Hit-Men's Silenced .22 Weapon

New York

The type of gun used recently to silence so many informers and mob dissidents would have never been used by professional gangland assassins until two years ago.

"The mob has always preferred the 9mm; the .38 revolver, a Baretta automatic, or a shotgun in the past," a federal source said. "What it looks like is that some mob assassin squads have stolen a page from our spy agencies."

The .22-caliber automatic was a favorite of agents of the Office of Strategic Services during World War II. It has been a long-time favorite of the CIA. Light, compact, highly accurate from close range, its one-ounce slug, when muffled by a silencer, gives a "pop-pop" noise that can barely be heard. Made even more efficient in recent years, it has attracted the mob.

Both police and federal ballistics experts note that high-velocity ammunition can now be fired by the .22 and that hollowed-out heads, that splatter and rip apart after hitting a victim leave no traceable ballistics.

In at least several instances in the mob purge that is believed to have been going on for the past two years hollowed-out copper heads were used, but most of the hit victims have left a ballistics trail. In New Jersey and New York, for example, the murders of two men have been traced to the same, but unrecovered weapon

The interest of the mob and others in the .22 as a murder weapon was recently exemplified by the conviction of George Nathaniel Garrett in Miami. Garrett, an associate of a Carmine Galente crime family soldier, had been peddling do-it-yourself assassination kits for $600 apiece.

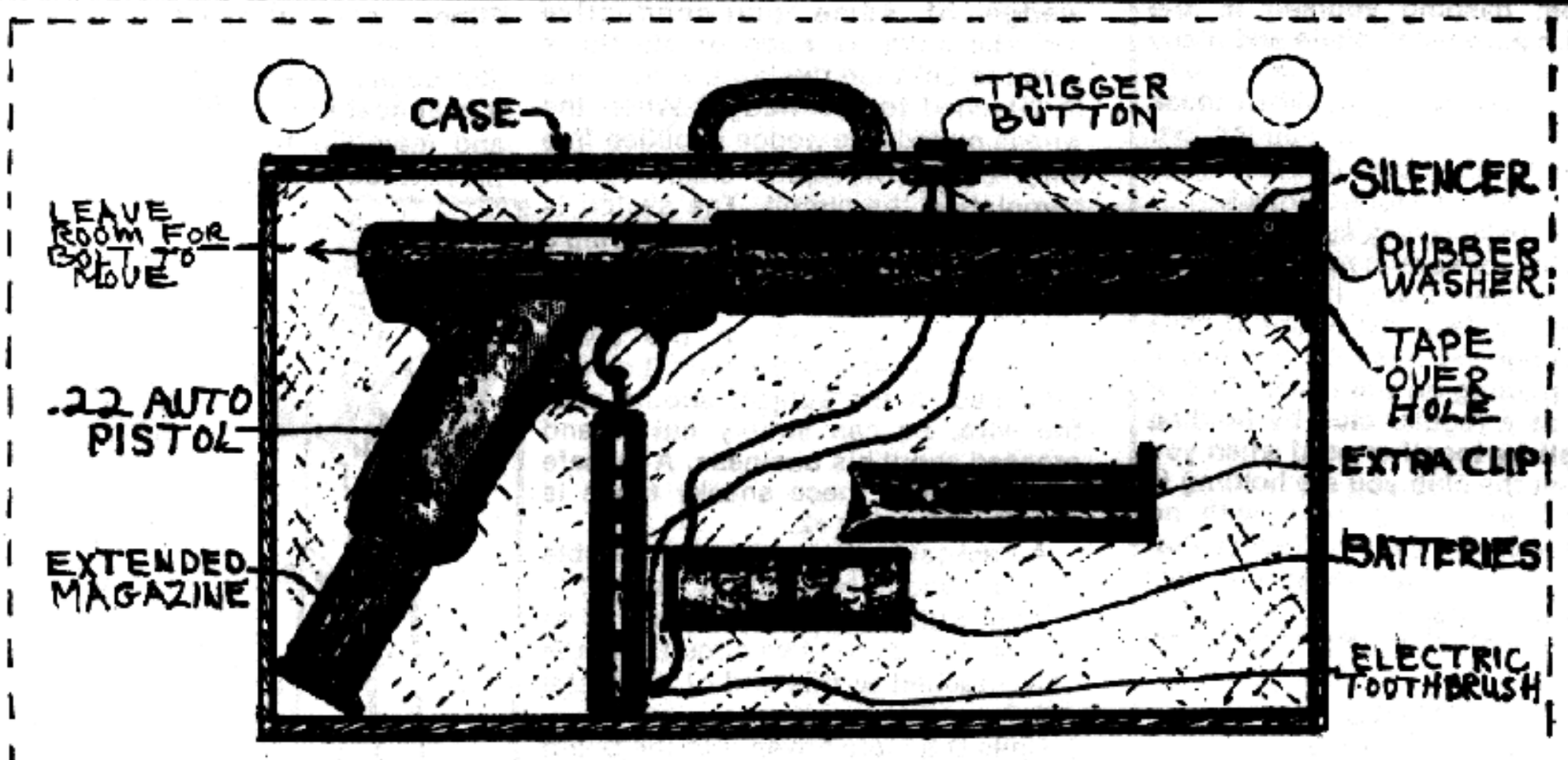
The kits included a Luger-type automatic .22, a silencer, and an attache case through which the gun could be fired: a pull-ring near the handle that, when tugged, automatically fired a clip of eight to ten rounds with deadly accuracy.

Garrett was arrested in October by undercover agents of the federal Alcohol, Tobacco and Fire arms bureau but not before an undetermined number of the assassin kits were believed sold to the mob.

Garrett, however, was only a minor source of the weapons. Variations of the gun can be bought through gun stores around the nation, in Mexico or from foreign sources, and many gun buffs have similar weapons for target practice. "Its value is in its compactness, lightness, high velocity, accuracy and availability," a police source said.

A silencer cannot be bought in a gun store, but there are mob gunsmiths available, willing and able to provide them at from $75 to $200 depending on quality.

San Francisco Chronicle Newsday



This system would be better, as the button would allow you to control the number of shots fired. Send us a photo if anyone builds one that works.

THE SILENCERS

By Clyde Barrow

Of all 20th century small arms developments, the firearm silencer is probably the most mysterious and the least understood. Invented in 1908 by Hiram Maxim, the firearm silencer was one of Maxim's early contributions to the field of noise pollution control. By the 1930s, poachers, gangsters, strike breakers and stickup men had made "silencer" a dirty word. The silencer had become so steeped in intrigue the it was included in the restrictive "destructive devices" category of the National Firearm Act of 1934. Since 1934, possession, use, or manufacture of a silencer has been a serious felony. Silencer possession for private citizens is currently restricted to those who can meet the following requirements.

1. Pay a $200 Federal Transfer Tax.
2. Receive transfer approval from the Federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms. (ATF)
3. Comply with all state and local restrictions on silencer possession.

Silencer production is restricted to holders of a $500 Federal Firearms Stamp that designates them as "manufacturers of destructive devices."

In general, the modern commercial silencer is a metal tube, 1 inch to 3 inches in diameter and about a foot long. The tube is mounted on the muzzle end of the barrel and is aligned with the axis of the bore, i.e. the bullet travels down the exact center of the tube. The front of the tube is covered with an endplate, the center of which has a hole that is slightly larger than the diameter of the bullet to be fired. The interior of the silencer tube contains a series of baffles and chambers which catch and delay the rapidly escaping gases produced by the propellant powder as it burns.

The major source of gun blast and noise from conventional weapons is this escaping gas slamming into the atmosphere upon exiting the barrel. The remaining sources of gun noise are as follows:

A. A supersonic crack is produced if the bullet reaches a speed greater than 1120 feet per second, the speed of sound.

B. Mechanical noise is produced by the functioning of the weapon upon firing. This attendant clatter is most pronounced in semi and full automatic weapons.

Some noise also escapes through the unlocked breech area of these autos. A bolt action rifle will produce little if any mechanical noise when fired and no sound escapes from the breech area.

Contrary to what you see on TV, the revolver is not suitable for silencer use. Considerable noise is generated by the gas escaping from the gap between the barrel and cylinder. To make matters worse, those mini silencers, a couple of inches long, are a twisted joke on the part of Hollywood prop men.

In addition to noise suppression, the forward pressure of the gas in the silencer equalizes and virtually eliminates the recoil experienced with unsilenced weapons. A silencer also doubles as an effective flash hider for night shooting.

When a silencer is used on a high powered firearm, the supersonic crack experienced with these weapons can be eliminated in one of the three ways:

A. Standard ammunition will not produce a crack if fired in weapons with shortened barrels. The burning powder is unable to generate the necessary pressure to drive the bullet faster than 1120 f.p.s.

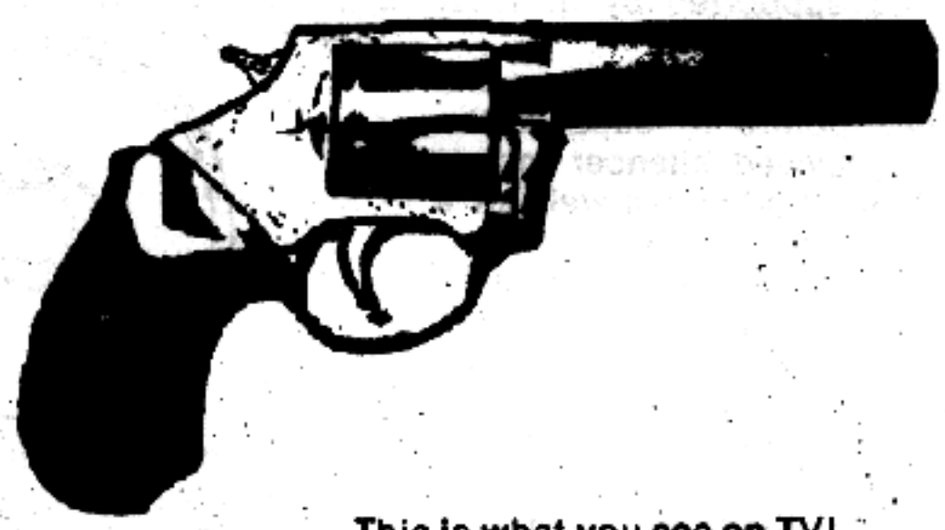
B. Similar results are obtained with standard ammo when it is fired through a conventional length barrel that has had a series of tiny holes drilled along its length. These holes bleed off a portion of the propellant gases, again reducing bullet speed.

C. A special milder load may be used in unaltered weapons. These are referred to as sub sonic loads. These rounds contain less powder and do not propel bullets to super sonic speeds. Some semi and full auto weapons need to be altered to function reliably with subsonic rounds.

In addition to commercially produced and federally regulated silencers, several other types are available:

1. Commercial units smuggled in from other countries.
2. Underground production in domestic factories.
3. Individually produced, home made silencers.
4. Improvised or one shot silencers.

Examples of this last type of silencer



This is what you see on TV!

But this is closer to the truth.

are: balloons, rubbers, baby bottle nipples, etc. These are stretched over the end of the barrel and taped in place. A small hole or "X" is cut in the end. They expand to contain a portion of the propellant gases. These units may or may not hold up to repeated firing. The overall effect is sort of half assed but then half quiet is better than no quiet at all. Pillows, heavy coats, foam rubber, etc. can be wrapped around a firearm to reduce firing noise. Even with a excellent silencer, most autos need to be wrapped in something that will muffle the mechanical noise of operation.

THE POOR MAN'S JAMES BOND by Kurt Saxon contains plans for a silenced box with a handgun inside. Just reach inside and blast away.

Most individually produced or "hand made" silencers soon meet a common fate. At some point the silencer loses proper alignment with the barrel. The next round catches on a baffle and the entire interior of the unit is destroyed. As a bonus, the tube is often launched 50 feet down range. You can imagine how embarrassing this is to a young guy just starting out. The key then is aligning the tube with the bore, then everything else falls into place.

Alignment and mounting of the tube can be handled in several different ways, but one basic rule holds true for all of them. To assure constant alignment with the bore, the silencer tube must be supported by at least two points on the barrel.

The simplest method is to tape the barrel at two points to support the tube (see improvised silencer mount article). This method works well for a while and is extremely accurate. If care is taken when wrapping the tape, the resulting unit will be no more than two tape thicknesses out of alignment. The one drawback to this system is a tendency for the tube to slowly crawl off the barrel, a little more with each successive shot. It is a good idea to hang on tight to this type of unit, always maintaining a constant rearward tension on the tube while firing.

Tubing

The two types of metal tubing generally used in homemade silencer construction are thick walled aluminum tubing and thin walled brass drain pipe. Both are light, inexpensive, and available at most hardware and plumbing stores. The aluminum comes in 6 foot lengths and sells for about $3.00 each. Brass drain pipe is sold in straight sections 12 inches long, both plain brass and chrome plated. These sections cost about $2.00 each.

Thin walled brass tubes are easily joined together with silver solder. Aluminum tubing can't be soldered but is easily held together with screws because the wall thickness is sufficient to hold threads. The holes can be drilled and tapped in the conventional manner or simply drilled with a hand drill and threaded with self tapping machine screws.

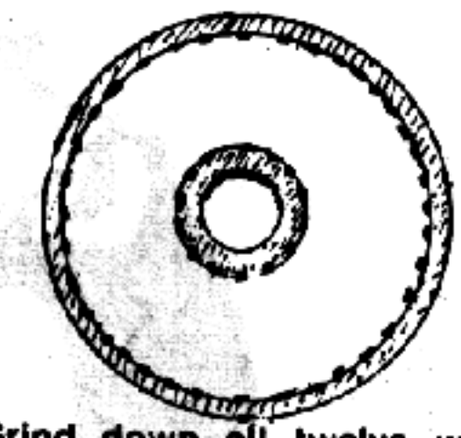
The following are construction plans for two 22 caliber silencers. The first one uses brass tubing and is silver soldered together. The second is made from aluminum and is held together with machine screws. Both units are simple, trouble free and quite effective. These construction proceedures can be easily modified for building silencers in larger calibers.

A. Brass Tubing Silencer

Materials needed.

1 piece Brass drain pipe (plain or chromed) 12 inches long, 1 1/4 inch diameter.
12 fender washers—1 3/16 inch diameter.
1 piece 9/32 inch brass tubing—sold in 12 inch sections (8 inches are needed).
9/32 inch drill bit and drill.
1/16 inch drill bit.
silver solder and propane torch
hacksaw
file or grinder
C clamp

Step 1



Grind down all twelve washers until they will slide into the tube. A file or bench grinder may be used. Take care that the washers remain round and that the hole is in the exact center.

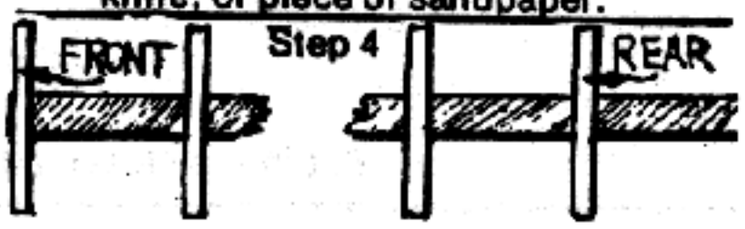
Step 2

Enlarge the hole in the washers to 9/32 inches.

Step 3

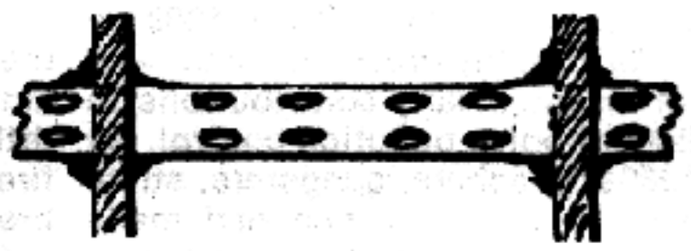
Cut the 9/32 inch brass tubing to eight inches long. Remove the burrs from the ends with a file, knife, or piece of sandpaper.

Step 4



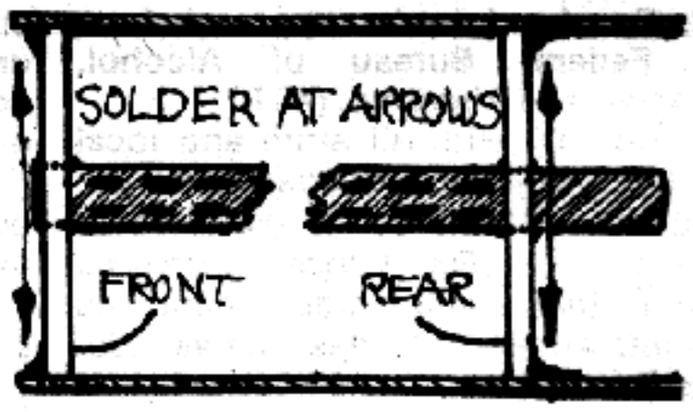
Ten of the twelve washers are now slipped over the 9/32 inch tube. The front washer (end cap) should be flush with the front end of the tubing. The rear washer is placed one inch from the rear of the tube. The remaining eight washers are spaced equally between the front and rear. Solder all ten washers in place.

Step 5



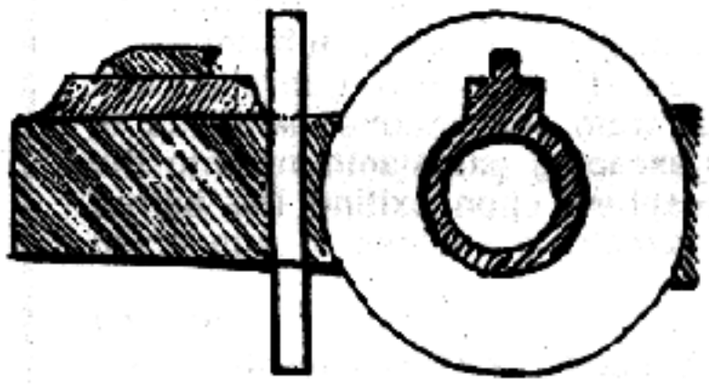
Drill two rows of four 1/16 inch holes between each set of washers. Drill completely through the tube. This will result in four rows of four, a total of sixteen holes between each baffle. Remove any burrs or metal chips from the interior of the tube with a thin file or a rolled up piece of sandpaper.

Step 6



Install the baffle assembly into the outer tube. The front baffle (end cap) should be recessed about 1/16 inch. The spaces between the washers may be filled with steel wool or rolls of brass screen before installing in the outer tube. This is optional as there is some disagreement about the value of these materials as baffling devices. Solder the baffle assembly in place.

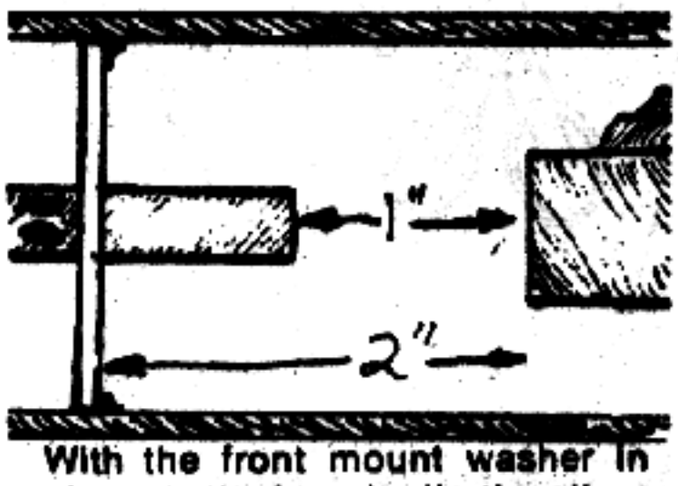
Step 7



The two remaining washers are used as the mounting assembly. The front washer is modified to slip over the barrel and rest at a

point directly behind the front sight base. This requires reaming, drilling or filing out the hole to match the diameter of the barrel at this point. A cut out is made in the washer to allow it to slip past the sight base. The washer is now slipped over the barrel and turned 180 deg. If the above was done properly, the washer will be held from forward movement by the sight base. The taper of the barrel will prevent it from moving to the rear.

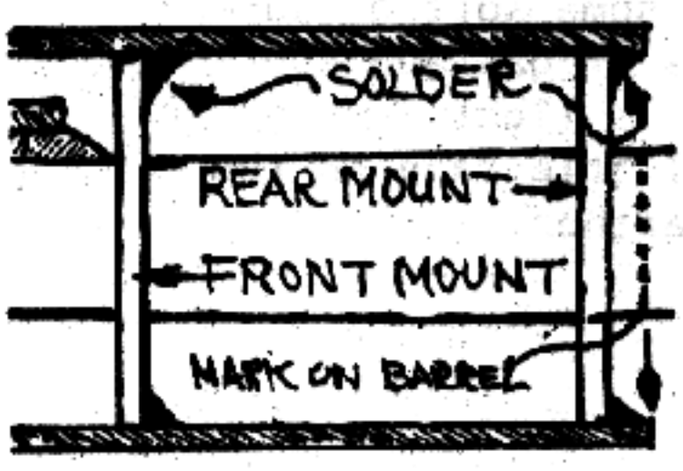
Step 8



With the front mount washer in place on the barrel, slip the silencer onto the gun as far as possible. The gun's muzzle will be resting against the rear end of the silencer's inner brass tube. The silencer is now moved forward one inch. This creates a two inch chamber between the muzzle and the rear baffle. This space is necessary for the initial expansion of gas as it leaves the muzzle. Place a mark on the barrel that corresponds to the rear edge of the silencer tube.

Align the silencer with the bore of the gun. This may be done visually or with a tight fitting stick. When the unit is aligned, place a C clamp around the silencer directly over the front mount washer and tighten the C clamp in place. Remove the silencer from the barrel. Take care not to disturb the position of the washer in the tube. This washer is now soldered in place to the silencer interior. Remove the C clamp.

Step 9



The rear washer is now notched and drilled until it will slide onto the gun and come to rest at a point 1/16 inches in front of the mark on the barrel. This washer doesn't lock onto anything, it functions as a rear support only. Slide the silencer over the barrel and onto the rear washer. It should extend 1/16 inch beyond the washer. Solder the washer to the silencer. The completed silencer/mount assembly can now be installed and removed in seconds.

Step 10

If for some reason the silencer is not in correct alignment when installed, it may be adjusted. Clamp the gun into a padded vise. Sight down the silencer and bend it into proper alignment while heating the soldered joints of the two mount washers.

Improvised Silencer Mount

This device can be used to mount a commercial or improvised silencer, attaching it firmly to the barrel of the weapon and maintaining perfect alignment with the bore.

The Mount can be used with several sizes of silencers and is designed for quick installation and removal. It is made from a metal or hard plastic tube 1-1 1/2 inches inside diameter and about 9 inches long.

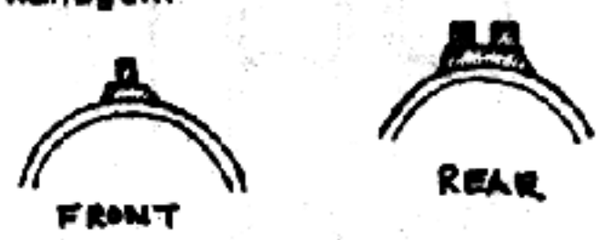
Four 1 inch deep hacksaw cuts are made in each end of the tube. This will produce 8 evenly spaced slots, 1 inch deep. Bevel the inside edges of both ends of the tube with a round file or sandpaper. Place a hose clamp on each end of the tube and screw down finger tight.

The barrel is now wrapped with black plastic electrical tape at 2 points, the first directly behind the front sight and the second about 5 inches behind the muzzle. On barrels shorter than 5 inches, the tape is wrapped at the rear of the barrel. Continue to wrap the tape until both rolls are a snug fit when the tube is pushed onto the barrel.

Slide the mount tube onto the barrel until the rear clamp is directly over the rear roll of the tape. Tighten the rear clamp with a penny or screwdriver. The tube is now in almost perfect alignment with the barrel.

The silencer is now taped in two places until it is also a snug fit in the tube. The front clamp should correspond to the front roll of tape on the silencer.

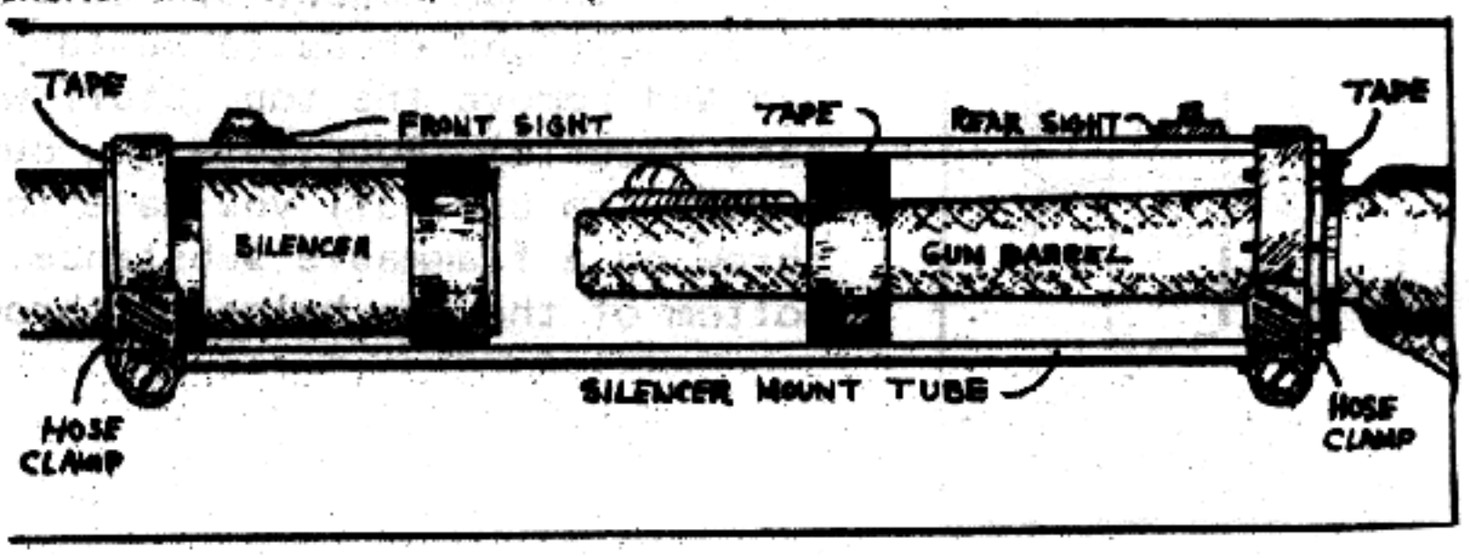
This mount will not interfere with the slight pattern on a scoped rifle, but sights must be installed for use on a handgun.

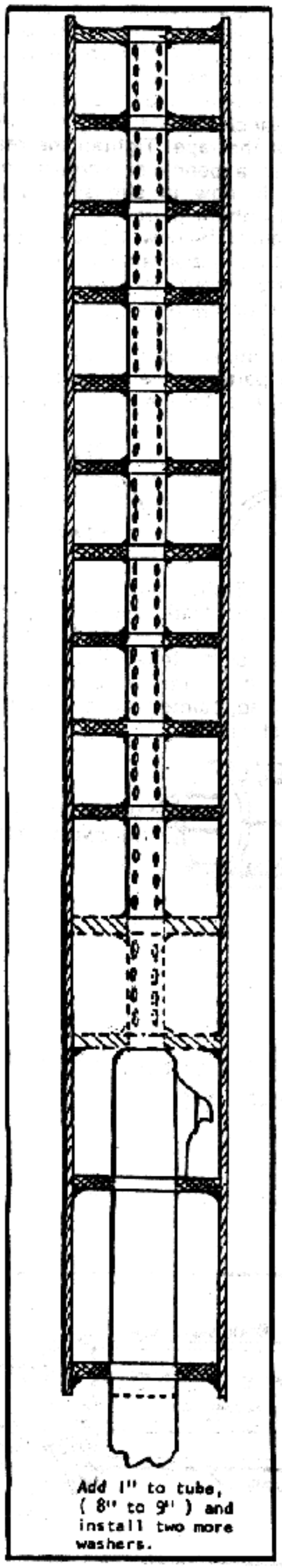


Sights may be fabricated from metal or plastic and soldered or epoxyed in place. Ready made commercial sights may also be used.

When the mount is completed it may be blued, painted, or covered with black plastic tape.

See finished silencer next page.

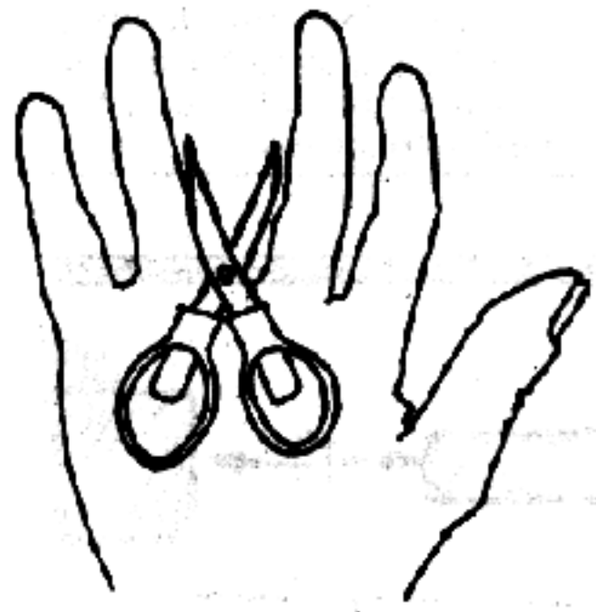




SHARP KNUCKLES

BY M. OHNO

An inexpensive, convenient, and legal pocket weapon has long been known in the guise of the ordinary household scissors. However, the new folding type in stainless steel wont rust if gotten wet, are compact, handy, fit any budget at under $3, and they are available from most any camping, hardware, or discount store. Most importantly, the folding feature insures against inadvertant misadventures such as castration or disembowelment when sitting down quickly (it pays not to be your own most dangerous enemy,believe me). What is more, they should pass muster at airport or police shakedowns. While they may not believe that your fingernails grow so fast you have to clip them all day, you're quite safe from concealed weapons hassles.



Finally, their use is as natural as throwing a punch— more important than one might think. A weapon is only as good as one's ability to use it under stress. Many a top notch pistol shot has been known to miss targets across the room due to the involuntary"heeling" and muscular tension experienced while under stress. Just place the scissors in the fist as shown and you are all set to throw a punch with some real authority in it.

THE HANDY NO IMPACT REQUIRED FIREBOMB

By The Firebug

I came up with this devilish little device one day while pondering the best way to torch piles of hay. It uses a minimum amount of fuel, is silent (no bottles breaking), and cheap to build. Take an empty soft drink can and remove the top. Stuff with some sort of absorbant material. Pour in a few ounces of gas and pour out excess. To use, all you have to do is light the top and throw on a flammable substance. A little sand in the bottom of the can helps it throw farther.