

Stemple-Suomi

Authentic Recreation of Finland's Winter Warrior

Text and photos by Peter G. Kokalis

Had you just given up on ever owning an SMG? Kokalis has found a source for a fully-transferable, yet relatively inexpensive, 9mm buzz gun that's reliable and fun to shoot.



BRP's STG-76W Stemple-Suomi submachine gun is a totally successful recreation of its famous Finnish predecessor, one of the most highly regarded designs ever developed.

The Finnish m/31 Suomi submachine gun is one of the most highly regarded designs ever developed. Its battle-proven record is unblemished. Unfortunately, specimens in the United States are few and far between. Most are Pre-1986 dealers' samples. The few fully transferable examples in this country have sold for astronomical prices. A close friend of mine sold his pristine m/31 Suomi three years ago for \$50,000.

What if I told you that you could purchase a fully transferable, selective-fire m/31 Suomi submachine gun in brand new condition for only \$7,000 plus a \$200 transfer tax? Your first reaction would be to scoff and ask, what's the gimmick? The "gimmick" is that BRP Corp. (Dept. SGN, 7594 Commerce Lane, Clinton, Md. 20735; phone: 301-807-5234; website: www.brpguns.com) assembles and sells a machine gun called the STG-76W that is for all practical purposes on the exterior a Finnish m/31 Suomi submachine gun.

The Stemple Takedown Gun is an unmodified, fully transferable Stemple 76/45 submachine gun receiver housed inside an m/31 parts kit. With complete BATFE approval, a "semi auto disconnect opening" was added to the bottom portion of the Stemple 76/45 receiver. This opening, an inch

in length and 1/4" in width, is located between the magazine well opening and the original sear opening.

The purpose of this new cut was to install a modified trigger mechanism that contains a semiautomatic selector and

a safety device. In addition BRP Corp. manufactures or procures bolts, buffers, buttstocks, magazine well housings and trunnions that are fully compatible with an unmodified Stemple 76/45 receiver tube.



Its 12-pound weight means many will prefer to fire the STG-76W off the heavy-duty bipod that is provided and that can be attached by means of the short 1913 rail.

A threaded trunnion is installed that does not alter the appearance of the Stemple 76/45 submachine gun receiver. While the m/31 Suomi components added to the Stemple 76/45 receiver change its exterior appearance and it outwardly looks exactly like the justifiably famous Finnish m/31 Suomi submachine gun, these components are not permanently attached to the receiver and they are snapped in place or affixed to existing attachment points already on the Stemple 76/45 receiver.

As a consequence, BATFE has ruled that none of this changes the classification of the Stemple 76/45 receiver. I find this to be brilliant and devilishly clever.

More explicitly, here are the similarities and differences between the original Finnish m/31 Suomi submachine gun and the BRP STG-76W. The STG-76W fires from the open-bolt position just as does the original Finnish m/31 Suomi submachine gun. A substantial number of the STG-76W's important components are those of the m/31 Suomi.

A newly manufactured magazine-sleeve and barrel shroud were designed to "sleeve over" the STG-76W lock nut and give the appearance of a Suomi m/31 ventilated barrel jacket. The Suomi bolt body was reduced in diameter to fit the Stemple 76/45 receiver and a hole pattern was drilled for a new cocking handle compatible with the cocking handle slot of the Stemple 76/45 receiver.

The Suomi trigger housing has been modified to fit the Stemple 76/45 sear opening. While the internal components are the same, the sear itself was newly manufactured. The STG-76W trigger mechanism has three positions: safe, semiautomatic and full-auto.

All the components, except for the bolt, which has been left in-the-white, are manganese phosphated. The Finnish m/31 buttstock used on the STG-76W is made of beech. The steel buttplate is securely held to the stock by three substantial wood screws. The buffer is made from red durometer polyurethane.

The serrated, spring-loaded, paddle-type magazine catch/release, located directly to the rear of the magazine well, must be pressed forward to attach or release a drum or magazine. Directly to the rear of the magazine catch/release are nine weight-reducing lightening holes in the trigger housing assembly.

The following Finnish m/31 Suomi components are found in the STG-76W Stemple-Suomi submachine gun: magazines and drums (all marked with "SA" in a rectangle, which stands for Finnish Army), slings, extractors, firing pins, barrels (with a modified collar), internal trigger housing components, and recoil springs. BRP Corp. manufactures and modifies the following parts, which together with the m/31 components and Stemple 76/45 receiver, are used to assemble an STG-76W submachine gun: sear, ejector, bolt, lock nuts, trunnion, magazine well/barrel jacket and the lower assembly.

The trigger pack in the BRP STG-76W is a selective-fire type, albeit a bit peculiar. The Finns had an odd manner in which they designed the semiautomatic mode to the m/31's open bolt method of operation. Unlike most pistol-caliber submachine guns, which employ a trip lever to pop the sear up after each shot, the m/31 Suomi attached a disconnecter to the trigger itself.

When the trigger is pulled with the selector bar pushed back to the middle, or semiautomatic, position, the sear falls off the trigger hook and springs upward under the compression power of the sear spring, which rides on the upper half of a pin having a pronounced shoulder.

When the trigger is released, the trigger hook reengages the back of the sear. That's why pulling the trigger while the mechanism is in the semiautomatic mode without the receiver being fully attached to the buttstock and trigger housing assembly will launch the sear upward and send the sear spring flying into the distant horizon.

How do I know? Because that's what happened to me. In the full-auto mode, the trigger hook holds the sear captive, whether the trigger remains stationary or is released. The selector bar, which has a serrated face, is more than a little difficult to manipulate.



The barrel is held in place by the barrel jacket. These were of dubious value for cooling, but did protect the hand from a hot barrel and the barrel from damage.

Pushing the selector bar fully forward will result in full-auto fire. When moved fully rearward, the trigger is blocked and the weapon cannot be fired. As an option, you can stipulate a full-auto-only fire control system, which makes reassembly of the weapon much easier. That is now the fire control system in my personal BRP STG-76W.

The sights are those of the Finnish m/31 Suomi submachine gun. The front sight blade can be drifted for adjustment of windage zero, in its dovetail on a steel band wrapped around the front end of the barrel jacket and retained by a crosspin. The rear sight, an open U-notch, sliding tangent-type, can be adjusted for elevation only in 100-meter increments from 100 to 500 meters.

The sling and its attachment points are those of the Finnish m/31 Suomi. The front sling swivel is located on the left side, toward the front end, of the ventilated barrel jacket. The rear end of the sling is retained by a steel bar held over a cutout on the left side of the stock by two heavy wood screws. The gray leather sling is 24mm in width and 1320mm (52 inches) in length.

The receiver tube of the Stemple-Suomi BRP STG-76W sent to us for test and evaluation is marked on the left side as follows: "JOHN R. STEMPLE GROVEPORT, OHIO MODEL 76/45 S/N 753" and many of the other components carry this serial number or the last two digits thereof. The left side of the trigger housing assembly is marked, "STG BRP Corp. STEMPLE 76/45" with the BRP logo, which is the letter "B" in a triangle in a circle.

The specimen sent to SHOTGUN NEWS has a 1.2-inch long MIL-STD-1913 rail interface attached to the underside of the barrel jacket near the muzzle. To this can be installed a heavy-duty bipod that is included with the gun.

The final result weighs 12 pounds (5.4kg), empty, which is about a pound and a half heavier than the original Finnish m/31 Suomi, mostly a consequence of the Stemple 76/45 receiver inside the outer Suomi-type assembly.

Disassembly procedures—BRP STG-76W Stemple-Suomi

Using the multi-tool provided or an appropriate screwdriver, remove the threaded takedown bolt at the rear end of the receiver tube, just in front of the receiver's end cap. When you withdraw the takedown screw, press against the end cap, as it's under considerable pressure from the recoil spring and several times it flew across the room when I disassembled the gun.

Carefully withdraw the end cap, red polyurethane buffer and recoil spring. Retract the bolt to its rearmost position and withdraw the cocking handle. Slide the bolt out the rear end of the receiver tube. Using the multi-tool press out the HK-style retaining pin from the front end of the trigger housing assembly.

Separate the receiver group from the stock/trigger housing assembly. Slide the barrel jacket and magazine housing off the receiver/barrel assembly. It's not necessary to separate either the barrel jacket from the magazine housing or the barrel from the receiver for normal maintenance. After cleaning and lubrication, reassemble in the reverse order.

Be certain that the stock group and receiver assembly are in perfect alignment before attempting to re-install the threaded takedown or you may damage the threads. I was



The receiver tube is marked "JOHN R. STEMPLE GROVEPORT, OHIO MODEL 76/45 S/N 753", because it has been adapted with BATFE approval to the Finnish m/31 Suomi configuration.



The left side of the gun's trigger housing assembly is marked, "STG BRP Corp. STEMPLE 76/45" with the BRP logo, which is the letter "B" in a triangle in a circle.



The end cap holds the guide rod and the red polyurethane buffer pad. The receiver is held to the butt and trigger housing by the large threaded takedown bolt.



Push the selector bar fully forward for full-auto fire. Fully rearward, it blocks the trigger. Moving it to the middle position will yield semiautomatic fire.



Press forward on the magazine release to attach or release a drum or magazine. Directly behind it are nine weight-reducing lightening holes in the trigger housing.



Disassembly is straightforward, but take care that the takedown bolt and the holes in the receiver tube and the threaded hole in the stock tang are in alignment.

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provided with a takedown bolt with a slightly tapered end for easier installation.

However, I still had a problem re-installing the receiver assembly onto the stock group, so as a consequence of my incessant prodding; BRP Corp. redesigned this portion of the gun. A stainless steel rear post is now semi-permanently attached to the stock group. It has been threaded and counter-bored to accept the new and much shorter takedown keeper screw.

In addition, a stainless steel alignment and guide tool is supplied to keep the end cap, buffer, guide rod and main-spring firmly in place during disassembly and reassembly and prevent them from either sailing into the horizon or your forehead.

This simple, but brilliant, engineering solution to a vexing problem solved the problem completely and the BRP STG-76 Stemple-Suomi is now the easiest of all the many submachine guns that I own to disassemble and reassemble.

The Stemple 76/45 was derived directly from the Smith & Wesson Model 76 submachine gun. As the U.S. Navy was unable to obtain the Swedish Carl Gustav Model 45 submachine gun during the Vietnam War because of Sweden's declared neutrality, it convinced Smith & Wesson officials that a market existed for a comparable weapon.

Assuming there were law enforcement applications as well, Smith & Wesson commenced development of a submachine gun similar in configuration to the Swedish "K" during the fall of 1966. The Model 76 was placed into series production on 24 June 1968.

Unlocked, blowback-operated, the S&W Model 76 fires from the open-bolt position by means of advanced primer ignition. The weight, empty, is 7¼ pounds. The cyclic rate varies from 720 to 750 rounds per minute, depending upon the ammunition employed. Model 76 magazines have a 36-round capacity and closely resemble Swedish "K" magazines, but are not interchangeable. As no one, with the exception of a very few law enforcement agencies and some Class 3 dealers, ever expressed any interest, Smith & Wesson suspended production on 5 July 1974 after approximately 6,000 units had been produced.

As stated, the S&W Model 76 was inspired by the Carl Gustav or M45(B), a 9x19mm Parabellum submachine gun that was developed in 1944 by the Carl Gustav Gevarsfaktori (eventually referred to as Forsvarets Fabroksverk or FFV—The National Defense Industries) in Eskiltuna, Sweden.

Sweden's requirement for a cost-effective, mass-produced military small arm was not realized until World War II ended, as production did not commence until 1945. In manufacturing concept the so-called Swedish "K" differs very little from World War II contemporaries such as the German MP40, Russian PPSH41 or British Sten.

Fabricated from heavy-gauge, stamped sheet metal, the Swedish M45(B) one-piece receiver was folded into a tubular shape to hold the reciprocating components, with a rectangular underside for the trigger mechanism and magazine well. Fourteen rivets on the bottom section prevent the receiver from spreading apart.

The front of the trigger guard and the pistol grip were welded to the receiver body. Most of the other components were riveted or pinned in place. The cyclic rate at approximately 550 to 600 rpm is excellent for firing short bursts. The

Swedish "K" weighs 7.6 pounds (3.45kg), empty. This is really no more than most of its contemporaries.

In 1948, a two-position-feed, 36-round, staggered-column, detachable box-type magazine was introduced for the Swedish M45(B) that was directly derived from the Finnish m/31 Suomi magazine of the same capacity. It remains the best in the business, bar none.

Its wedge shape helps to direct rounds to the chamber area. There is no more reliable submachine gun magazine, and it was copied by other Scandinavian countries, as well as Czechoslovakia (Vz 23, 24, 25 and 26), Germany (Walther MPL) and the United States (Smith & Wesson Model 76).

Finnish Suomi submachine gun magazines can be instantly identified by a hinged steel wire loop at their base that was used to attach the magazine to a soldier's heavy winter clothing. This concept is also found on Finnish AK magazines.

In 1955, the Egyptian government was sufficiently impressed with the Carl Gustav submachine gun to purchase the manufacturing rights. Swedish technicians helped the Egyptians to establish a facility for production of the M45 and the Hakim, a 7.92x57mm version of the caliber 6.5x55mm Ljungman AG42 semiautomatic rifle.

John Stemple

An all too short, but productive life.

John R. Stemple was born on 8 July 1949 in Elkins, W. Va. Tragically, he died on 17 February 2007 at the young age of 57. He was an avid firearms collector, manufacturer and historian. An avid photographer and lover of nature, Stemple graduated in 1972 from Ohio State University with a BS degree in business administration and accounting. During his short life he was an innovative and creative force in the firearms and ammunition industries. He went on to own and operate J&G Fireworks in Ohio.

While Stemple started his professional life as an accountant in 1972, by 1975 he had moved on to pursue his passion in firearms as a manufacturer and collector. Prior to the 19 May 1986 ban on machinegun registrations, Stemple manufactured and registered hundreds of machine guns from surplus parts. There are numerous Maxims, Brownings and Thompsons and many other types of machine-guns that bear his name as manufacturer.

His first inventions in the late 1970s were in the field of sound suppressors. He developed and produced several types of compound suppressors that used combinations of springs and baffles to reduce the sound pressure level. To complement his work on sound suppressors, he also made different types of cartridges to test his theories about sound pressure level reduction. In addition, John designed and manufactured muzzle brakes and compensators for both large-bore and high-velocity rifles.

In 1984, he perceived a need for a simple, inexpensive submachine gun in caliber .45 ACP. He was convinced this concept would meet the acceptance of shooters just entering the fascinating field of fully automatic weapons. He designated his design as the Model "76/45" because it was similar in many ways to the Smith & Wesson Model 76 submachine gun, but with a significantly heavier receiver intended to withstand the increased battering associated with the more powerful .45 ACP cartridge.

He also manufactured a few conversion units both to 9x19mm Parabellum that employed British Sten magazines and a .22 LR version as well. By 2005 he had designed a well-built, slow-fire, heavy-bolt version that mimicked the cyclic rate of the M3 "Grease Gun" and would have met with wide acceptance among those who shoot in the submachine gun competition at Knob Creek, Ky.

His immensely productive life was cut far too short. Unfortunately, we'll never know what other brilliant innovations he had tucked away in his inquisitive brain. ©



The Finnish m/31 Suomi's bolt breechface features a firing pin that can be replaced, if necessary, as it was press-fit in place and not milled into the breechface.



The Finnish m/31 buttstock is made of beech. This appeared unissued. These sometimes cracked at the wrist area because of the SMG's substantial recoil impulse.



A stainless steel rear post is now attached to the stock group. It has been threaded and counterbored to accept the new and much shorter takedown keeper screw.



The rear sight can be adjusted for elevation only in 100-meter increments from 100 to 500 meters, ranges that are not as absurd with this gun as with other SMGs.

Egyptian versions of the M45 are referred to as the "Port Said." Many thousands were produced, as well as a limited quantity of a simplified variant called the Akaba. It differed from the standard version only by virtue of its flimsy M3 "Grease gun"-type wire stock, non-adjustable sights and a short, 6-inch barrel without a ventilated jacket.

The Suomi Submachine Guns

It has been said that nearly 70% of the estimated 250,000 Russian casualties suffered during their invasion of Finland were the result of the Suomi submachine gun. It's possible. The Soviets were certainly impressed. The Soviet PPD 1934/38 and PPSH41 submachine guns were based partially upon the Schmeisser MP 28II and the early Suomi design. Using principally the PPSH41—about 5½ million were produced—during World War II, the Russians brought the submachine-gun concept to its zenith.

Entire battalions of Red Army soldiers, armed only with the PPSH41, rode into battle riding on top of T34 tanks. Spraying bullets from the "Pe-Pe-Sha" at a rate of 900 rounds per minute, these troops provided essential close support to armored units, without which the tanks could not operate successfully in the dense wooded areas where German troops were able to deploy close-range anti-tank weapons with relative impunity.

The PPSH41 was employed extensively in Red Army infantry battalions as well, where as many as three to four members of an eight-man section were equipped with it. It was also issued to artillery detachments, vehicle drivers and supply troops.

The Model 1926 Suomi (this is the Finnish word for Finland) was developed by the well-known Finnish designer, Aimo Johannes Lahti. This unusual submachine gun



The front sight blade can be drifted in its dovetail for windage adjustment on a steel band wrapped around the front end of the barrel jacket and retained by a crosspin.

(chambered for the 7.65mm Parabellum cartridge and thus duplicating the chambering of the contemporaneous Finnish Luger pistol) had a unique buffer assembly that allowed adjustment of the cyclic rate to a slight degree, a non-reciprocating retracting handle, a floating firing pin and a complicated trigger and selector mechanism.

It was the first submachine gun ever developed with a relatively simple quick-change barrel system. While all this—for its day—was more than a little remarkable, it proved to be entirely too complex and few were made before Lahti moved on to the much simplified Model 1931 in caliber 9x19mm Parabellum.

All rights to the Suomi SMG were purchased from Aimo Lahti and Konepistooli Oy (Submachine Gun Ltd.) by Tikakoski Oy. The m/31 was also manufactured by Husqvarna in Sweden, Madsen in Denmark and Hispano Suiza in Switzerland. A great many changes were made to the design and the only features retained were the quick-change barrel and retracting handle systems. The m/31 and the subsequent Swedish Model 37/39 were adopted and used by Finland, Sweden, Norway, Switzerland, Indonesia, Egypt and numerous Latin American countries.

It performed well in the Spanish Civil War, for the Finns in the Winter and Continuation Wars and untold number of killing games south of the U.S. border. During the Chaco War between Bolivia and Paraguay (1932-35), the Suomi undoubtedly accounted for many of the 100,000 lives which were lost in that small footnote to humanity's everlasting insanity of territorial imperative.

The m/31 Suomi submachine gun barrel is held in place by the barrel jacket, which is easily removed by rotating its

catch lever 90° on the right side. Then just twist the barrel jacket 45° counterclockwise and pull forward to remove the barrel from the receiver. The barrel jacket has nine elongated oval vents in three rows of three. Removal of the bolt and recoil spring is accomplished by unscrewing the knurled end cap while the retracting handle is held rearward.

The new bolt was more similar to those of the Thompson and Solothurn submachine guns and has a fixed firing pin press-fit into the breechface and a hollow portion in the rear of the bolt to hold the front end of the recoil spring. Several new magazines were introduced: a 20-round box, a complex 50-round two-compartment box and both 40- and 71-round drums.

The new selector system was a significant improvement. When set to fire single shots (the middle position), a platform is pushed under the toe of the sear lever on the trigger. This continued pressure on the trigger after the sear releases results in the sear lever rocking backwards to disengage from the sear projection, permitting the sear to rise once more.

In full-auto fire, the entire sear assembly remains disengaged from the bolt. When pushed to the rear (safe) position, the bolt remains locked in the open or closed position.

The m/31 Suomi was constructed entirely of machined forgings and weighs 10.34 pounds (4.6kg), empty. The overall length is 34.25 inches (870mm) with a barrel length of 12.5 inches (314mm). The four-groove barrel has a 1:10 right-hand twist (254mm). The cyclic rate is 900 rpm.

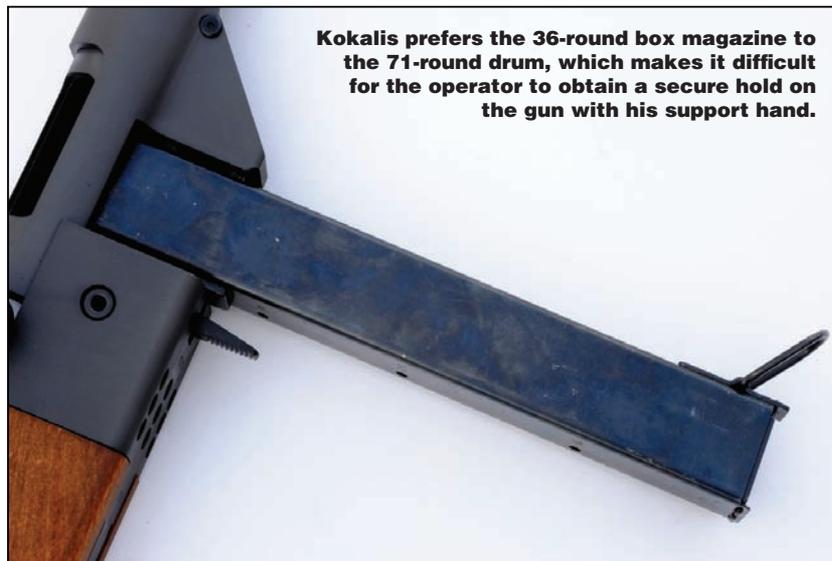
In 1942, a heavy machined muzzle compensator was added to the gun and the designation was changed to m/31 SJR. Partially because of its weight, the m/31 Suomi is capable of greater accuracy than most SMGs firing from the open-bolt position. During the 1950s and 1960s, the Finnish army conducted target matches with the m/31 SJR with surprising results at both 100 and 300 meters. By the end of World War II 63,000 m/31 SMGs had been manufactured for the Finnish army.

The Swedish Model 37/39 was a further refinement of the Suomi system. The barrel was cut back from 12.5 inches to 8.25 inches. An enlarged winter trigger guard was incorporated. The rear sights were changed from the original tangent, adjustable from 100 to 500 meters, to an open U-notch, flip-type, adjustable for 100, 200 and 300 meters—far more realistic for a pistol-caliber submachine gun.

The cocking handle was given a hooked shape rather than the large knob used previously. The stock was beefed-up considerably behind the receiver body (an area of weakness on the Finnish Model 1931), which destroyed any aesthetic pretense there may have been. The Swedish Model 37/39 certainly had the most grotesque-looking stock ever attached to a submachine gun.

As previously stated, over the years quite an assortment of magazines was produced for the Suomi submachine gun series. Drum magazines of both 40- and 71-round capacity

[Cont. to page 12]



Kokalis prefers the 36-round box magazine to the 71-round drum, which makes it difficult for the operator to obtain a secure hold on the gun with his support hand.



The two-position-feed Finnish 36-round magazine is wedge-shaped to help direct cartridges into the barrel's chamber smoothly and without failures to feed of any kind.



Finnish m/31 Suomi and Russian PPSH41 drums are almost identical in design and can be loaded to full 71-round capacity or with any lesser quantity of ammunition.

[Cont. from page 9]

were widely employed. The 71-round drums of the Soviet PPD 1934/38 and PPSH41 submachine guns were patterned directly after those of the Suomi.

A simple 20-round staggered-column, detachable box-type magazine was also produced. Most unusual was the Swedish 50-round box-type magazine. Fabricated from stamped sheet-metal pressings, this single-position-feed, staggered-column magazine consisted of two separate compartments containing 25 rounds each.

Guides on the interior magazine wall regulated the alternate feeding from each compartment. While innovative, it was almost impossible to load without a tool and was prone to frequent stoppages. It was eventually replaced during the 1950s in both the Finnish and Swedish armies by the well-designed, effective 36-round, staggered-column, detachable box-type magazine used with the Carl Gustaf Model 1945 ("Swedish K") submachine gun.

The shorter Swedish Model 37/39 weighs 8.75 pounds, empty. Both the Finnish m/31 and the Swedish Model 37/39 are far too heavy by today's standards, but, as a consequence, highly controllable in the full-auto mode. And this is in spite of a fairly high cyclic rate of 900 rounds per minute.

The Suomi is capable of smaller full-auto burst dispersion than any submachine gun ever made. Its rear sight settings of either 300 or 500 meters are not as ridiculous as they may seem. Rather astounding results can be achieved at these ranges.

Loading m/31 Suomi and PPSH41 Drums

Both Finnish m/31 Suomi and Russian PPSH41 drums are almost identical in design and either can be loaded to capacity or with a lesser amount of ammunition.

You may fill the drum to capacity or only load a small amount of ammo. The drum operates on a constant force spring otherwise known as a clockwork spring located in a spring cage in the center of the drum. The spring causes the cage, pusher arm, and base plate to rotate clockwise.



The steel buttplate has no serrations and the weapon is quite heavy, so the Suomi will sometimes slip out of the operator's shoulder pocket during burst fire.

Open the drum by pressing the ratchet release pin and rotating the locking arm away from the retaining shoulder.

Charge the drum by winding the cage counterclockwise. The ratcheting mechanism will "click" as you wind the cage. Each audible "click" is the equivalent of approximately 10 rounds and represents a locking point for the ratcheting mechanism. Only charge the drum to the extent that you want to load it. At a certain point (approximately 5 "clicks,") the base plate will start rotating with the cage and pusher arm.

Once the cage and base plate cannot rotate any further, start loading the drum, bullet-tip-up. You will need to do this on a flat surface so the rounds do not tip over. Be very careful not to press the ratchet release button. It will release the full force of the spring and can possibly crack the feed lip of the drum.

Once full, press the ratchet release button and make sure there is sufficient force pushing the rounds toward the feed lip to feed the gun during cycle. As you are pressing the ratchet release button, hold the cage assembly to control the release of the drum spring. Place the cover plate over the drum body, press the ratchet release pin and rotate the locking arm toward the retaining shoulder.

Re-tensioning the Drum

If you have a loaded drum and the bolt closed on an empty chamber, this means that the constant-force spring did not provide enough force to push the cartridge up into the feed lip before the bolt came forward to push the round into the chamber. This situation requires that you re-tension the drum by following these instructions:

1) Unload the Drum:

- Open the drum by pressing the ratchet release pin and rotating the locking arm away from the retaining shoulder.
- Charge the drum one "click" by winding the cage counterclockwise. This removes the tension from the cartridges and allows you to dump them out of the drum.

2) Re-tension the Drum Spring:

- Use an extra-small regular screwdriver to remove the pusher arm retaining screw.
- Remove the pusher arm and be careful not to allow the base plate to rotate.
- Wind the cage counterclockwise 360°.
- Reattach the pusher arm in exactly the same spot it was in when it was removed.

Ammunition for our test and evaluation of the BRP STG-76W Stemple-Suomi submachine gun was provided by Wolf Performance Ammunition, Dept. SGN, P.O. Box 757, Placentia, Calif. 92871; phone: 888-757-WOLF; fax: 714-632-9232; e-mail: info@wolfammo.com; website: www.wolfammo.com. Their 9x19mm Parabellum load features a 115-grain Full Metal Jacket (FMJ) projectile in a lacquered steel, Berdan-primed case. This bullet travels out of the m/31 Suomi's 12.5-inch barrel at approximately 1400 fps. This am-

Title II Firearms

The firearm reviewed in this article is a non-restricted-transfer Title II firearm. Title II firearms, which include machine guns, sound suppressors, and short-barreled shotguns and rifles, are strictly controlled by the National Firearms Act (NFA) of 1934. There are almost a quarter of a million registered machine guns on the NFA log books.

It is important to point out that during the 70-year history of the NFA no more than one or two registered machine guns have ever been used in the commission of a felony. This is a remarkable record matched by no other classification of firearms.

"Non-restricted-transfer" means that if you, as an individual, live in a state that permits possession of machine guns, you can personally acquire this type of firearm, providing you meet the Federal requirements for an ATF Form 4 transfer (law enforcement certification, FBI fingerprint check, and \$200 transfer tax). ©

munition is very popular with the submachine gun competitors at Knob Creek.

We fired more than 1,000 rounds and there were no stoppages using either Suomi 71-round drums or 36-round box-type magazine. This design is noted for superb reliability.

Based upon the prices that most non-restricted-transfer machine guns are commanding today, the BRP STG-76W Stemple-Suomi submachine gun represents an exceptional value. My only criticism is that it's pretty damn heavy. But, that said, I can recommend it without serious reservations of any kind. ©

ON THE COVER

Have you thought you'd never have the chance to own a submachine gun? The BRP STG-76W is a fully transferable combination of a Stemple receiver and Suomi parts that is, by full-auto standards, remarkably affordable. Kokalis says it's accurate, reliable and fun. Photo by David Hicks



BRP STG-76W Stemple-Suomi Submachine Gun Specifications

Caliber: 9x19mm Parabellum.

Operation: Unlocked blowback with advanced primer ignition. Fires from the open-bolt position. Full-auto and semi-automatic capability. A full-auto-only version is also available.

Cyclic rate: 720 to 750 rpm.

Feed mechanism: Finnish m/31 Suomi 25-, 36- and 50-round staggered-column, detachable box-type magazines and both 40- and 71-round drums.

Weight, empty: 2 pounds (5.4kg).

Overall length: 34.25 inches (870mm).

Barrel: Four grooves with a 1:10 right-hand twist (254mm).

Barrel length: 12.5 inches (314mm).

Finish: Manganese phosphate ("Parkerizing").

Furniture: Beech

Sights: Blade-type front sight can be drifted for adjustment of windage zero, in its dovetail on a steel band wrapped around the front end of the barrel jacket and retained by a cross pin; open U-notch rear sight, a sliding tangent-type, which can be adjusted for elevation only in 100-meter increments from 100 to 500 meters. An optional MIL-STD-1913 rail interface is available in place of the m/31 Finnish Suomi rear sight.

Price: \$7,000, complete with one 36-round detachable box-type magazine, one 71-round drum, bipod and multi-tool.

Manufacturer: BRP Corp., Dept. SGN, 7594 Commerce Lane, Clinton, Md. 20735; phone: 301-807-5234; website: www.brpguns.com.

T&E summary: Clever recreation of a justifiably famous submachine gun that is a non-restricted transfer at a very reasonable price by today's standards.