



The UZI Submachine Gun

ward position. This “telescoping bolt” allows the rear of the barrel to set back farther, just forward of the grip. In turn, this permits the 10.2” barrel to protrude but just a few inches from the receiver. The telescoping bolt can be heavier in a compact weapon, reducing the rate of fire to a more effective level. The barrel can be removed and replaced easily by unscrewing a forward lock nut. The receiver cover is easily detached to access and remove the bolt. This cover includes a ratchet mechanism that guards

magazines are available. A bayonet lug is provided. The unloaded weight is 7.72 pounds. The overall length is 18.5” with the stock collapsed, and 25.2” with it extended. The normal rate of fire in full automatic mode is in the neighborhood of 600 rounds per minute. All in all, the UZI is a well thought out and effective design.

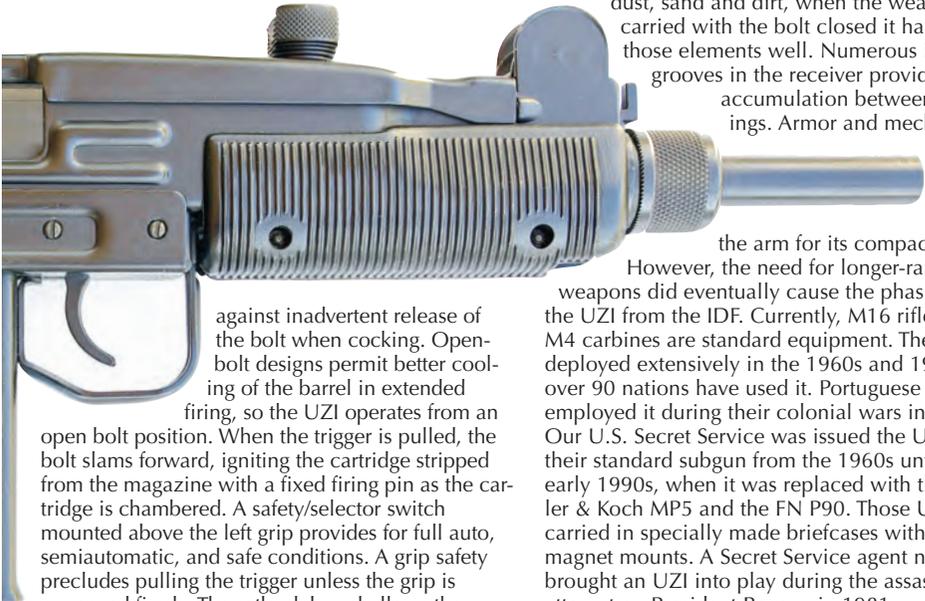
The UZI first saw action during the 1956 Suez campaign. The compact weapon proved to be reliable, durable and effective in clearing bunkers and defensive positions. While not immune to dust, sand and dirt, when the weapon is carried with the bolt closed it handles those elements well. Numerous internal grooves in the receiver provide for dirt accumulation between cleanings. Armor and mechanized transport troops have valued the arm for its compact design.

However, the need for longer-range weapons did eventually cause the phasing out of the UZI from the IDF. Currently, M16 rifles and M4 carbines are standard equipment. The UZI was deployed extensively in the 1960s and 1970s, and over 90 nations have used it. Portuguese troops employed it during their colonial wars in Africa. Our U.S. Secret Service was issued the UZI as their standard subgun from the 1960s until the early 1990s, when it was replaced with the Heckler & Koch MP5 and the FN P90. Those UZIs were carried in specially made briefcases with internal magnet mounts. A Secret Service agent noticeably brought an UZI into play during the assassination attempt on President Reagan in 1981.

UZIs have also been made in .45 ACP, .22 LR, and 41 Action Express. Conversions have been marketed in .40 S&W and 10mm auto. Variants have included a mini-UZI, a micro-UZI, a stockless UZI pistol, and the UZI-Pro, made mostly of polymer materials. Action Arms marketed an IMI-made semiautomatic UZI carbine with a 16” barrel in the U.S. It fires from a closed-bolt position and uses a floating firing pin. The Model A carbine, closely resembling the original subgun, was imported from 1980 to 1983, and the slightly different Model B from 1983 to 1989. The UZI pictured above was made by IMI in 1979.

Uziel Gal retired as a Colonel and immigrated to the U.S. He died in 2002 at the age of 78. Israel Weapon Industries Ltd. (IWI) – formerly the Magen (small arms) division of IMI – is still marketing UZIs and variants.

The UZI continues to be a highly respected and efficient submachine gun. It occupies a secure position among the classics. Any one of the various types is a valued addition to an arms collection today.



against inadvertent release of the bolt when cocking. Open-bolt designs permit better cooling of the barrel in extended firing, so the UZI operates from an open bolt position. When the trigger is pulled, the bolt slams forward, igniting the cartridge stripped from the magazine with a fixed firing pin as the cartridge is chambered. A safety/selector switch mounted above the left grip provides for full auto, semiautomatic, and safe conditions. A grip safety precludes pulling the trigger unless the grip is squeezed firmly. The setback barrel allows the magazine to be located in the grip. Changing magazines is instinctive, with a “hand finds hand” method. The initial removable wooden stock assembly was shortly replaced with a lighter, efficient and sturdy metal folding stock. When folded under the rear of the receiver, it can be extended by slapping the base of the stock downward with the palm of the hand, and then retracting it rearwards until it locked. This makes for a very compact weapon that can be fired with one hand if necessary. Another later modification of the design was a larger actuating knob. Both early and late knobs have a wide central groove to allow proper sighting through the knob. The iron sights are adjustable for both windage and elevation. 20-, 32-, 40- and 50-round

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