

GURPS[®]

Fourth Edition

HIGH-TECH[™]

PULP GUNS, VOLUME 1



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An e23 Sourcebook for GURPS[®]

STEVE JACKSON GAMES

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Rules and statistics in this book are specifically for the **GURPS Basic Set, Fourth Edition**. Page references that begin with B refer to that book, not this one.

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INTRODUCTION

High-Tech: Pulp Guns, Volume 1 is a catalog featuring handguns, shotguns, and submachine guns. These are ideal for outfitting detectives, police officers, and gangsters; for adventurers, explorers, and big-game hunters; for evil fiends and brutal henchmen; for soldiers and revolutionaries; but also for ordinary people. This book is especially suited as a companion to *GURPS Cliffhangers*, but is also appropriate for *GURPS Cops*, *GURPS Covert Ops*, *GURPS Espionage*, *GURPS Horror*, *GURPS Lands Out of Time*, *GURPS Mysteries*, or *GURPS Supers* campaigns set in that timeframe. Furthermore, it can be used for military adventures, particularly in combination with *GURPS WWII* and its supplements.



ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Hans-Christian “Grey Tiger” Vortisch, M.A., began writing for *GURPS* as a freelancer in 2001. He was author or co-author of *GURPS Covert Ops*, *GURPS High-Tech*, *Fourth Edition*, *GURPS Modern Firepower*, *GURPS Special Ops*, *Third Edition*, *GURPS WWII: Motor Pool*, and several e23 publications on martial topics. He wrote additional material for numerous other *GURPS* books; authored, translated, edited, or contributed to several German *Call of Cthulhu* products; and published many articles in American, British, and German gaming magazines. Hans has been an avid gamer since 1983. His non-gaming

interests include science fiction, history, cinema, and punk rock. He lives in Swingin’ Berlin.

GURPS HIGH-TECH AND THIS BOOK

Some of the firearms in this book already appear in *GURPS High-Tech*, but their details are repeated here for completeness, with additional period information. All the others are new to *GURPS Fourth Edition*, but are presented so as to be compatible with the rules published in *High-Tech*.

PUBLICATION HISTORY

Several entries herein are based on descriptions from *GURPS High-Tech, Fourth Edition* (2007), written by Shawn Fisher and Hans-Christian Vortisch, as well as earlier editions written by Michael Hurst. A few more were developed from material in *GURPS Martial Arts: Fairbairn Close Combat Systems* (2008) and the *Pyramid* articles “Secret Weapons” (2001), “The Long Arm of the Law” (2001), and “Frank Hamer, Texas Ranger” (2005), also by Hans-Christian Vortisch.

... before I knew what I was doing I drew my automatic and sent a shower of twelve steel-jacketed bullets through the shocking canvas.

– Zealia Bishop and
H.P. Lovecraft,
“Medusa’s Coil” (1930)

Photo Acknowledgments

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PULP-ERA FIREARMS

Sheltered against the warm rain under a giant jungle tree, Seth and Eszter looked over the little they had been able to salvage from the wreck of the Fokker. Seth had the Colt .38 Super Auto with the shoulder rig and three magazines as well as his .380 Ortgies backup with a spare mag; Eszter still had her gleaming .22 LadySmith and a dozen cartridges jingling in her purse. They had spread out the rest on his leather jacket: two boxes of matches, a crumpled pack of smokes (Lucky Strikes – hah!), Eszter’s silver case with some Menthols, Seth’s Zeiss binocs, his father’s well-worn Swiss army knife, an Eveready flashlight, a half-empty hip-flask with malt liquor, three Toblerone Swiss chocolate bars, some Wrigley’s gum, a couple hundred bucks in four currencies, and a pile of toiletries and useless cosmetics from Eszter’s bag . . . The plane had contributed a few valuables, including the dead pilot’s map case and a Walther flare pistol with a canvas case of shells, as well as the big compass that Seth had ripped from the smashed cockpit.

All in all a little light for a tour of the Amazon basin. Four weeks worth of provisions and supplies, their camping gear, their rifles, and Seth’s Tommy gun had all been lost when the Fokker’s tail had broken off – along with their friends Luke and Walter.

Dusk approached fast, but they had to press on and find them, their search for the Lost City of Gold derailed for the time being . . .

The “pulp era” is the age of the cheaply printed pulp magazines, which featured action stories about hard-boiled detectives and beautiful dames, gangsters and G-men, investigators of the supernatural, masked vigilantes, and cliffhanging adventurers. Although the literary definition also includes certain types of Western, science fiction, and fantasy tales, the narrower meaning is used here. Historically, the era of pulp fiction stretched from the late 19th century to the middle of the 20th, but this book confines itself to the iconic years between WWI and WWII – the Roaring Twenties and Thrilling Thirties.

“Pulp Guns,” then, are the firearms used during that time, both historically and (especially!) in fiction. The period saw the rise of the semiautomatic pistol and the development of the submachine gun and the automatic rifle. At the same time, revolvers and shotguns were popular, as were machine guns and grenades. Many archetypal makes and models date to that era.

FIREARMS AND THE LAW

Any Tom, Dick or Harry who has money enough to buy a machine gun can do so.

– *Sunday Mirror*, “Now It Can Be Told” (1932)

Whether someone can legally own *and* carry a firearm depends both on the weapon in question and the time and place – see *Laws and Customs*, pp. B506-507. Throughout the pulp era, most of the world’s nations, including the USA and U.K., had CR3, while a few, like Germany and Japan, had CR4. Regarding firearms, however, things were less clear-cut.

For example, the USA as a whole had CR3 generally and CR2 for firearms. This was the law of the land in the majority of states and territories, such as Alaska, Arizona, Minnesota, Texas, or Vermont. The National Firearms Act of 1934 effectively changed this nationwide to CR3 for so-called “gangster weapons”: all firearms capable of full-automatic fire, shoulder arms with a barrel length less than 18” (including shotguns and pistols fitted with a shoulder stock), cane rifles, knife pistols, flashlight revolvers, and any sound suppressor henceforth required payment of a \$2,800 registration fee (200 U.S. dollars) *each*.

Several U.S. states and local municipalities, especially in the Northeast, had more severe firearms laws in effect. For example, Chicago (from 1881) or New York City (from 1911) had CR2 for long arms of any type (including machine guns), but CR4 for handguns – a pistol license allowed possessing and carrying a concealed weapon, but required a legitimate need (in NYC, \$65 per gun, valid for four years). Full-automatic weapons required a similar permit from 1931. Similarly, states like California or Massachusetts had CR1 for shoulder arms, but CR4 for handguns from 1923. In 1925, shotguns with barrels shorter than 18” were added to the list of controlled guns in Massachusetts; machine guns were eventually also restricted (in Massachusetts in 1927, California in 1931). A carry permit (\$20, valid 2 years in Massachusetts) required demonstration of a legitimate need. Other states were slightly less restrictive: Rhode Island had CR2 for all firearms until 1927, and then CR4 for handguns. Their carrying license (\$40, 4 years) didn’t require a legitimate need, but instead proficiency equaling at least 1 point in Guns (Pistol). Any licenses were only valid in the state they were issued in.

From 1920, the United Kingdom had CR2 for shotguns and CR4 for all other firearms (which were *all* considered LC3, even machine guns!). A firearms license (\$25 per gun, valid 3 years) required legitimate need. From 1936, shotguns with a barrel length of 20" or less were restricted, and from 1937, military weapons including submachine guns were considered LC2 or lower. Most Commonwealth nations and overseas colonies had similar laws.

Germany had CR4 for firearms between 1919 and WWII. All weapons firing military-issue ammunition (especially the 9×19mm Parabellum and 7.92×57mm Mauser, but also foreign calibers), including pistols and revolvers, were banned from civilian ownership (LC2), as were cane rifles, cane blades, and sound suppressors. Purchase of firearms was impossible, but grandfathered guns from before 1919 could be kept if they were of a civilian nature (LC3 and not military caliber, e.g. .32 ACP, 7.63×25mm Mauser, or a shotshell) and if a carrying or hunting license was obtained. The license was very cheap (\$15 for up to *five* guns, valid 1 year). There was no requirement for a legitimate need. From 1928, German citizens could again acquire firearms, although the caliber restrictions were in place until 1932. A legitimate need was now required for obtaining a license to carry a firearm (same details as before).

Everywhere, Social Stigma (Criminal Record *or* Minor) made acquisition of a license impossible. The legal age for a firearm permit (if required) was 21 years in most of the USA, 14 years in the U.K. (17 years from 1934), and 20 years in Germany. Social Stigma (Minority Group *or* Second-Class Citizen) also made a license unlikely or impossible. In the USA

and U.K., members of minorities (African-Americans, Asians, Jews, immigrants from Southern or Eastern Europe, etc.) were usually denied a permit, although they weren't *forbidden* one. In Germany, it was law that Gypsies couldn't get a license since before WWI. From 1935, this was administratively extended to Jews; in 1938-1945, it was law.

In many areas a Bad Reputation could lead to exclusion, especially in the USA and U.K., where licenses were approved by local judges or police officers rather than anonymous bureaucrats. Everywhere, mental problems (e.g. major Addictions including Alcoholism, severe Delusions, Manic-Depressive, Paranoia, or Split Personality) would be grounds for denying a license, *if* they were known to the authorities.

Conversely, Legal Enforcement Powers, Military Rank, Police Rank, and sometimes Administrative Rank usually made acquiring a license easy. For civilians, Courtesy Rank and Status would often work wonders. In New York City, for example, where ordinary citizens had practically no chance of receiving a handgun license, the wealthy and the famous had no such problems.

Instead of going into the Byzantine details of firearms legislation, the GM may simply allow PCs to buy a firearms license (where required) as a 1-point perk in areas of relatively light control, such as most of the USA, the U.K., or Shanghai. In more tightly controlled places, like Germany or many American metropolises, a firearms license should require a 3-point Unusual Background. From 1934, the latter would also apply for federally restricted weapons like submachine guns or sawed-off shotguns in the USA.

SHOPPING SPREE

Visitors are not permitted to land [on Bannerman Island], on account of the many explosives stored here.

– *Bannerman Military Goods Catalogue (1927)*

Equipping the adventurers can constitute an important part of a pulp adventure. The following historical firearms suppliers may serve as examples:

Francis Bannerman and Sons Military Goods. 501 Broadway, New York (NY). Operational between 1865 and 1970, this was a huge store and mail order company, specializing in surplus military equipment including artillery and machine guns. It would be the premier place in America to shop for Great War flamethrowers, antique European long swords, or Kenyan *panga* knives . . . The family also owned Bannerman Castle, a sprawling mansion/warehouse complex on the privately owned Pollopel Island in the Hudson River, 50 miles north of New York City – an excellent retreat for a *Batman*-style vigilante or a group of vampire slayers.

Peter Von Frantzius Sporting Goods. 608 Diversey Parkway, Chicago (IL). Owned by a German immigrant, this sporting goods store/mail order company was located in North Side Chicago and traded in the 1920s and 1930s. It supplied Al Capone and other gangsters with various weapons, including a dozen Thompson guns (pp. 28-30). Von Frantzius, later dubbed “The Armorer of Gangland” by the press, even offered to file off serial numbers as a service for a \$25 fee.

H.S. Lebman Guns and Leather. 111 South Flores Street, San Antonio (TX). From about 1930 to 1980, Hyman Saul “Hymie” Lebman dealt in saddles, holsters, and other leather wares, but also sold guns – including Thompsons (pp. 28-30) and his famous custom machine pistols (p. 18). Buyers like “Baby Face” Nelson traveled there from as far away as Minnesota. Allegedly, Lebman had a secret firing range in the basement. He was arrested in 1934 (unlicensed sale of full-automatic weapons being illegal in Texas from 1933), but his conviction was overturned and the case was finally dropped.



A.F. Stoeger Firearms & Ammunition. 224 East and 42nd Street (1924-1928) or 509 Fifth Avenue (1928-1960), New York (NY). Operated by Austrian immigrant Alexander Stoeger from 1922 until 1960, this was a large store/mail order outfit specializing in guns imported from Europe, including Mauser repeaters and machine pistols (pp. 13-14) and various expensive double- and triple-barreled rifles and shotguns. Stoeger also offered American brands as well as gunsmith services.

Holland & Holland Gun and Rifle Makers. 98 New Bond Street (1858-1960), London, United Kingdom. The showroom of the famous gunsmiths was located on one of the most expensive shopping streets in London. H&H have traded, in this form, from 1876 until today. They also sold other bespoke guns, including Webley handguns. Their shooting grounds were located in Wembley Park.

Albrecht Kind aus Hunstig (AKAH) GmbH. Hunstig, Germany. In the 1920s and 1930s, this was probably the largest

firearms mail order company in Europe, offering both domestic and foreign guns. Founded in 1853 and still trading, AKAH then had showrooms in Berlin, Hamburg, Nuremberg, and other German cities, but also in Belgrade, Constantinople, Lille, Oslo, and Stockholm.

Manton & Co. Guns. 13 Old Court House Street, Calcutta, India. An Asian outlet for the London gunsmith, a store and mail order outlet carrying British and other imported firearms for sale in India (mainly hunting weapons, but also handguns). It would be ideal for outfitting a party heading for the Himalayas . . .

Hugo Reiss & Co. 19 Canton Road, Shanghai, China. Operational from 1908 until WWII, this was a company trading in assorted imported hardware, including guns and ammunition, and acting as agent for Webley & Scott. The German-born proprietor was also the Brazilian consul to Shanghai. This would be one of the best places to obtain firearms in China.

WEAPON DESCRIPTIONS

Weapon descriptions here follow the pattern laid out in *High-Tech*, p. 79. They appear in order of historical appearance and availability in the text and the tables.

Note that all costs are given in generic **GURPS** \$ (see *Tech Level and Starting Wealth*, p. B27). To convert these to *historical* U.S. dollars, use a rough divisor of 11 for the 1920s and 14 for the 1930s.

Example: The Thompson submachine gun (pp. 28-30) is listed with Cost \$2,300 in the *Submachine Guns Table*, p. 31. In the 1920s, the “historical” price would be $2,300 / 11 = 209$ U.S. dollars; Auto-Ordnance’s actual list price for the Model 1921 was 225 U.S. dollars in 1921 and 175 U.S. dollars in 1929.

Many weapons list cost modifiers for decorated specimens (see *Styling* on p. 10 of *High-Tech*). These always refer to standard factory options. Theoretically, any gun could be

individually styled even more extravagantly; for decorations like this, the sky is the limit. Multiply cost by 20 for a +4 reaction bonus, by 50 for a +5, and so on.

Example: The Walther Modell 8 pistol (p. 19) can be ordered with standardized scroll engraving for twice the cost, $\$160 \times 2 = \320 . Gold-plating multiplies this by a further 1.5, $\$320 \times 1.5 = \480 . A set of ivory or pearl grips adds \$100, for a total cost of \$580. This is more than twice but not five times the normal cost, and gives a +1 reaction bonus. Instead of ordering the factory options, the pistol could be given a more individualized treatment; shelling out \$800 gives a +2 reaction bonus.

NON-REPEATING PISTOLS

During the pulp era, most people preferred revolvers or self-loading pistols, but some non-repeating handguns were available and in use.

Remington Model 95 Double-Derringer, .41 Short (USA, 1866-1934)

This tiny, break-open over-and-under pistol wasn’t as common as it had been in the late 19th century, but it was still available. By the time production ceased in the 1930s, Remington had made about 150,000. The .41 Short was an anemic round, but better than nothing in a pinch. The pistol’s flat profile was ideally suited for concealment in a sleeve or boot-top (Holdout -1), a comfort to those who could not be conspicuously armed. It could also be concealed in a sleeve holster (*High-Tech*, p. 154). Treat it as hammerless (p. 8). Pearl grips cost an extra \$30. Such a gun is used by *bon vivant* Jonathan Carnahan in Stephen Sommers’ *The Mummy*.

Mossberg Brownie, .22 LR (USA, 1919-1932)

The Brownie was a small, flat double-action-only pistol, with four barrels arranged in two layers. The break-open 2.5” barrels could be fired in quick succession using a rotating firing pin (no external hammer, p. 8). Easy to hide (Holdout -1), it was primarily a backup gun for emergencies. Owing to its low cost, it sold pretty well. Some 37,000 were made.

Pulp Guns Slang

In the pulps, there were probably more words for “gun” than for anything else – except maybe a pretty woman. A handgun could be a “roscoe,” “rod,” “gat,” “heater,” “mohaska,” “bean-shooter,” or even “artillery.” You could “pack iron” or “wear heat.” Shooting was “Chicago Lightning.” The infamous Thompson submachine gun (pp. 28-30) was called a “chopper,” “chatter-box,” “lawnmower,” “Chicago typewriter,” or “Chicago piano.” Similarly, a MK II fragmentation grenade (*High-Tech*, p. 191, and *High-Tech: Pulp Guns, Volume 2*, p. 31) was a “Chicago pineapple.”

A gunman was a “triggerman” or a “torpedo.” Words to describe firing a gun were just as colorful: to “open up” or “burn powder,” to “squirt metal” or “throw lead.” Killing someone was variously described as “clipping,” “chopping,” “popping,” or “drilling” him, or as “blowing him down.”

Non-Repeating Pistols Table

See pp. B268-271 for an explanation of the statistics.

GUNS (PISTOL) (DX-4 or most other Guns at -2)

TL	Weapon	Damage	Acc	Range	Weight	RoF	Shots	ST	Bulk	Rcl	Cost	LC	Notes
6	Remington Model 95, .41 Short	1d pi+	0	60/650	0.55/0.05	1	2(3i)	6	-1	2	\$140	3	[1]
6	Mossberg Brownie, .22 LR	1d pi-	0	50/850	0.7/0.03	3	4(3i)	6	-1	2	\$60	3	[1]

Note:

[1] No lanyard ring (p. B289 and *High-Tech*, p. 154).

REVOLVERS

... I felt a childish fear which prompted me to draw from my hip pocket the revolver I carried after dark since the night I was held up in East Providence.

– H.P. Lovecraft, “From Beyond” (1920)

Revolvers were the most common handguns during the 1920s and 1930s, widely used by private citizens, police, and the military. However, they were being rapidly superseded by semiautomatic pistols in many applications. Practically all revolvers made in this era were so-called “safety revolvers” (*High-Tech*, p. 93).

Colt .45 SAA, .45 Long Colt (USA, 1873-)

This famous single-action, loading-gate revolver had many nicknames, including SAA (Single-Action Army), “Peacemaker,” and “Frontier Six-Shooter.” Although replaced as the *M1873* in U.S. military service already from 1892, it saw civilian and police use until after WWII. Throughout the pulp era, many old-fashioned American police officers stuck with it – Texas Ranger Captain Frank Hamer carried a .45 Civilian model he called “Old Lucky” during the entire period. Infamous Chicago police officer Frank Pape preferred the Colt .38 Police Positive Special (p. 7) for daily carry, but always had a .44-40 Cavalry model in the glove compartment of his car. The revolver was also common in South America. Some 357,000 were made by 1941.

The .45 Cavalry version in the table had a 7.5” barrel, but there were many other lengths. The next most common was the 4.75” Civilian model: Dmg 2d+1 pi+, Wt. 2.6, Bulk -2. The Sheriff’s or Storekeeper’s model (1882-1927) had a 2.5” or 3.5” barrel: Dmg 2d pi+, Acc 1, Wt. 2.5/0.3, Shots 6(4i), Bulk -1. It lacked an ejector rod, increasing reloading time to four seconds per round. Note that the Colt SAA was an “unsafe” revolver (*High-Tech*, p. 93).

During the 1920s and 1930s, the Colt SAA was offered in half a dozen calibers, including the .32-20 Winchester (Dmg 1d+2 pi-), .38 Special (Dmg 2d pi), .38-40 Winchester (Dmg 2d pi+), .44 Special (Dmg 2d+1 pi+), and .44-40 Winchester (Dmg 2d+2 pi+). Many “Peacemakers,” especially the ones still in use during the pulp era, were decorated; double cost for engraving (+1 to reactions, p. 6). Pearl, stag, or ivory grips add \$140.

Chamelot-Delvigne Mle 1874, 11×17mmR (France, 1875-1886)

This was a double-action revolver with loading gate, firing a weak black-powder cartridge. Adopted as a standard officer’s sidearm by the French military, it had already been replaced by more modern weapons by the turn of the 20th century (see *MAS Mle 1892*, p. 8). However, some 35,000 had been made and, despite their obsolescence, many were still in use with

colonial forces until WWII. A pair of these, remnants of service with the French Foreign Legion (*GURPS Cliffhangers*, p. 45), are used by soldier of fortune Rick O’Connell in Stephen Sommers’ *The Mummy*.

H&R Young America, .22 Long (USA, 1884-1941)

This Harrington and Richardson type was a cheap, double-action, swing-out revolver with 2” barrel and compact dimensions, favored by clueless citizens and small-time crooks. Alternatively, it could be had in .32 S&W; Dmg 1d+1 pi-, Wt. 0.7/0.08, Shots 5(2i). More than 1.5 million were made of both types. One retailer claimed it was “largely used for Fourth of July and other celebrations.”

S&W .38 Safety Hammerless, .38 S&W (USA, 1887-1940)

The preeminent American holdout gun of the early 20th century, this was a small, top-break, simultaneously extracting, double-action-only revolver with a smooth profile. The Safety Hammerless was touted at the time as “popular with travelers” and “ideal for protection of the home or office.” Its most common nickname was “Lemon Squeezer,” since its grip safety prevented firing if the grip wasn’t held firmly. The revolver could be safely carried in a pocket (or even fired from *within* a pocket, at -2) – a trait appreciated by criminal and cop alike. Chinese gangster Kao Kan threatens Indy with a nicked and pearl-gripped Safety Hammerless in *Indiana Jones and the Temple of Doom*. More than 260,000 were made. Pearl or ivory grips add \$80. A typical Spanish copy (same stats) costs as little as \$50.

The aversion displayed towards [Wilbur Whateley] by dogs had now become a matter of wide remark, and he was obliged to carry a pistol in order to traverse the countryside in safety. His occasional use of the weapon did not enhance his popularity amongst the owners of canine guardians.

– H.P. Lovecraft,
“The Dunwich Horror”
(1928)

MAS Mle 1892, 8×27mmR Lebel (France, 1892-1927)

This was a double-action revolver, adopted by the French military and gendarmerie, and many local police agencies, and used in France until the 1940s (see *GURPS WWII: Return to Honor*, p. 38). It was generally known as the Lebel, after the head of the commission which approved it. For emptying, the cylinder swung out the right rather than the left, which was a bit inconvenient to right-handed shooters, but no real problem. The cases would then be ejected together. However, to reload, the cylinder had to be closed again and each chamber then loaded, one by one, through a loading gate (total three seconds to open, eject, and close, and two more for each round, for a total of 15 seconds, reducible to nine with Fast-Draw). About a quarter of a million were made. The Romanian army adopted it as the *md. 1896*. During WWI, it was also supplied to various allies.

Galand Velo-Dog, 5.5×28mmR Velo-Dog (France, 1894-1942)

Galand's Velo-Dog was one of a whole class of small revolvers intended to offer "velocipedists" (cyclists) protection from street dogs and robbers. Such weapons were popular in Europe, and made with minor variations in many countries. This double-action-only model had a concealed hammer for a snag-free draw from a pocket (see boxed text) and fired a relatively powerful smokeless cartridge better suited for self-defense than contemporary black powder rounds – but it was still rather weak. Non-lethal ammo loaded with rock salt (*High-Tech*, p. 103) or powdered cayenne pepper was available; treat the latter as tear gas spray (*High-Tech*, p. 180) with Reach 1-2 and HT rolls at -1 rather than -2 due to the limited capacity of the shell.

Iver Johnson .32 Safety Automatic Hammerless, .32 S&W Long (USA, 1895-1941)

This was a double-action-only, break-open, automatically ejecting hammerless pocket revolver with a 3" barrel (or other lengths were available). Most were nicked; pearl grips add \$75. The double-action .32 *Safety Automatic* (1894-1941) was practically the same gun, but with an exposed hammer (see boxed text); Cost \$140. This could be fired in single-action or double-action mode (*High-Tech*, p. 82).

Many *millions* of these were made and sold cheaply via mail order and retail stores in the U.S. The guns were advertised as "much used by banks, express companies, police, watchmen, and for carrying in automobiles," but most owners were probably ordinary citizens (or criminals). Ivory or pearl grips add \$80.

Either model was also available in .22 LR (Dmg 1d pi-, Wt. 0.8/0.05, Shots 7(2i)) or .38 S&W (Dmg 2d-2 pi, Wt. 1.3/0.2, Shots 5(2i)). All of the guns made prior to 1908 (three in four of the entire production) were only suitable for black powder cartridges. An 18 on the attack roll when using TL6 smokeless ammo means the gun explodes, inflicting 1d cr ex on the firer.



Hammerless Handguns

The advantage of a hammerless handgun is that it lacks a hammer which can become entangled when the weapon is drawn from a pocket or similar concealed position – and perhaps more importantly for many pulp heroes, it won't rip up the pocket liner of a fine suit! Therefore, as an optional rule, the GM may give users of handguns *with* hammers -1 to Fast-Draw (Pistol) rolls *in addition to* the -3 for drawing from a pocket (*High-Tech*, p. 82). On a failure, the gun remains caught in the pocket, but can be removed the next turn. On a critical failure, it rips the pocket liner and takes 1d+1 turns to be extracted.

Most semiautomatic pistols (certainly practically *all* pocket designs) and any revolver described as hammerless avoid this problem; see the text descriptions for each weapon for guidance. This may be too much detail for some games, but the rule can serve to encourage PCs who want to carry concealed sidearms to choose a hammerless design, as would be realistic.

That and their poor quality led to the nickname of "Suicide Special" for this and similar weapons, suggesting they were as dangerous to the user as to whoever they were aimed at.

Between 1911 and 1933, Iver Johnson made the even cheaper .32 *Automatic* under the U.S. Revolver label. This has the same stats but costs only \$190 – and it's neither hammerless (see boxed text, above) nor a "safety" revolver (*High-Tech*, p. 93)! Giuseppe Zangara tried to murder President Roosevelt in 1933 with such a .32-caliber gun, bought at a local pawnshop.

The Eastern Arms .38 *Safety Automatic* (1905-1924) was a cheap copy in .38 S&W sold by Sears, Roebuck via mail order; Dmg 2d-2 pi, Wt. 1.3/0.2, Shots 5(2i), Cost \$75. Despite the markings, it was actually made by Meriden Arms, a subsidiary of Sears, Roebuck. These guns have the same reliability problems as the black powder Iver Johnson weapons.

Webley Mk III Police & Civilian, .38 S&W (U.K., 1896-1939)

The Webley Mk III was a double-action, break-open revolver similar to the famous big-bore Webleys (p. 12), but chambered for a smaller cartridge. More than half a million were made. It was widely adopted by Commonwealth police forces, post office personnel, and bank security guards, for example in Australia, Canada, India, and South Africa.

The *Mk IV Military & Police* (1923-1964) was similar; same stats. This was adopted during the 1930s by, for example, the police in Hong Kong and Singapore. Half a million were made.

S&W .32 Hand-Ejector, .32 S&W Long (USA, 1896-1976)

This was a small, double-action, swing-out revolver, typically with a 4.25" barrel. It was popular with police organizations and civilians, over a million being made eventually. Many were nicked at the same cost; pearl grips add \$20. About 145,000 were made in .32-20 Winchester caliber instead (Dmg 1d+2 pi-).

The .32 *Regulation Police* (1917-1957) model differed mainly in having a square butt, and was always blued; same stats. Despite its weak caliber, this was actually preferred over harder-hitting handguns by many American police officers due to its light weight.

Nagant R-1895, 7.62×39mmR Nagant (Russia, 1897-1945)

The Russian army adopted this revolver – designed by Belgium’s Nagant brothers – in 1895. The weapon saw production and use through WWII, despite being officially replaced from 1930 by the Tokarev pistol (*High-Tech*, p. 99). More than two million were manufactured in Belgium (for export only), Poland (*wz. 30* – see *GURPS WWII: Doomed White Eagle*, p. 29), and Russia. It was also copied in Belgium for commercial sale, for example by Pieper-Bayard, and was thus available worldwide.

The Nagant was side-gate loading and rod-ejecting, and came in both single- and double-action versions – the double-action version was originally intended for officers, but soon became the standard pattern. The cartridge case completely covered the bullet. When the gun was fired, the cylinder moved forward and the barrel and case mated, sealing the weapon against gas loss (hence its American nickname, “Gas-Seal”).

The double-action *R-1924* (1924-1930) was a rarer pocket model for police service, used by, for example, the infamous Soviet OGPU secret police, a forerunner of the NKVD; Dmg 1d+2 pi, Acc 1, Wt. 1.8/0.25, Bulk -1, Cost \$380.

The NKVD secret police used the *Besshumnyi* (1931-1942), or suppressed version: Dmg 1d+1 pi-, Range 110/1,200, Wt. 2.7/0.2, RoF 1, Shots 7(4i), Bulk -3, Cost \$750, LC2. Built on the single-action pattern, this had a combined baffle/wiper suppressor (-2 to Hearing, plus another -1 for being a gas-sealed revolver). It lacked an ejector rod, requiring a small stick to push out the empty shells.

Rast & Gasser M.98, 8×27mmR Rast & Gasser (Austria, 1898-1918)

The Rast and Gasser *Revolver Modell 1898* was a double-action design with smooth cylinder and loading gate. Although partially superseded by the Steyr M.12 (p. 17), the M.98 was a standard sidearm in Austrian forces until 1938. At the end of the Great War, many were surrendered to the Italians and various Balkan countries, where they would crop up even during WWII. Curiously, one arms the Tibetan pilot from Shangri-La in Frank Capra’s *Lost Horizon*.

Colt .45 New Service, .45 Long Colt (USA, 1898-1942)

This big double-action revolver with swing-out cylinder was the largest Colt revolver made at the time. Advertised as being “a most excellent weapon for hunters and campers,” it was available in several other calibers, including the old-fashioned .38-40 Winchester (Dmg 2d pi+), .44-40 Winchester (Dmg 2d+2 pi+), .44 Russian (Dmg 2d pi+), and .455 Webley (Dmg 2d-1 pi+), but also the more modern .38 Special (Dmg 2d pi), .44 Special (Dmg 2d+1 pi+), and from 1936, even the .357 Magnum (Dmg 3d pi). Pearl grips add \$120.

Numerous U.S. police forces adopted the .45-caliber variant, including the New York State Police, Montana Highway Patrol, and Texas Highway Patrol. The U.S. Army acquired a few thousand as the *M1909*, while the Canadian military issued it in 1900-1928. In .38 Special, it was used by the U.S.

Border Patrol, while the Royal Canadian Mounted Police employed it in .455 Webley. The .45-caliber is used by Jack Driscoll in Merian Cooper’s *King Kong* and by Leo O’Bannon in *Miller’s Crossing*, while Indiana Jones has one in .455 in *Temple of Doom*.

A fine (accurate) version with 7.5” match barrel and adjustable sights was sold as the *.45 New Service Target* (1900-1940) from the factory; Dmg 3d-1 pi+, Acc 3, Wt. 3.1/0.3, Bulk -3, Cost \$825. This lacked the lanyard ring (p. B289 and *High-Tech*, p. 154).

The *M1917* (1917-1942) was a version adopted by the U.S. Army (alongside the similar S&W .45 Hand Ejector, p. 11), due to weapon shortages in WWI. While the Army had mostly replaced it with the Colt M1911 pistol (p. 17) by the 1920s, it continued in service with National Guard units and the Coast Guard. Brazil acquired it as the *M937*. It was chambered for the .45 ACP cartridge (Dmg 2d pi+). Two three-round, half-moon-shaped clips were used to load the weapon, hold the rimless cartridges in the chambers, and extract the spent cases. With these, reloading takes seven seconds total. Without them, reloading takes four seconds *per chamber*. The U.S. military issued it with eight clips, six carried in belt pouches.

Fitz Special

John Henry FitzGerald worked for Colt from 1918 to 1944, and by the late 1920s was their premier showman and sales representative. He also tinkered with the guns he sold, and came up with the “Fitz Special”: a revolver optimized for concealed carry and quick shooting. The barrel was cut down to 2” and fitted with a new front sight, the hammer spur ground off, the grip shortened and rounded, and the front of the trigger guard removed. Usually, these guns could just fire double-action-only (*High-Tech*, p. 82), but optionally, the top of the cut-away hammer could be serrated to allow emergency cocking for a single-action shot. The modifications improve Bulk to -1, add +1 to Fast-Draw rolls, and make the gun “hammerless” (p. 8), but also reduce Acc to 1. Double cost.

Original Fitz Specials as carried by FitzGerald himself were cut-down Colt .45 New Service models (p. 9), but many lawmen (and other professional shootists) had the modifications imparted to the Colt .38 Police Positive Special (p. 11). Theoretically, any revolver could benefit – Charles Lindbergh preferred a “Fitzed” Colt .38 Detective Special (p. 13). While the famous Shanghai police officers William Fairbairn and Eric Sykes preferred semiautomatics for police use, they recommended this modification (and especially the big .45 New Service) for private detectives and plain-clothes men (see *GURPS Martial Arts: Fairbairn Close Combat Systems*, p. 12).



Example: The Colt .38 Police Positive Special has Acc 2 and Bulk -2. “Fitzed,” the gun gets Acc 1 and Bulk -1. The Colt .38 Detective Special *already* has Acc 1 and Bulk -1. These stats remain unmodified even if “Fitzed,” but the shooter still gets +1 Fast-Draw.

Driven to Tears

In the 1920s, various tear gas agents became commonly available, both for police use and for personal self-defense. Note that tear gas (p. B439) may also work on animals or more alien targets like H.P. Lovecraft's Deep Ones (*GURPS Cthulhupunk*, p. 115) . . .

Muzzle Blast Tear Gas Ammunition (TL6)

This type of ammunition resembles a blank cartridge. Instead of a projectile, it spreads a tear gas agent (usually in powder form) from the muzzle like a one-shot spray. Typical chamberings available from the late 1920s included .32 S&W, .38 S&W, .38 Special (police officers were sometimes issued a belt pouch holding three of these, giving them a non-lethal option for their service revolver), .44-40 Winchester, .45 Long Colt, .410-gauge 2.5", 20-gauge 2.56", 12-gauge 2.5", 12-gauge 2.75", and 10-gauge 2.875". Treat these as single-shot tear gas sprays (*High-Tech*, p. 180) with Range 1-3 for handgun rounds and 1-5 for shotgun shells. For cartridges under 10mm (.40-caliber), the HT rolls are at -1, rather than at -2, due to the small amount of tear gas contained. Resourceful reloaders could find a way to replace the tear gas agent with some other powder – silver dust, magical elixirs (*GURPS Magic*, pp. 213-219) such as *Phobos* or *Thanatos*, H.P. Lovecraft's *Powder of Ibn-Ghazi*, or whatever. Double CPS.

LECCO Tear Gas Pen, .38 Long Colt (USA, 1926-1932)

Made by the Lake Erie Chemical Co., this was the first of the tear gas "pen guns" that were common as self-defense devices from the late 1920s. Many ordinary citizens and even policemen carried a pen gun. This model looked like a black aluminum tube 5" long and about 0.6" thick, in the general shape of a fountain pen with pocket clip – but nobody would be fooled who got a close look. The fore-end unscrewed to be loaded with a .38 Long Colt muzzle blast cartridge loaded with chloroacetophenone (CN) tear gas powder. Treat as a tear gas spray (*High-Tech*, p. 180) with Reach 1-3, Wt. 0.3/0.02, Shots 1(5), Bulk -1, Cost \$20. Due to the small amount of tear gas contained in the cartridge, the HT rolls are at -1, rather than at -2.

It could also fire a normal cartridge, using Guns (Pistol) skill: Dmg 1d+2 pi, Acc 0, Range 100/1,100, Shots 1(5), ST 6, Rcl 3.

Federal Model 29 Gas Billy, .69 Federal (USA, 1929-1968)

This was a combination weapon (*High-Tech*, pp. 198-199), basically a 9.5"-long police baton that could fire a muzzle blast tear gas shell. Its maker claimed that it was in service with "thousands of police departments, penitentiaries, jails, asylums, etc." It certainly was issued to the guards at Alcatraz prison (*GURPS Cliffhangers*, p. 28) . . . and Arkham asylum. The Model 29 Gas Billy consisted of two parts that screw together: the handgrip housed the thumb trigger and firing mechanism, while the leather-covered forward portion acted as chamber and barrel. It held a single proprietary cartridge that discharged a CN tear gas cloud from the muzzle. Treat as a tear gas spray (*High-Tech*, p. 180) with Reach 1-3, Wt. 1.1/0.1, Shots 1(5), Bulk -2, Cost \$30. The cartridge would continue to discharge its spray for three seconds. In melee combat, treat as baton wielded with the Shortsword skill (p. B273). The Model 29 featured a lanyard (p. B289 and *High-Tech*, p. 154).

Webley-Fosbery Automatic Mk I, .455 Webley (U.K., 1901-1924)

This large, double-action, break-open revolver was similar to other Webley designs (like the *Webley Mk VI*, p. 12), but the entire upper part – including barrel and cylinder – recoiled back in grooves on the frame, recocking the hammer and rotating the cylinder. This lowered recoil but reduced reliability. The Fosbery wasn't a commercial success; only some 4,750 were made. A few were privately acquired by British officers prior to WWI. During the pulp era, it was issued by the Leeds police in England.

About 800 of these weapons were chambered in .38 ACP (1902-1904): Dmg 2d+1 pi, Wt. 2.4/0.2, Shots 8(2i). With an eight-round clip, reloading takes only five seconds. This version appears in *The Maltese Falcon* – an unlikely weapon, but suitably iconic for a detective story.

S&W .22 LadySmith, .22 Long (USA, 1902-1921)

This was a double-action, swing-out revolver with a 3" barrel, intended for the modern cycling woman, as protection against stray dogs, thieves, and ruffians. It was usually nicked and fitted with white pearl grips; the latter add \$50. Some 26,000 were made.

S&W .38 Military & Police, .38 Special (USA, 1902-)

Originally called the .38 Hand-Ejector, this swing-out cylinder, double-action revolver was 20th-century America's most common police and security sidearm, serving for example with the U.S. Bureau of Investigation, the U.S. Secret Service, the Massachusetts State Police, and the Chicago and Tucson police departments. Over a million had been made even before WWII. The model in the table has a 4" barrel, but 5" and 6" barrels were available and preferred by some agencies; these have Wt. 2.1. Pearl or ivory stocks add \$70. Many were exported worldwide, finding favor with people as diverse as Chinese warlords and German Nazi functionaries – Reichsmarschall Hermann Göring (*GURPS WWII: Iron Cross*, pp. 52-53) bought one in 1934 and carried it throughout WWII. Mercenary Morris "Two-Gun" Cohen (*GURPS Who's Who 1*, pp. 120-121) famously carried a pair of these in China during the Tuchun Wars.

The .22 *Outdoorsman* (1931-1989) was a version chambered for the .22 LR; Dmg 1d+1 pi-, Wt. 2.2/0.05, Cost \$530. "Accurate as a watch" and "sturdy as a tractor" according to Smith and Wesson, it was used primarily for target shooting – it sold as "the revolver that wins pistol championships."

The .38 Military & Police was widely copied, especially in Belgium and Spain, where thousands were made for export to Europe, South America, and the U.S. Most were chambered for the .38 S&W (Dmg 2d-1 pi) rather than the .38 Special, and typically retailed for half of the original price.

Pickert Arminius Modell 10, .32 ACP (Germany, 1905-1940)

This was a double-action-only, hammerless, loading-gate revolver with external safety, popular with civilians in Europe for concealed carry. It was cheap and fired the widely available .32 ACP pistol cartridge. Five spare rounds could be stored in the hollow grip.

Colt .32 Pocket Positive, .32 S&W Long (USA, 1905-1943)

A double-action revolver with swing-out cylinder that was popular with police forces in the early 20th century; some 130,000 were made. It was available in a number of barrel lengths – the stats in the table are for a 3.5" barrel. It also chambers the .32 S&W Short (Dmg 1d pi-). A nicked Colt .32 revolver is prominently used by Harlem gangster Elsworth "Bumpy" Johnson in *Hoodlum*.

Colt .38 Police Positive Special, .38 Special (USA, 1907-1995)

This was a double-action service revolver with swing-out cylinder, blued or nicked. It was commonly used by American police forces, including the New Jersey State Police. It was issued by the FBI in 1935-1960, and in Brian De Palma's *The Untouchables*, it is employed by the Chicago cops. Troubled gunslinger Bart Tare carries one in a shoulder holster in Joseph Lewis' *Gun Crazy*. Some 200,000 were made.

The Police Positive Special was also available in other calibers, including .32-20 Winchester (Dmg 1d+2 pi-), .32 S&W Long (Dmg 1d+2 pi-), and .38 S&W (Dmg 2d-1 pi). In .32 S&W Long, it was an issue weapon with the FBI in 1935-1949. Pearl or ivory grips add \$70.

S&W .44 Hand-Ejector, .44 Special (USA, 1908-1949)

The Hand-Ejector-type double-actions made by Smith and Wesson from 1896 were the first American revolvers to allow quick emptying and reloading via a swing-out cylinder. They were available in many sizes; the largest Hand-Ejector was often chambered for the .44 Special. The Utah Highway Patrol was one of several agencies issuing it. However, it was also available in .44-40 Winchester (Dmg 2d+1 pi+) and .45 Long Colt (Dmg 3d-2 pi+) – the latter caliber being preferred by many American police forces, such as the New Mexico Highway Police or the Providence (RI) police department. Kansas City (MO) lieutenant Speer carries one in *City Heat*. More than 56,000 were sold commercially. A civilian user is Rick O'Connell in *The Mummy Returns*. Almost 80,000 were supplied to the British and Canadian military during WWI as the *Mk II*, chambered for the .455 Webley (Dmg 1d+2 pi+). Indiana Jones carries a .455-caliber gun in *Raiders of the Lost Ark*.

Although most shooters are quite content with factory loads, handloaders have always tried to push the performance



. . . the .38-caliber gun is quite generally the one of choice, and . . . the .38 Special type of cartridge enjoys much greater favor than the .38 S&W which reigned so long in the past.

*– American Journal
of Police Science,
“Police Pistol Practice”
(1930)*

of their guns to the maximum (*High-Tech*, p. 174). During the pulp era, one of the most outspoken was Elmer Keith, frequent contributor to *Outdoor Life* and *The American Rifleman*. (Magazines like these were widely read, including by gun-savvy gangsters such as “Baby Face” Nelson.) From 1926, he recommended the .44 Hand-Ejector for hunting, using an extra-powerful load (*High-Tech*, p. 165) rivaling the later .44 Magnum; Dmg 3d+1 pi+, ST 11, Rcl 4.

The *M1917* (1917-1941) was a version adopted by the U.S. Army during WWI (alongside the similar *Colt .45 New Service*, p. 9), chambered for .45 ACP (Dmg 2d pi+). Two three-round, half-moon-shaped clips were used to load the weapon, hold the rimless cartridges in the chambers, and extract the spent cases. With these, reloading took seven seconds total. Without them, reloading took four seconds *per chamber*. The U.S. military issued it with eight clips, six carried in belt pouches. Post-war, the *M1917* was sold as being “ideal for men needing maximum knockdown power,” and adopted by the U.S. Postal Service for their guards.

The *.38/44 Heavy-Duty* (1930-1966) was built on the strong frame of the .44 Hand-Ejector, but chambered for the .38 Special cartridge (Dmg 2d pi). Also known as the “Super Police,” it was specifically designed to fire high-velocity loads (see *Extra-Powerful Ammunition* on p. 165 in *High-Tech*) comparable to the later .357 Magnum (Dmg 3d pi). Some 11,000 were made until WWII, and mainly sold to American police agencies.

HDH Mitraillease, 5.5×28mmR Velo-Dog (Belgium, 1911-1928)

The *Mitraillease* (“machine gun”) was a double-action, break-open revolver of large dimensions despite the small round it fired. It used the Pirlet system with over-and-under barrels. The bulky cylinder had two concentric rows, each holding 10 rounds. The hammer had two strikers, each in turn firing a shot from either row through either barrel. In English-speaking countries, it was sold as the “Terrible,” while in India and East Asia its trade name was “Wild West.”

It could fire the same rock salt or pepper specialty rounds as the *Galand Velo-Dog* (p. 8). Alternatively, it was also available in .25 ACP (Dmg 1d pi-), .32 ACP (Dmg 2d-1 pi-, Shots 16), and .32 S&W Long (Dmg 1d+2 pi-, Shots 16).

Revolvers Table

See pp. B268-271 for an explanation of the statistics.

GUNS (PISTOL) (DX-4 or most other Guns at -2)

TL	Weapon	Damage	Acc	Range	Weight	RoF	Shots	ST	Bulk	Rcl	Cost	LC	Notes
5	Colt .45 S&A, .45 Long Colt	3d-2 pi+	2	120/1,300	3/0.3	1	6(3i)	11	-3	4	\$500	3	[1]
5	Chamelot-Delvigne Mle 1874, 11x17mmR	1d+1 pi+	2	100/1,100	2.4/0.2	3	6(3i)	9	-2	2	\$400	3	
6	H&R .22 Young America, .22 Long	1d pi-	1	50/850	0.6/0.05	3	7(2i)	6	-1	2	\$80	3	[1]
6	S&W .38 Safety Hammerless, .38 S&W	2d-1 pi	1	90/1,000	1.3/0.17	3	5(2i)	7	-1	2	\$400	3	[1]
6	MAS Mle 1892, 8x27mmR	2d-1 pi	2	120/1,400	2/0.2	3	6(2i)	8	-2	2	\$350	3	
6	Galand Velo-Dog, 5.5x28mmR	1d+1 pi-	1	50/850	1/0.08	3	6(3i)	7	-1	2	\$100	3	[1]
6	Iver Johnson .32 Hammerless, .32 S&W Long	1d+2 pi-	1	120/1,300	1.3/0.1	3	6(2i)	7	-1	2	\$200	3	[1, 2]
6	Webley Mk III Police & Civilian, .38 S&W	2d-1 pi	2	100/1,100	1.5/0.2	3	6(2i)	8	-2	2	\$700	3	
6	S&W .32 Hand-Ejector, .32 S&W Long	1d+2 pi-	1	120/1,300	1.3/0.1	3	6(2i)	7	-2	2	\$440	3	
6	Nagant R-1895, 7.62x39mmR	2d-1 pi-	2	140/1,500	2/0.25	3	7(3i)	8	-2	2	\$400	3	
6	Rast & Gasser M.98, 8x27mmR	2d-1 pi	2	120/1,400	2.3/0.2	3	8(3i)	9	-2	2	\$400	3	
6	Colt .45 New Service, .45 Long Colt	3d-2 pi+	2	120/1,300	2.8/0.3	3	6(2i)	11	-3	4	\$700	3	
6	Webley-Fosbery Mk I, .455 Webley	2d-1 pi+	2	120/1,300	3/0.3	3	6(2i)	9	-2	2	\$850	3	
6	S&W .22 LadySmith, .22 Long	1d pi-	1	50/850	1/0.05	3	7(2i)	7	-1	2	\$400	3	[1]
6	S&W .38 M&P, .38 Special	2d pi	2	110/1,200	2/0.2	3	6(2i)	9	-2	2	\$500	3	[1]
6	Pickert Arminius Modell 10, .32 ACP	2d-1 pi-	1	120/1,300	1/0.1	3	5(3i)	7	-1	2	\$100	3	[1]
6	Colt .32 Pocket Positive, .32 S&W Long	1d+2 pi-	2	120/1,300	1.1/0.1	3	6(2i)	7	-2	2	\$400	3	[1]
6	Colt .38 Police Positive Special, .38 Special	2d pi	2	110/1,200	1.6/0.2	3	6(2i)	9	-2	2	\$475	3	[1]
6	S&W .44 Hand Ejector, .44 Special	2d pi+	2	140/1,500	2.5/0.3	3	6(2i)	10	-2	3	\$600	3	[1]
6	HDH Mitrailleur, 5.5x28mmR	1d+1 pi-	2	50/850	2.1/0.25	3	20(2i)	8	-3	2	\$250	3	[1]
6	Webley Mk VI, .455 Webley	2d-1 pi+	2	120/1,300	2.7/0.3	3	6(2i)	10	-2	3	\$700	3	
6	Cottrell Flashlight Revolver, .22 LR	1d pi-	0	50/850	1.5/0.05	3	7(3i)	8	-2	2	\$135	3	[1]
6	Colt .38 Banker's Special, .38 S&W	2d-2 pi	1	100/1,100	1.4/0.2	3	6(2i)	8	-1	2	\$500	3	[1]
6	Colt .38 Official Police, .38 Special	2d pi	2	110/1,200	2.3/0.2	3	6(2i)	9	-2	2	\$550	3	[1]
6	Colt .38 Detective Special, .38 Special	2d-1 pi	1	100/1,100	1.5/0.2	3	6(2i)	8	-1	2	\$525	3	[1]
6	Iver Johnson Protector, .22 LR	1d pi-	1	50/850	1/0.06	3	8(2i)	7	-1	2	\$150	3	[1]
6	S&W .357 Magnum, .357 Magnum	3d pi	2	190/2,100	3/0.2	3	6(2i)	10	-2	3	\$600	3	[1]
6	Enfield Number 2 Mk I, .38 S&W	2d-1 pi	2	100/1,100	1.8/0.2	3	6(2i)	8	-2	2	\$500	3	

Notes:

[1] No lanyard ring (p. B289 and *High-Tech*, p. 154).

[2] Unreliable with TL6 smokeless ammo: malfunctions on 16+ (see p. B407).

Webley Mk VI, .455 Webley (U.K., 1915-1935)

The Mk VI (renamed the *No.1 Mk VI* in 1926) was the last of the famous big-bore, double-action, break-open Webley revolvers. It was standard issue for Empire troops in WWI, and still widely used during WWII. Most military and police forces in the British Dominions and colonies issued it through the 1920s and 1930s – notably the Royal Irish Constabulary and the South African Police. More than 300,000 were made. Vito Corleone kills Don Fannucci with a Mk VI in *The Godfather II*, Eddie the Dane uses one in *Miller's Crossing*, and Jake Cutter has a Webley in *Tales of the Gold Monkey*.

Webley also made civilian versions of their military revolvers, including the *Webley-Green Army* (1885-1912). This differed in details such as the sights and the so-called bird's head grip; Wt. 2.8/0.3, Cost \$700. Indiana Jones carries one in *The Last Crusade*.

Colt .38 Banker's Special, .38 S&W (USA, 1926-1940)

This compact double-action revolver with 2" barrel and swing-out cylinder was popular with people who liked to be armed inconspicuously. Some 35,000 were made. Colt sold it chambered for the ".38 Colt" cartridge, but this was nothing

more than a renamed .38 S&W. The U.S. Postal Service adopted it in 1927 for its inspectors and railroad mail clerks. It was also available in .22 LR (Dmg 1d+1 pi-). Such a gun plays a prominent role in the novel *The Big Sleep*.

Colt .38 Official Police, .38 Special (USA, 1927-1969)

This is a no-frills double-action police weapon with swing-out cylinder. By the early 1930s, it was used by many American law enforcement agencies, including the police departments of Chicago, Los Angeles, New York, Portland (ME), and San Francisco, and the Connecticut, Delaware, Maryland, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania State Police. It was an official service handgun of the FBI in 1937-1984. Eliot Ness is armed with this in the TV series *The Untouchables*.

Alternate calibers included .32-20 Winchester (Dam 1d+2 pi-) and .41 Long Colt (Dam 1d+2 pi+), but they were far less common. Pearl or ivory grips cost \$90. Improved-visibility sights (*High-Tech*, p. 156) were offered for this gun.

The direct predecessor of this weapon was the virtually identical Colt .38 *Army Special* (1908-1927); same stats and same optional calibers.

Colt .38 Detective Special, .38 Special (USA, 1927-1986)

A snub-nosed double-action weapon with swing-out cylinder, intended to arm police chiefs and criminal investigators, but also popular with private eyes and many civilians in want of an easily concealed sidearm. Some 1.5 million were made. It was issued by the FBI from 1936, and was the chosen weapon of the *real* Eliot Ness (*GURPS Cops*, p. 11), but also of comic-strip detective Dick Tracy. The U.S. Secret Service likewise adopted it. A nickel-plated specimen (same cost) is the backup gun of cinematic Chicago cop George Stone in Brian De Palma's *The Untouchables*. The other side of the law also used it; Mafia enforcer Michael Sullivan employs it as a backup gun in *Road to Perdition*.



Iver Johnson Protector, .22 LR (USA, 1933-1949)

This was a double-action, break-open pocket revolver with 2.5" barrel, a cheap gun favored by those on a budget.

S&W .357 Magnum, .357 Magnum (USA, 1935-1994)

"The most powerful handgun in the world" when introduced, this weapon was a large-frame, double-action, swing-out revolver with a 6" barrel, chambered for the brand-new .357 Magnum round. This was intended to fill a similar demand as the .38 Super Auto, to allow penetration of bullet-resistant vests or automobile doors, but also for handgun hunting. The weapon could alternatively fire .38 Special ammo (Dmg 2d pi, ST 9, Rcl 2), which was both cheaper and easier to handle. This revolver was issued to FBI agents working violent crime in 1937-1970. Legendary FBI gunslinger Delf "Jelly" Bryce could draw and shoot his .357 Magnum in 0.4 seconds – and he would hit, too!

Enfield Number 2 Mk I, .38 S&W (U.K., 1936-1945)

This was a double-action, break-open revolver based on the .38-caliber Webley Mk IV (p. 12), adopted by the British Army in 1932 to replace the big .455-caliber Webleys (p. 17). More than 270,000 were made, most during WWII. It features prominently in both *Shanghai Grand* and *Sky Captain and the World of Tomorrow*.

SEMIAUTOMATIC PISTOLS

Having put on our vests, we jumped on to the running-board of the car. With one hand I grasped the hood, in the other I clutched my .45 automatic Colt pistol.

– Ewart Peters, *Shanghai Policeman* (1937)

First available in the 1890s, semiautomatic pistols were in widespread use during the pulp era. They had proven their worth as military sidearms during WWI and several smaller

conflicts, and were used daily by police officers and private citizens in Europe and Asia, albeit less so in America. "Browning," "Colt," "Luger," and "Mauser" were becoming household names, as were terms like "an automatic."

Mauser C96, 7.63×25mm Mauser (Germany, 1897-1943)

The single-action Mauser *Construction 1896* was the first commercially and operationally successful semiautomatic pistol, nicknamed the "Broomhandle" in America due to the shape of its grip. It was extremely widespread during the first half of the 20th century, and especially popular in Germany, Italy (being adopted by the Italian marines as the *Mod 99*), Persia, Turkey, Russia (where it was known as "Comrade Mauser"), China (see *The Boxed Cannon*, p. 4), Southeast Asia, and South America. Mauser pistols are shown in action by Marion Ravenwood in *Raiders of the Lost Ark*, by the Brotherhood of the Cruciform Sword in *Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade*, and by Lock-Nah in *The Mummy Returns*.

The C96 had an integral 10-round magazine loaded with a charger clip. It *couldn't* carry an extra round in the chamber (*High-Tech*, p. 88). The bolt closed and stripped the top round off the magazine as the clip was withdrawn.

Many were sold with a detachable 1.3-lb. wooden shoulder stock (+1 Acc, -1 Bulk). This was hollow to allow the gun to be stored inside, and served as a belt holster. Removing the pistol from within the stock took three Ready maneuvers. Attaching the stock to the pistol took another three seconds. With stock, this was the standard weapon of mounted border guards in Germany from WWI to WWII. Stocked Mausers were touted in America as ideal hunting weapons for use on deer, wolves, and even bears.

Flashlight Revolver

This was an unusual combination weapon (also see *High-Tech*, p. 198).

Cottrell Flashlight Revolver, .22 LR (USA, 1921-1929)

Made by flashlight manufacturer Cottrell, this was a conventional nickel-plated brass flashlight about 9.4" long, with a sling button and powered by two batteries (2×S/2 hrs.). However, a tiny revolver cylinder and 1.5" barrel was mounted on the front part of the flashlight casing, with a folding trigger on the opposite side. It had a double-action-only mechanism. Cottrell claimed that it was "the most practical defense arm ever invented." While that should be doubted on account of its low-powered cartridge, it *would* be very suitable for investigators who often operate in darkness, and might ward off creatures that shun the light, including nocturnal beasts or H.P. Lovecraft's "Haunter of the Dark."

The flashlight effectively works like a tactical light (*High-Tech*, p. 156): When shooting at ranges within the 5-yard beam length, use the more favorable of -3 or the actual darkness penalty (p. B394). It may also momentarily blind the target.

From 1908 to 1915, the C96 was available in 9×25mm Mauser (Dmg 3d-1 pi). During WWI, many were made in 9×19mm Parabellum (Dmg 2d+2 pi) for service with the German army. (They were classified as LC2 in Germany in 1920-1932!)

Beginning in 1930, Mauser offered the C96 with detachable 10-round (\$26, 0.4 lb.) and 20-round (\$27, 0.7 lb.) box magazines. The latter magazine stuck far below the line of the trigger guard, preventing the pistol from fitting in standard holsters. Detachable-magazine guns *could* have an additional round in the chamber.

Mauser made its first selective-fire model in 1930. The most numerous such variant was the *C96 Schnellfeuerpistole M32* (1932-1938), which had a detachable magazine and stock: Acc 3, Wt. 4.2/0.7, RoF 14, Shots 20+1(3), ST 7†, Bulk -4, Cost \$550/\$27, LC2. Use the Guns (SMG) skill to shoot such guns. It was less controllable without the stock: Acc 2, Wt. 3, ST 8†. If fired *one-handed* without the stock: ST 10, Rcl 3.

Some 95,000 *Schnellfeuer* guns were made. A few hundred were acquired by Yugoslavia (*M33*); the Bulgarian assassin Velichko “Vlada the Chauffeur” Dimitrov-Kerin used a Mauser



machine pistol to murder Yugoslavian King Alexander I in France in 1934. About 70,000 were exported to China. In the *Tintin* comic *The Blue Lotus*, such a machine pistol is concealed in a tripod-mounted camera. In the U.S., the M32 was offered commercially, but the importer Stoeger (p. 6) sold only to police and military organizations, not the general public. A late model with 20-rounder but without stock is used (anachronistically) by young Billy in the 1914 scenes of *The Fifth Element*. (The full-automatic Mauser is also displayed to good effect in the cop film *Brannigan*, set in London in 1975.)

The Spanish Beistegui *Royal* (1927-1929) was actually the first machine pistol variation on the C96; RoF 14, Cost \$450, LC2. It still had an internal clip-loaded 10-round magazine. Some 27,000 of these guns were made, and mainly exported to China and South America. The Beistegui *MM31* (1931-1933) was a machine pistol with detachable magazine; Wt. 3.5/0.8, RoF 14, Shots 20+1(3), Cost \$600/\$27, LC2. Both could be fitted with a 1.3-lb. shoulder stock (+1 Acc, -1 Bulk); use the same rules as above for automatic fire.

The Unceta *Astra Mod 900* (1927-1941) was a Spanish copy of the basic C96 with some internal differences; Cost \$350. Tens of thousands were made, with a few hundred being bought by the Spanish police, most of the others going to Asia or South America. The *Astra Mod 902* (1928-1933) was one of several machine pistols offered by Unceta. It had a fixed internal magazine of increased capacity; Wt. 3.8/0.5, RoF 14, Shots 20(5), Cost \$400, LC2. Some 7,000 were made, more than half of these going to China and Siam. All these weapons could be fitted with a 1.4-lb. shoulder stock (+1 Acc, -1 Bulk); use the same rules as above for automatic fire. All Astra models could be ordered engraved and with gold inlays for double cost (+1 to reactions, p. 6). Pearl grips add \$100.

The Chinese Shansei *17 Shi* (1929-1932) was an enlarged copy of the C96 chambering the .45 ACP, to go with the Shansei arsenal's copy of the Thompson submachine gun (pp. 28-30); Dmg 2d pi+, Range 150/1,600, Wt. 3/0.5, Shots 10(3), ST 10, Rcl 3, Cost \$250. It used charger clips and could take a 1.4-lb. shoulder stock (+1 Acc, -1 Bulk).

FN-Browning Mle 1900, .32 ACP (Belgium, 1900-1911)

This was John Browning's first successful pistol design (following the earlier *Mle 1899*), made under his direction by Fabrique Nationale in Belgium and exported worldwide.

The Boxed Cannon

In the first half of the 20th century, the Mauser C96, with its many copies and derivatives, was probably the single most important, certainly the most prestigious firearm in war-torn China (and much of the rest of East Asia – also see *GURPS Cliffhangers*, p. 69). Mauser alone delivered almost half a million, a sixth of them machine pistols; in addition, Spanish manufacturers also supplied tens of thousands of pistols and machine pistols. Surplus from WWI also streamed in. A dozen Chinese arsenals (plus countless enterprising traveling gunsmiths) copied C96 pistols from 1921, and at least five arsenals produced Mauser machine pistols in the 1930s and 1940s; still others copied Spanish copies like the Beistegui MM31 . . .

The wooden shoulder stock which usually came with the Mauser led to its Chinese nickname: *he zi pao* (“boxed cannon”), since the pistol would store inside the hollow stock when not in use. Chinese soldiers were often armed with nothing more than a stocked Mauser and a *dao* sword (*GURPS Martial Arts*, p. 215), and typically wore leather web gear (*High-Tech*, p. 54) with 12 small pouches around the belt, each holding a clip or magazine.

Part of the success of the C96 was due to the international arms embargo against China in 1919-1929, which banned sales of rifles, but not pistols. Also, the Mauser C96 was the ideal weapon for local conditions; small and handy enough to be of use in close quarters, but due to the combination of the long-ranged 7.63×25mm Mauser round and the detachable shoulder stock, also effective out to several hundred yards.

The Chinese even developed a unique firing stance to cope with the quirks of the machine pistol variants: they turned the weapon on the side and pulled the trigger with the middle finger, so that horizontally traversing fire would result rather than the usual excessive muzzle climb. This technique allowed for easy and instinctive shooting, especially in close quarters, but would also deny the firer use of the weapon's sights. Whenever employing this method, treat the gun's Acc as 0, reduce its ST rating by 1, and treat its Bulk as if it were one level better.

Example: The Mauser C96 M32 has Acc 2, ST 10, and Bulk -3. When fired the Chinese way, use Acc 0, ST 9, and Bulk -2.

It introduced the .32 ACP cartridge and made popular the concept of the hammerless semiautomatic pocket pistol. Although production ceased after a decade in favor of more advanced designs, more than 720,000 were made. This was one of the most widely copied handguns at the time, numerous manufacturers in China, Spain, and elsewhere producing cheap-quality knock-offs.

While the Mle 1900 was adopted as a standard sidearm by the Belgian military and police, and saw some service with a number of other European and Asian police forces (among them the detectives of the French *Surêté*), most official users had phased it out by the 1920s. Many were still employed by civilians, however. In 1923, Adolf Hitler (*GURPS Who's Who* 2, pp. 110-111, and *GURPS WWII: Iron Cross*, p. 53) used a Browning in his failed Beer-Hall Putsch (*GURPS WWII: Iron Cross*, p. 8).

FN-Browning Mle 1903, 9×20mmSR Browning (Belgium, 1903-1939)

Around the turn of the century, this neat single-action design developed by John Browning was the most modern and one of the most powerful semiautomatic pistols available. However, it saw only limited success. It was adopted by the Bolivian (*Mod 1907*), Estonian (*M/1921*), Peruvian, and Swedish militaries (*m/1907* – see *GURPS WWII: Frozen Hell*, p. 32), as well as the Persian police, the pre-revolutionary Russian gendarmerie, and the Turkish gendarmerie (*M1325*). Some 58,000 were made by FN, plus more than 94,000 by Husqvarna in Sweden.

Many were delivered with a detachable 1-lb. shoulder stock (+1 Acc, -1 Bulk) and extended 10-round magazine (\$26, 0.4 lb.). The stock had compartments to hold a spare magazine and a cleaning kit.

Colt .32 Pocket, .32 ACP (USA, 1903-1946)

Designed by John Browning, this elegant single-action hammerless pocket pistol was widely acquired by American citizens prior to WWI, and was also popular with detectives, criminals, secret agents, etc. Over half a million were made and many were exported. One of these was used in the 1924 assassination of Sir Lee Stack Pasha, Egyptian army commander and governor of Sudan, to the detriment of the nationalist movement (*GURPS Cliffhangers*, p. 52). A nicked .32 is used by gangster boss Johnny Caspar in *Miller's Crossing*.

A slightly larger and less common variant was available in .380 ACP (1908-1946); Dmg 2d pi, Wt. 1.7/0.2, Shots 7+1(3). About 138,000 were made. This was issued by the Shanghai Municipal Police to detectives and Chinese constables from 1925 (*GURPS Martial Arts: Fairbairn Close Combat Systems*, p. 19), replacing the FN-Browning Mle 1900 (pp. 14-15). John Dillinger was carrying one in his pants pocket when he was shot by the FBI in 1934.

Webley & Scott M.P. Mk I, .32 ACP (Great Britain, 1906-1940)

This small single-action hammerless pistol was standard issue for many police

The recipe for explosives is accessible to all, and a Browning can be obtained anywhere.

– Leon Trotsky,
“Terrorism” (1911)

forces in the British Empire in the first half of the 20th century. It was adopted in 1911 by London's Metropolitan Police (*GURPS Cliffhangers*, p. 7) to replace the old .450-caliber Webley M.P. revolver (High-Tech, p. 95), hence its name. The little Webley was quickly acquired by similar agencies in Australia, Egypt, Ireland, and throughout the U.K. It was also issued to the Royal Bodyguards until after WWII. More than half a million were made.

The design was licensed to Harrington & Richardson in the U.S., who made the slightly modified *H&R .32 Self-loading Pistol* (1916-1924); Wt. 1.6/0.2, Shots 8+1(3). Some 40,000 of these were manufactured.

FN-Browning Mle 1906, .25 ACP (Belgium, 1906-1959)

Another Browning invention, this tiny, flat, hammerless single-action pistol was chambered for a puny round, and was small enough for easy concealment in a vest or pants pocket (Holdout -1). While short on accuracy, killing power, and reliability, and ineffective beyond a few yards, it was a popular weapon for self-defense. This Browning was the second (or third, or fourth) gun of a lot of people who were more adequately armed. More than a million were made by Fabrique Nationale alone, plus 409,000 by Colt as the *.25 Vest Pocket* (1908-1946), which differed mainly in the markings. In the

movie *The Maltese Falcon*, Joel Cairo carries a Colt .25 until he is expertly disarmed (p. B230) by Sam Spade.

Both FNs and Colts were often bought in deluxe versions; engraved patterns, some with gold inlays, double cost (+1 to reactions, p. 6). Ivory or pearl grips add \$50.

The gun was simple and operating stresses were low; many were built with hand tools as a cottage industry. During the pulp era, dozens of Spanish gun makers exported cheap copies worldwide – a better-known example was the *Unceta Astra Mod 200* (1920-1967), of which more than a quarter million were produced; Cost \$120. Other copies sold for as little as \$40!

The *FN-Browning Baby* (1931-1983) was similar but even smaller (Wt. 0.65). It lacked the grip safety.



Rheinmetall-Dreyse M07, .32 ACP (Germany, 1907-1916)

A single-action hammerless pocket pistol that was widely issued to the German armed forces as a substitute gun during WWI, more than 75,000 being delivered. The Dreyse was also used as a police weapon in Germany during the 1920s and 1930s: it was the standard sidearm of German customs officers, Prussian and Saxonian gendarmes, and the Berlin criminal detective force (replacing the FN-Browning Mle 1900, pp. 14-15) – as shown in Fritz Lang's *The Testament of Dr. Mabuse*. The Swiss Papal Guard protecting the Vatican's secret archives issued it to officers in 1912-1990.

Savage Model 1907, .32 ACP (USA, 1907-1917)

This toy-like single-action hammerless design was one of the early Colt competitors, but not as successful. Some 30,000 of the Model 1907 were acquired as “substitute standard” weapons by the French in WWI and referred to as the *Mle 1914*, and it was adopted by the Portuguese military as the *M/908* and *M/915*. Military models received a lanyard ring (p. B289 and *High-Tech*, p. 154). The same pistol was also available, if less common, in .380 ACP; Dmg 2d pi, Wt. 1.7/0.3, Shots 9+1(3), Cost \$480.

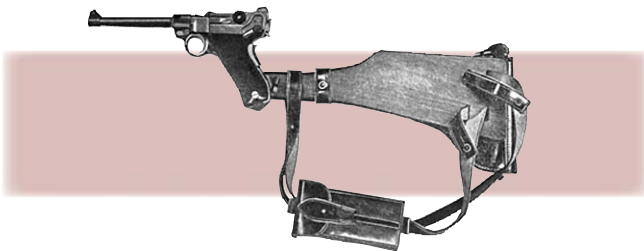
The *Model 1917* (1920-1928) was slightly modified, and likewise available in .32 ACP and .380 ACP (same stats as above except for Wt. 1.6 and Wt. 1.8, respectively). Such a pistol in .32 ACP is used by killer-for-hire Harlan Maguire in *Road to Perdition*.

Luger P08 Parabellum, 9×19mm Parabellum (Germany, 1908-1946)

The first Parabellum pistol, designed by Georg Luger, became available in 1900. It was a sleek, hammerless single-action pistol, and exceptionally easy to point and shoot. Unfortunately, its toggle-joint action was susceptible to jams. In 1900, Switzerland adopted the design in 7.65×21mm Parabellum (Dmg 2d pi-) as the *P00*; the Swiss-made *P06* and *P06/29* have the same stats. Brazil (*M906*), Bulgaria (*M1900* and *M1906*), Finland (*PIST/23* – see *GURPS WWII: Frozen Hell*, p. 32), and Portugal (*M/909*, *M/910*, and *M/935*) also introduced it in that caliber and used it throughout the pulp era.

In the U.S., it was marketed as the “American Eagle,” its caliber dubbed “.30 Luger.” This import gun was not uncommon during the pulp years, as seen in John Steinbeck's story *Of Mice and Men*. It was even advertised at the time as being “a favorite with motorcycle policemen in rounding up automobile bandits,” although no U.S. agencies officially adopted it. Racketeer Eddie Mars carries one in the novel *The Big Sleep*.

Ivory grips add \$220. A 0.75-lb. Maxim baffle suppressor (-2 Hearing, -1 Bulk) was offered for the Luger in the U.S. in 1924-1925, but was rare – the weight attached to the recoiling barrel reduces Malf. to 15!



[The Luger] surely is the ideal saddle, auto, aeroplane and canoe gun, . . . and the ideal hunting, trapping and camping gun all over the world.

– *Pacific Arms*,
“Luger Automatic
Pistol” (1924)

In 1902, a new model introduced the 9×19mm Parabellum cartridge. In this chambering, the German military and police adopted it as the *Pistole 08*, which saw widespread service with German forces in 1908-1945. The Germans issued it with one spare magazine, carried in a compartment of its holster. Export customers included Abyssinia, Bolivia (*Mod 1912*), Bulgaria (*M1908*), the Dutch East Indies (*M.11*), Latvia, Persia (*M1314*), and Venezuela, as well as the Netherlands navy (*No.1*). The Turkish police acquired it in 1935, the Siamese police in 1936. More than three million were produced by several German manufacturers. The 9×19mm versions (but not the 7.65×21mm models) were classified in Germany as LC2 in 1919-1932. Reporter Edward Malone carries a Luger in Harry Hoyt's *The Lost World*. SS-Obersturmbannführer Vogel has a P08 in *Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade*.

The *Lange Pistole 08* (1913-1918) or *Artillerie* model had a long 8” barrel: Dmg 3d-1 pi, Wt. 2.9/0.5, Bulk -3, Cost \$600. The LP08 came with a detachable 0.8-lb. shoulder stock (+1 Acc, -1 Bulk). From 1917, an oversized 32-round “snail-drum” magazine was available (\$304, 2.4 lbs.); it was bulky (-1 Bulk) and reduced reliability considerably (Malf. 15). This combination was issued to machine-gun crews and assault troops. Experienced stormtroopers, wary of the drum's unreliability and bulk, carried half a dozen standard magazines instead. Production of the drum ceased in 1918, but second-hand samples were offered at half-price on the American market until the 1930s. Persia acquired a newly made batch of LP08 pistols in 1935. Captain Englehorn uses an LP08 without stock and drum in Peter Jackson's *King Kong*, and gumshoe Mike Murphy carries one as “backup” in *City Heat*.

Like most semiautomatic pistols, any Luger variant could be converted to automatic fire (*High-Tech*, p. 79); RoF 20, LC2. The machine pistols require Guns (SMG) skill; if fired one-handed, use ST 10 and Rcl 3. Bank robber Harvey Bailey owned several such converted guns and used one complete with shoulder stock and the big drum in a robbery in 1932.

Webley & Scott Military & Police, 9×20mmSR Browning (U.K., 1909-1930)

This neat single-action design with an effective cartridge was adopted by the South African police in 1920 and later by the Egyptian police, but did not sell well. A slightly modified version in 9×23mm Steyr was adopted by the Romanian police (*md. 1923*); same stats.

Webley & Scott .455 SL Mk I, .455 Webley Auto (Great Britain, 1909-1933)

A heavy single-action pistol chambered for the uncommon .455 Webley Auto round, this was acquired by the Royal Navy and Royal Marines in 1913 to replace the .455-caliber Webley Mk IV revolver (*High-Tech*, p. 96), and was still in limited service during WWII. London police officers patrolling the docks were also issued it. Less than 10,000 were made, including some 1,200 for commercial sale.

Walther Mod 4, .32 ACP (Germany, 1910-1928)

Walther produced an entire line of compact pistols. Their *Modell 4* was a hammerless single-action design intended as a holster gun for military and police – its small caliber being considered entirely adequate for this use at the time. It was popular as a privately acquired sidearm with German military officers during and after WWI. About 75,000 were delivered to the armed forces, and in the 1920s it was officially adopted by the German railway police, the Finnish police, and others. Some 300,000 were made.

Steyr M.12, 9×23mm Steyr (Austria, 1911-1919)

The *Steyr Pistole Modell 1912* – already offered on the commercial market in 1911 – was adopted by the Austro-Hungarian forces prior to WWI to replace the outdated Rast and Gasser M.98 revolver (p. 9) and Steyr-Roth M.07 pistol, and was used extensively during that war. Thousands were also exported, including to Chile (*Mod 1911*), Germany (where it was issued to Bavarian troops during WWI), Romania (*md. 1912*), and Turkey. Over one million were made. The M.12 continued to be the Austrian service handgun for the entire era. It is used by Harry Boland in the film *Michael Collins*.

It was a single-action weapon loaded with a stripper clip, preventing it from loading an additional round into the chamber (*High-Tech*, p. 88). The Austrians issued it with one spare clip, which was carried in a pouch on the holster. Many accepted a detachable 1-lb. shoulder stock (+1 Acc, -1 Bulk).

The *Sturmpistole M.12* (1916-1917) was an “assault pistol” with an extended magazine, capable of selective fire; Wt. 2.8/0.4, RoF 13, Shots 16(5), ST 9†, Bulk -3, Rcl 2, Cost \$600, LC2. Two stripper clips were needed to fill the fixed magazine (five Ready maneuvers). If fired one-handed, it was less controllable: ST 11, Rcl 3. Today it is also known as the *M.12/P16*. It was designed for trench fighting in the Dolomite mountains, and over 9,900 were ordered, but as far as can be ascertained, only some 300 were actually made. Use Guns (SMG) skill to fire it.

After WWI, a handful of these had their extended magazine removed by private owners, to yield a normal-sized M.12 that was actually a selective-fire machine pistol; RoF 13, Shots 8(3), ST 11, Rcl 3, Cost \$600, LC2. Such a “pocket machine pistol” would be the perfect gun for a Nazi agent – and indeed it is claimed to have been popular with German *Brandenburger* special ops troops (*GURPS WWII: Hand of Steel*, p. 14) in WWII.

FN-Browning Mle 1910, .32 ACP (Belgium, 1912-1980)

This hammerless single-action pocket pistol developed by John Browning was a commercial success, with over 700,000 being made. It was adopted by the Belgian (*Mle 1910*) and Yugoslavian (*M10*) militaries, and by many police forces, including in Belgium, Germany, Japan, and Switzerland. A



Serbian army gun was used by Gavrilo Princip in the 1914 assassination of the Austro-Hungarian Archduke Franz Ferdinand, which led to WWI (*GURPS Covert Ops*, p. 15); another Browning was used by Dr. Carl Weiss to kill infamous Louisiana governor Huey “Kingfish” Long in 1935 (*GURPS Cliffhangers*, p. 27). The fictional Belgian reporter Tintin also customarily uses such a Browning.

The *Mle 1910/22* (1922-1959) had a slightly longer barrel and larger magazine, and was chambered in either .32 ACP (Acc 2, Wt. 1.8/0.25, Shots 9+1(3), Bulk -2, Cost \$250/\$26) or .380 ACP (Dmg 2d pi, Acc 2, Wt. 1.8/0.25, Shots 8+1(3), Bulk -2, Cost \$250/\$26). This, too, sold widely, and was adopted in .32 ACP by the militaries of Greece (*M1910/22*) and Turkey, as well as the Danish police, Dutch police and gendarmerie (*M.25 No.1*), Romanian police (*md. 1935*), and Swedish police. In .380 ACP it was acquired by the armies of the Netherlands (*M.25 No.2*) and Yugoslavia (*M10/22*).

Several Asian and European manufacturers produced cheap copies of this Browning design. A straight copy was the German DWM *Modell 1923* (1923-1928); Cost \$120. The Spanish Gabilondo *Danton* (1919-1933) was modified with a longer grip and magazine; Wt. 2.5/0.4, Shots 12+1(3), Cost \$80. Yet another copy was the Spanish Unceta *Astra Mod 700* (1927-1946), which had Wt. 1.8/0.3, Shots 9+1(3), Cost \$90.

Colt .45 Government, .45 ACP (USA, 1912-)

Designed by John Browning, this big, single-action semiautomatic was adopted by the U.S. Army as the *M1911* service pistol (1912-1925), replacing the .38-caliber Colt M1892 New Army & Navy revolvers and the .45-caliber Colt M1909 New Service (p. 9). It was improved to become the *M1911A1* (1926-1970), which has the same stats. Nearly three million were made for the American armed services alone, and Colt sold some 100,000 to police and civilians before WWII. The U.S. military issued the M1911 with two spare magazines, carried in a belt pouch (p. 33). Many other armies acquired the pistol as well; during the pulp era these included those of Argentina (*Mod 1916* and *Mod 1927*), Canada, Mexico (*Mod 1921*), and Norway (*M/14*) in particular. Argentina and Norway also made it under license. The British Royal Flying Corps (RFC) acquired it in 1916 as the *Colt .455 SL Pistol Mk I* in .455 Webley Auto (same stats).

During the 1930s, the big Colt made inroads into the police market; FBI agent Charles Winstead drilled Dillinger with a .45 in 1934. The guards at Alcatraz prison also had it (*GURPS Cliffhangers*, p. 28). Countless fictional American detectives likewise carried it, among them Sam Spade, Mike Hammer, and the anonymous Continental Operative. It prominently arms pulp fiction heroes such as The Phantom, The Shadow, and The Spider, but also gunslinger “John Smith” in the film *Last Man Standing* (with two dozen magazines), mafia enforcer Michael Sullivan in *Road to Perdition*, and outlaw Clyde Parker in *Bonnie & Clyde vs. Dracula* . . . In Harry Hoyt’s *The Lost World*, Professor Arthur Summerlee shoots, quite ineffectively, with a Colt .45 at an Allosaurus.

*And as the last of the
monstrosities oozed up alone from
that nether world of unknown
nightmare, I drew my automatic
pistol and shot it under cover of the
thunder.*

– H.P. Lovecraft,
“The Lurking Fear”
(1927)

Pearl, ivory, or stag grips cost \$140. Accessories available in the 1920s and 1930s included 18-round (-1 Bulk, \$29, 1.3 lbs.), 20-round (-1 Bulk, \$30, 1.4 lbs.), and 25-round extended magazines (-1 Bulk, \$31, 1.8 lbs.) – “invaluable for police [on] riot duty” – and a 1.1-lb. detachable stock (+1 Acc, -1 Bulk). From 1921, incendiary and tracer ammo (*High-Tech*, p. 175) was offered in the .45 chambering, useful against targets with a Vulnerability (p. B161) to heat or flame. Note that, fictional accounts notwithstanding, *no* sound suppressor was available for this weapon at the time! A fine (accurate) version was sold from the factory as the *.45 National Match Automatic* (1933-1941); Acc 3, Cost \$950.

The Colt *.38 Super Auto* (1929-) was a Government in .38 Super Auto: Dmg 3d-1 pi, Wt. 2.8/0.4, Shots 9+1, Rcl 2. Intended by Colt for “the target shooter and big game hunter,” it was popular on both sides of the law in 1930s America, specifically because it was able to penetrate early bullet-resistant vests (*High-Tech*, p. 66). Former Texas Ranger Captain Frank Hamer carried one on the hunt for Bonnie and Clyde. The FBI adopted it for agents working violent crime in 1938. It was issued to the pilots of several American commercial airlines, including Transcontinental and Western Air, and it was popular with authorities in countries like Mexico, Panama, the Philippines, and Siam. Extended magazines holding up to 25 rounds were available (-1 Bulk, \$31, 1.1 lbs.).

Several enterprising gunsmiths converted Government pistols – in both .45 ACP and .38 Super Auto – into selective-fire machine pistols (*High-Tech*, p. 79). Especially famous are the specimens built by gunsmith “Hymie” Lebman (p. 5), which featured a wooden Thompson foregrip, integral Cutts compensator (p. 30), and extended magazine; Wt. 4.4/1.3, RoF 20, Shots 18+1(3), ST 8†, Bulk -3, Rcl 3, Cost \$1,700/\$29, LC2. Similar Lebman guns in .38 Super were used by “Baby Face” Nelson and Roger “The Terrible” Touhy in 1933/1934; Dmg 3d-1 pi, Wt. 3.8/1, RoF 25, Shots 22+1(3), ST 7†, Bulk -3, Rcl 2, Cost \$1,700/\$28, LC2. Use Guns (SMG) skill for such weapons. If either type is fired *one-handed*, increase ST by +2 and Rcl by +1.

The Colt Government was widely copied. Some of the most successful imitations were made by Echeverria of Spain. Their *Star Mod A* (1924-1983) was chambered for the 9×23mm Bergmann-Bayard, but otherwise very similar to the original; Dmg 2d+1 pi, Wt. 2.5/0.3, Shots 8+1(3), ST 9, Rcl 2, Cost \$350/\$26. Minor variants of this were issued by the Spanish police as the *Mod 1921*, *Mod 1922*, and *Mod 1931*. For export,

primarily to China and South America, it was also made in 7.63×25mm Mauser (Dmg 3d-1 pi-) as well as .38 Super (Dmg 3d-1 pi). The *Star Mod B* (1924-1975) was based on the Mod A, but chambered for the 9×19mm Parabellum; Dmg 2d+2 pi, Wt. 2.5/0.3, Shots 8+1(3), ST 9, Rcl 2, Cost \$375/\$26.

The Echeverria *Star Mod MD* (1931-1952) was a machine pistol based on the Mod A with a slightly larger frame, in 7.63×25mm Mauser; Dmg 3d-1 pi-, Wt. 2.5/0.3, Shots 9+1(3), RoF 23, ST 9†, Bulk -2, Rcl 2, Cost \$400/\$26, LC2. Fired one-handed, use ST 11, Rcl 3. Optional 16-round (\$27, 0.6 lb.) and 32-round (-1 Bulk, \$29, 1.1 lbs.) extended magazines were available. The *Star Mod PD* (1931-1934) was similar, but chambered for .45 ACP; Dmg 2d pi+, Wt. 2.7/0.5, Shots 7+1(3), RoF 23, ST 10†, Bulk -2, Rcl 3, Cost \$400/\$27, LC2. Fired one-handed, use ST 12, Rcl 4. Extended 13-round (\$28, 0.9 lb.) and 25-round (-1 Bulk, \$31, 1.8 lbs.) magazines were available. Both models could take a 1-lb. shoulder stock (+1 Acc, -1 Bulk). These guns were primarily exported to China and South America, with only some 8,000 made of all the full-auto versions; again, use Guns (SMG) skill for them.

Sauer Selbstladepestole, .32 ACP (Germany, 1914-1930)

Also known as the *Modell 1913* (although not so marked), this was a hammerless single-action pocket pistol made by Sauer und Sohn (S&S). It was acquired in large numbers as a substitute standard by the German military during WWI. In the 1920s, it was adopted by the Bavarian and Prussian police, as well as the German customs police and the Finnish railway police.

The virtually identical *Behördenmodell* (1930-1938), literally the “authorities’ model,” replaced it in production. The Netherlands acquired the Sauer BM for the police, customs police, and navy (*No.3*), as well as for the crews of the state shipping line which connected Holland and the Dutch East Indies.

Mauser C14, .32 ACP (Germany, 1914-1934)

The Mauser *Construction 1914* was a hammerless single-action automatic intended for concealed carry. Many were bought by German military officers during WWI, and some 100,000 were issued to the armed forces as a substitute standard. The C14 was further adopted by German and Norwegian police forces, and was widely exported for commercial sale, spreading as far as China, Egypt, and the USA. It features in the WWI film *Darling Lili*. The pistol could be had factory-engraved and inlaid with silver for triple the cost (+1 to reactions, p. 6).

Minor changes led to the *C34* (1934-1941), which has identical stats, and was likewise picked up in large numbers for issue to German officers, this time during WWII. It was adopted by Chinese and Siamese police forces during the 1930s.



Pfannl Kolibri, 2.7×9mm Kolibri (Austria, 1914-1938)

With a caliber of less than 0.11" and a length of 3", Franz Pfannl's *Kolibri* ("hummingbird") was the world's smallest repeating pistol at the time, so tiny that it could easily be hidden in the palm (Holdout -1). Even people with average-sized hands would have trouble manipulating it (-1 to Guns skill), as would overweight and exceptionally large persons. Intended for lady shooters, the single-action weapon was sold in a small silk-embroidered purse. About a thousand were made.

Beretta Mod 15, 9×19mm Glisenti (Italy, 1915-1918)

The hammerless single-action *Pistola Modello 1915* was adopted by the Italian army and police during WWI to replace the Bodeo Mod 89 revolver and Glisenti Mod 10 pistol (see *GURPS WWII: Grim Legions*, p. 26, for both). Some 16,000 were built. The Mod 15 fired the 9×19mm Glisenti cartridge, which was physically interchangeable with the more powerful 9×19mm Parabellum. However, firing the latter in the Mod 15 is dangerous – an 18 on the attack roll when using the Parabellum round means the gun explodes, inflicting 1d cr ex on the firer.

The *Mod 15/17* (1917-1921) and *Mod 22* (1922-1932) were practically the same gun in .32 ACP; Dmg 2d-1 pi-, Wt. 1.4/0.2, Shots 8+1(3). They were also sold commercially, some 98,000 being made.

The *Mod 1934* (1934-1967) was based on the earlier models, but chambered for the .380 ACP; Dmg 2d pi, Wt. 1.9/0.2. It was adopted by the Italian army. More than half a million were eventually produced.



Colt Woodsman, .22 LR (USA, 1915-1977)

The Woodsman, invented by Browning, was a single-action weapon originally designed for target-shooting, but also widely used for plinking – it was offered by retailers to both “the hunter and trapper” and “the camper, the tourist, and the firearms enthusiast.” Many American rural households had one of these (or a similar gun from another manufacturer) to exterminate rats, prairie dogs, or rabbits around the farm. More than 160,000 were made prior to WWII alone. Pearl or ivory grips cost \$140. Improved-visibility sights (*High-Tech*, p. 156) were available as aftermarket accessories. A 0.3-lb. Maxim baffle sound suppressor (-2 Hearing, -1 Bulk) was offered commercially for this weapon in 1915-1925.

Remington Model 51, .380 ACP (USA, 1918-1927)

Remington's only semiautomatic pistol offering was a neat hammerless single-action pocket gun of high quality. From 1921, it was also available in .32 ACP; Dmg 2d-1 pi-, Shots 8+1(3), Cost \$270/\$26. About 65,000 were made of both types.

General George Patton (*GURPS WWII: Dogfaces*, pp. 63-64) carried one occasionally during WWII.

Walther Modell 8, .25 ACP (Germany, 1920-1943)

A small hammerless single-action pocket pistol (Holdout -1), popular with German citizens and as a private gun for police and army officers. Adolf Hitler (*GURPS Who's Who 2*, pp. 110-111, and *GURPS WWII: Iron Cross*, p. 53) owned one of these, with which his niece Geli Raubal allegedly committed suicide in 1931 (*GURPS WWII: Weird War II*, p. 27). Half a million were made. It could be ordered decorated; double cost for factory engraving (+1 to reactions, p. 6). Multiply cost by 1.5 for gold plating. Pearl or ivory grips add \$100.

Ortgies Selbstladepistole, .380 ACP (Germany, 1921-1932)

This elegant hammerless single-action pocket pistol (Holdout -1) was developed by Heinrich Ortgies. Most guns were made in .380 ACP and intended for export to America – one ended up in the arsenal of the Dillinger-Nelson gang. Fewer were produced in .32 ACP (1919-1932), primarily for the European market; Dmg 2d-1 pi-, Shots 7+1(3), Cost \$180/\$26. In the 1920s, some of these were adopted by police and prison agencies in Czechoslovakia, Finland, and Germany, for example the Hamburg police department.

Unceta Astra Mod 400, 9×23mm Bergmann- Bayard (Spain, 1921-1946)

Made by *Unceta y Cia*, the *Astra Mod 400* single-action pistol was often called the *Puro* (“cigar”) due to the distinctive appearance of its protruding barrel, while the American importer sold it as the “Super-Power.” Designated the *Mod 1921*, it was the Spanish army sidearm in 1921-1950, as depicted in the film *Pan's Labyrinth*, and was also in service with their prison forces. The Chilean navy adopted it as the *Mod 1930*. More than 106,000 were made by Astra, and it was copied by several Republican workshops during the Spanish Civil War. It was also exported; Mafia counselor Tom Reagan is handed one at *Miller's Crossing*.

In *good* condition, it would also chamber and fire 9×19mm Glisenti, 9×19mm Parabellum, 9×20mmSR Browning, .38 Super, and 9×23mm Steyr cartridges; this should not be done with worn-out examples as it increases the Malf. chance to 15.

The even more common *Astra Mod 300* (1922-1947) was smaller and chambered for the .380 ACP; Dmg 2d pi, Wt. 1.6/0.2, Shots 7+1(3), Bulk -1, Cost \$210/\$26. The Spanish navy adopted it as the *Mod 1928*. The hammerless *Purito* (“little cigar”) was also made in .32 ACP; Dmg 2d-1 pi-, Wt. 1.6/0.2, Shots 8+1(3), Bulk -1, Cost \$210/\$26. Over 170,000 were made; half of them were delivered to Germany during WWII.



*Out of the opening came pale
fire-streaks. The bitter voice of a
small-caliber pistol. Seven times.*

– Dashiell Hammett, “*The
Whosis Kid*” (1925)

Lignose Einhand-Pistole Modell 3A, .25 ACP (Germany, 1922-1939)

This single-action hammerless “one-hand pistol” was unique in requiring only one hand for operation – chambering a round was done by pulling the front part of the trigger guard with the trigger finger instead of by racking the slide. This made it ideal for one-armed (p. B147) veterans who couldn’t operate a conventional pistol, but also useful for firing straight from a coat pocket in which it was carried (the latter at -2 to Guns skill). However, the Modell 3A was more expensive than other comparable pistols, and thus was never widely distributed.

Menz Liliput, 4.25×10mm Erika (Germany, 1923-1929)

This tiny, 3.25” long single-action gun was so small that it could be completely concealed in the palm (Holdout -1). People with large hands (e.g. most overweight or exceptionally tall characters) would have trouble manipulating it (-1 to Guns skill) – and might not be able to put their finger into the trigger guard at all! The round it fired was inadequate for any kind of defense, but a gun moll might opt to carry it in her sable coat. Some 6,000 were produced. It could be had nicked and engraved for twice the cost (+1 to reactions, p. 6).

It was also made in .25 ACP (1925-1937); Dmg 1d pi-, Wt. 0.6/0.1, Cost \$200/\$25. Bruno Hauptmann, the man convicted for the murder of the Lindbergh baby, illegally owned one of these.

Nambu Taishou 14 Shiki, 8×22mm Nambu (Japan, 1925-1945)

Kijirou Nambu’s *Taishou 14 Shiki Kenjuu* (“pistol type of the 14th year of the Taishou reign” – Western year 1925) superficially resembled the Luger (p. 16), but was completely different mechanically. Replacing the Koishikawa Meiji 26 Shiki revolver, this single-action pistol was the standard sidearm of the Japanese military during their expansion into China, and was still in service in WWII. It was issued with two spare magazines, which were carried in compartments in the holster. It was also exported, primarily to China and Siam. Some 279,000 were made.

The *Nambu Shiki Kou Gata Kenjuu* (1902-1925) or “Nambu Pistol Type Model A” was its predecessor; Wt. 2.3/0.4, Cost \$600/\$26. It was privately acquired by Japanese army officers and officially adopted by the Japanese navy as the *Taishou 4 Shiki Kenjuu* in 1915. Many allowed the attachment of a 1-lb. shoulder stock (+1 Acc, -1 Bulk). Siam received some 500 in 1902.

The *Nambu Shiki Otsu Gata Kenjuu* (1909-1929) or “Nambu Pistol Type Model B,” was a scaled-down version in 7×20mm Nambu; Dmg 1d+1 pi-, Acc 1, Wt. 1.5/0.1, Shots 7+1(3), ST 8, Bulk -1, Rcl 2, Cost \$500/\$26. Intended for Japanese officers, who had to furnish their own sidearms at the time, it was not very successful, only some 6,000 being made. Due to its prohibitive cost, many officers preferred cheaper Western guns such as the FN-Browning Mle 1910 (p. 17), Llama Plus Ultra (below), or Mauser C14 (p. 18).

CZ Pi vz. 27, .32 ACP (Czechoslovakia, 1927-1950)

A small single-action hammerless pistol adopted by the Czechoslovakian police as the *Pistole vzor 27* (“pistol model 1927”). It was also exported, but saw only moderate sales until WWII. In the film *Miller’s Crossing*, “Leo” O’ Bannon’s bodyguard Dana Cudahy is murdered before he can use his. When Czechoslovakia was annexed by Germany in 1939, huge numbers were acquired by the German forces as the *P27(t)* – see **GURPS WWII: *Hand of Steel***, p. 20. Half a million were eventually made, but only about 20,000 before the war.

It was based on the similar *Pistole vzor 24* (1924-1942), in .380 ACP; Dmg 2d pi, Wt. 1.8/0.25, Shots 8+1(3), Cost \$200/\$26. The Pi vz. 24 was adopted by the Czechoslovakian military in 1925, and was supplied to Colombia (*Mod 1937*) and Latvia (*M1929*). More than 170,000 were made.

Walther PPK, .32 ACP (Germany, 1931-1999)

In 1929, Carl Walther introduced a then-radical design: a double-action hammerless semiautomatic that could be carried more safely than contemporary pistols. Named the *Polizei-Pistole* (PP), it was compact and overall a neat weapon, designed as a holster gun for uniformed police: Wt. 1.8/0.25, Shots 8+1, Cost \$530/\$26. German police forces adopted it in 1933, closely followed by the Danish police, and in 1935 by the German customs police.

From the mid-1930s, the PP was a common sidearm of German military officers. In addition, the Nazi hierarchy gave large numbers to party members and the administration (Hitler himself carried one). The PP was available in other calibers, including .22 LR (Dmg 1d+1 pi-, Wt. 1.8/0.25, Shots 10+1) and .380 ACP (Dmg 2d-1 pi, Wt. 1.8/0.25, Shots 7+1). The latter was adopted by the Danish navy.

The slightly more compact *Polizei-Pistole, Kriminal* (PPK) was a more famous – if actually less common – version intended for concealed carry by criminal investigators. It was acquired by the German police, Danish police, and others. A PPK is used by the treacherous Walter Donovan in *Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade*. The PPK was much less common in .22 LR (Dmg 1d+1 pi-, Wt. 1.5/0.2, Shots 9+1) and .380 ACP (Dmg 2d-1 pi, Wt. 1.7/0.25, Shots 6+1). Many were decorated; double cost for elaborate engraving and multiply by 1.5 for gold plating (+1 to reactions, p. 6). Pearl or ivory grips add \$100. From 1933, an improved-visibility sight inlay (**High-Tech**, p. 156) was available as an option for either model.

Gabilondo Llama Plus Ultra, .32 ACP (Spain, 1932-1936)

This cheap Spanish hammerless single-action weapon was based on the FN-Browning Mle 1910 (p. 17), but differed in many details, including a lengthened grip and 12-round magazine. Thousands were made and exported worldwide; in the U.S. it was sold as the “Pathfinder.”

Semiautomatic Pistols Table

See pp. B268-271 for an explanation of the statistics.

GUNS (PISTOL) (DX-4 or most other Guns at -2)

TL	Weapon	Damage	Acc	Range	Weight	RoF	Shots	ST	Bulk	Rcl	Cost	LC	Notes
6	Mauser C96, 7.63×25mm	3d-1 pi-	2	180/2,000	2.7/0.2	3	10(3)	9	-3	2	\$480	3	
6	FN-Browning Mle 1900, .32 ACP	2d-1 pi-	1	120/1,300	1.5/0.2	3	7+1(3)	7	-1	2	\$200/\$26	3	[1]
6	FN-Browning Mle 1903, 9×20mmSR	2d+1 pi	2	125/1,400	2.3/0.3	3	8+1(3)	9	-2	2	\$500/\$26	3	
6	Colt .32 Pocket, .32 ACP	2d-1 pi-	1	120/1,300	1.6/0.2	3	8+1(3)	7	-1	2	\$450/\$26	3	[1]
6	Webley & Scott M.P., .32 ACP	2d-1 pi-	1	120/1,300	1.6/0.2	3	8+1(3)	7	-1	2	\$300/\$26	3	[1]
6	FN-Browning Mle 1906, .25 ACP	1d pi-	0	90/950	0.8/0.2	3	6+1(3)	7	-1	2	\$160/\$25	3	[1]
6	Rheinmetall-Dreyse M07, .32 ACP	2d-1 pi-	1	120/1,300	1.5/0.2	3	8+1(3)	7	-1	2	\$250/\$26	3	[1]
6	Savage Model 1907, .32 ACP	2d-1 pi-	1	120/1,300	1.6/0.3	3	10+1(3)	7	-1	2	\$350/\$26	3	[1]
6	Luger P08, 9×19mm	2d+2 pi	2	160/1,800	2.4/0.5	3	8+1(3)	9	-2	2	\$500/\$26	3	[2]
6	Webley & Scott M&P, 9×20mmSR Browning	2d+1 pi	2	125/1,400	2.3/0.3	3	7+1(3)	9	-2	2	\$515/\$26	3	
6	Webley & Scott .455 SL Mk I, .455 Webley Auto	2d pi+	2	150/1,600	2.9/0.5	3	7+1(3)	10	-2	3	\$1,100/\$27	3	
6	Walther Mod 4, .32 ACP	2d-1 pi-	1	120/1,300	1.7/0.2	3	7+1(3)	7	-1	2	\$200/\$26	3	[1]
6	Steyr M.12, 9×23mm Steyr	2d+1 pi	2	125/1,400	2.3/0.2	3	8(3)	9	-2	2	\$500	3	
6	FN-Browning Mle 1910, .32 ACP	2d-1 pi-	1	120/1,300	1.5/0.2	3	7+1(3)	7	-1	2	\$200/\$26	3	
6	Colt Government, .45 ACP	2d pi+	2	150/1,600	2.8/0.5	3	7+1(3)	10	-2	3	\$850/\$27	3	
6	Sauer Selbstladepistole, .32 ACP	2d-1 pi-	1	120/1,300	1.3/0.2	3	7+1(3)	7	-1	2	\$200/\$26	3	[1]
6	Mauser C14, .32 ACP	2d-1 pi-	1	120/1,300	1.6/0.25	3	8+1(3)	7	-1	2	\$200/\$26	3	[1]
6	Pfannl Kolibri, 2.7×9mm	1d-3 pi-	0	25/275	0.5/0.05	3	5+1(3)	5	-1	2	\$100/\$25	3	[1]
6	Beretta Mod 15, 9×19mm	2d pi	1	120/1,300	2/0.25	3	7+1(3)	8	-1	2	\$300/\$26	3	
6	Colt Woodsman, .22 LR	1d+1 pi-	2	70/1,400	1.8/0.15	3	10+1(3)	8	-2	2	\$450/\$25	3	[1]
6	Remington Model 51, .380 ACP	2d pi	1	120/1,300	1.7/0.2	3	7+1(3)	8	-1	2	\$400/\$26	3	[1]
6	Walther Modell 8, .25 ACP	1d pi-	1	90/950	0.9/0.15	3	8+1(3)	7	-1	2	\$160/\$25	3	[1]
6	Ortgies Selbstladepistole, .380 ACP	2d pi	1	120/1,300	1.7/0.2	3	7+1(3)	8	-1	2	\$200/\$26	3	[1]
6	Astra Mod 400, 9×23mm	2d+1 pi	2	125/1,400	2.5/0.3	3	8+1(3)	9	-2	2	\$400/\$26	3	
6	Lignose Modell 3A, .25 ACP	1d pi-	1	90/950	1/0.15	3	9+1(3)	7	-1	2	\$200/\$26	3	[1]
6	Menz Liliput, 4.25×10mm	1d-2 pi-	0	30/550	0.5/0.1	3	8+1(3)	6	-1	2	\$125/\$25	3	[1]
6	Nambu 14 Shiki, 8×21mm	2d+1 pi	2	150/1,600	2.4/0.4	3	8+1(3)	9	-2	2	\$350/\$26	3	
6	CZ Pi vz. 27, .32 ACP	2d-1 pi-	1	120/1,300	1.6/0.25	3	8+1(3)	7	-1	2	\$185/\$26	3	[1]
6	Walther PPK, .32 ACP	2d-1 pi-	1	120/1,300	1.7/0.2	3	7+1(3)	7	-1	2	\$480/\$26	3	[1]
6	Llama Plus Ultra, .32 ACP	2d-1 pi-	2	120/1,300	2.6/0.3	3	12+1(3)	9	-2	2	\$150/\$26	3	[1]
6	Nambu 94 Shiki, 8×21mm	2d pi	1	135/1,500	1.8/0.3	3	6+1(3)	9	-1	2	\$150/\$26	3	
6	FN-Browning HP, 9×19mm	2d+2 pi	2	160/1,800	2.4/0.5	3	13+1(3)	9	-2	2	\$780/\$26	3	
7	Walther HP, 9×19mm	2d+2 pi	2	160/1,800	2.4/0.4	3	8+1(3)	9	-2	2	\$530/\$26	3	

Notes:

[1] No lanyard ring (p. B289 and *High-Tech*, p. 154).

[2] Unreliable. Malfunctions on 16+ (see p. B407).

The *Llama Non Plus Ultra* (1932-1936) was a selective-fire machine pistol variant; Malf. 16, Wt. 2.9/0.6, RoF 15, Shots 22+1(3), ST 9†, Bulk -3, Rcl 2, Cost \$175/\$27, LC2. Use Guns (SMG) skill. Fired one-handed, use ST 11, Rcl 3. Most of these were sold in China.

Nambu 94 Shiki, 8×21mm Nambu (Japan, 1935-1945)

The single-action hammerless *94 Shiki Kenjuu* ("pistol type of the 2594th year" – Western year 1934) was the successor to the Nambu 14 Shiki pistol (p. 20) with the Japanese military, which acquired some 72,000. Lighter and smaller (Holdout -1), it was welcomed by the troops, especially tankers and pilots operating in cramped vehicles. However, it was ugly and cheaply made, and is today known as "the worst pistol in history." While it was less prone to misfires than earlier Nambu types, it featured several design flaws, including a partially

open action, which allowed dirt to enter the mechanism and cause a variety of stoppages. Worse, accidentally pressing down a projecting sear on the left side would fire the pistol if it had a round in the chamber! This could easily happen even with a holstered gun; if the wearer fell on his side or bumped into an obstacle, it would send a bullet into his leg.

FN-Browning High Power, 9×19mm Parabellum (Belgium, 1935-)

Based on design work done by John Browning before his death in 1926, this single-action pistol was introduced as the *Grande Puissance* ("High Power") in 1935. Some 56,000 had been made even before 1940, and it was adopted by Belgium (*Mle 35*), Estonia (*M/1937*), Lithuania, and Peru (*Mod 1935*). China also acquired large numbers from 1935, many fitted with a 1-lb. wooden shoulder stock (+1 Acc, -1 Bulk). Dr. Indiana Jones carries one as a backup gun in *Raiders of the Lost Ark*.

Walther HP, 9×19mm Parabellum (Germany, 1937-1944)

The *Heerespistole* ("army pistol") was the direct forerunner of the Walther P38 (*High-Tech*, p. 100), with the exact same double-action mechanism and general appearance. The HP was primarily acquired by German officers prior to and during WWII, but also sold to civilians and even exported. Sweden adopted a batch as the *m/39*. It is used by Nazi agent Major Arnold Toht in *Raiders of the Lost Ark*.

SHOTGUNS

When shooting in the dark or from a moving vehicle, making aim difficult or impossible, the spreading charge of shot has several chances of scoring as against one chance for a single bullet.

– *Abercrombie & Fitch Guns, "H&R Handy-Gun" (1930)*

During the pulp era, the shotgun remained the old stand-by for hunting in the field and for pest-control and home defense around house and yard. It also saw considerable use as a police weapon, mainly in the U.S., but also in British-controlled colonies. Of all types of firearms, the shotgun was the most widely available and most easily accessible, even in areas with higher control ratings (p. 4-5), like Germany or the big cities of the eastern USA.

Colt Model 1878, 12G 2.625" (USA, 1878-1889)

This double-barrel shotgun was no longer made during the pulp era, and with a total production of less than 23,000, was never very common. However, it can be used to represent an old-fashioned but working heirloom. It had 30" barrels (available both choked and unchoked – see p. 24) and external hammers, and lacked automatic shell ejectors. Both barrels could be fired simultaneously at no penalty. In Brian De Palma's *The Untouchables*, Chicago police sergeant Jim Malone uses a Colt Model 1878 with barrel and stock cut off (*High-Tech*, p. 106).

Greener F35 Far-Killer, 10G 2.875" (U.K., 1880-1939)

By the 1920s, W.W. Greener of Birmingham had been making double-barreled shotguns called "Far-Killers" for a long time. This was the latest pattern, hammerless and with auto-ejectors. A large-bore sporting weapon with 30" barrels for use on waterfowl, it was rather rare. Both barrels could be fired simultaneously at no penalty; they were usually fitted with

... the ideal weapon for [tiger and leopard] is a ball and shot gun such as the Paradox or Explora. These are light and handy, accurate and hard-hitting at short ranges, but without great penetration.

– C.H. Stockley,
Big Game Shooting
(1928)

chokes (p. 24). The F35 grade cost about 35 pounds sterling at the time, being hand-made in small numbers. All were decorated (+2 to reactions, p. 6).

H&H Paradox Gun, 12G 2.5" (U.K., 1886-1930)

The double-barreled Paradox gun was invented by George Fosbery and made by Holland and Holland. It combined the accuracy and force of the heavy rifle with the lightness and handiness of the shotgun. Chambered for standard shotgun cartridges, its barrels featured shallow rifling in the muzzle area, to allow effective use with full-bore lead balls (instead of modern rifled slugs, see *High-Tech*, p. 166). Because of this, it had no chokes (p. 24). Firing ball, use Dmg 4d+1 pi++, Acc 4, Range 70/750, RoF 2, Rcl 4. It was hammerless and featured shell ejectors. Both barrels could be fired simultaneously at no penalty. Some 1,500 of these effective but luxurious and expensive guns were made, primarily for big-game hunters in Africa and Asia. They were invariably well finished (+3 to reactions, p. 6).

In 1915, the Royal Naval Air Service bought a small number of these guns for use with incendiary slugs (Dmg 4d+1 pi++ inc) or wire shot (p. 23). They were fixed on Sopwith Baby float planes; such installations were soon replaced by more effective Lewis Mk II machine guns (*High-Tech*, p. 131, and *High-Tech: Pulp Guns, Volume 2*, p. 19).

Winchester Model 1887, 10G 2.875" (USA, 1887-1899)

This was a lever-action shotgun similar to the long line of Winchester rifles. Both long- (30") and short-barreled (20") guns were available; the latter have Wt. 7.5, Bulk -5. Almost 65,000 were made, including many in 12-gauge 2.75" (RoF 2×9). While the long-barreled guns were normally fitted with a choke (p. 24), the short-barreled guns usually lacked one. The arsenal of outlaw Clyde Barrow included a 10-gauge Winchester lever-action with short barrel. Adventurer Rick O'Connell uses a 12-gauge Model 1887 with sawed-off barrel and stock (*High-Tech*, p. 106) in *The Mummy Returns*.

The barrel of this gun is unsafe for use with TL6 smokeless propellant, which may cause it to explode; any natural 18 bursts the gun, doing 1d cr ex damage to the firer. The *Model 1901* (1901-1920) was the same gun redesigned for modern smokeless ammo, but only available in 10-gauge. Some 13,500 were made.

Winchester Model 97, 12G 2.75" (USA, 1898-1957)

Originally called the *Model 1897*, the Winchester "trombone action" was renamed the *Model 97* in 1919. Developed by John Browning, it lacked a disconnecter – it could be fired by keeping the trigger pressed and pumping the action, increasing RoF to 3×9, as demonstrated by the outlaws of *The Wild Bunch*. Over a million were made. The Model 97 was produced in every grade from military plain to elaborately engraved and mounted for five times the cost (+2 to reactions, p. 6). The basic goose gun had a 30" barrel with choke (p. 24) while the *Model 97 Riot* (1898-1935) had an unchoked 20" barrel (Wt. 7.4, Bulk -5).

For \$100 and 0.25 lb. more, either type was available as a take-down model from 1921, resulting in a package less than 2' long when disassembled (Holdout -3). Assembly requires 20 seconds and an IQ-based Guns (Shotgun) or Armoury (Small Arms) roll. The weapon also came in 16-gauge 2.75" (Wt. 8/0.45, RoF 2×8). A typical cartridge bandoleer for the riot gun held 30 shells (*High-Tech*, p. 54).

The riot gun was a popular American police and prison service weapon, as shown in genre films like *City Heat* and Brian De Palma's *The Untouchables*. Fictional users include soldier of fortune Rick O'Connell in *The Mummy* (also showcasing assembly of the take-down pattern) and assassin Harlan Maguire in *Road to Perdition*.

The U.S. military used a version of the Model 97 as a trench gun in WWI; designated the *M1917*, it had a cylinder-bored 20" barrel (Wt. 8.8, Bulk -5, Cost \$600) and could mount a 1.1-lb. sword bayonet (Reach 1). Fewer than 20,000 of these were made. The U.S. Army issued the M1917 with a shell bag holding 28 shells (p. 24) or from 1921 with one or two belt pouches for 12 shells each, which clipped to web gear (*High-Tech*, p. 54). Many of these guns were sold off as surplus from 1920 for as little as 1/10 cost.

FN-Browning Auto-5, 12G 2.75" (Belgium, 1903-1998)

The Auto-5 was the first auto-loading shotgun, designed by John Browning and originally manufactured by Fabrique Nationale. It had lower felt recoil than most shotguns – the action's operation absorbed some of the energy involved. Primarily intended for hunting, most guns had a 30" barrel with choke (p. 24). The riot/military model had a shorter 20" barrel without choke: Wt. 8.4, Bulk -5. The fanciest factory models with engraving cost four times as much (+1 to reactions, p. 6). A Cutts compensator (p. 30) was available for the Browning from 1930.

The American-made Remington Model 11 (1905-1948) and Savage Model 720 (1930-1949) were licensed copies with identical stats, the Savage guns being about 10% cheaper. All three makes were also available in 16G 2.75" (Wt. 8.4/0.4, RoF 3x8), and the Auto-5 and Model 11 additionally in 20G 2.75" (Wt. 7.9/0.3, RoF 3x7). FN alone made more than three million guns, Remington another 850,000.

The Remington Model 11 Police Special (1921-1948) was a 12-gauge version with 18.5" barrel and no choke (Wt. 8.2/0.4, Bulk -5). This was the preferred car gun of Texas Ranger Frank Hamer. Several Remington guns were used in the ambush of Bonnie and Clyde in 1934.

Conversely, commercial sporting Remingtons with the barrel cut down to 14-17" and the stock sawed off (Acc 2, Wt. 5.7/0.4, ST 12†, Bulk -4, Rcl 1/5) were favorites of Bonnie and Clyde (Bonnie preferring the 20-gauge, Clyde the 16-gauge), but likewise of other gangsters such as the Dillinger-Nelson and Barker-Karpis gangs. With a string or leather loop attached to the cut-off stock, one could be carried muzzle-down under the armpit (Holdout -4) and quickly whipped out (+0 Fast-Draw).

Soon after the weapon's introduction, gunsmiths and gadgeteers began laboring to increase its magazine capacity. This could relatively easily be achieved by installing a longer tube

Exotic Shotgun Ammo

Excepting rock salt, none of the special-purpose loads listed in *High-Tech* (p. 103) were available for shotguns during the pulp era. Normally, only the various shotshell loadings (*High-Tech*, p. 173) or, much less commonly, solid slugs (*High-Tech*, p. 166) were used.

However, in 1915 the British military tried 12-gauge incendiary slugs (*High-Tech*, pp. 166, 175) against Zeppelins (*GURPS All-Star Jam 2004*, pp. 91-92). These quickly faded from the scene when aircraft machine guns were introduced, but investigators of the supernatural will undoubtedly find uses for such rounds (hand-loaded or obtained as surplus) against creatures who are Fragile (Combustible) (p. B136) or have a Vulnerability (p. B161) to fire or heat, such as dried-out mummies or August Derleth's Ithaqua (*GURPS Cthulhupunk*, pp. 103-104).

Other unusual shotgun loadings included muzzle blast tear gas loads (p. 10) and the following:

Wooden Slug (TL3)

While many exotic payloads are difficult to make (*High-Tech*, p. 168), one is rather simple to load (*High-Tech*, p. 174), at least in a smoothbore weapon like a shotgun: a wooden projectile for use against supernatural opponents with Unkillable (Hindrance, Wood) (p. B95) or Vulnerability (Wood) (p. B161) can be simply fashioned out of a broomstick or other wood piece of suitable diameter. Multiply Dmg and Range by 0.1. Damage is crushing. If using loose components, CPS can be cut to one-third (rather than half), as the cost of the wood is negligible!

Example: A 12-gauge 2.75" slug does 5d pi++ (High-Tech, p. 166). A wooden slug would do 5 × 0.1 = 0.5 or 1d-3 cr. Range drops from 100/1,200 to 10/120.

Wire Shot (TL6)

Similar in concept to the chain shot used in naval cannon during the Age of Sail, this fired a number of sub-caliber lead balls linked together with wire. Wire shot was designed in 1915 specifically to rip large holes in the DR 1 fabric skins of airships (*GURPS All-Star Jam 2004*, pp. 91-93) and the wings of early airplanes; it was removed from service in 1916 when aircraft machine guns became prevalent.

The British 12-gauge 2.34" loading (which won't feed in auto-loaders) had one .54-caliber ball linked by an 8"-length of steel wire to six .33-caliber buckshot pellets like pearls on a string. This makes it easier to hit at all, and ensures that the entire bundle impacts, but at the same time reduces penetration. Wire shot gives a +1 bonus to skill and does 2d+2 cr linked with 3x1d+1 cr. Such a load would be effective against thin-skinned flying targets like H.P. Lovecraft's Mi-Go (*GURPS Cthulhupunk*, pp. 112-113), and also against zombies or animated skeletons, which are otherwise difficult to destroy with firearms as the bullets simply pass through them . . . (see *Injury to Unliving, Homogenous, and Diffuse Targets*, p. B380). Multiply Range by 0.7. Double CPS.

and a more powerful magazine spring; roll against Armoury (Small Arms). A sporting gun with 30" barrel could then take up to 11 rounds (Wt. 10.3/1.1, Shots 10+1), while a riot gun with 20" barrel could be converted into an eight-shot weapon (Wt. 9.3/0.8, Shots 7+1).

Shotgun Chokes

Shotgun chokes constrict the barrel of a shotgun at the muzzle. First patented in 1866 and popular by the late 19th century, they were developed to better control the pattern of a shotgun blast, for increased *effective* range (which is not the same as 1/2D range). By constricting the barrel at the muzzle, the pellets of a multiple projectile load scatter less quickly and less widely.

At the GM's option, the following rules can be used for choked guns. Note that they complicate things considerably; the GM may simply opt to ignore them. Chokes are normally used with shot that is smaller than buckshot (see *Shot Sizes* on p. 173 of *High-Tech*).

- *Unchoked* barrels have no constriction at all (this is also called *cylinder choke*). This is the baseline assumption for all shotguns in *GURPS*. All riot and trench shotguns automatically have cylinder bores, as will any shotgun with a sawed-off barrel; most other guns can also be ordered with no choke. Only cylinder-bored guns can fire slugs without losing their Acc bonus. Most full-bore specialty ammunition (*High-Tech*, p. 103) is incompatible with a choke.

- *Choked* barrels are constricted at the muzzle. There are numerous grades, including *modified* and *full* chokes, but for simplicity these are all treated the same in *GURPS*. Maximum constriction during the pulp era is full choke, with the barrel's bore narrowed by about 5%. "Extremely

close range" (p. B409) for a choked barrel is 20% of 1/2D range, rather than 10%. *Beyond* this range, subtract 1 from effective Guns skill, but multiply the number of hits scored by 1.5.

Example: Eszter Binger has Guns (Shotgun)-12 and a Winchester Model 21 (p. 26) with choke. She's firing a birdshot load with Dmg 1d-2(0.5) pi-, Range 16/330, RoF 2x135, and Rcl 1 at an opponent. Extremely close range with the choke is $16 \times 0.2 = 3.2$, which rounds to 3 yards. In fact, she fires one barrel at 10 yards distance (range penalty -4). She gets +7 for firing 135 projectiles (p. B373), and the choke reduces this by 1, so her modified skill becomes $12 - 4 + 7 - 1 = 14$. Her player rolls a 10, making the roll by 4; this results in $4 \times 1.5 = 6$ hits, each doing 1d-2(0.5) pi-.

During the pulp era, most hunting weapons had chokes of some kind, while military and police weapons never had chokes. The chokes of the time were built-in and couldn't be changed after manufacture – except by entirely removing them, by exchanging the barrel (replacements were offered by most manufacturers) or by simply sawing off the barrel (*High-Tech*, p. 106). However, single-barrel shotguns fitted with a Cutts compensator (p. 30) could be fitted with a removable choke insert. Each shotgun compensator came with two 0.2-lb. inserts (cylinder or choked) and a small wrench to exchange them (which takes 60 seconds).

H&R Model 8 Standard, 12G 2.625" (USA, 1908-1942)

An unchoked 30"-barreled single-shot break-open shotgun without ejector; such guns were entirely machine-made and consequently *very* cheap. Practically every American farm would have this or a similar gun by another manufacturer such as Iver Johnson or Stevens to deal with vermin, bag the occasional rabbit or duck, and teach the children how to shoot. Small farmsteads in Britain, Australia, South America, and Africa would have similar weapons. The type was also available in 16-gauge 2.75" (Wt. 6.3/0.09, RoF 1x8), 20-gauge 2.75" (Wt. 5.6/0.08, RoF 1x7), and 28-gauge 2.75" (Dmg 1d-3(0.5) pi-, Wt. 5.4/0.13, RoF 1x167).

Marble Model 1908 Game Getter, .44-40 Winchester (USA, 1909-1918)

This over-and-under break-open gun had two 12" barrels, an upper rifled barrel chambered for .22 LR (Dmg 1d+2 pi-, Acc 3, Range 75/1,500, Wt. 3/0.0077, RoF 1, ST 7 $\frac{1}{2}$, Rcl 2) and a lower smoothbore barrel (without choke) intended to fire a .44-40 Winchester cartridge loaded with birdshot (sold as the "44 Game Getter") or a full-bore ball (Dmg 2d+1 pi+, Acc 3, Range 60/650, RoF 1, Rcl 3). The striker could be set to fire either barrel (but not both!) at the flick of the thumb. With the skeleton stock folded, the "two guns in one" was only 1.5' long (Holdout -3). Some 10,000 were made.

The *Model 1921 Game Getter* (1924-1934) fired .410-gauge 2.5" shotgun shells from the lower barrel (the .44-40 was still an option); use the same stats. With less common buckshot: Dmg 1d+1 pi, Range 40/800, RoF 1x3, Rcl 1.

Merkel Modell 145, 16G 2.75" (Germany, 1914-1941)

The *Modell 145* was an expensive Drilling-type combination gun (*High-Tech*, p. 108) with two 28" shotgun barrels side-by-side and a single 28" rifle barrel below them. It used the hammerless Merkel-Anson action with automatic extractors, and had double triggers for the shot barrels; the rifle barrel was triggered from the front trigger (the shooter could select *either* the shot barrels or the rifle barrel at the flick of a switch). The choked (above) shot barrels were typically chambered in 16-gauge, the most popular bore in Germany at the time, but were also available in 12-gauge 2.75" (Wt. 7.5/0.22, Shots 2x9) and 20-gauge 2.75" (Wt. 6.5/0.16, RoF 2x7). The rifle barrel could be had in a variety of calibers. The 9.3x74mmR was typical; Dmg 7d+2 pi, Acc 5, Range 1,000/4,400, RoF 1, Shots 1(2), ST 10 $\frac{1}{2}$, Rcl 5. Other possibilities included .25-35 Winchester (Dmg 5d-1 pi), 6.5x57mmR Mauser (Dmg 6d pi), 7x57mmR Mauser (Dmg 6d+2 pi), .30-30 Winchester (Dmg 6d pi), 8x57mmR Mauser (Dmg 7d+1 pi), and .375 H&H Magnum (Dmg 8d pi).

Each Modell 145 was custom-made (consider buying a Weapon Bond for the original customer, see *High-Tech*, p. 250), requiring at least four months for manufacture. It always featured nice wood and engraving (+1 to reactions; see p. 6). The butt cap was hinged to allow access to a storage space for three rifle cartridges. Many of these weapons were fitted with a 1.5-lb. 4x scope (+2 Acc, rugged, expensive, \$1,000).

Winchester Model 12, 12G 2.75" (USA, 1914-1963)

The Model 12 was the first modern hammerless pump-action shotgun, and an exceedingly popular design in its time. More than two million were eventually made. The standard sporting gun had choked barrels (p. 24) between 25" and 30"; the weapon was also made in 20-gauge 2.5" (Wt. 7.4/0.4, RoF 2x7) and 16-gauge 2.56" (Wt. 7.5/0.45, RoF 2x8).

The *Model 12 Riot* (1918-1963) came only in 12-gauge and had a 20" barrel without choke; Wt. 7.8/0.5, Bulk -5. Deputy Bob has one of these in *Last Man Standing*. The *Model 12 Trench* (1918-1945) was a special order gun for the military, 12-gauge, with a cylinder-bored 20" barrel, a barrel heat shield, and a mount for a 1.1-lb. sword bayonet; Wt. 8.9/0.5, Bulk -5, Cost \$725. The *Model 12 Heavy Duck* (1935-1963) was a hunting weapon chambered for the 12-gauge 3", usually with a choke; Dmg 1d+2 pi, Wt. 9.7/0.7, RoF 2x12, Shots 4+1(2i), Cost \$700.

All included the take-down option and could be easily disassembled (Holdout -3). Assembly requires 20 seconds and an IQ-based Guns (Shotgun) or Armoury (Small Arms) roll.

Greener Police Gun Mk I, 14.5G 2.56" (Great Britain, 1918-1939) 2.875

The Greener Police Gun was a single-shot breech-loading weapon based on the action of the old Martini-Henry rifle (*High-Tech*, pp. 109-110), in service with police forces all over the British Empire, including in England, Hong Kong, Kenya, and South Africa. Developed for the Egyptian *Ghafir* police, who among other things guarded museums and pyramids, it was chambered for a unique 14.5-gauge shotshell in order to prevent its use with commercially available ammunition. This was normally loaded with birdshot only. However, criminals and rebels who had stolen such guns soon found out that it could fire standard 16-gauge shells wrapped with tape or paper; Malf. 16, Dmg 1d+1 pi, Range 40/800, RoF 1x8. This led to the *Police Gun Mk III* (1935-1964), which was chambered for another special 14.5-gauge shell (same stats), this time bottlenecked and with a unique rim to prevent any illegal tampering.

All the Police Guns had a 26" barrel with cylinder bore (p. 24). Those delivered to the Egyptians could also mount a 1.1-lb. sword bayonet (Reach 1, 2*), the same as used on their Remington M1867 Rolling Block rifles (*High-Tech*, p. 109). Almost 60,000 Greener Police Guns were made in all.

H&R Handy-Gun, .410G 2.5" (USA, 1921-1934)

This was a single-shot break-open weapon with a short 8" barrel and just a pistol grip. It was offered as a self-protection

Every police department or town should be equipped with at least one riot gun for emergencies.

– Iver Johnson
Sporting Goods,
"Winchester Repeating
Shotgun" (1926)

weapon for the home, office, bank, and automobile, but also as a small game gun for hunting. An optional 0.7-lb. detachable wire shoulder stock (+1 Acc, -1 Bulk, \$25) was available, but seldom bought, and most guns were not drilled to accept it. Some 49,000 Handy-Guns were made until the 1934 Federal law against "gangster weapons" (p. 4) effectively killed the market.

A flap holster (*High-Tech*, p. 154) was often sold with the Handy-Gun. The table entry assumes a birdshot load; with buckshot, use Dmg 1d+1 pi, Range 35/670, RoF 1x3. It could be fitted with a 0.75-lb. Parker-Maxim baffle sound suppressor (-2 to Hearing, plus another -1 for being a single-shot weapon, -1 Bulk), available 1927-1940.

Remington Model 17, 20G 2.75" (USA, 1921-1933)

Another Browning invention, this was a hammerless pump-action with bottom ejection and 28" barrel with choke (p. 24). It lacked a disconnecter and could be fired by keeping the trigger pressed and pumping the action, increasing RoF to 3x9. It could easily be taken down into two parts (Holdout -3). Reassembling takes 20 seconds and an IQ-based Guns (Shotgun) or Armoury (Small Arms) roll.

The *Model 17R* (1926-1933) was a riot version with 20" barrel and no choke; Wt. 5.6/0.4, Bulk -5. This was adopted by the New York Police Department, amongst others. There was also the *Model 17 Special Police* (1926-1933), which had a 15" riot barrel without choke and only a pistol grip instead of the buttstock; Acc 2, Wt. 4.9/0.4, ST 10†, Bulk -4, Rcl 1/6. This, too, was adopted by the New York police, as well as the St. Louis police. A total of 73,000 Model 17 guns were made, but only few of these were riot or police patterns.

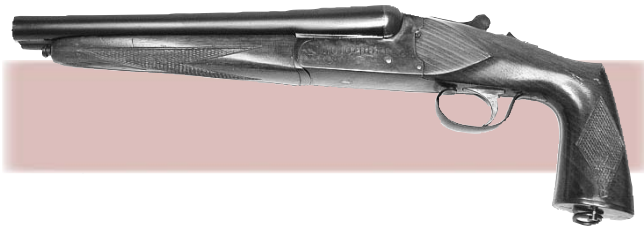
LeFever Nitro Special, 12G 2.75" (USA, 1921-1948)

A double-barrel break-open hammerless shotgun with single trigger (meaning it couldn't fire both barrels simultaneously) and automatic ejectors. The Nitro Special was actually made by Ithaca, who had bought the famous maker but kept the name for marketing reasons. Sold with 26-32" sporting barrels, it was also available in 16-gauge 2.56" (Wt. 6.8/0.18, RoF 2x8), 20-gauge 2.75" (Wt. 6.4/0.16, RoF 2x7), and from 1926, .410-gauge 3" (Wt. 5.9/0.1, RoF 2x5). Chokes (p. 24) were optional, but usually installed. More than 200,000 were made.

This was typical of the low-priced, machine-made double-barrel field guns sold by the hundred thousands by scores of manufacturers worldwide, often via retail outlets or mail order. Such an affordable weapon could be found in any average rural home, a mere tool that could be sawed off without second thought (*High-Tech*, p. 106). Similar weapons with almost identical stats include the Hunter Arms *Fulton Special* (1916-1945), Iver Johnson *Hercules* (1918-1943), and Western Arms *Long Range Double* (1929-1946).

Ithaca Auto & Burglar, 20G 2.5" (USA, 1922-1934)

A factory-made sawed-off shotgun, this hammerless, double-barreled "whippet" gun had cylinder-bored 10" barrels (p. 24), no stock, and a pistol grip. It could be worn in a flap holster (*High-Tech*, p. 154) or carried under a coat. Aimed at the police market, it was offered commercially for home protection and dispatching road kills. The Ithaca was popular with gangsters as well – users included the Dillinger-Nelson gang. Some 7,000 were made until the 1934 legislation (p. 4) effectively outlawed it.



Due to the weapon's muzzle blast, Hearing and Vision rolls to locate it firing in the dark are at +1. Both barrels could be fired simultaneously at no penalty. If used *one-handed*: ST 11. The load in the table is buckshot, but a smaller load would be more common: Dmg 1d(0.5) pi-, Range 30/600, RoF 2x20.

Ithaca NID Field Grade, 12G 2.75" (USA, 1925-1948)

The New Ithaca Double (NID) was the last major double-barrel shotgun pattern made by Ithaca. It was a break-open design with 30" barrels (usually choked, p. 24), internal strikers, double triggers, and automatic extractors. Both barrels could be fired simultaneously at no penalty. The NID was also available in 20G 2.75" (Wt. 6.3/0.16, RoF 2x7), 16G 2.75" (Wt. 6.8/0.18, RoF 2x8), and other calibers. A mere one thousand were produced as the *Ithaca Magnum Double* (1932-1942) in 10G 3.5"; Dmg 1d+2 pi, Wt. 10/0.3, RoF 2x18. Both types were available in several fancier grades. The most expensive guns cost seven times as much and came with factory engraving, gold and silver trimmings, and a golden name plate (+2 to reactions – see p. 6).

The Ithaca NID is typical of the medium-priced double-barreled utility shotguns available at the time, like the A.H. Fox *Sterlingworth* (1910-1939), Parker *Trojan* (1912-1934), Savage *Stevens Model 311* (1931-1989), and L.C. Smith *Field Grade* (1914-1951). These can all use the same stats.

Marlin Lever-Action, .410G 2.5" (USA, 1929-1932)

This was a lever-action weapon with cylinder-bored 22" barrel and underbarrel tube magazine. It fired a light shell and was marketed as being ideal for young boys, daughters, or wives. Less than 10,000 were made. With an 00 buckshot load rather than the birdshot listed in the table, use Dmg 1d+1 pi, Range 40/800, RoF 2x3. It could be fitted with a 0.75-lb. Parker-Maxim baffle sound suppressor (-2 to Hearing, plus another -1 for having a manual action, -1 Bulk).

Winchester Model 21, 12G 2.75" (USA, 1930-1988)

The Model 21 was a side-by-side double-barreled hammerless shotgun with 30" barrels, single trigger, and auto-ejectors. The barrels had to be fired in turn and were usually choked (p.

24). This was a relatively expensive weapon, but popular with affluent American hunters. From 1931, it was also available in 16-gauge 2.75" (Wt. 6.7/0.18, RoF 2x8) and 20-gauge 2.75" (Wt. 6.6/0.16, RoF 2x7). Some 32,500 were made in all; many were decorated.

Remington Model 32, 12G 2.75" (USA, 1931-1947)

This was the first American over-and-under double barrel shotgun, a fancy sporting weapon with a high price tag. It featured 30" barrels (normally with chokes, p. 24), auto-ejectors, and double triggers, and could be taken down into two parts (Holdout -3). It takes 20 seconds and an IQ-based Guns (Shotgun) or Armoury (Small Arms) roll to put it together. Both barrels could be fired simultaneously at no penalty. Only 5,000 were made.

Manville M12, 12G 2.75" (USA, 1934-1938)

This was a huge revolver with a cylinder-bored 11.1" barrel, and pistol grips at the rear and to the front, but no stock – it could only be fired from the hip. The overall appearance was similar to a stockless Tommy gun (pp. 28-30) with drum. The M12 was intended as a riot control weapon, firing either lethal shotshells or tear gas muzzle blast rounds (p. 10). Most of the weapon was made of aluminum, including the massive spring-wound cylinder. To reload, the M12 had to be taken apart in the middle, which took 15 seconds, and then the shells had to be inserted one by one (three seconds per round). After reloading, the gun had to be assembled again (15 seconds), and the spring had to be rewound (10 seconds).

The Manville M12 shotgun was adopted by the Indiana National Guard and the Terre Haute (IN) police department, among others, and used by both during riots. However, only few were produced, and production ceased in favor of the Manville 1" Machine Gas Projector (*High-Tech: Pulp Guns, Volume 2*, pp. 29-30).

SUBMACHINE GUNS

A new and horrible tool appears – the Tommy – a light, deadly, wasp-like machine gun, and murder henceforth is parceled out in wholesale lots . . .

– Raoul Walsh's *The Roaring Twenties* (set in 1924)

Submachine guns were all the rage during the 1920s and 1930s, this type of weapon having only been introduced in 1918. Yet novels and movies notwithstanding, they were actually pretty rare everywhere. The few guns available, however, were often heavily used, by gangsters and police and in many small wars.

Detective Harry Loose . . . first introduced the banks in and around Chicago to use [the Auto & Burglar gun], then its use spread to sheriffs, police departments, paymasters, watchmen, express messengers, and it's a wonderful home protector.

– Ithaca advertisement (1926)

Shotguns Table

See pp. B268-271 for an explanation of the statistics.

GUNS (SHOTGUN) (DX-4 or most other Guns at -2)

TL	Weapon	Damage	Acc	Range	Weight	RoF	Shots	ST	Bulk	Rcl	Cost	LC	Notes
6	Colt Model 1878, 12G 2.625"	1d+1 pi	3	40/800	8.2/0.2	2×8	2(3i)	11†	-6	1/5	\$800	3	[1]
6	Greener F35 Far-Killer, 10G 2.875"	1d+2 pi	3	40/800	9/0.3	2×13	2(2i)	12†	-6	1/7	\$6,500	3	[1]
6	H&H Paradox Gun, 12G 2.5"	1d+1 pi	3	40/800	7.5/0.2	2×8	2(2i)	10†	-6	1/5	\$11,000	3	[1]
6	Winchester Model 1887, 10G 2.875"	1d+2 pi	3	40/800	8/0.6	2×13	4+1(2i)	11†	-6	1/7	\$800	3	[1]
6	Winchester Model 97, 12G 2.75"	1d+1 pi	3	40/800	8.6/0.6	2×9	5+1(2i)	11†	-6	1/5	\$550	3	[1]
6	FN-Browning Auto-5, 12G 2.75"	1d+1 pi	3	40/800	8.9/0.4	3×9	4+1(2i)	10†	-6	1/4	\$850	3	[1]
6	H&R Model 8 Standard, 12G 2.625"	1d+1 pi	3	40/800	6.5/0.1	1×9	1(3i)	10†	-6	1/5	\$150	3	[1]
6	Marble Model 1908 Game Getter, .44-40	1d-4(0.5) pi-	3	10/220	3/0.043	1×130	1(2)	7†	-4*	1/3	\$380	3	[1]
6	Merkel Modell 145, 16G 2.75"	1d+1 pi	3	40/800	7.5/0.18	2×8	2(3i)	10†	-6	1/5	\$4,200	3	[1]
6	Winchester Model 12, 12G 2.75"	1d+1 pi	3	40/800	8.6/0.6	2×9	5+1(2i)	11†	-6	1/5	\$675	3	[1]
6	Greener Police Gun, 14.5G 2.56"	1d-1(0.5) pi-	3	25/500	7.8/0.15	1×37	1(3)	11†	-5	1/5	\$300	3	[1]
6	H&R Handy-Gun, .410G 2.5"	1d-4(0.5) pi-	2	10/220	2.4/0.04	1×204	1(3)	7†	-3	1/3	\$200	3	[1]
6	Remington Model 17, 20G 2.75"	1d+1 pi	3	40/800	5.6/0.4	2×7	4+1(2i)	10†	-6	1/5	\$575	3	[1]
6	LeFever Nitro Special, 12G 2.75"	1d+1 pi	3	40/800	6.7/0.2	2×9	2(2i)	10†	-6	1/5	\$350	3	[1]
6	Ithaca Auto & Burglar, 20G 2.5"	1d pi	2	40/800	5/0.2	2×7	2(3i)	9†	-3	1/5	\$400	3	[1, 2]
6	Ithaca NID Field, 12G 2.75"	1d+1 pi	3	40/800	7.6/0.2	2×9	2(2i)	10†	-6	1/5	\$450	3	[1]
6	Marlin Lever Action, .410G 2.5"	1d-4(0.5) pi-	3	10/220	6.2/0.2	2×204	5+1(2i)	9†	-5	1/3	\$500	3	[1]
6	Winchester Model 21, 12G 2.75"	1d+1 pi	3	40/800	7.5/0.2	2×9	2(2i)	10†	-6	1/5	\$1,000	3	[1]
6	Remington Model 32, 12G 2.75"	1d+1 pi	3	40/800	7.5/0.2	2×9	2(2i)	10†	-6	1/5	\$1,200	3	[1]
6	Manville M12, 12G 2.75"	1d+1 pi	2	40/800	17.9/2.6	3×9	24(3i)	13†	-5	1/5	\$1,750	3	[1]



Bergmann MP18/I, 9×19mm Parabellum (Germany, 1918-1920)

The *Maschinenpistole Modell 1918/I* was the first submachine gun in form and function, and the earliest to see substantial use. The German army introduced it in WWI, and most other SMGs of the 1920s and 1930s were based on it. Some 35,000 were made. In the movie *The Land that Time Forgot*, the crew of the submarine *U-33* has an MP18/I with drum (despite its being set in 1916), while the allegorical WWI film *Deathwatch* shows a Bergmann with an anachronistic box magazine.

The German army didn't use the MP18/I after 1920, but the German police issued several thousand up to the end of WWII. When possession of military small arms was declared illegal for German civilians in 1920, more than 1,600 were surrendered to the authorities – and nobody knows how many hidden Bergmanns remained in the hands of citizens and political extremist groups. Small numbers were sold off commercially in the 1920s, some to the U.S..

The original weapon, nicknamed the *Hugo-Sprite* ("Hugo's hose") after its designer Hugo Schmeisser, employed

Notes:

- [1] First Rcl figure is 1 with multiple shot, second with slugs.
- [2] Lacks sling swivels (*High-Tech*, p. 154).

the unreliable and bulky 32-round "snail-drum" magazine developed for the Luger LP08 pistol-carbine (p. 16), inserted from the left-hand side. After WWI, the guns were gradually rebuilt to take conventional box magazines holding 20 (\$28, 1 lb.) or 32 rounds (\$29, 1.5 lb.); this improves Malf. to 17. They were usually issued with six 32-rounders in two belt pouches (p. 33).

SIG of Switzerland produced the MP18/I under license after WWI, since Germany was not allowed to make submachine guns at the time. Their *M1920* (1920-1927) was exported in 7.63×25mm Mauser to China and Japan; Malf. 17, Dmg 3d pi-, Wt. 11.2/2.1, RoF 10!, Shots 50(3), Cost \$1,500/\$32. This used box magazines. The Japanese called it the *Be Shiki Kikantanjuu* ("submachine gun type Be," short for Bergmann) and issued it to the infamous *Rikusementai* naval infantry who operated in China during the era. Like most Japanese shoulder weapons, their version could accept a 0.9-lb. sword bayonet (Spear-1 skill, Reach 1) for use with *Jukenjutsu* techniques (*GURPS Martial Arts*, p. 197). Finland's civil guard bought the SIG-Bergmann in 7.65×21mm Parabellum (*KP/Bergmann*) and eventually used it during the Winter War (*GURPS WWII: Frozen Hell*, p. 33); Malf. 17, Dmg 3d-1 pi-, Wt. 11.2/2.1, RoF 10!, Shots 50(3), Cost \$1,500/\$32.

The Chinese *Tsingtao 16 Shi* (1927-1935) was a copy of the SIG-Bergmann in 7.63×25mm Mauser, but with the magazine inserted from below; Malf. 17, Dmg 3d pi-, Wt. 11.2/1.3, RoF 10!, Shots 32(3), Cost \$1,000/\$29. It was adopted by the *Shanghai Shi Jingchaju*, the Chinese police of Shanghai, among others. This was typically issued with four spare magazines carried in vest pouches (*High-Tech*, p. 54).



The French STA *Mle 1924* (1925) used the same mechanism and general arrangement as the MP18/I, but lacked its barrel jacket, and included a bipod; Malf. 17, Wt. 9/1.3, RoF 10!, Shots 32(3), ST 9B†, Cost \$1,500/\$29. It employed a curved box magazine inserted from below. About 1,000 were built and used by the French army, mainly in Morocco during the Rif War. Many were still at hand in 1939.

The Haenel *MP28/II* (1928-1938) was developed from the Bergmann MP18/I by Hugo Schmeisser, but made by his own company, Haenel, rather than by Bergmann. However, most were actually produced under license by Pieper in Belgium. It was capable of selective fire and used only box magazines for more positive feeding; Malf. 17, Wt. 10.3/1.6, RoF 8, Shots 32(3), Cost \$1,500/\$29. An optional 50-round magazine (\$32, 2.3 lbs.) was available. A (malfunctioning) MP28/II is used by the Brotherhood of the Cruciform Sword in *Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade*.

Military users included Belgium (*Mle 1934*), Bolivia (*Mod 1928*), the Dutch East Indies (*M.39*), Ecuador, France, Paraguay (*Mod 1928*), and the Waffen-SS. The MP28/II saw heavy use during the Chaco War between Bolivia and Paraguay. The German police also adopted it, and Haenel pointed out its usefulness for protecting “banks, plantations, and similar enterprises.” Many were exported to China in 7.63×25mm Mauser (Dmg 3d pi-, Wt. 10.2/1.4, RoF 10), while Portugal bought it in 7.65×21mm Parabellum (*M/929*: Dmg 3d pi-, Wt. 10.3/1.5, RoF 8). Some of the MP28/II’s export models could mount a 0.75-lb. bayonet (Spear-1 skill, Reach 1).

The Republican side in the Spanish Civil War copied the MP28/II as the *Naranjero* in 9×23mm Bergmann-Bayard; Malf. 17, Wt. 10.3/1.6, RoF 8, Shots 36(3), Cost \$1,000/\$30.

Beretta Mod 18, 9×19mm Glisenti (Italy, 1918-1920)

During WWI, Italy introduced a curious twin-barreled light machine gun, the FIAT-Villar Perosa Mod 15 (*High-Tech: Pulp Guns, Volume 2*, pp. 19-20). This was not very successful in its role on account of its low-powered pistol cartridge. Subsequently, Beretta developed a proper submachine gun by cutting the Villar Perosa in two and using its action, barrel, and top-feeding magazine. It was fitted with a wooden rifle stock, a double trigger (*High-Tech*, pp. 82-83), and an integral folding bayonet (Spear-1 skill, Reach 1). The resulting *Moschetto Automatico Modello 1918* (“automatic carbine model 1918”) was used in the closing days of WWI and in the inter-war period, including in the Italian aggressions against Abyssinia. About 10,000 were made. Some were still around in WWII.

Auto-Ordnance Model 1921, .45 ACP (USA, 1921-1928)

General John Thompson – who coined the term “submachine gun” – began designing his famous weapon during WWI, but it wasn’t completed until 1921. The “Tommy gun” was soon adopted in small numbers by prison guards and the police departments of most major American cities, including Boston, Chicago, New York, and San Francisco. They weren’t much used until the 1930s, though, most agencies considering them too heavy and dangerous. For example, the Chicago police issued one per detective car beginning in 1927, but removed them from service a few years later.

Other early users of the Thompson submachine gun (TSMG) were state police forces such as those of Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, and West Virginia, as well as the Texas Rangers. The U.S. Army didn’t buy it, but many National Guard forces did, for example those of Connecticut, Kentucky, Massachusetts, Missouri, and New York. From 1927, the U.S. Marines employed a few hundred guns in China, Nicaragua, and at home for the protection of mail trains. They would also have used it in the government raid on Innsmouth (MA) in 1928 . . .

Enthusiastic civilian buyers included banks, detective agencies, and mining corporations. Company ads showed a cowboy using the “anti-bandit gun” to mow down rustlers, but few customers could be attracted this way. In the hands of such high-profile criminals as Al Capone’s mob and John Dillinger, though, the TSMG became known as the weapon of mobsters and bank robbers – the “Chicago Piano” or “Chopper.” The “Gun that made the Twenties Roar” was first used by gangsters in 1925 during the Chicago Beer Wars, and made its most ominous appearance in the St. Valentine’s Day Massacre of 1929. During the 1930s, Dillinger’s small gang routinely carried around more machine guns in Gladstone bags than the entire Indiana State Police possessed. Small numbers were exported to foreign police forces such as the Havana police, Royal Canadian Mounted Police, Toronto police, and Shanghai Municipal Police (see *GURPS Martial Arts: Fairbairn Close Combat Systems*, p. 12). Only 15,000 were made, but the design was widely copied in China from the late 1920s on.

The original Model 1921 (called the *Model 1921A* from 1927) had excellent sights and was quite accurate. It could use both box and drum magazines. The box held 20 rounds (\$30, 1.3 lbs.); the drum, either 50 rounds (as in the table) or 100 rounds (Malf. 16, -1 Bulk, \$274, 8.5 lbs.). The larger drum was unpopular due to its bulk and unreliability, and was no longer

offered by 1927; only 5,000 were ever made. (When Chicago gangster Earl "Hymie" Weiss was gunned down in 1926, the 100-round drum used jammed after 39 shots.) The Thompson always came with a 20-round mag; many customers bought it with four 20-rounders and a 50-round drum. The standard web belt had two ammo pouches (p. 33), one holding four magazines and the other a drum.

A buckshot round was briefly offered for the weapon; Dmg 1d+1 pi, Acc 2, Range 35/750, RoF 13x5, Rcl 1. This proved too lethal for riot control, and was replaced by a birdshot round. The birdshot shell was popular with police and strikebreakers, but required a special 18-round magazine (\$30, 1.2 lbs.): Dmg 1d-3(0.5) pi-, Acc 3, Range 12/230, RoF 13x120, Shots 18+1(3), Rcl 1. Also available already from 1921 were both tracer and incendiary bullets (*High-Tech*, p. 175). Despite – or because of – spectacular sales displays featuring cars set aflame with a Tommy, these were little used by official users, but adventurers might find them helpful against supernatural creatures vulnerable (p. B161) to heat or flame. In 1925, Al Capone's mentor Johnny Torrio was shot with bullets "poisoned" with garlic . . .

Without the easily detachable 1.75-lb. shoulder stock (which takes three Ready maneuvers to remove or affix), the Thompson could be concealed in a violin case (p. 33) or under a coat (Holdout -4): Acc 3, ST 12†, Bulk -4, Rcl 3. The stock was often removed for drive-by shootings, to allow easier operation in the confines of a car. The likes of John Dillinger and Charles "Pretty Boy" Floyd preferred to carry the gun stockless *all* the time, for ease of concealment, with a few stick magazines in the pockets of their suits. A canvas carrying case (\$200, 1.9 lbs.) allowed the TSMG to be strapped on the back or under the armpit (this gives +1 to effective Holdout skill, and a trench-coat or similar over-garment adds a further +3). This flap-covered case held the empty gun with the stock removed, barrel down, and didn't allow a Fast-Draw. Four pouches on the case held 20-round magazines, a fifth the detached stock.

A 0.75-lb. Maxim baffle sound suppressor (-2 to Hearing, -1 Bulk) was offered for the Thompson in 1924-1925, but was very scarce; it required the muzzle to be threaded. From 1926, the TSMG was available with a Cutts compensator (p. 30). This version was called the *Model 1921AC* from 1927.

Auto-Ordnance offered a pintle installation (p. B467) to mount the gun on a motorcycle sidecar. This setup was acquired by several police agencies, including the New York State Police, New York Police Department, and Shanghai Municipal Police, all using Indian Big Chief motorbikes. A similar pintle mount was offered for yachts and aircraft. The latter was tested in 1923 by the U.S. Army Air Corps on the observer's station of a Dayton-Wright DH-4 fighter/bomber (*High-Tech*, p. 233), but was rejected. At least one Potez Po 25A-2 fighter-bomber was so fitted in Paraguay, however.

In 1926, the Army tested another armament package for the DH-4; four linked Thompsons with 100-round drums, installed fixed in the lower wings (see p. B467). This setup was also unsuccessful due to the limited power and ammo capacity as well as the low reliability (Malf. 16). However, with real aircraft MGs being difficult and expensive to



One man armed with a Thompson has the defensive power of a dozen men . . . It strikes terror into the heart of the most hardened and daring criminals.

– Auto-Ordnance
advertisement (1922)

obtain, this could be an option for adventurers looking to arm their surplus "barnstormer" biplane.

Auto-Ordnance, who advertised with the slogan "On the side of law and order," urged their distributors to sell only to respectable buyers and always register them, but not all heeded the call – *at least* 80 Tommy guns were sold to people with Alternate Identity or simply a fake name and address. The company itself didn't always ask twice. It directly sold hundreds of guns to the Irish Republican Army (IRA) via a straw firm, which resulted in a big scandal in late 1921, when Bureau of Investigations agents boarded a ship carrying 495 Thompsons *en route* to Ireland.

Thus, in the U.S., Britain, and many other countries, the Tommy gun was freely available to anyone who could afford it during the 1920s (pp. 4-5), but due to its notorious criminal uses, the manufacturer stopped selling the weapon to *all* non-military customers in 1930! This policy was revoked in 1932 to again allow sales to law enforcement agencies, penitentiaries, district attorneys, and certified companies including banks and armored car companies, but not to individual law officers or employees of such companies – even though it was still legal to *own* in many areas!

The *Model 1927A* (1927-1930) was a semiautomatic version of the basic *Model 1921A*; RoF 3, Cost \$1,950, LC3. The *Model 1927AC* was the same gun with a Cutts compensator; RoF 3, Cost \$2,300, LC3. Offered commercially, these were much less successful than the standard weapons, and few were made.

The *Model 1928AC* (1928-1938), adopted by the U.S. Navy as the *M1928*, had a reduced cyclic rate: RoF 11, Cost \$2,300. Military guns featured the Cutts compensator, but it could also be had without as the *Model 1928A* (Cost \$1,950). All were rebuilt *Model 1921* guns, but they couldn't use the 100-round drum any longer. The forward pistol grip was often replaced by a straight forearm (no change in stats). The U.S.

Coast Guard introduced the Navy model in 1929 to combat rum runners, issuing at least one per vessel, while the U.S. Cavalry acquired one for each of their armored cars in 1932. Agents of the FBI and the U.S. Treasury department used Thompsons from 1933, and officially adopted the *Model 1928AC* in 1935, the FBI buying more than 115 guns for its 500-odd agents. The guards at Alcatraz and Sing Sing prisons also employed it (see *GURPS Cliffhangers*, p. 28). In 1939, on the eve of WWII, the *Model 1928AC* was acquired in sizable numbers by France (*Mle 1928*), Sweden (*m/39*), and Yugoslavia (*M28*).

Fairly realistic movie scenes showcasing the Tommy gun can be seen in Howard Hawks' *Scarface* (also showing the tedious filling of the drums), John Milius' *Dillinger*, and *Road to Perdition*, while Arthur Penn's *Bonnie and Clyde*, *Miller's Crossing*, *The Mummy Returns*, and Peter Jackson's *King Kong* feature memorable moments in more cinematic films.

Steyr-Solothurn S1-100, 9×19mm Parabellum (Austria/Switzerland, 1930-1939)

Both the Austrian Steyr-Daimler-Puch company and the Swiss Solothurn company were controlled by the German Rheinmetall firm during the 1930s. Louis Stange of Rheinmetall had designed a submachine gun which was developed to the production stage at Solothurn and then put into production at Steyr. It was exported worldwide, customers including Bolivia, Chile, Ecuador, El Salvador, Peru, and Uruguay. The S1-100 had a hefty wooden rifle stock and a progressive trigger offering single shots and bursts (*High-Tech*, pp. 82-83). It fed from a magazine inserted from the left, and took a 0.4-lb. knife bayonet (Spear-1 skill, Reach 1).

In 1932 it was adopted in 9×23mm Steyr by the Austrian gendarmerie as the *M.32*; same stats. Two years later the Austrian army took it in 9×25mm Mauser as the *M.34*; Dmg 3d+1 pi, Wt. 200/2,200. Some 6,000 were made. When Austria

was annexed by Germany in 1938, both types were taken over as the *MP34(ö)* – also see *GURPS WWII: Iron Cross*, p. 63.

Considerable numbers were delivered to China in 7.63×25mm Mauser (Dmg 3d pi-). The police in Greece used it in 9×23mm Steyr (*M1937*), the military in Argentina (*Mod 1932*) and Portugal (*M/938*) in 7.65×21mm Parabellum – the latter has Dmg 3d-1 pi-. Steyr guns are employed by Meela Nais and by Lock-Nah's men in *The Mummy Returns*.

ERMA EMP, 9×19mm Parabellum (Germany, 1931-1938)

In 1926, Heinrich Vollmer developed a submachine gun that used a novel telescoping bolt arrangement. The Vollmer-MP had a long tapering barrel, a box magazine inserted from the left, and a full wooden stock with integral pistol foregrip. The latter was hollow and contained a telescoping monopod (which may be used when bracing; p. B364). Vollmer offered the weapon on the world market, exporting small numbers to Bolivia and Mexico. In 7.63×25mm Mauser, the VMP had Dmg 3d pi-, Wt. 9.7/0.9, RoF 10, Shots 20(3), and Cost \$1,750/\$27. Alternate magazines held 32 (\$28, 1.1 lbs.), 40 (\$29, 1.3 lbs.), or 50 rounds (\$30, 1.6 lbs.). Only a few hundred were made, however.

In 1931, Vollmer entered into cooperation with the Erfurter Maschinenwerke (ERMA) to mass-produce the weapon.

Maschinenwerke (ERMA) to mass-produce the weapon. The resulting EMP had a shorter barrel with perforated jacket, but kept the wooden pistol foregrip. The standard magazine took 32 rounds, but a 25-round magazine was available as an option (\$28, 1 lb.). The EMP was adopted by the German police and the French gendarmerie, and in 1936 by the Waffen-SS, who became the main customer for the gun (see *GURPS WWII: Iron Cross*, p. 63). Numbers were also delivered to Bolivia (*Mod 1931*), Paraguay (*Mod 1931*), and the Fascist faction in the Spanish Civil War. The Spanish also copied it at the arsenal of La Coruña.

The French gendarmerie also received a special version with an integral sound suppressor (-2 to Hearing rolls); Dmg 2d-1 pi, Wt. 11.9/1.5, RoF 6, Bulk -5, Cost \$2,000. In addition, there was a model with a longer barrel and a mount for a 0.4-lb. knife bayonet (Spear-1 skill, Reach 1), which was adopted by the Yugoslavian army as the *M35*; Dmg 3d pi, Wt. 11/1.5, Bulk -5, Cost \$1,600.

Tikkakoski KP/31 Suomi, 9×19mm Parabellum (Finland, 1931-1944)

This accurate, well-made, and reliable submachine gun was called the *Suomi* ("Finland") by its designer Aimo Lahti. The Finnish army standardized it as the *Konepistooli malli 1931* ("submachine gun model 1931"), and used it extensively during the Winter War. Some 62,000 were produced, but most were made during WWII.

During the pulp era it was mainly exported to Bolivia (*Mod 1931*), Estonia (*M/1937*), and Sweden (*m/37-39F*). France and Poland acquired small batches for police use (see *GURPS WWII: Doomed White Eagle*, p. 29). The Republicans received a few hundred during the Spanish Civil War; and the Zionist Irgun organization acquired some in 1935 for their fight in Palestine.

The Cutts Compensator

In 1920, Colonel Richard Cutts invented a muzzle attachment that was designed to reduce the recoil and muzzle rise of a firearm. It vented some of the firing gases upwards and to the rear, thereby reducing the climbing movement of the weapon. This improved the chances of hitting with rapid fire.

Introduced commercially in 1926, it was originally only available for the Thompson submachine gun (pp. 28-30), but wasn't very successful due to its high cost and the vastly increased muzzle flash – by 1929, a mere 400 had been sold. By the 1930s, it could also be obtained for other firearms, including the Browning semiautomatic shotgun (p. 23), Winchester Model 07 semiautomatic rifle (*High-Tech: Pulp Guns, Volume 2*, pp. 9-10), and Browning Automatic Rifle (*High-Tech*, pp. 112-113, and *High-Tech: Pulp Guns, Volume 2*, p. 11).

In game terms, the Cutts compensator reduces the weapon's ST rating by 1, and also grants +1 to effective skill whenever three or more shots are fired (RoF 3+). A weapon fitted with it gives +2 to Hearing and Vision rolls to locate it in the dark, and will ruin the night sight of the gunner (increasing any darkness penalties by -2, up to the maximum of -9, p. B547). Any shooter unfamiliar (p. B169) with a weapon so fitted is at a *further* -2 to Guns due to the distracting flash and unburned powder propelled into his sightline and back at him during firing! A compensator can't be combined with a suppressor. \$350, 0.2 lb. (SMG), 0.5 lb. (shotgun or medium-powered rifle), 0.7 lb. (high-powered rifle). LC3.

Example: Explorer Seth Zwingli has fitted his Remington Model 11 riot shotgun (p. 23) with a Cutts comp. He frantically fires three shells of 00 buckshot at a blasphemous creature rising from the saltwater swamps before him (RoF 3×9 = 27). This would normally result in a bonus of +5 (p. B373); the comp raises this to +6.

Submachine Guns Table

See pp. B268-271 for an explanation of the statistics.

GUNS (SMG) (DX-4 or most other Guns at -2)

TL	Weapon	Damage	Acc	Range	Weight	RoF	Shots	ST	Bulk	Rcl	Cost	LC	Notes
6	Bergmann MP18/I, 9×19mm	3d-1 pi	3	170/1,900	11.5/2.4	8!	32(5)	9†	-5	2	\$1,500/\$255	2	[1]
6	Beretta Mod 1918, 9×19mm	2d+1 pi	3	160/1,700	8.2/1	15	25(3)	8†	-5	2	\$1,200/\$28	2	
6	Auto-Ordnance Model 1921, .45 ACP	2d+1 pi+	4	160/1,700	15.7/4.9	13	50+1(5)	10†	-5	2	\$2,300/\$262	2	
6	Steyr S1-100, 9×23mm	3d-1 pi	3	170/1,900	10.9/1.3	8	32(3)	9†	-4	2	\$2,500/\$29	2	
6	ERMA EMP, 9×19mm	3d-1 pi	3	170/1,900	10.6/1.5	8	32(3)	9†	-4	2	\$1,500/\$29	2	
6	Tikkakoski KP/31, 9×19mm	3d-1 pi	4	180/2,000	15.6/4.5	15	70(5)	10†	-5	2	\$1,600/\$260	2	
6	Bergmann MP34/I, 9×19mm	3d-1 pi	3	170/1,900	10.9/1.3	6	32(3)	8†	-4	2	\$1,700/\$29	2	
6	SIG MKMO, 9×25mm	3d+2 pi	4	210/2,300	11.5/1.7	15!	40(3)	9†	-5	2	\$2,500/\$31	2	
6	ZiD PPD-34, 7.62×25mm	3d pi-	3	200/2,200	9.3/1	13	25(3)	9†	-4	2	\$1,500/\$28	2	

Note:

[1] Unreliable. Malfunctions on 16+ (see p. B407).

The KP/31 originally came with a 20-round box magazine (\$28, 1.3 lbs.) or a 40-round drum (\$255, 3.1 lbs.). In 1936, the famous 70-round drum was adopted (as in the table). The Finns even tested an underbarrel flamethrower on this (*High-Tech: Pulp Guns, Volume 2*, p. 31, and *GURPS WWII: Frozen Hell*, p. 34).

Bergmann MP34/I, 9×19mm Parabellum (Germany, 1934-1935)

Theodor Bergmann and his engineer Müller developed a submachine gun which was made in pre-production quantities in 1932 by Schultz and Larsen of Denmark as the *MK32*, a blowback weapon similar in appearance to the earlier Bergmann MP18/I (p. 28), but with the magazine inserted from the right side instead of the left. It had a progressive double trigger (*High-Tech*, pp. 82-83) which offered single shots and full automatic fire. The muzzle featured an integrated compensator (similar to the Cutts compensator, p. 30; the stats already account for the ST reduction). The *MK32* was adopted in very small numbers by the Danish army as the *Mp M/32* in 9×23mm Bergmann-Bayard; Dmg 3d-1 pi, Wt. 10.4/1.3, Cost \$1,750/\$29.

Since Bergmann had no manufacturing facilities, the production version, the *MP34/I*, was made by Walther of Germany. Magazines taking 24 (\$28, 1.1 lb.) or 32 rounds were available. The *MP34/I* was adopted by the German police and exported to Bolivia (*Mod 1934*) for use in the Chaco War. Only some 2,000 were made in all.

In 1935 it was modified to the *MP35/I* configuration (1935-1945), which had more success; Wt. 10.7/1.3, Cost \$1,500/\$29. It was adopted in 1936 by the Waffen-SS, *Sicherheitsdienst* (SD), and police, and exported to Abyssinia, Spain, and Sweden (*K-pist m/39*). Some 40,000 of the *MP35/I* were made by Junker and Ruh under contract for Bergmann. The *MP35/I* is shown in action with the *Afrikakorps* soldiers in *Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade*.



SIG MKMO, 9×25mm Mauser (Switzerland, 1935-1937)

Described as a *Maschinenkarabiner* ("machine carbine") by its manufacturer, the Schweizerische Industrie-Gesellschaft of Neuhausen, this was a heavy weapon with a long barrel, chambered for a powerful cartridge. Early samples allowed the magazine to be folded forwards into a slot in the forestock, to make it more compact. It featured a lug for a 0.5-lb. knife bayonet (Spear-1 skill, Reach 1). It was also offered in 7.63×25mm Mauser (Dmg 3d+1 pi-), 7.65×21mm Parabellum (Dmg 3d-1 pi-), 9×19mm Parabellum (Dmg 3d pi), and .38 Super Auto (Dmg 3d+1 pi). A total of only 1,228 were made.

The *MKPO* (1935-1937) was a compact police version with shorter barrel and magazine; Dmg 3d+1 pi, Range 200/2,200, Wt. 10.3/1.3, RoF 15!, Shots 30(3), Bulk -4, Cost \$2,400/\$29. It lacked the bayonet mount.

The simplified *MKMS* (1937-1940) was only made in 7.65×21mm Parabellum and 9×19mm Parabellum, but had a bit more success on the market. Finland bought 242 in 9×19mm Parabellum as the *KP/40*; Dmg 3d pi, Cost \$1,900/\$32. Its police variant, the *MKPS* (1937-1940), also in 9×19mm Parabellum, was adopted by the Swiss Papal Guard and used by them in 1944-1981; Dmg 3d-1 pi, Wt. 9.4/1.3, RoF 15!, Bulk -4, Cost \$1,800/\$32.

ZiD PPD-34, 7.62×25mm Tokarev (Russia, 1935-1938)

The *Pistolet-Pulemet Degtyarova obrazets 1934g* ("Degtyarev's submachine gun model of the year 1934") was the first Russian submachine gun, patterned on the Schmeisser (pp. 27-28). It had a heavy wooden rifle stock and a curved magazine that inserted from below. During the 1930s, it mainly armed senior officers, the Red Army not yet having understood the relevance of this weapon type. Only a few thousand were made, most in 1937 and 1938, until it was superseded by other designs. Numbers were supplied in 1938 to the Republicans in the Spanish Civil War.

The improved *PPD-34/38* (1939-1940) differed mainly in using a 73-round drum magazine based on that of the Finnish Tikkakoski KP/31 (pp. 30-31); Wt. 12.5/4.3, Shots 73(5), Bulk -5, Cost \$1,500/\$258.

AMMUNITION TABLES

Then I examined the cartridges. There were two of them, S&W .45-caliber, and deep crosses had been cut in their soft noses – an old trick that makes the bullet spread out like a saucer when it hits.

– Dashiell Hammett, *“The Tenth Claw”* (1924)

See *High-Tech*, pp. 176-177, for all calibers and cartridges not listed here.

Handguns and Submachine Guns

Name	WPS	CPS
2.7×9mm Kolibri	0.0013	\$0.05
4.25×10mm Erika	0.0037	\$0.05
.22 Long (5.6×16mmR)	0.0068	\$0.08
5.5×28mmR Velo-Dog	0.013	\$0.1
7×20mm Nambu	0.018	\$0.1
.32 S&W (7.92×15mmR)	0.017	\$0.1
.32 S&W Long (7.92×24mmR)	0.02	\$0.2
8×27mmR Lebel	0.028	\$0.3
8×27mmR Rast & Gasser	0.026	\$0.3
9×19mm Glisenti	0.026	\$0.3
9×20mmSR Browning Long	0.025	\$0.3
9×23mm Steyr	0.026	\$0.3
11×17mmR	0.04	\$0.4
.455 Webley Auto (11.5×23mm)	0.046	\$0.5

They pulled a .22 slug out of him. A pop gun, Leo – a woman’s gun.

– Tom Reagan in *Miller’s Crossing* (set in 1929)

Shotguns

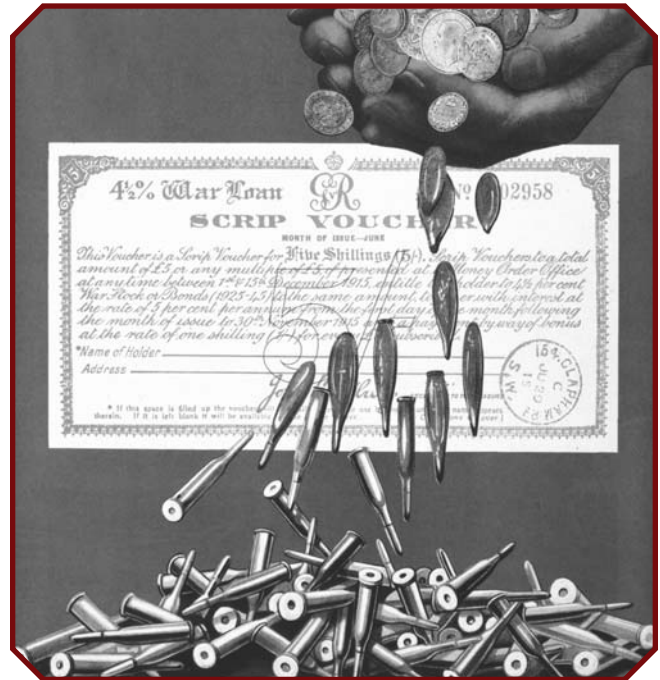
Name	WPS	CPS	Notes
28G 2.75” (14×70mmR)	0.065	\$0.4	[1, 2]
.69 Federal (17.5×89mm)	0.1	\$1	[1, 3]
14.5G 2.56” (17.6×65mmR)	0.15	\$0.5	[2]

Rifled Combination Guns

Name	WPS	CPS
6.5×57mmR Mauser	0.054	\$0.8
7×57mmR Mauser	0.058	\$0.8
8×57mmR Mauser	0.066	\$1

Notes:

- [1] Light cased (*High-Tech*, p. 164).
- [2] Shotgun (*High-Tech*, p. 173).
- [3] Muzzle Blast Tear Gas (p. 10).



EXPLOSIVES

I’m going to burn his accursed diary, and if you men are wise you’ll dynamite that altar-stone up there, and pull down all the rings of standing stones on the other hills.

– H.P. Lovecraft, *“The Dunwich Horror”* (1928)

During the pulp era, many explosives were theoretically available (see the TL5-6 entries in the table on p. 183 in *High-Tech*). However, most of them were obsolete or strictly for military use, as warhead fillers, etc. Ordinary citizens had to content themselves with dynamite or black powder suitable for blasting. (“Yeggs” also used nitroglycerin for safe-blowing, but

nitro was difficult to get, usually being skimmed from dynamite; see *High-Tech*, p. 185).

There were numerous civilian applications for explosives, mainly for mining, in quarries, and to blow up tree stumps and boulders in fields. Many American farmers had a case of dynamite (you needed at least half a dozen sticks for a single tree), a jar with blasting caps, a coil of time fuse, and a copy of DuPont’s *Blasters’ Handbook* or Bowen’s *Explosives in Agriculture* (treat either as a manual as per *High-Tech* p. 17) cached somewhere out of reach of the children.



Dynamite and blasting powder were pretty much sold without restriction through mail order firearms suppliers and even ordinary rural hardware stores (for an effective LC4!). Easy acquisition wasn't restricted to the USA, either – even in tightly controlled Germany you could buy blasting powder (but not dynamite) without major hassle. Sometimes, the amount was restricted, however. In the U.K., ordinary citizens weren't allowed to own more than 30 lbs. of explosives at any one time.

At the time, blasting powder was usually sold in 10-lb., 25-lb., or 50-lb. birch kegs, at \$5 per pound. Dynamite sticks came in 10-lb., 25-lb., or 50-lb. cases, at \$10 per pound. A small civilian blasting machine for up to three electric blasting caps cost \$300 and weighed 3.5 lbs.

GUN CASES AND LOAD-BEARING EQUIPMENT

The following TL6 firearm accessories, available in the pulp era, can be used in addition to those listed in *High-Tech*, pp. 54, 153-154, and 160.

Alabama Thompson Case. The so-called “Alabama” case looked like an ordinary briefcase and was sold together with a Thompson submachine gun (pp. 28-30), primarily to companies who issued it to payroll guards. It held one TSMG, but with the buttstock removed and with no place for stowing it! Compartments were provided for four 20-round magazines. It was 2' long, lockable, and had DR 2. \$120, 6 lbs. LC4.

BAR Case. A heavy leather carrying case for transporting the Browning Automatic Rifle (*High-Tech*, pp. 112-113, and *High-Tech: Pulp Guns, Volume 2*, p. 11). It was 4' long and had DR 1. \$200, 14 lbs. LC4.

Cartridge Belt. A leather belt with loops all round for 25 shotgun shells or 30 rifle/handgun cartridges. Mexican carving triples cost (+1 reactions, see *Styling* on p. 10 in *High-Tech*). \$30, 0.5 lb. LC4.

Cartridge Wallet. A small leather wallet holding five large-caliber rifle rounds so that they won't tumble around in a pocket. Ideal for carrying blessed silver hollow-points for that special occasion . . . \$10, 0.2 lb. LC4.

FBI Thompson Case. The so-called FBI case was built on a rectangular saxophone hard case (and was externally indistinguishable from an ordinary one) and was sold together with Thompson SMGs to the FBI, the Texas Rangers, and other police agencies. Black, with royal blue liner, it held one Auto-Ordnance Model 1928AC with the buttstock removed and placed in its own compartment. Other compartments held four 20-round magazines, a 50-round drum, and a cleaning kit. It was 2' long, lockable, and had DR 2. \$175, 8 lbs. LC4.

Federal Gun Case. This case, sold by Federal Laboratories of Saltsburg from the mid-1930s, was adopted by the FBI for issue to individual field offices, and also acquired by other American law enforcement agencies. Each held one complete Thompson submachine gun (pp. 28-30), three 20-round magazines (or 18-round shot magazines), one 50-round drum, two Federal Model 201-Z gas guns (*High-Tech: Pulp Guns, Volume 2*, p. 29), 12 tear gas rounds of 37×122mmR caliber, two Federal Model 29 gas billies (p. 10), and six .69-caliber tear

gas shells. This was a successful package; a competitor of Federal complained in 1934 that “every village here has gone gun crazy, and the only way gas can be sold now . . . will be with machine guns.” It was 3' long, lockable and had DR 2. \$4,000 (full), 50 lbs. (full). LC2 (full).

Golf Bag. Ordinary golf bags were popular with gangsters carrying sawed-off shotguns and short rifles. \$200, 9 lbs. LC4.

Hunter's Vest. A light water-repellent vest with loops on the front for 50 cartridges (normally shotgun shells, but others could be made). Treat as load-bearing vest (*High-Tech*, p. 54). \$80, 2.75 lbs. LC4.

Pistol Magazine Pouch. This was a leather or canvas pouch holding two pistol magazines, to be worn on the belt. It could also be worn concealed on the ankle or with a shoulder holster under the armpit. \$15, 0.3 lb. LC4.

Shell Bag. Intended for shotgunners, this was a roomy leather or canvas bag attached to the belt or slung over the shoulder, with a large flap opening to allow quick reloading. \$35, 0.5 lb. for a small one holding 25 shells, \$60, 1 lb. for a large one holding 100 shells. LC4.

SMG Magazine Pouch. A leather or canvas pouch holding three long SMG magazines (32-rounders), four short SMG magazines (20-rounders), or one SMG drum (see Peter Jackson's *King Kong* for the latter). \$50, 0.5 lb. LC4.

Violin Case. Fiction has many gangsters concealing their Tommy guns in violin cases. Historically, few actually did that, as the gun would barely fit into a violin-shaped case – and only after taking off the stock and foregrip. A 50-round drum and one or two box magazines could be squeezed in as well. 2' long, DR 2; \$100, 5 lbs. LC4.

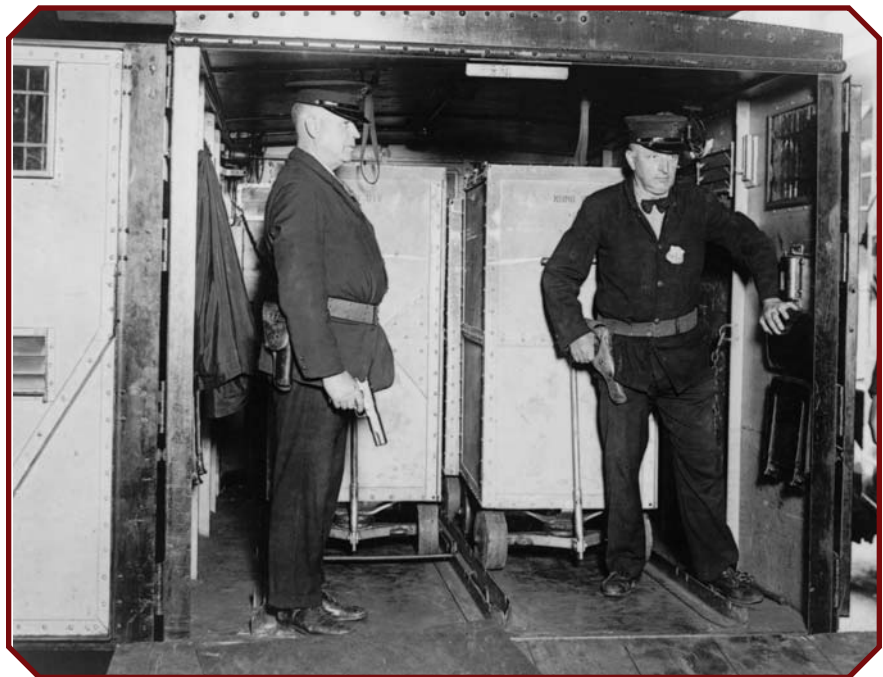


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