



Test Firing the Pistol that Becomes a Sub-Machinegun

Avi Mor inserted a pistol into a RONI kit and converted his handgun into a carbine-like weapon. Here are his insights on the new product

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RONI Tactical Kit

sub-machinegun, or short-barreled pistol? The question is as timely as ever. A rifle and sub-machinegun offer high accuracy and high muzzle velocity, whereas a pistol has only one advantage—its size. Shortness and compactness enable deep concealment and comfort for the user. The rest are just drawbacks.

Can the advantages of the two types of weapons be combined? This is the question that occupied me when I came to test the RONI carbine tactical kit, made by the Israeli company CAA Tactical. The kit is designed to convert a pistol into a sub-machinegun, or to be more exact, a carbine.

Pistol or Rifle?

Using a long gun often depends on operational needs and the risks facing the person carrying the weapon. Under certain conditions, persons carrying long weapons need to conceal them, not under a coat, but in a suitcase that enables fairly quick access to the weapon. In general, any type of weapon can be used in response to the surprise initiative of another party. Security guards, police officers, soldiers, and law-abiding citizens who carry firearms for self-defense need to respond immediately and effectively.

Today's high-capacity pistols, with magazines that hold 15–18 bullets with diameters of 9 mm or .40 S&W, can still be tucked deeply away in a good holster or standard article of clothing. The person carrying a concealed pistol can perform daily tasks, without discomfort if the correct diameter of the pistol and operating mechanism were chosen and the person is highly trained in operating the weapon.

Once the pistol is exposed, all of its drawbacks are revealed. A short barrel, including its short radius of sight, limits the weapon's accuracy to relatively short ranges. Every long magazine, even a clip of only 20 bullets fired from a 9 mm FN pistol, not to mention a 33-bullet magazine for Glock pistols, will immediately compromise the person carrying the weapon.

Another drawback of the pistol is that it is always held in the palms of both hands. If necessary, it can be held in one hand, but perhaps, not the dominant hand.

Modern rifles come in very short versions that approach the length of sub-machineguns. This neutralizes all of the pistol's disadvantages, excluding weapon concealment. A sub-machinegun fires pistol bullets, while an assault rifle fires rifle bullets. As for barrel length, the length of short-barreled sub-machineguns will almost always be twice that of the pistol, and the longer barrel has a direct influence on greater accuracy and muzzle velocity. The sight radius (or sighting line) will be incomparably greater with the sub-machinegun, hence greater accuracy at medium ranges. Most 9 mm magazines in sub-machineguns hold 30 bullets, compared to half that amount in pistols.

Another advantage is that the sub-machinegun can mount many accessories simultaneously, such as accessories for sighting and tactical illumination, magnification, and night vision. By contrast, a modern pistol with a built-in picatinny rail can mount, at the most, one accessory at a time. Every sub-machinegun is capable of automatic fire in controlled bursts of three bullets, each bullet adding to the accuracy. A pistol, like a carbine (although both are self-loading weapons), fires only on semi-automatic.

The RONI

The RONI system is built from polymer casting with a superior quality aluminum stay that supplies additional strength to the kit. This enables a number of accessories to be installed on the system's four rails: on the upper deck, on the two sides of the foregrip, and the underbelly. The system converts the pistol into a weapon that is held with both palms under ideal conditions, or one hand if necessary. It can be gripped firmly at three points, its stability enhances the inherent accuracy of the pistol installed in it, and rapid accurate fire for medium ranges (fifty meters) becomes much easier and simpler.

The combination of rapid and accurate fire, detachable sighting, tactical illumination accessories, quick drawing, concealment of both the kit and the pistol on the body of the person, and the speed with which this can be done are the outstanding advantages of the RONI kit.

CAA Tactical is always coming out with new conversion kits for the latest pistols manufactured. In early 2012, a new system will debut in which the pistol remains permanently encased. This model is designed for security personnel who do not require immediate drawing or concealing of their weapon as the original model allows for. The new model's structure supports the pistol at three points, and the kit has a greater number of accessory rails that provide the weapon with increased tactical effectiveness in the form of fast and accurate fire.

The new system will have more space at the end of the barrel to supply faster cooling to the Glock 18 pistol, which fires automatically, and the Glock C-model, which expels the burning gas upwards from the muzzle brake slits. The system will also be adapted to Glock's with diameters greater than .40 and .45 caliber, which will undoubtedly entail a new kit shape.

When I examined the kit for the first time, it took me a while to figure out its logic and the correct order of steps in order to draw the pistol from the belt holster and snap it into the kit. I discovered that with a little practice, the conversion took only five to seven seconds. This means that a police officer armed with a pistol and sitting in a patrol car, can convert the weapon in seconds to a carbine-like weapon with tactical illumination and sighting accessories already assembled in the kit. If a longer than usual magazine, like the Glock's, can fit into the police officer's pistol, then it can remain close to the butt of the RONI for rapid magazine change during firing. The magazine doesn't interfere with the pistol's operation and is located next to the butt of the pistol in the kit. The system also operates with regular magazines.

In my opinion, the opposite scenario is just as important. Sometimes, the appearance of a long weapon is a deterrent factor. Civilians are generally not permitted to carry a sub-machinegun or assault rifle, but a pistol is definitely allowed, and a pistol in disguise can serve as a deterrent. The transition from an exposed weapon to a concealed one can be made in seconds. The kit disappears into the car trunk without the trace of a long weapon. By the way, leaving the kit at home or in a vehicle is not an act of irresponsibility. Once the pistol is removed, the kit is just a harmless piece of plastic that poses no threat, regardless of how many sights or tactical illumination accessories are mounted on it.

The RONI has four points from which to connect a shoulder strap, and can be put in place by both right and left-handed shooters. The kit offers two options: a one-point connection or the classic two-point connection, according to the shooter's preference. The butt of the kit has five positions that can be easily adjusted so that the shooter can fit the length of the butt to their own body size. Even in the closed position, there is nothing to prevent the system from being used with a closed butt and one hand.

Another note of interest is that the kit is designed for Glock pistols and XD's (known in Israel as HS2000). These pistols have no safety lock and are the only handguns in the world that carry a bullet in the chamber and a belt holster covering the trigger guard. The kit has a trigger shield that prevents accidental entry of objects into the guard that could result in unintentional firing. The operator requires a fraction of a second to remove the guard shield and place the trigger finger on the trigger.

The pistol snaps into three permanent points in the kit without entailing a realignment of the sights each time. A quick release brass catcher can be installed next to the cartridge ejector or a firing shield added for left-handed shooters (preventing injury from spent casings).

Continuous Firing

Most of my shooting experience with RONI systems is with the kits for the Glock 19 and Glock 17.

In other words, I began with a user-friendly weapon for automatic firing, one that takes 35-bullet magazines. By all accounts, this is a formidable amount of ammunition and fire intensity coming out of an advanced platform. The kit proved very convenient for rapid and accurate firing, with the possibility of mounting many accessories. The entire system weighs in at 1.4 kg, which is not much, and is still far lighter than a standard 9-mm sub-machine gun, even when the kit holds a steel pistol.

The shooter can attain a high-speed fire, even after a short training session. The accuracy, with the aid of detachable optical sights, is also very high. So it seems after all, that two worlds can be combined.

**Avi Mor is one of Israel's most experienced shooting instructors and an expert in various firearms. Mor served as a certified instructor at the anti-terror school for over a decade, and is now Israel's only weapons journalist who both tests and writes about cold weapons, firearms, and non-lethal weapons. Mor is a professional advisor to this magazine's supplementary Small-Arms.

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Dr. Eitan Yudilevich, Executive Director of the BIRD Foundation (Photo: PR)

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