Reviewed by Peter Caroline

Years before GCA68 came and spoiled everyone’s fun, I used to moonlight at an Alexandria, VA, establishment called Hunter’s Lodge. This was the retail outlet for Interarmco, a large military surplus import/export firm. Their showroom, located on the second floor of a warehouse on the Potomac, was Fantasy Island for firearms enthusiasts. There were racks upon racks of surplus military long arms, and showcases filled with old milsurp and police-confiscated handguns from all over the world. Many of the long guns were DEWAT (deactivated war trophy) submachine guns and German assault rifles. If I recall correctly, DEWAT Sten guns sold for $14.95, and Chauchats were $19.95 ($20 more than they were worth). The priciest items were the M1928A1 Thompsons for $79.95. I always coveted the Tommy guns, but my monthly pay, as an Army PFC, was about $78. If one chose to buy a DEWAT gun and “REWAT” it, a very do-able and legal procedure at the time, the federal paperwork cost $200, way beyond my means.

Some years later, I did acquire a Thompson of sorts, but it was a Hollywood prop gun, which looked, field-striped and functioned like the real thing, but was totally incapable of firing.

Today, an original Thompson submachine in functioning condition costs as much as a compact sedan, and then there’s the $200 transfer tax plus the paperwork, delays, record keeping and restrictions. Gracias, pero no gracias.

But wait, as they say, today there is an inexpensive, simple, totally legal means of satisfying one’s Melvin Purvis/G.I. Joe cravings. I spotted a small article in the American Rifleman about a California company, Scott Werx LLC, that makes a kit that gives your basic Ruger 10/22 rifle the look and feel of a vintage Tommy gun. Like most everybody I know, I have a Ruger 10/22 – in fact, several – so I sent off a note to Craig Scott, the proprietor, requesting a kit for review. Apparently, Scott Werx had come up with a product that everyone wanted, and they were working extra hours trying to keep up with orders. They did, however, manage to send me a kit.

When the Fun Gun Kit (that’s what they call it) arrived, I spread out the components on my coffee table, and proceeded to read the assem-