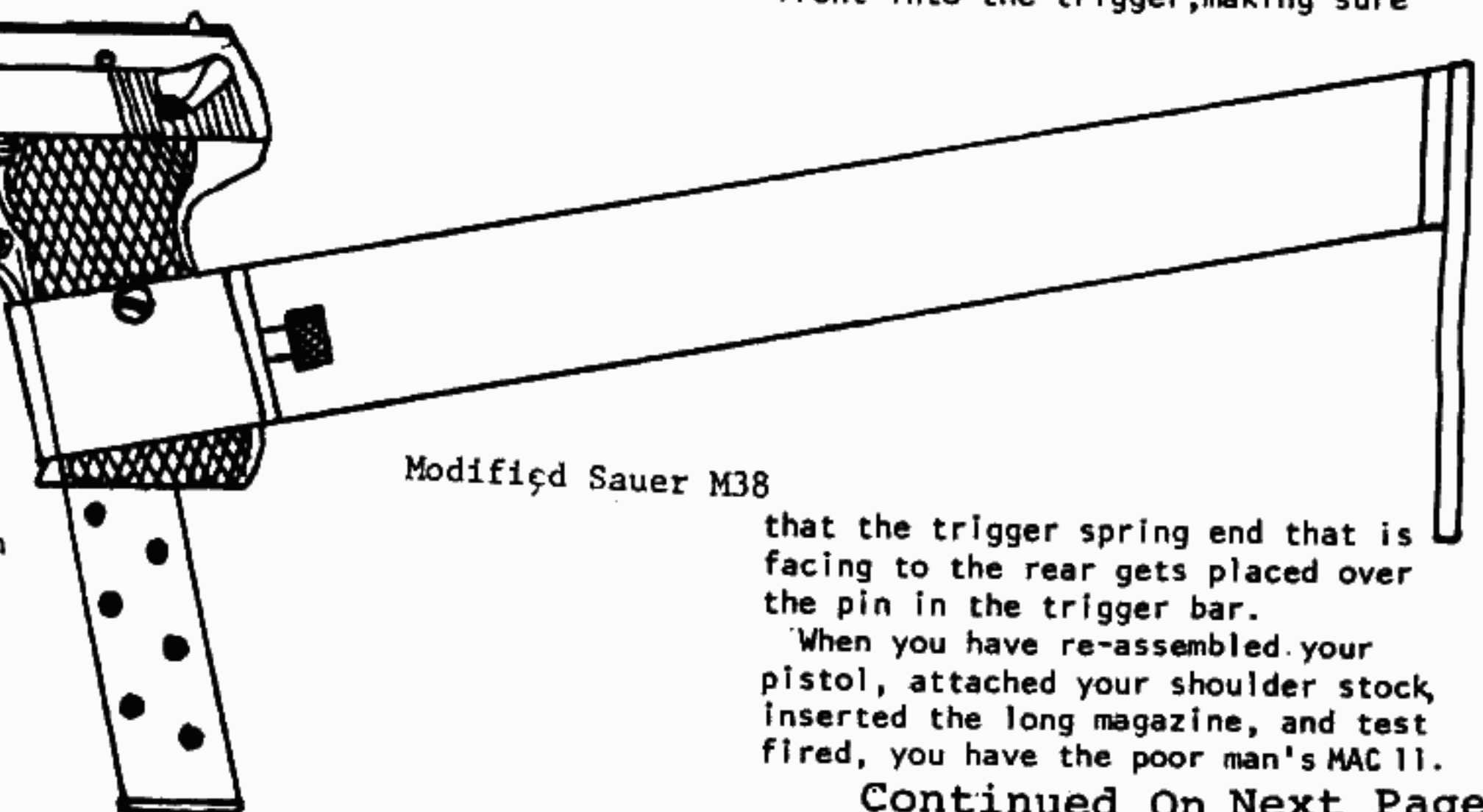
To start the conversion, remove the trigger bar (see drawing) by gently prying out of the frame.

Then locate the hump on the outside of the bar that acts as a disconnecter by fitting into a cutout in the slide. This hump must be filed down until it no longer makes the contact with the slide.

There is a pin at the front of the barrel mount that locks the barrel in place. Remove this pin by carefully driving out with a hammer and punch. Then gently heat the barrel with a propane torch or soldering gun or iron until it can be pulled free. Your new long barrel is installed by first tinning the barrel (heating until a thin layer of solder adheres) then inserting into the barrel mount. Then replace the pin and heat to melt solder.

The beauty of this type of barrel mount is that since the barrel is solidly fixed, you can mount just about anything on the end (such as a silencer), just be sure it is removable so you can strip to clean.

To reinstall the trigger bar, simply insert the round lug at the front into the trigger, making sure



Modified Sauer M38

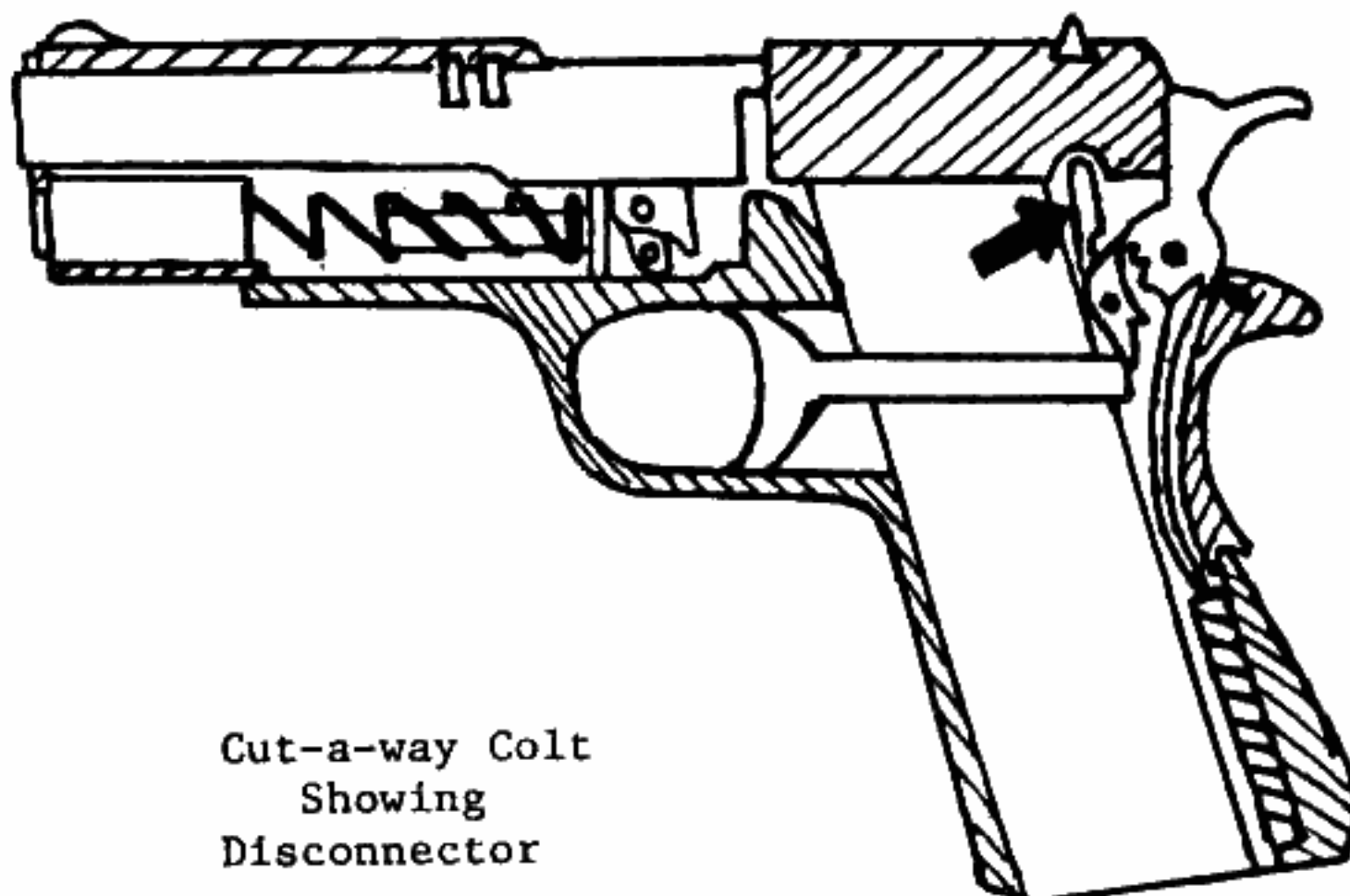
that the trigger spring end that is facing to the rear gets placed over the pin in the trigger bar.

When you have re-assembled your pistol, attached your shoulder stock, inserted the long magazine, and test fired, you have the poor man's MAC 11.

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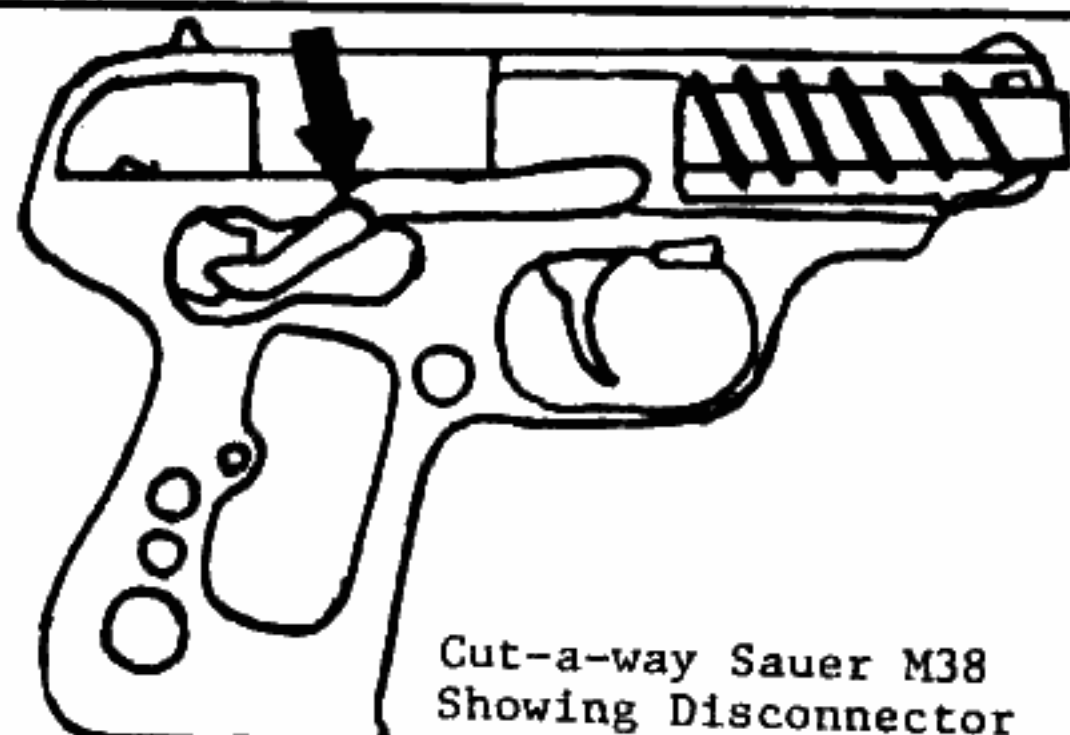
Original Colt M 1911



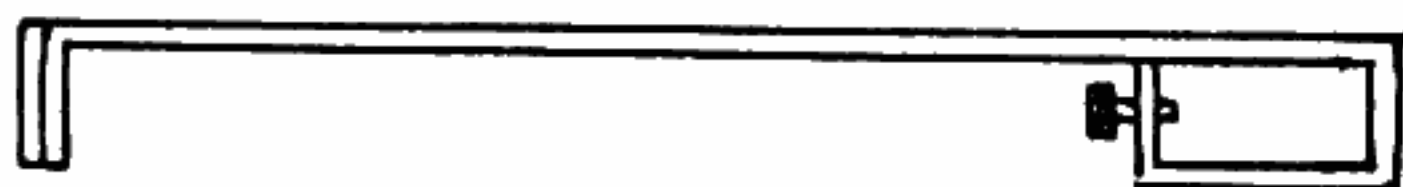
Cut-a-way Colt
Showing
Disconnecter



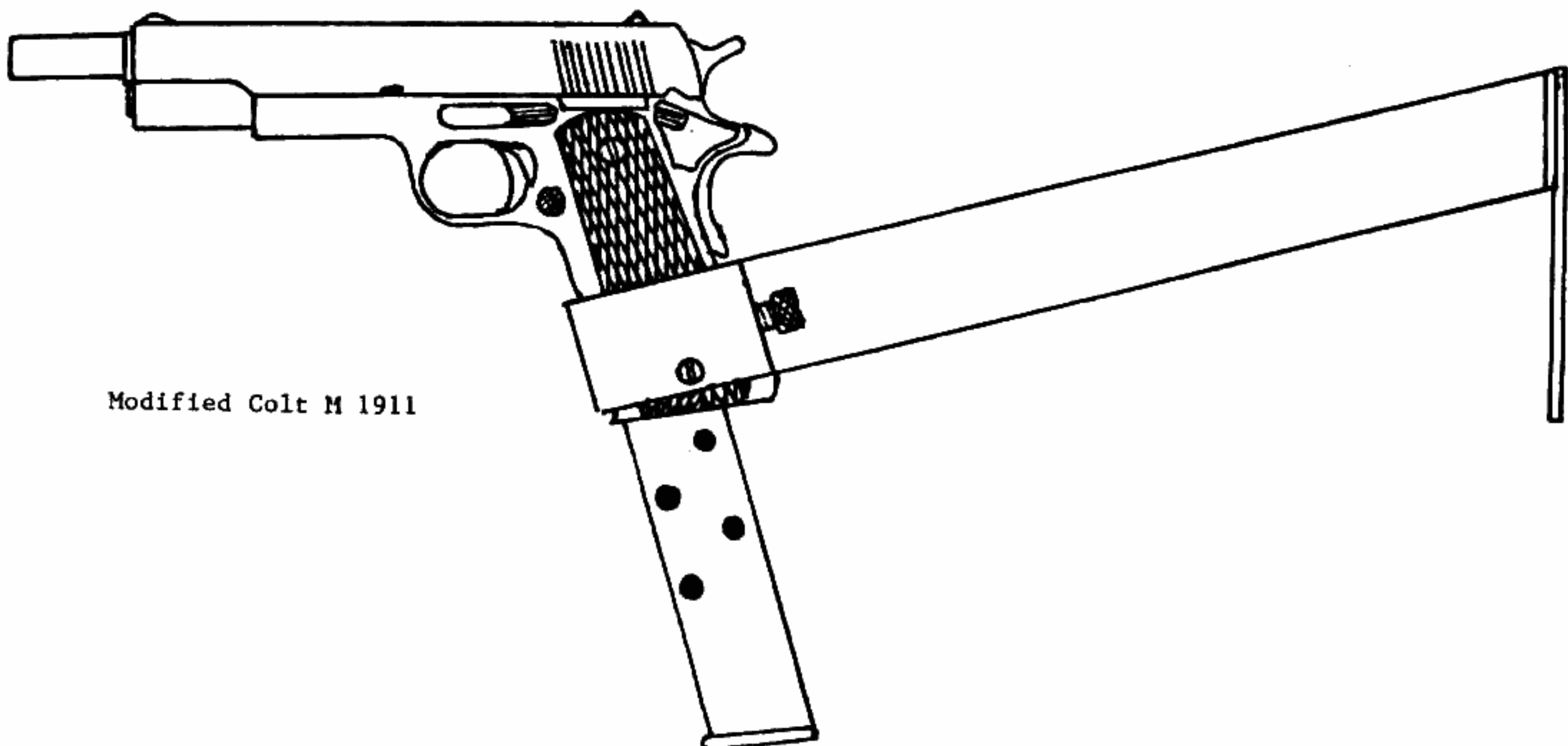
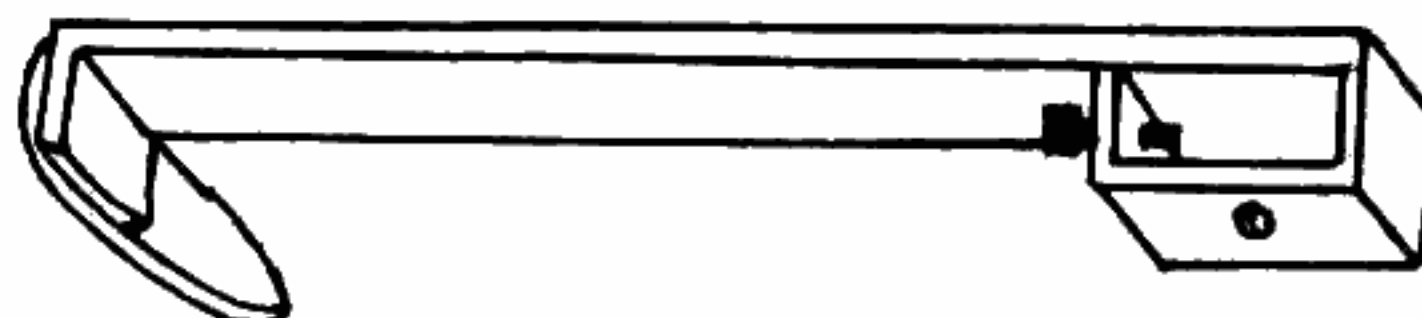
Original Sauer M38



Cut-a-way Sauer M38
Showing Disconnecter



Shoulder Stock



Modified Colt M 1911