FIRING FROM THE SHOULDER

Note position of feet, body well forward, shoulder into gun, right elbow well up, right leg braced.

THE THOMPSON SUBMACHINE GUN

Mechanism Made Easy

DATA

GUN

Overall length of gun with stock	$33\frac{3}{4}$ ins.
Overall length of gun without stock ...	$25\frac{1}{4}$ ins.
Weight (without magazine)	10 lbs.
Weight of gun with drum magazine, loaded 50 rounds	$14\frac{3}{4}$ lbs.
Weight of gun with box magazine, loaded 20 rounds	$11\frac{1}{4}$ lbs.
Barrel length without Cutts compensator	$10\frac{1}{2}$ ins.
Barrel length with Cutts compensator ...	$12\frac{1}{2}$ ins.
Rifling right-hand one turn in 16 ins. ...	
Rate of fire, semi-automatic (single-aimed shots) per minute	Up to 100 shots.
Cyclic rate of fire, fully automatic (approx.)	700 rds. per min.

MAGAZINES

Drum magazine capacity	50 rds.
Drum magazine weight, fully loaded ...	$4\frac{3}{4}$ lbs.
Box magazine capacity	20 rds.
Box magazine weight, fully loaded ...	$1\frac{1}{4}$ lbs.

AMMUNITION

.45 calibre rimless auto pistol cartridge.

Weight of bullet	230 grains.
Weight of cartridge	324 grains.
Weight of 50 cartridges	$2\frac{1}{4}$ lbs.

SIGHTS

Foresight blade.

Backsight adjustable slide on leaf graduated 50-600 yards.

Open battle sight (aperture in position with leaf lowered) sighted for 50 yards.

GENERAL DESCRIPTION

The Thompson Submachine Gun is a small handy automatic weapon capable of delivering a high rate of fire.

It is provided with a change lever on the trigger mechanism whereby either fully automatic fire (continuous bursts of fire) or semi-automatic fire (single shots) may be delivered.

Fins are turned on the barrel which assist to dissipate the heat generated when the gun is fired. The barrel, however, soon becomes too hot to touch and a special forend grip is fitted under the barrel so that the hand holding same is kept well away from the barrel.

PRINCIPLE OF OPERATION

The gun is recoil operated by the backward thrust of the cartridge case which occurs when the charge explodes. There is no *positive* locking action of the bolt ; the delay in the opening of the breech, so that the cartridge is given the necessary support in the chamber at the moment the gun is fired, works on the principle known as the Hesitation or Delayed Action System.

†MECHANISM

On the firing of the gun the expanding gases of the exploded charge exert pressure—

(A) against the base of the bullet to drive it through the bore of the barrel ;

(B) against the walls of the cartridge case which obturate (are expanded) against the walls of the chamber ;

(C) against the base of the cartridge case.

REARWARD MOVEMENT OF THE BOLT

The pressure against the base of the cartridge case overcomes the mechanism on the gun which provides the principal element of friction to delay the opening of the breech. When the breech is opened the spent case is projected rearward from the chamber, driving the bolt with it to the rear, until the base of the spent case strikes against the ejector and is ejected through the ejection port in the body, clear of the gun.

The bolt in its movement to the rear compresses the recoil spring.

If the change lever is in " Single Shot " position (or in the " Full Auto " position, and pressure on trigger is released) the sear of the trigger mechanism engages the bent in the bolt, thereby the bolt is held back and is prevented from being driven forward under the pressure of the compressed recoil spring.

FORWARD MOVEMENT OF THE BOLT

On the trigger being pressed the sear disengages the bent of the bolt, the compressed recoil spring reasserts itself, driving the bolt forward. The face of the bolt strikes the base of the next cartridge in the magazine (which has been fed into position by the magazine spring), carrying it into the chamber. The extractor springs into the grooved base of the cartridge.

As the bolt reaches its fully forward position home—*i.e.*, the breech is closed—the bottom forward end of the triangular hammer strikes against an abutment inside the front end of the receiver. The hammer being pivoted on its pin at its centre, the top forward end of the hammer strikes a forward blow to the rear end of the firing pin, with which it is in contact. The firing pin is thus driven forward and the striker hits the cap of the cartridge in the chamber and fires the round.

As the bolt approaches its foremost position the lugs on the H-piece engage their grooves in the body which, together with the pressure of the recoil spring imparted to the H-piece through the medium of the slot in the cocking handle (which is engaged with the bridge of the H-piece), drives the H-piece downwards into its original position again.

COCKING HANDLE.

The cocking handle rests in the bolt and is free to slide therein ; the inclined slot between its two fingers engages the H-piece bridge (or bar). The front end of the recoil spring is housed in a hole inside the cocking handle.

BREECH OILER

The breech oiler consists of a spring which holds oil-saturated felt pads. In its position in the body, the oil-saturated felt pads lubricate the lugs of the H-piece and help to keep the sides of the bolt lubricated as the bolt reciprocates backwards and forwards.

DELAYING ACTION MECHANISM

On explosion of the charge the resultant backward force that the spent case exerts against the face of the bolt is transmitted to the

H-piece which is situated in its 70° inclined slot in the bolt and so to the lugs of the H-piece which are engaged in short 45° recessed grooves in the body.

Thus resistance to the bolt's backward movement is encountered, because the lugs of the H-piece in engagement with the short 45° inclined slot in the body lift the H-piece ; resistance to this lifting action occurs because the front inclined face of the H-piece meets the rear face of the 70° inclined slot in the bolt. The rising of the H-piece is further delayed because its bridge engages the slot in the cocking handle which is set to the rear at an angle of 10° from the vertical.

The direction of the movement of the H-piece as a result of the movement of these components is upwards and backwards.

The above described delaying action prevents the bolt from moving to the rear during the period of high chamber pressure.

The adhesion of the frictional surfaces thus maintains the H-piece in a fixed position until the pressure in the chamber has so far dropped to the point when there is just enough residual pressure to impart the necessary momentum to drive the bolt to the rear and fully compress the recoil spring.

Plate II opposite shows the inclined surfaces of the slot in the cocking handle, the H-piece, the inclined slot in bolt and the angle of the inclined recessed grooves in the body.

CUTTS COMPENSATOR

The Cutts compensator (2, Plate III, page 11) is designed so that it compensates a tendency for the barrel to rise upwards, and also it reduces the amount of free recoil of the gun. This compensating action takes place as follows :—

The gases which are at high pressure behind the bullet immediately on the latter leaving the muzzle of the barrel, escape into the outer air through the orifices at the top of the compensator. The result is the blast of gases finding their way out gives a compensating thrust downwards on the compensator and so keeps the muzzle of the gun down.

At the same time the gases tend to blow the compensator off the muzzle of the gun ; the actual effect is to give a forward thrust to the gun, thus giving compensating action to the backward recoil of the gun.

NOTE.—Firing tends to fill the orifices of the compensator with residue from the burning powder charge ; it is important, in order that the full effect of the compensator is obtained, that the orifices should always be kept clean.

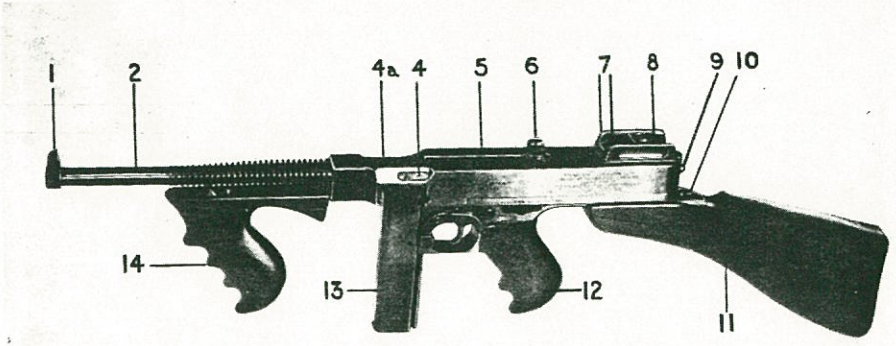


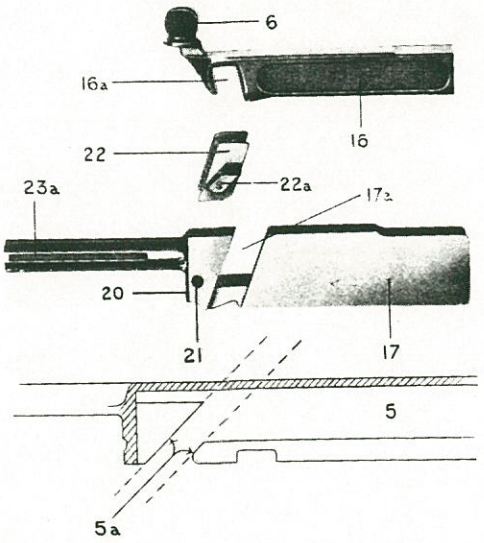
Plate I

1 *Foresight.*
2 *Barrel.*
4 Ejector.
4a Ejection port.
5 *Body.*
6 *Cocking handle.*
7 Backsight protector ramps.
8 *Backsight.*
9 Projection of buffer rod.
10 *Butt catch.*
11 *Butt.*
12 *Pistol Grip.*
13 Box magazine (20 rounds capacity).
14 Fore grip.

Plate II

Showing the angles of the inclined surfaces referred to in text.

5 *Body.*
5a Inclined recessed groove in *Body* for 22a.
6 *Cocking handle.*
16 Actuator.
16a Slot in actuator for bridge of H-piece.
22 H-*piece.*
22a Lugs of H-piece.
17 *Bolt.*
17a Inclined slot in bolt for H-piece.
20 Hammer.
21 Hammer pin.
23a Groove in bolt for extractor.



STRIPPING

(1) Ensure gun is unloaded and remove magazine.

BUTT

(2) Press in butt catch (10), located immediately to rear end of body (5), Plate I, page 9. Butt may now be removed by drawing it to the rear.

PISTOL GRIP

(3) Pull back cocking handle to its rearmost position.

(4) Put safety catch to " Fire " position.

(5) Set change lever to " Full Auto."

(6) Return bolt to its fully forward closed position, as follows : With the left hand gripping cocking handle in its rear position, press the trigger with the index finger of the right hand. The left hand allows the cocking handle to return slowly forward until the bolt is right home.

(7) Place gun upside down on a table or knees, press in stud (15, Plate III, opposite) and with it depressed, tap frame rearward a short distance. Now grasp the body in one hand and the pistol grip in the other and pull the trigger, and with it held depressed, the pistol grip can be slid off the body to the rear.

THE BODY GROUP

Recoil Spring

(8) Place gun upside down on a table, grasp the recoil spring stripping tool firmly in the left hand and insert it into its hole in the front end of buffer rod. Push the stripping tool towards the bolt as far as it will go. This will withdraw the rear end of buffer rod from its seating in its hole at the rear end of body. Tilt stripping tool so that the fingers of the right hand may grasp the buffer. (See Plate IV, page 13, illustration B.) The recoil spring, the buffer fibre disc and rod and the stripping tool may now be removed. Remove buffer fibre disc. Remove stripping tool, and whilst doing this hold buffer rod and spring so that they do not fly apart.

Bolt, H-piece and Cocking Handle.

(9) Slide bolt to its rearmost position, when it can be lifted out.

(10) Slide cocking handle with H-piece to their foremost position, when H-piece may be removed through its inclined grooves in the body.

(11) Slide cocking handle to its rearmost position, when it can be lifted out.

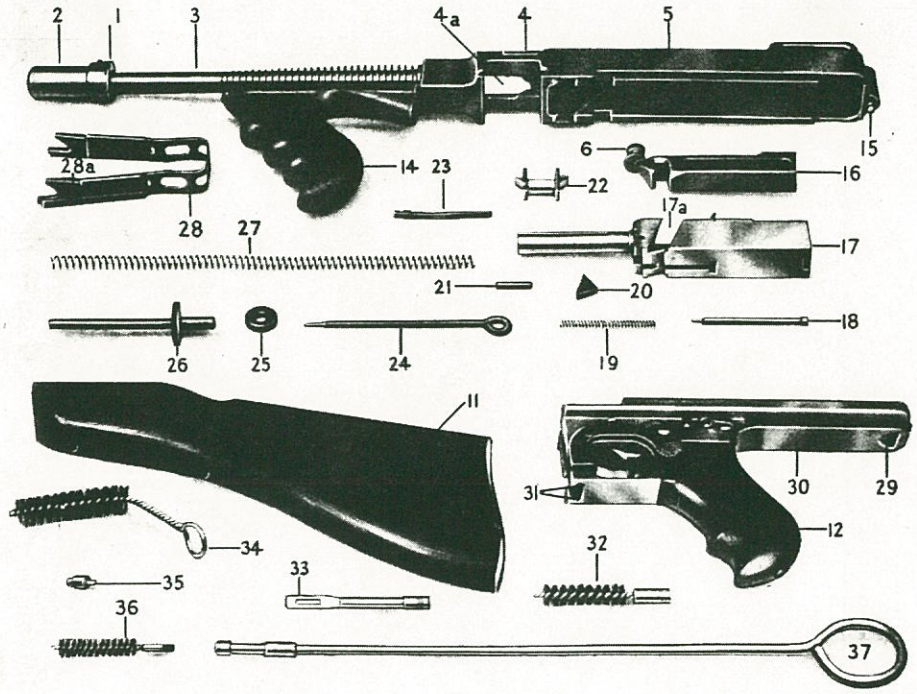


Plate III

1	*Foresight.*	24	Recoil spring stripping tool.
2	Cutts compensator.	25	Buffer fibre disc.
3	*Barrel.*	26	*Buffer.*
4	Ejector.	27	Recoil spring.
4a	Ejection port.	28	Breech oiler.
5	*Body.*	28a	Breech oiler felt pads.
6	*Cocking handle.*	29	Notch in frame for butt catch.
11	*Butt.*	30	Frame.
12	*Pistol grip.*	31	Vertical grooves in frame for ribs of box magazine.
14	Fore grip.	*32	Barrel bristle brush, cleaning.
15	*Stud.*	*33	Cleaning rod brass loop, flannelette.
16	Actuator.	34	Chamber cleaning bristle brush.
17	*Bolt.*	*35	Cleaning rod adapter.
17a	Slot in bolt for H-piece.	*36	Barrel wire brush, cleaning.
18	Firing pin.	*37	Cleaning rod.
19	Firing pin spring.		
20	Hammer.		
21	Hammer pin.		
22	H-*piece.*		
23	Extractor.		

* *Parts marked thus if not issued are replaced by pull-through and gauze.* (*See Note*, p. 24.)

Firing Pin

(12) With the end of recoil spring stripping tool push out hammer pin. The hammer, firing pin and spring can now be removed. (Take care that these parts do not fly out on their own accord as they have a tendency to spring out under pressure of the firing pin spring.)

†Extractor

(*need not be removed for ordinary cleaning purposes*)

(13) Lift up extractor just enough for its lug to clear its recess in the bolt and withdraw it forward. Take care not to lift extractor higher than necessary as it may break or become bent.

†Ejector

(*need not be removed for ordinary cleaning purposes*)

(14) Lift ejector leaf from its recess in body. This will disengage stud from its depression in body; unscrew from body.

NOTE.—The ejector leaf must not be lifted higher than is just necessary to accomplish this operation.

†Breech Oiler

(*need not be removed for ordinary cleaning purposes*)

(15) Press the fingers of the breech oiler together sufficiently to clear the undercut recess in receiver, when it can be removed.

STRIPPED PARTS

The parts of the gun now stripped as described above 1-12 are illustrated in Plate III, page 11, and comprise all the parts necessary to be stripped for ordinary cleaning purposes, with the exception of the extractor, ejector and breech oiler, which do not always need to be removed for this.

†STRIPPING OF THE PISTOL GRIP GROUP

As it is not necessary to strip the pistol grip for ordinary cleaning purposes, no description is given of the operations necessary to accomplish this.

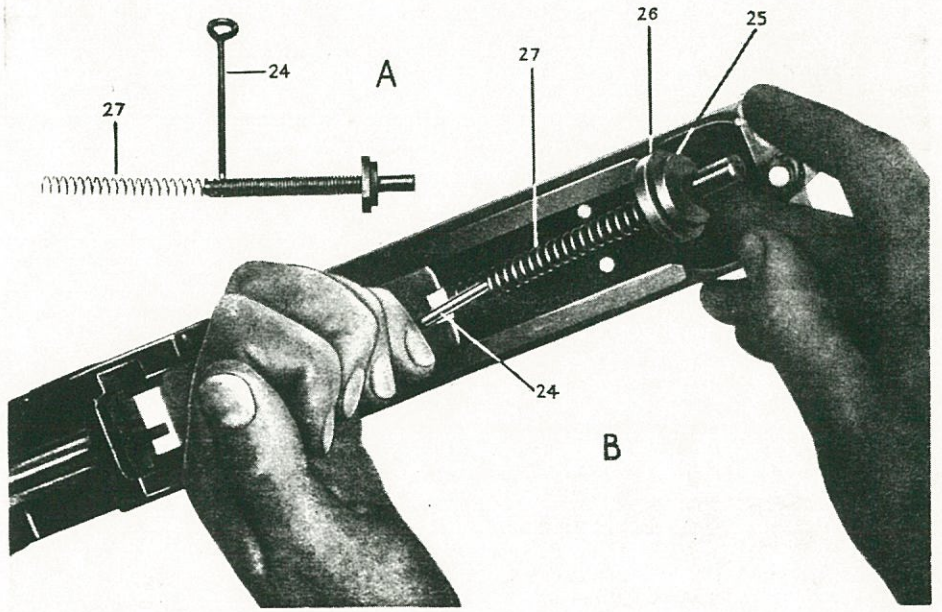


Plate IV

A TOP—*Recoil spring partly compressed on buffer rod, stripping tool inserted (side opposite to flat on buffer collar) ready for reassembling into gun.*

B BOTTOM—*Detail showing method of stripping recoil spring and buffer.*

24 Recoil spring stripping tool.
25 Buffer fibre disc.
26 Buffer.
27 Recoil spring.

TO REASSEMBLE GUN

The gun is reassembled by reversing the forementioned stripping operations. Pay particular attention to the following points :—

H-piece

On one side of the bridge of the H-piece are engraved the word " UP " and an →. When replacing the H-piece in its recessed grooves in the body the word " UP " must be uppermost and the → pointing in direction of the muzzle.

Breech Oiler

The breech oiler should be replaced in the body with the long sides of its felt pads downwards.

Recoil Spring

NOTE.—The recoil spring will be the more easily reassembled by observing the following :—

Hold buffer end of buffer rod against body with flat side of collar downwards. Place recoil spring on buffer rod and compress it a little at a time with each hand. When partly compressed in this manner hold spring in position on rod with left hand and insert stripping tool (handle uppermost) into its hole in buffer rod ; this will retain spring in position. (See Plate IV illustration A.) Replace buffer fibre disc, insert the free end of recoil spring in its hole in the cocking handle. Position rear end of buffer rod in its hole in the rear end of body. (Caution : it will be noted that there is now a gap between the front end of the buffer rod and rear end of bolt, and if the stripping tool were removed, the recoil spring is likely to buckle and fly out through this gap, therefore the following must be observed and carried out.) With the left hand draw back cocking handle until the rear end of bolt just lightly touches the stripping tool. (Now, on withdrawal of the stripping tool, the recoil spring will be guided into its hole in the cocking handle by the buffer rod.) With the left hand withdraw stripping tool.

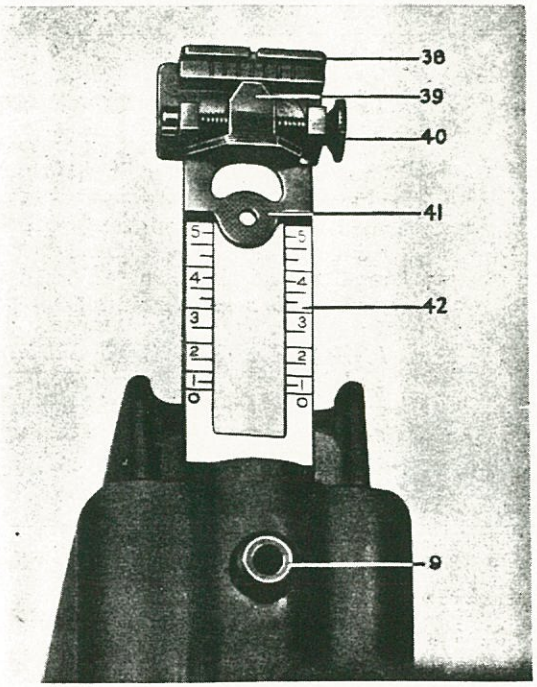
NOTE.—Recoil spring stripping tool.

Some guns may not be supplied with the stripping tool (24) illustrated in Plates III and IV. It is a simple matter to make one ; the illustrations will serve as a guide for this purpose. Alternatively a nail of appropriate size may be used.

Plate V

38 Battle (open) sight.
39 Index finger.
40 Aperture sight lateral adjustment screw. (Turned clockwise moves aperture sight to right.)
41 Aperture sight.
42 Leaf engraved for elevation in yards range.
9 Rear end of buffer rod projecting through its seating hole in *body*.

The illustration on this page and the accompanying text describes in detail the sights fitted to the gun. Aiming is done in the same way as with aperture-sighted rifles.



†SIGHTS

Plate V illustrates the backsight with the leaf raised, showing adjustable backsight slide carrying the aperture sight, and the scale graduated on the leaf up to 600 yards. To set sight for elevation, raise the leaf and move the slide to range required. With the leaf lowered, the battle sight (an open backsight) is in position, which is sighted for 50 yards. The aperture sight can be moved laterally by means of a turnscrew ; turned in a clockwise direction moves aperture sight to right. When the gun has been zeroed, a line should be placed on index finger to determine the correct adjustment for zero. It is to be noted in this connection that considerable variation in shooting may be obtained, when different firers use the same sight setting ; this is due to the different manner in which the gun may be held by them.

NOTE.—For ranges up to 50 yards the leaf sight should be folded down and the slot in the cocking handle used as an open backsight. See text and illustrations on next two pages.

THE USE OF THE COCKING HANDLE IN AIMING

Plate VI opposite shows how to aim using the slot in cocking handle as a backsight. This method of aiming should be employed for ranges up to 50 yards, as a very quick alignment of sights on the target is thereby more quickly accomplished than by using the battle or aperture sight fitted to the gun. Rough alignment of the sights in this manner is sufficiently accurate to enable a man-size target to be hit with certainty up to 50 yards.

PRACTICAL RANGES.—Results to be expected depend a great deal, naturally, on the skill of the gunner, prevailing conditions and type of target. The following may be used as a guide for a shot of average ability. Firing from the shoulder, deliberate aimed single shots up to 100 yds. Aimed single shots, rapid fire up to 50 yds. Quick bursts up to 30 yds. Quick bursts fired from waist up to 20 yds.

AMMUNITION NOTES

.45 Calibre rimless auto-pistol cartridge.

230 grain bullet. Muzzle velocity approx. 950 f.p.s.

Range	*Height of Bullet above Line of Sight.*
100 yds.	At 50 yds. $4\frac{3}{4}$ inches.
200 yds.	At 50 yds., $16\frac{3}{4}$ inches; at 100 yds., $22\frac{3}{4}$ inches; at 150 yds., $18\frac{1}{2}$ inches.

Penetration: At 25 yds., damp loam soil, approx. 10 inches.
At 25 yds., dry sand, approx. 8 inches.
White Pine, at 50 yds., $5\frac{3}{4}$ inches; at 100 yds., $5\frac{1}{2}$ inches; at 200 yds., $4\frac{1}{2}$ inches.

Maximum range at an angle of elevation of 30 degrees is approximately 1,650 yds.

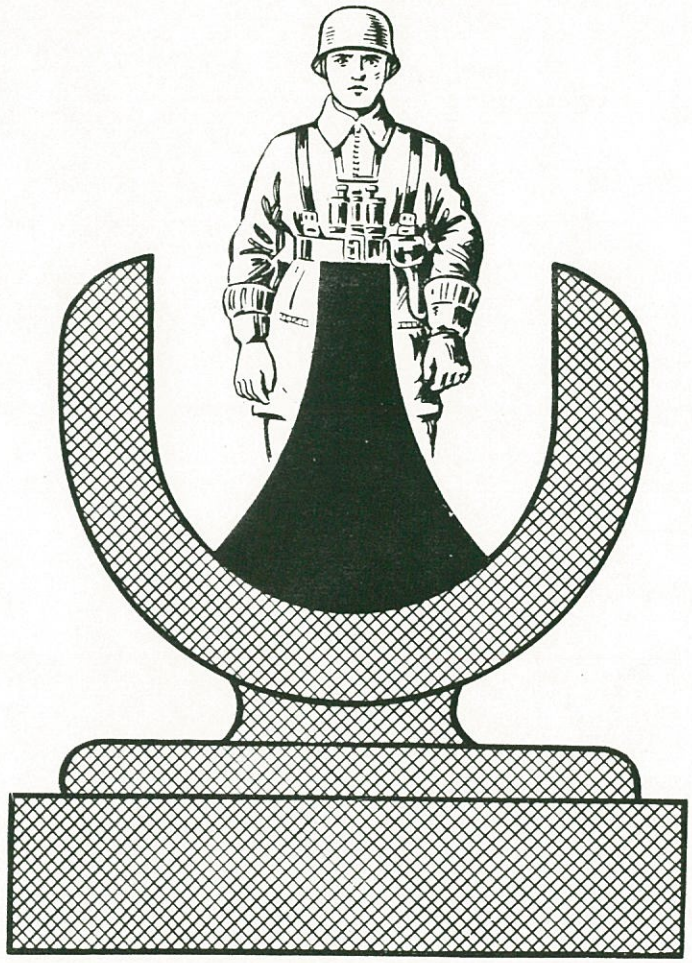


Plate VI. How to Aim using the Cocking Handle for Quick Alignment of Sights

MAGAZINES

There are two types of magazines as illustrated in Plate VII on the opposite page.

BOX MAGAZINE

This consists of the body, a floor plate and cartridge follower or platform, and spring.

It is important that every care should be taken to prevent the magazine from becoming dented or the lips of the mouth of the magazine from becoming deformed; the latter should be .55 inches apart.

DRUM MAGAZINE

This consists of the main drum casing, the base and cover, a central rotor driven by a mainspring, spiral track cartridge guide and magazine key, as shown in the illustrations.

NOTE.—Great care should be taken to see that magazines are kept clean and dry and their sockets and holes into which the magazine catch engages free from becoming deformed.

FILLING MAGAZINES

TO FILL BOX MAGAZINE

Grasp magazine with left hand, rib toward the body, press cartridges with a downward and backward motion into magazine with right hand. The rounds should be counted as they are loaded into the magazine.

Full capacity, 20 rounds.

NOTE.—Do not fill magazine beyond its capacity of 20 rounds. It is possible to force in an additional round. This should not be done, however, as it needs extra effort on the part of the bolt to feed this round into the breech, with a possibility of a faulty feed or a misfire resulting.

TO EMPTY BOX MAGAZINE

Hold magazine in same manner as for loading. With the base of a cartridge, press out cartridges forward and out of magazine.

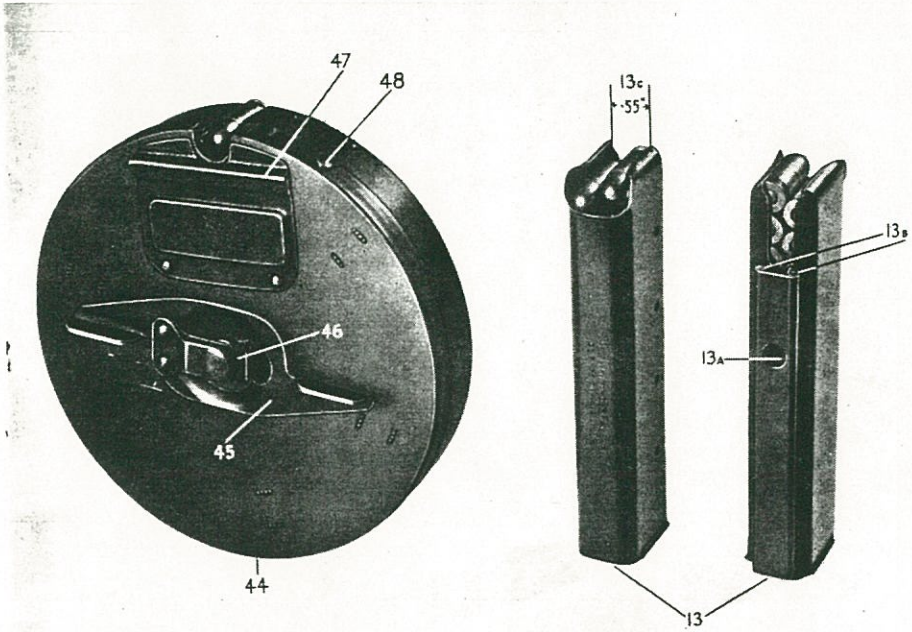


Plate VII MAGAZINES

	DRUM MAGAZINE (Capacity 50 rounds)		BOX MAGAZINE (Capacity 20 rounds)
44	Drum magazine.	13	Box magazine.
45	Magazine key.	13a	Hole in magazine rib for magazine catch.
46	Magazine key spring catch.	13b	Magazine ribs for engagement with 31, Plate XIV.
47	Magazine rib for engagement with 61, Plate XIV.	13c	Magazine lips (.55 inch apart).
48	Cover positioning stud.		

TO FILL DRUM MAGAZINE

Lift magazine key spring and slide off magazine key. Remove cover.

Plate VIII clearly shows how the magazine is loaded. The bullets are placed base down in the spiral track. First commence with a complete sector of the rotor at the mouth of the magazine. It will be noted that each sector of the rotor contains five rounds. (See Plate VIII, Illustration C.) The bullets are loaded anti-clockwise, outer spirals first, and should be counted until the magazine is fully loaded—*i.e.*, 50 rounds. Fully loaded magazine is shown in Plate VIII, Illustration D.

Replace magazine cover so that the slot cut in it engages with the cover positioning stud (48, Plate VII). Replace magazine key. Wind magazine key to number of clicks stated on the magazine cover.

NOTE.—The number of clicks stated on magazine gives the correct tension to mainspring for feeding all the 50 cartridges from a fully loaded magazine. No more tension should be given to the mainspring by winding magazine key as the cartridges are fired.

IMPORTANT—No rounds should be loaded beyond the looped end on the spiral track (see shaded portion, Illustration D, Plate VIII), as if this is done when the rotor turns, the round so placed will jam against the looped end of the spiral track.

TO EMPTY DRUM MAGAZINE

With the base of a bullet press out cartridges forward through the mouth of the magazine one by one until magazine is empty.

Alternative Method of emptying Drum Magazine

(See Plate IX.)

Lift magazine key spring and slide off magazine key. Remove cover. All the cartridges in the spiral track, with the exception of those in the first sector of the rotor at the mouth of the magazine, will be found to be loose and can be tipped out by turning the magazine upside down.

Now grasp the rotor with the fingers of the left hand. With the open side of the magazine pointing to the left, hold the rounded side of the magazine against the body and grip the rounded side farthest away from the body with the right hand. Press the side of the magazine against the body and turn the rotor approximately $\frac{1}{4}$ inch anti-clockwise with the left hand, when the

Plate VIII

DRUM MAGAZINE DETAIL

C. Illustration C shows partly loaded drum magazine.

Note.—

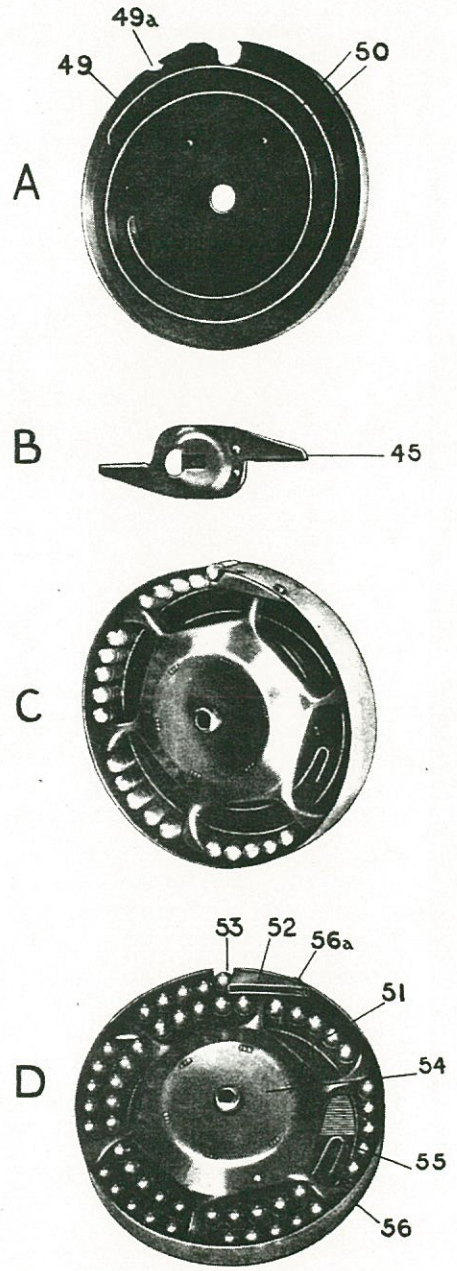
(i) Cartridges placed standing on their bases in body of magazine, bullets up.

(ii) Loading commenced with a complete section of the rotor loaded 5 rounds, at the mouth of magazine.

(iii) Loading continued anti-clockwise outer spiral, first.

D. Illustration D shows drum magazine fully loaded (to capacity 50 rounds).

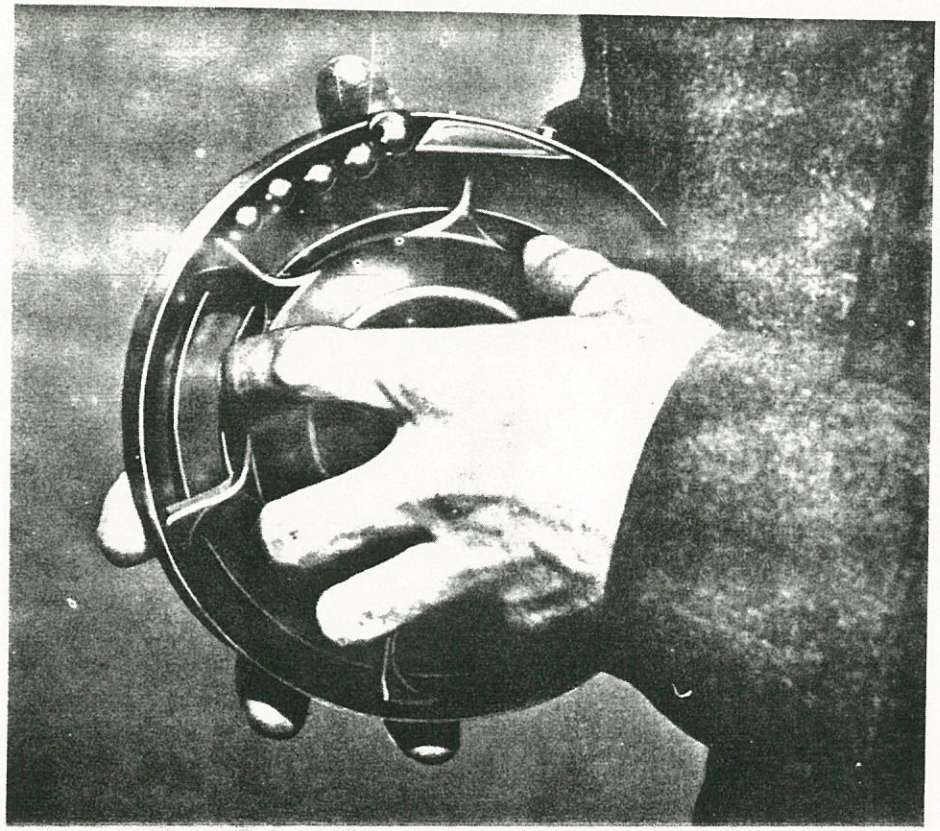
45 Magazine key.
49 Magazine cover.
49a Slot in cover for positioning Stud 56a.
50 Magazine cover spiral track guide for bullets.
51 Spiral track guide for cartridges in base of magazine.
52 Cartridge stop.
53 Mouth of magazine.
54 Rotor.
55 Looped end on spiral track (beyond which no cartridge should be placed—*i.e.*, area shown shaded).
56 Base of magazine.
56a Positioning stud for cover slot 49a.



cartridges in the first sector of the magazine can be removed with the right hand or tipped out. The magazine is now empty. (On no account allow the magazine or rotor to spin round uncontrolled, as this may damage or break the magazine mainspring.) Grasp the edge of the magazine again with the right hand; now allow the magazine little by little to unwind round the rotor, controlling its movement by the right hand and pressure against the body, until mainspring is unwound.

NOTE.—The fingers of the left hand should grip the rotor so that the fingers and thumb will be clear of the bullet stop at the mouth of the magazine, otherwise they may be pinched against it.

Plate IX How to hold Drum Magazine when emptying by alternative method as described above.



FIRING

BEFORE FIRING

Ensure barrel is clean and dry, and gun is unloaded.
All reciprocating parts must be well oiled.
Make certain that the felt pads of the breech oiler are well oiled.
With change lever set at " Full Auto " and trigger pressed, work cocking handle backwards and forwards several times under control, to ensure that the mechanism is working properly and smoothly, and to distribute the oil evenly.
Magazines must be clean and dry, and correctly loaded.

DURING FIRING

During firing see that the gun is adequately supplied with oil; all reciprocating surfaces should be oiled frequently and freely so as to ensure smooth and correct functioning of the gun.
If the gun is fired an excessive amount, the residue from the powder gases should be cleaned from the chamber and breech; this can be done quickly and easily with the breech bristle brush. This ensures smooth and easy extraction of spent cases.

AFTER FIRING

Strip body group (see page 10).
The barrel is cleaned in a similar manner as for a rifle. Use the cleaning rod and barrel cleaning brushes for this purpose. Flannelette patches, approximately 4 × 4 in., will be found to be correct on the loop end of the cleaning rod. It is important that all surfaces of the gun which are subjected to the effect of gases from the exploded charge should be wiped thoroughly clean and oiled. Make certain the following are thoroughly cleaned :—
The bolt, front end of bolt, extractor, firing pin and spring. (It is important that the latter two parts should be inspected and cleaned after firing, as otherwise they may become impregnated with powder gases and rust unseen in the bolt.)
The inside of the body should be cleaned and also the ejector head. The parts should be thoroughly oiled and the felt pads of the breech oiler saturated with oil when the gun is being reassembled. A good grade of lubricating oil should be used. A drop or two should be given to the trigger mechanism, stop pins, sear and sear lever.
After reassembling the gun a little oil should be given to the rounded front end of the bolt; the cocking handle should be worked backwards and forwards several times to ensure that the oil is distributed to the reciprocating parts properly.

Magazines should be wiped free from powder gases residue with an oiled rag. They should be thoroughly dried when next required for use.

NOTE.—If no cleaning rod available, use pull-through. Flannellette, size 4×8″, should be pulled through from breech end until clean, then finally oil with a piece of flannellette, 4×6″. Excessive fouling may be removed by packing out rifle gauze with flannellette so as to fit bore snugly.

TO LOAD GUN

The loading positions are illustrated in the Plates opposite.

(1) Stand facing target.

Grasp pistol grip with right hand, trigger finger outside trigger guard. Butt under right arm, muzzle pointing downwards at 45°. (See Plate X.)

(A) BOX MAGAZINE.

Turn gun to right, grasp magazine in left hand, ribs towards firer, bullets uppermost, insert ribs of magazine in their corresponding vertical grooves in body. (See Plate XI.)
*Push magazine home until magazine catch engages its hole in magazine ribs. Return gun to vertical position. (See Plate XII.)
To complete loading cock gun by pulling back with left hand the cocking handle to the rear as far as it will go—*i.e.*, until it clicks twice. (See also Note, page 26.)

(B) DRUM MAGAZINE.

Adopt the same position as shown in Plates X, XI and XII.
Cock gun (the gun must be cocked before a drum magazine can be inserted).
Grasp magazine in left hand, magazine key towards muzzle of gun, mouth of magazine towards barrel. Insert magazine by engaging horizontal ribs of magazine (47, Plate VII) with their corresponding grooves (see 61, Plate XIV) in body.
*Push magazine into position until magazine catch engages its slot in base of magazine.

* *NOTE.—No undue pressure or force must be applied when pushing magazine home, as the top of the magazine ribs in the case of the box type, or in the case of the round drum magazine its magazine catch slot, may be damaged. In most cases it will be found best to raise the magazine catch with the thumb of the left hand, while inserting either type of magazine. It is very important to ensure that the magazine catch has properly engaged the magazine catch hole of the box type or slot of the drum magazine.*

Plate X. TOP LEFT—"LOADING POSITION."

Plate XI. TOP RIGHT—INSERTING BOX MAGAZINE.

Plate XII. BOTTOM LEFT—BOX MAGAZINE INSERTED.

Plate XIII. USE OF THUMB OF LEFT HAND TO OPERATE MAGAZINE CATCH WHEN UNLOADING GUN.

FIRING POSITIONS

FIRING FROM THE WAIST

In an emergency and when it is required to fire with the utmost rapidity on a surprise target at close quarters, quite effective fire may be delivered by firing the gun from the waist.

Plate XV shows the position firing from the waist. Note particularly :

Left foot advanced with knee bent, weight of body on left leg, right leg braced. The whole attitude one of determination and aggression.

FIRING FROM THE SHOULDER

Plate XVI and the frontispiece show the position firing from the shoulder ; note the right elbow is raised and the right shoulder pushed forward into gun, body and feet same as for firing from the waist. The whole attitude one of determination and aggression.

If the gun is held loosely, shots tend to go high. There is a natural tendency to shoot high with the submachine gun, and when firing bursts the tendency is for the bullets to strike high and to the right. The gunner will soon be able to correct this by practice.

ON THE MOVE

When action is imminent the gun should be carried at the ready, similar to the firing position from the waist. Ordinarily it may be carried at the trail by turning the gun upside down and grasping the pistol grip or slung over the shoulder by means of the sling.

Plate XV FIRING POSITION FROM THE WAIST

IMMEDIATE ACTION

The gun will stop firing :—

(1) When the box-type magazine is empty, the gun will stop with the cocking handle in its rearmost position. Immediate action to be applied : Change empty magazine for a full one, carry on firing.

(2) When a drum-type magazine is empty, the gun will stop firing with the cocking handle in its foremost position, and a rattling sound will be heard, indicating that the drum magazine is empty.

Immediate action to be applied :—

Cock gun. Replace empty magazine with full magazine ; carry on firing.

(3) Gun still fails to fire :—

Cock gun and give it a sharp flick to the right, when an empty case or cartridge should be thrown out ; if it does not, remove magazine and it will drop out.

NOTE.—It is advisable, if practicable and time permits, to always ensure after carrying out immediate action that the chamber is empty. If care and attention is paid to keeping the gun clean and properly oiled, all magazines in good order, stoppages will seldom occur.

REMINDER NOTES

(1) Do not snap the gun on an empty chamber unnecessarily.

(2) The cocking handle must be in its rearmost position before :

- (A) The safety catch can be put at " Safe."
- (B) The change lever can be moved from " Full Auto " to " Single."
- (C) A drum magazine can be attached to gun.

(3) Never on any account let the cocking handle go forward under control when a loaded magazine is attached to the gun, as a cartridge will be fed into the gun and fired and the cocking handle will fly back and probably hurt the hand or fingers holding the cocking handle.

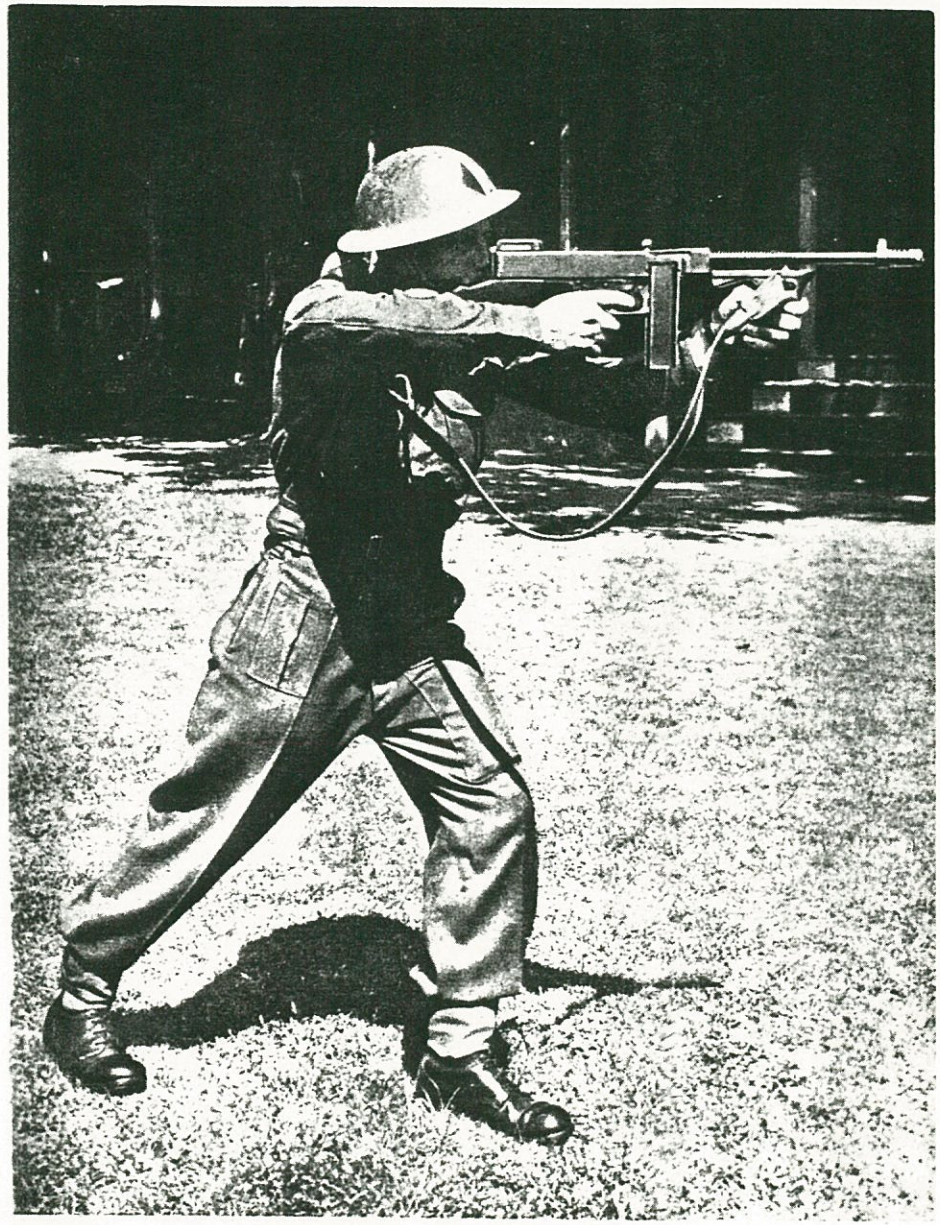


Plate XVI FIRING POSITION FROM THE SHOULDER

(4) Do not place your finger on the trigger until you have the gun pointing towards the target you wish to hit and are ready to fire.

(5) When gun is not in use, remove magazine, ensure chamber is clear and close bolt. The bolt should not be left cocked as this imposes unnecessary strain on the recoil spring.

(6) Drum magazines should not be left with their springs fully wound, as this imposes unnecessary strain on the springs. They can, if required, be kept fully loaded with cartridges, spring not wound up. It is then a simple matter to wind up each magazine the correct number of clicks before going into action.

PART TWO **FM 23–40**

BASIC FIELD MANUAL

THOMPSON SUBMACHINE GUN, CALIBER .45, M1928A1

Prepared under direction of the Chief of Cavalry

UNITED STATES
GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE
WASHINGTON: 1940

THOMPSON SUBMACHINE GUN MODEL Nos. 21A and 21AC

Selective Action—Single Shots or Bursts of Automatic Firing

LIST PRICES

	Each
MODEL 21A—Thompson Submachine Gun, Standard Grade, complete with one Type XX 20-cartridge capacity box magazine	**$175.00**
MODEL 21AC—Thompson Submachine Gun, Standard Grade, complete with one Type XX 20-cartridge capacity box magazine and with Cutts Compensator attached	**200.00**

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SPECIFICATIONS

Calibre .45. Weight 9 lbs. 13 ounces. Length 33 inches. Length of barrel, with Compensator, 12½ inches; without Compensator, 10½ inches Equipped with Lyman sights and wind gauge. 20 and 50 cartridge capacity magazines. Ammunition calibre .45 Colt Automatic Pistol Ball Cartridges and calibre .45 Thompson-Peters Shot Cartridges (both ball and birdshot cartridges can be used in one and the same gun but require different magazines).

Rate of fire, including time required for changing magazines—Semi-automatic (a single shot for each separate pull of the trigger) up to the rate of 100 single aimed shots a minute—full automatic 300 shots a minute—by instantaneously turning a small lever and pressing trigger for bursts as desired. The cyclic rate of fire is about 800 shots a minute.

Cutts Compensator (attached to muzzle in cut shown on opposite page) increases the rapidity and accuracy of semi-automatic fire, lessens the tendency of muzzle rising in full automatic firing and reduces the recoil.