

U.S. Department of Justice
Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives
Office of Enforcement Programs and Services
Office of Strategic Intelligence and Information



(U) "Swift-Link" AR-Type Machinegun Conversion Device Update

ATF Intelligence Bulletin 21-01

Background

(U//LES) For the purposes of this bulletin, the subject conversion device has been marketed and identified as a "Trigger Control Group Travel Reducer" (TCGTR) and commonly known as a "Swift-Link." This information is provided to help ATF and law enforcement personnel identify the known "Swift Link" conversion devices. Intelligence Bulletin 21-01 depicts some of the known types of conversion devices; however, additional variations likely exist.

Definitions

(U) As background, The National Firearms Act (NFA), 26 U.S.C. § 5845(b), defines "machinegun" as—

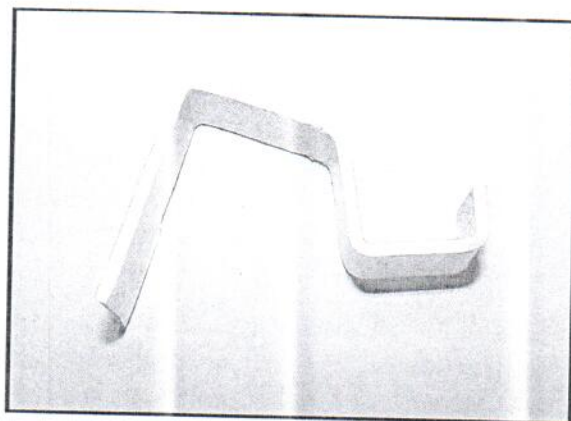
"...any weapon which shoots, is designed to shoot, or can be readily restored to shoot, automatically more than one shot, without manual reloading, by a single function of the trigger. The term shall also include the frame or receiver of any such weapon, any part designed and intended solely and exclusively, or combination of parts designed and intended, for use in converting a weapon into a machinegun, and any combination of parts from which a machinegun can be assembled if such parts are in the possession or under the control of a person."

(U//LES) An AR-type machinegun conversion device can be a part, or combination of parts, designed and intended for use in converting a semiautomatic weapon into a machinegun; therefore, such an item is a "machinegun" as defined in 26 U.S.C. § 5845(b). Per 18 U.S.C. § 922(o), AR-type machinegun conversion devices manufactured after May 19, 1986, may only be lawfully possessed by licensed Federal Firearms Licensees who have paid the appropriate Special Occupational Tax required of those manufacturing, importing, or dealing in National Firearms Act firearms, under the authority the United States, or any State or political subdivision thereof.

(U) Warning: This document is UNCLASSIFIED//LAW ENFORCEMENT SENSITIVE and intended for Official Use Only. It contains information that may be exempt from public release under the Freedom of Information Act (5 U.S.C. 552). All information, analysis, data, and methodology included herein are considered official products of work, owned by the Federal Government and held for the benefit of the public. No information contained herein may be duplicated, reproduced, or disseminated without the express authorization of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF). Information in this report is originator-controlled information as it may, in whole or in part, be related to an ongoing law enforcement investigation involving human sources or law enforcement undercover personnel. Information contained in this report should not be released to foreign organizations or persons.

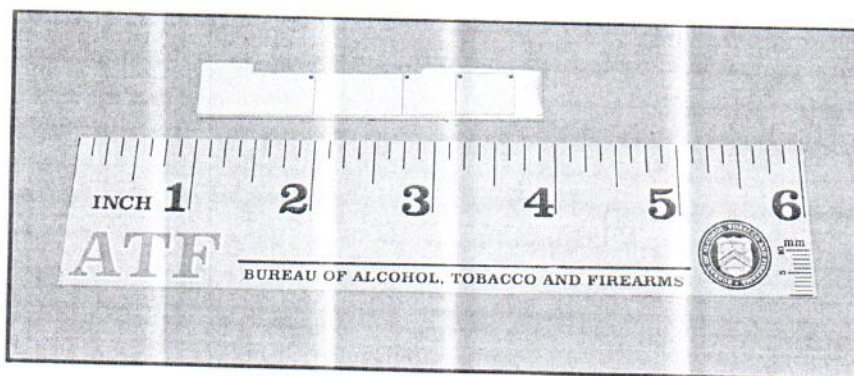
“Swift Links”

(U//LES) A “Swift-Link” is a part designed and intended solely and exclusively for use in converting a weapon into a machinegun, thus it is a “machinegun” as defined in 26 U.S.C. § 5845(b).



(U//LES) Typical “Swift-Link” Machinegun Conversion Device

(U//LES) A Swift-Link is designed so that the rear take-down pin lug in an AR-type firearm receiver acts as a fulcrum point and holds the device in place within the fire-control cavity. When an M16-type bolt carrier strikes the top of the device as it moves forward into battery, the front portion of the device moves down, thereby pushing down on the disconnecter and releasing the hammer from under the disconnecter hook. As long as the trigger is held back, the rearward movement of the bolt carrier will cock the hammer under the disconnecter hook. The forward movement of the bolt carrier will strike the top portion of the device just as the bolt locks in battery, automatically releasing the hammer and firing the weapon. This causes the AR-type firearm to shoot, automatically more than one shot, without manual reloading, by a single function of the trigger. When the trigger is released, the device will stop the hammer in the cocked position, negating the operation of the disconnecter and the device.

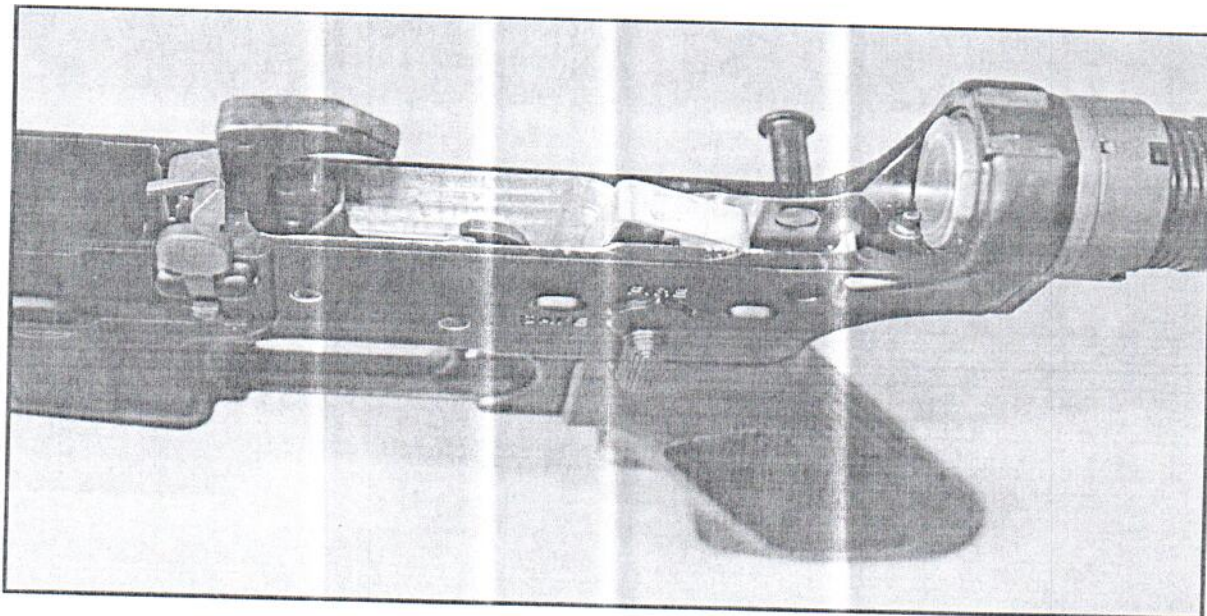


(U//LES) Typical Swift-Link with Template, Prior to Being Formed

(U//LES) Pictured above is an un-formed Swift-Link with attached template which measures approximately 2-7/8 inches long and even in its un-formed state is classified as a part designed and intended solely and exclusively for use in converting a weapon into a machinegun, thus a Swift-Link is a "machinegun" as defined in 26 U.S.C. § 5845(b).

(U//LES) A Swift-Link can be made in approximately 5 minutes utilizing a heat gun to warm the device material and, using thumb pressure and linesman pliers to make four bends at the points indicated by the lines on the template. Further, a piece of metal with the approximate dimensions as depicted above with any of the four bends, or otherwise indexed to indicate location of bending, is also classified as a "machinegun" as defined in 26 U.S.C. § 5845(b).

(U//LES) Conversion of an AR-type firearm utilizing a Swift-Link is fast, simple, and requires little or no technical expertise and the device is designed to function with a semiautomatic hammer, trigger, disconnecter, selector and M16-type bolt carrier. The conversion requires access to the interior of the receiver by partial disassembly through the rear receiver take-down pin, and placing the flat portion of the device in the take-down lug recess area located inside the receiver.



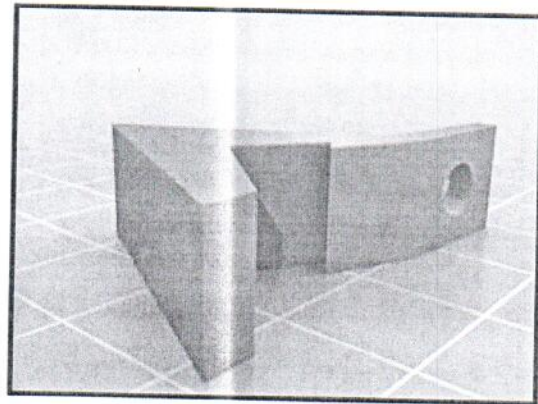
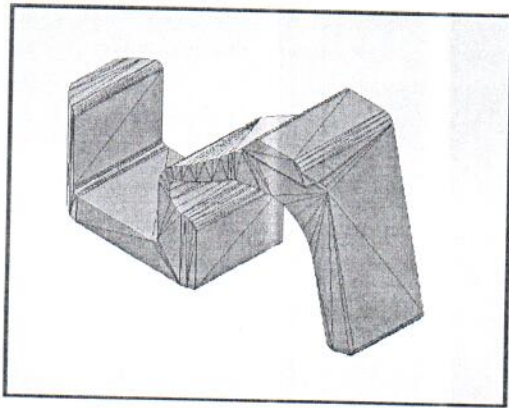
(U//LES) Swift-Link Installed in an AR-Type Firearm

(U//LES) Once the device is placed in the receiver, the upper assembly is re-attached to the receiver. The conversion process can take less than 60 seconds to complete. The installation of this device in an AR-type firearm will result in the host AR-type firearm being a weapon designed to shoot automatically, more than one shot, without manual reloading, by a single function of the trigger. Please be aware, this conversion is not visible from the exterior of the host weapon.

(U//LES) Recently, files have emerged in various internet sources which allow a properly equipped individual to 3D print variations of this conversion device. These 3D printed conversion devices can be manufactured in a short period of time. Exemplar devices manufactured by the Firearms and Ammunition Technology Division (FATD), utilizing a Lulzbot Taz 5 printer with ABS plastic filament, have taken approximately 30 minutes to complete.

(U) Considering the restriction on the possession of machineguns, the demand for NFA items, and the rise of 3D printed firearms, people are publishing and distributing computer aided design (CAD) files for 3D printed firearms, Swift Links, Glock Switches, Lightning Links and even silencers. A group named Deterrence Dispensed that believe that "all men have a natural right to the information necessary to manufacture firearms."¹ The group is well known among the 3D printing community and releases open-source firearms knowledge to the public and claim they will continue to so indefinitely.

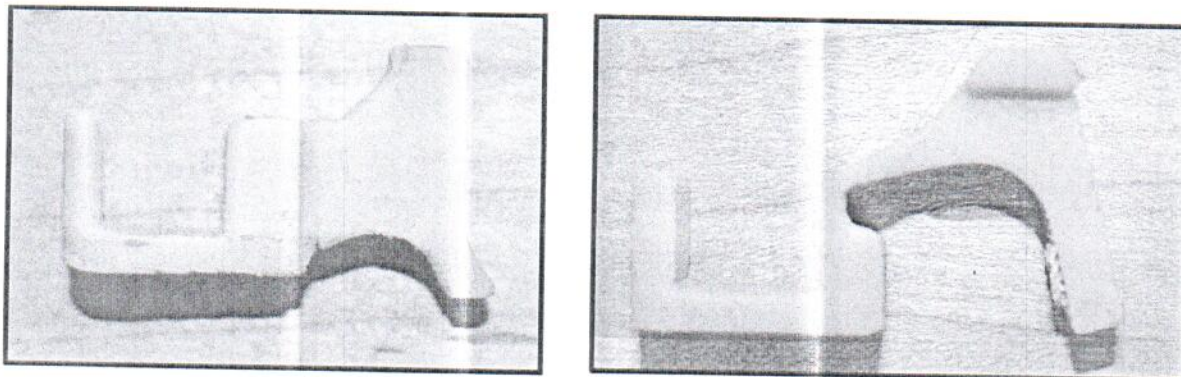
(U//LES) 3D printers are readily available on the consumer market for as little as \$200.00. An individual with a 3D printer can download the files needed to manufacture conversion devices for free from websites such as www.thingiverse.com or www.defcad.com.



(U//LES) Data file renders downloaded from www.thingiverse.com for conversion devices advertised as bottle openers

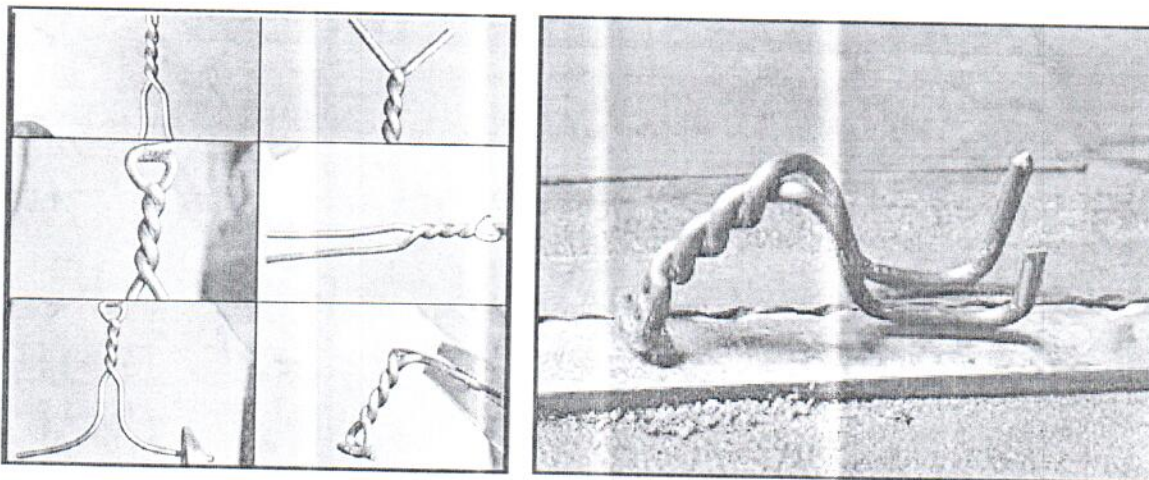
(U//LES) According to the Internet Investigations Center (IIC), Swift Links have been sold on various online websites such as, Etsy.com, eBay.com, Wish.com, Amazon.com, Aliexpress.com, Joom.com, DHGate.com and OfferUp.com. The IIC has also seen private sales on armslist.com, Facebook Marketplace and Twitter. There is a great possibility additional advertisements for Swift Links exist—labeled with misleading names and deceptive descriptions, in an effort to divert the attention of an internet site administrator or law enforcement.

(U//LES) This update serves notice of recently-observed Swift-Link design variants pictured below.

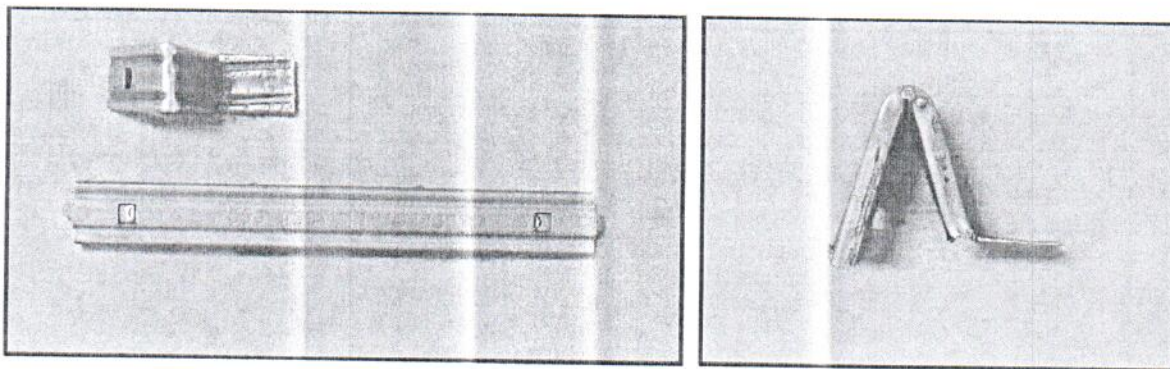


(U//LES) 3-D Printed conversion devices manufactured by FATD using data files advertised as “portable wall hanger” (left) and “bottle opener (right)

[Intelligence Note: 3D printers start at roughly \$200, but require slicer software in order to print the downloaded files. Slicer software is a key element of the process of downloading and printing a Swift Link. Slicer software acts as the bridge between the 3D model and the 3D printer, converting the model into a series of thin layers that are then produced by the printer.]



(U//LES) Swift-Link Made From a Wire Coat Hanger



(U//LES) Swift-Link Made From a Stripper Clip

(U) This information is designed to help ATF and law enforcement personnel identify a known AR-type conversion device. Intelligence Bulletin 21-01 depicts some of the known types of Swift-Link conversion devices; however, additional variations likely exist. If you have any questions, please contact the Firearms & Ammunition Technology Division at (304) 616-4310.

Reference

(U) If you would like to provide qualitative feedback on this product, please send an email to the below address with the product title as the subject line: Fire_Tech@atf.gov. The ATF Firearms and Ammunition Technology Division prepared this intelligence bulletin, with input from the Criminal Intelligence Division.

Notes

¹ (U) [Deterrencedisdispensed.com/about/](https://deterrencedisdispensed.com/about/).