

VERX RUGER® 10/22® CONVERSION KIT 61

bly instructions (always RTFM). Taking my time, I managed to put the kit together with my 10/22 barrel and action in a little under half an hour. The parts are precisely crafted from CNC-machined billet aluminum, steel and real oil-finished American walnut. Everything bolts together just like it says in the instructions, which even I could understand. When I was finished, I was holding a very realistic facsimile of a WWII M1 Thompson, albeit semiautomatic and .22 LR caliber.

Now, this was on a Tuesday, and I wasn't scheduled to go to the range until Thursday. But I couldn't wait to give this new puppy a function test! Fortunately, I have a small berm out back, with a large arroyo behind it, and neighbors with hearing deficits. I walked out on the back patio, looked around to check for possible witnesses, fired off four quick rounds and dashed back in the house. Worked like a charm.

I've since fired the Fun Gun on several occasions, both at a formal range and at an informal desert shooting area just a few miles down the road. While the gun does utilize the standard 10/22 10-round rotary magazine with an optional extension that looks like a 30-round stick, it will accommodate hi-cap aftermarket magazines. Resting my elbows on my pickup's hood, I fired off one tiny 25-round

group at 20 yards. It's not really surprising... the basic Ruger 10/22 has always had quite decent accuracy, and the differences provided by this kit are delightfully cosmetic, and do not affect function.

The kit I received is the WWII lookalike, called the Squad Leader. It retails at a \$299.95 MSRP. Also available is the classic "Chicago" style, at \$319.95 with vertical front grip and a slip-on barrel tip that simulates the .45 caliber original. Dummy stick and drum magazine extensions are available. There is also a \$249.95 pistol kit available for the Ruger Charger (do not use the 10" Charger barrel and action with the Squad Leader or Chicago kit, or you'll be in a heap o' trouble!). You can easily return your gun to its original configuration any time you want, though I can't imagine why you'd want to.

Now, terminally practical readers may ask, what is this kit actually good for? My answer is, it is good for fun, and lots of it! Yes, you can get the same downrange results with a Ruger 10/22 right out of the box. But to amaze and amuse your friends, confound your enemies and keep a constant smile on your face, this kit is Dr. Scott's Magic Elixir!

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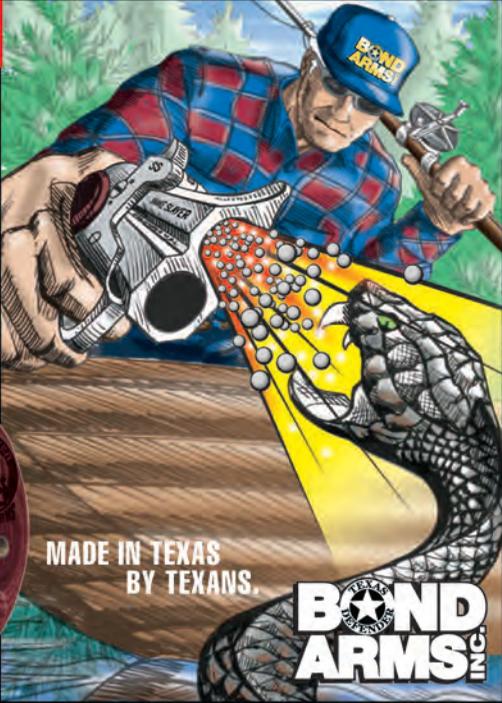
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