C. A. NEWMAN.

AUTOMATIC GUN.

APPLICATION FILED MAY 16, 1918.

1,307,594.

Patented June 24, 1919.

2 SHEETS—SHEET 1.

Fig. 1.

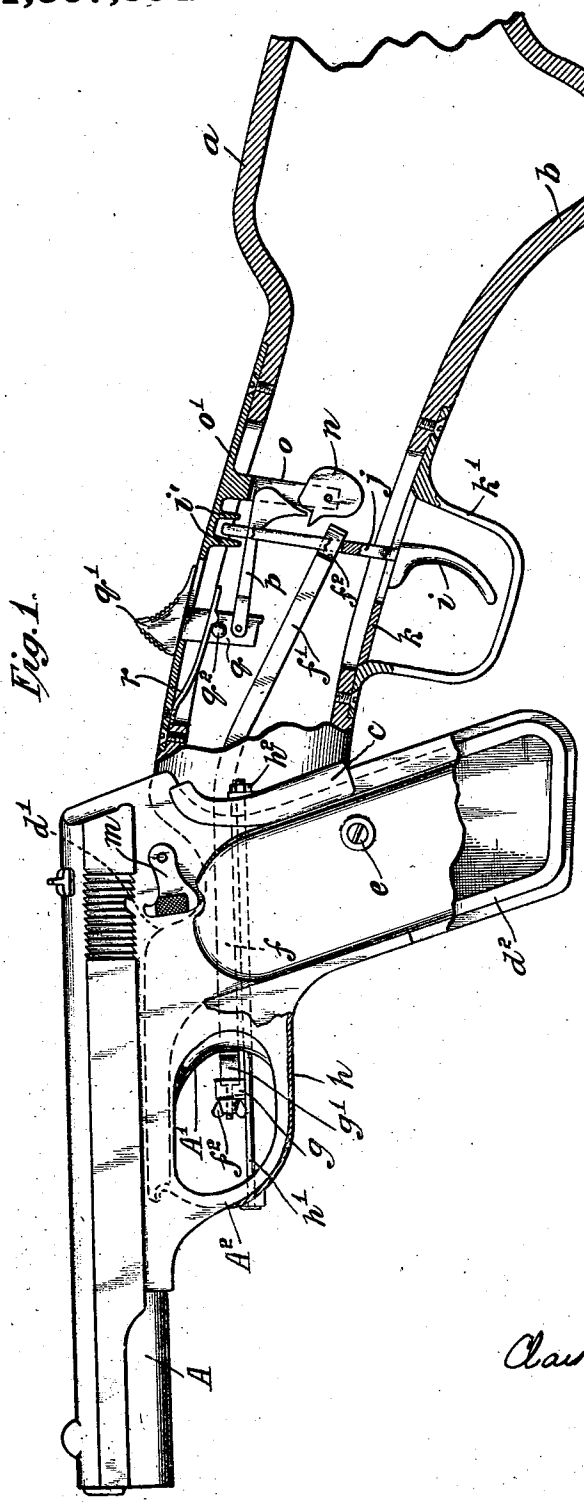
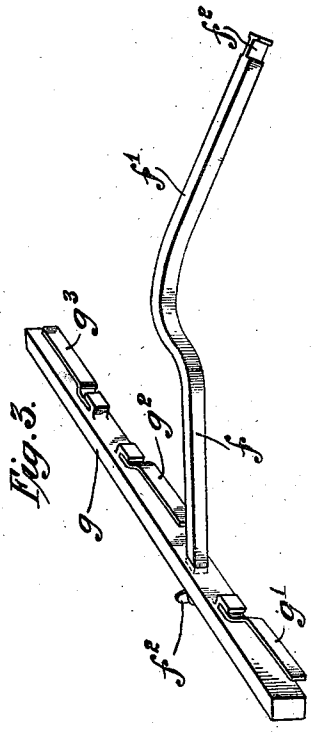


Fig. 3.



Chas A. Newman INVENTOR

BY Chas P. Wentworth

his ATTORNEY.

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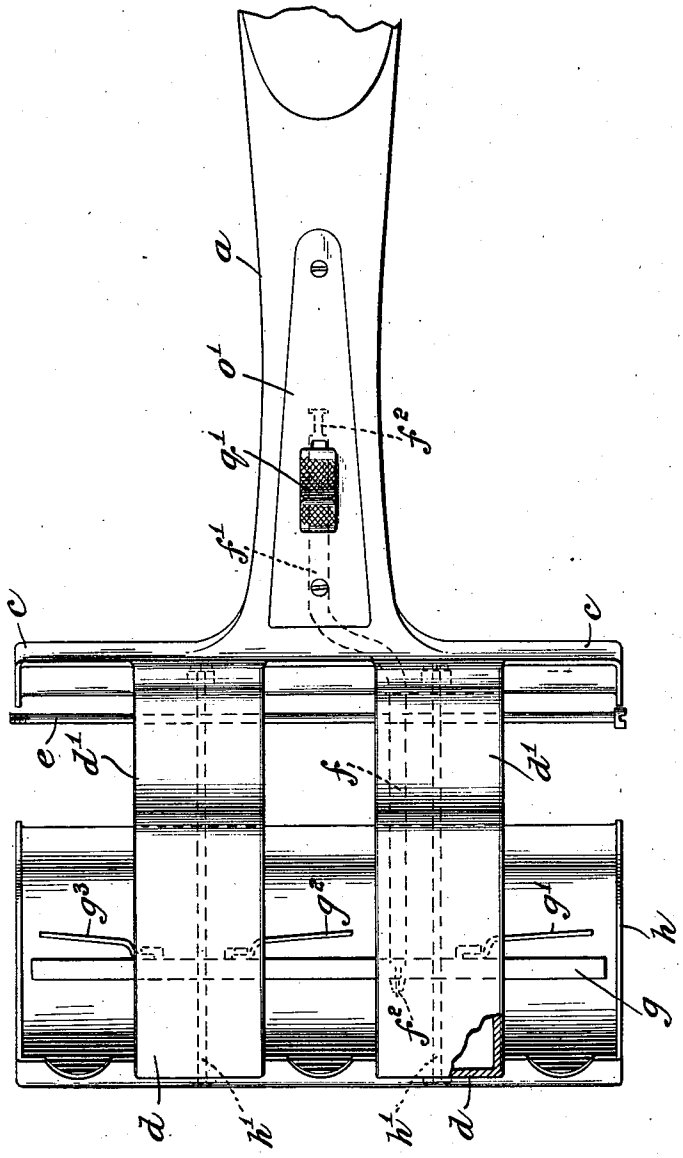
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2 SHEETS—SHEET 2.

Fig. 2.



Clark A. Newman INVENTOR

Frank P. Weyerstall BY his ATTORNEY.

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

CLARK A. NEWMAN, OF NEW YORK, N. Y.

AUTOMATIC GUN.

1,307,594. Specification of Letters Patent. Patented June 24, 1919.

Application filed May 16, 1918. Serial No. 234,915.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, CLARK A. NEWMAN, a citizen of the United States, residing at Long Island City, in the borough of Queens, city of New York, county of Queens, and State of New York, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Automatic Guns, of which the following is a specification, reference being had therein to the accompanying drawings, which form a part thereof.

My invention relates to automatic guns and more particularly to a light weight, rapid fire gun, capable of delivering a number of bullets in rapid succession, or a plurality of bullets substantially simultaneously.

In a gun made in accordance with my invention, I employ a plurality of automatic magazine pistols, which may be of any desired standard design and construction, said pistols being so mounted in a suitable stock as to be capable of being aimed as a unit, and fired either in rapid succession, or substantially simultaneously, by a single trigger mechanism carried by the stock. The pistols themselves being of standard design and construction, each possesses its own shell ejector mechanism, safety device, and firing mechanism, my invention relating more particularly to the manner of mounting and associating said pistols so as to place all of them under the control of a single trigger mechanism.

A gun made in accordance with my invention, may have associated therein any desired number or caliber of pistols, according to the desired weight of the weapon in its entirety, or of the bullets discharged therefrom with a single actuation of the trigger.

I have demonstrated that a gun capable of discharging twenty-four shots in rapid succession, may be so constructed as to weigh from seven to seven and one-half pounds, and that such a weapon may be effectively used at a range of from four to five hundred yards, direct fire. It is sufficiently compact to be readily carried as a part of the standard equipment of the user, and may be conveniently fired either from the shoulder or from the hip, the mass of the weight being so positioned as to permit steadiness in the aiming of the weapon.

To avoid the necessity for using the safety devices of the individual pistol, I provide the trigger mechanism common to all of said pistols, with a safety device which may be used to prevent the accidental discharge of the gun. To include a further factor of safety in the fire arm, I inclose the trigger mechanisms of all the pistols in a casing, which also serves as a hand hold for steadying the gun in aiming.

A further object of the invention is to provide a light, rapid-fire gun which may be quickly produced in quantities, by reason of the utilization of pistols of standard type and construction, associated by means of a support composed of few parts, and of a design which will permit the rapid assembling of the pistols therein.

The invention consists primarily in an automatic gun embodying therein a gun stock, a frame carried thereby, a plurality of automatic magazine pistols mounted in said frame, a trigger mechanism carried by said stock, and connections between said trigger mechanism and the triggers of said pistols respectively; and in such other novel features of construction and combination of parts as are hereinafter set forth and described, and more particularly pointed out in the claims hereto appended.

Referring to the drawings:—

Figure 1 is a view, partly in elevation and partly in section of an automatic gun embodying my invention;

Fig. 2 is a plan view thereof with the pistols removed from the gun stock frame; and

Fig. 3 is a detailed view of the connections between the main trigger and the triggers of the several pistols.

Like letters refer to like parts throughout the several views.

In the embodiment of my invention shown in the drawings, *a* indicates an ordinary gun stock having the usual pistol grip *b*. This stock is made of any light material such as a hollow aluminum casting, or if desired, an ordinary wood stock may be used. Carried by the stock *a* is a frame consisting of an end plate *c* adapted to conform to the rear portions of the pistol butts, said end plate having a plurality of forwardly extending partitions *d*, each having a depression *d'* therein, to facilitate access to the cocking and safety mechanisms of the pistol.

In the accompanying drawings, I have illustrated a gun adapted to be formed of three automatic pistols A, mounted in rela-

tion to the plate c and the partitions d, although the number of such pistols may be increased as desired, the design of said frame being such, preferably, as to locate the central pistol in axial alinement with the stock, so as to permit the use of the sights upon this pistol in aiming the gun. To hold the pistols in the proper relation to the plate c and the partitions d, I provide a lag screw e extending from side to side through the depending portions d^2 of said partitions d, and engaging the butts of the end pistols, so as to hold them rigidly in place against the partitions d. Said lag screw takes the place of the screw ordinarily used for holding the grip plates upon the pistol butt.

When I employ a metal stock, said frame is formed integrally with the stock, but if a wood stock be used, it is necessary to secure said frame to said stock in any desired manner, involving merely mechanical skill, and forming no part of my present invention.

The back plate c will position the pistols A, so that the trigger A′ of each pistol will be in substantial alinement with the triggers of the other pistols carried by the frame.

Slidably mounted in one of the depending portions d^2, is a connecting rod f having rigidly connected therewith a pull bar g extending transversely of the frame, slightly in advance of the various triggers A′, said bar extending through the trigger guards A^2 of the several pistols. To permit the consecutive firing of the pistols, or their firing substantially simultaneously, I provide the bar g with the leaf springs g', g^2 and g^3, adapted to respectively engage the trigger A′ of a pistol, said springs having different tensions. The connecting rod f has an offset portion f' projecting into the gun stock, said portion being extended downwardly at an angle so as to be brought into the proper operative relation to the trigger mechanism.

Inclosing the various trigger guards A^2, and bearing against the forward edges of the pistol butts, and of the depending portions d^2 of the partitions d, is a casing h secured in position by tie bolts h', projecting through the portions d^2, and held in place by nuts h^2 disposed rearwardly of the plate c. The end of the rod f is reduced and screw-threaded, as shown, the pull bar g being secured to said rod by the thumb nut f^2. By this construction the casing h may be quickly removed to permit access to the bar g, and said bar may be removed from the rod f to facilitate the removal of the pistols from the frame for purposes of repair, and the re-assembly of said pistols in the structure.

Acting upon the end f' of the rod f is a trigger i having a floating fulcrum point between the projections i', the stem of said trigger, j, having an opening therein straddling a reduced portion f^2 of the extension f'. The trigger passes through a slotted plate k held in place by the trigger guard k', which is removably secured to the gun stock a.

The pistol shown in the accompanying drawings, is of the breech-loading, sliding breech-block magazine, recoil operated ejector type, provided with a safety lever m of the usual construction, so that any pistol incorporated in the gun may be set at safety by means of the lever m thereof. I provide, however, in addition to this safety device, a safety device operative upon the trigger mechanism common to all of the pistols, so that all of the guns may be cocked, ready for instant use, and the safety device of the trigger i be so set as to prevent the accidental discharge thereof.

This safety mechanism in the form of the invention shown, comprises a cam n pivoted to the forked arm o, carried by the plate o', which plate also carries the lugs i'. Acting upon the cam n is a pawl p which is accurately positioned in relation to said cam by being passed through a slot in the trigger stem j. Said pawl is pivoted to a slide q having an operating thumb piece q' slidably mounted upon the plate o', said slide q passing through a slot in said plate. Acting upon the slide q is a detent spring r carried by the plate o and acting upon a stud q^2 upon the slide q. The cam n is provided with a recessed portion presenting oppositely disposed shoulders against which the pawl p acts.

The partitions d when made of metal, are suitably cored to reduce the weight of the gun.

The operation of the herein described gun is substantially as follows:—

In assembling a gun like that shown in the accompanying drawings, the grips of the pistol butts are removed and one pistol inserted between the partitions d and another pistol inserted on the opposite side of each of said partitions. One grip is then applied to each end pistol and the lag screw e passed through the side grip of an end pistol, the hollow frames of the pistol butts and the depending projection d^2 of said partitions, and secured to the grip of the pistol at the other side of the gun, thus binding the butts of the pistols firmly against the said partitions. The flange upon the plate c will serve to accurately position the end pistols.

The pull bar g is then passed through the guards A^2 of the pistols A and secured to the rod f by means of the thumb nut f^2, thus positioning said bar so as to cause the springs g', g^2 and g^3 carried thereby, to substantially engage the triggers A′ of the respective pistols. The casing h is then positioned so as to inclose all of the guards A^2,

this casing being secured in position by the tie bolts h' which pass under, and act as guides for preventing a rotative movement of the bar g and the rod f. The stresses applied to the casing h by the tie bolts h', will tend to force the butts of the pistols firmly against the back plate c and thus hold them firmly in relation to the stock a.

It will be observed that the safety device operative upon the trigger i, is carried by the plate o in its entirety, and that the trigger mechanism is carried by the plate k so that these mechanisms may be readily assembled in the gun in the proper relation.

In loading, the magazine clips are inserted in the pistols in the usual manner, and the weapon is cocked by the rearward movement of the breech slide of each pistol.

When it is desired to fire the gun, the partitions d and the butts of the pistols, are grasped firmly in the left hand, the stock of the gun either being placed at the shoulder as with the ordinary rifle, or held firmly by the pistol grip b and fired from the hip, or any other desired position. The shortness of the pistol barrel results in the concentration of the bulk of the weight sufficiently close to the trigger i to permit accuracy in aiming.

In firing, the trigger i is pulled in a manner to impart longitudinal movement to the rod f and its offset extension f', thus drawing the bar g toward the various triggers A', until the tension of the springs g', g^2, and g^3, is sufficient to overcome that of the trigger springs. By having the springs g', g^2, and g^3 of different tensions, it is possible to fire the pistols A consecutively by imparting a slow movement to the trigger, or if desired, all of the pistols may be fired simultaneously, or substantially so, by one hard pull of said trigger i.

When the pistols are once cocked, the gun may be fired repeatedly until the magazine of each is emptied, experience having demonstrated that it is possible to discharge twenty-four shots within two and one-half seconds, with a gun made in accordance with the showing of the drawings. When all of the magazines have been emptied, the cartridge clips may be removed therefrom and fresh clips inserted.

It is desired to point out that while twenty-four shots may be fired in a small fraction of a minute, three separate pistol barrels are used so that the tendency of the gun to over-heat, is reduced to a minimum, and that jamming of one pistol can not in any wise affect the operation of the others.

Immediately upon the release of the trigger i, the various triggers A' are released, the springs of said triggers A' serving to restore the trigger i to normal, thus utilizing the pistol mechanism as a setting device for the said trigger i.

The empty shells will be ejected and each pistol automatically cocked, by the pistol mechanism. This mechanism forms no part of my invention, which contemplates the use of any desired type of automatic pistol and is not limited in any way to that shown in the accompanying drawings. In fact the frame carried by the gun stock a may be so formed as to adapt it to any make, or caliber, of pistol.

At a range of from three to five hundred yards, it will probably be desirable to fire the pistols consecutively, but at shorter ranges, it might be desirable in order to incapacitate an opponent, to discharge all of the pistols substantially simultaneously, so as to utilize the additional weight and force of the impact to check an advance movement instantly.

While I have referred to the instantaneous fire of all of the pistols, this is not entirely accurate, since there will be an infinitesimal dwell between shots, sufficient to avoid the development of an accumulated recoil of the gun as a whole.

If it be desired to use only one pistol, the safety levers m of the other pistols may be so set as to prevent said other pistols being discharged with the actuation of the trigger i. If, however, it be desired to have the gun in readiness for immediate discharge, and yet set at safety, the slide q is pulled back by means of the thumb piece q', the rearward movement actuating the cam n in a manner to interpose it in the path of the extension f', to prevent the actuation of the trigger i and the pull bar g. The detent spring r acting upon the stud q^2, serves merely to maintain the slide q in either position in which it is set.

By using a floating fulcrum point for the lever stem j, the assembling of the gun is very much simplified.

The location of the thumb piece q' makes it readily accessible to the thumb of the right hand.

It will be observed that the trigger i and its appurtenances, compose but few parts, so associated and combined as to operate with certainty and not be subject to disarrangement or breakage.

Under conditions of hard usage, it may be necessary to provide additional stay devices for the pistols A, although I have found in practice that the structure shown holds the pistols firmly in the frame and that they have no tendency to become sufficiently loose in use to affect the accuracy of aim.

It is not my intention to limit the invention to the precise details of construction shown in the accompanying drawings, it being apparent that such may be varied without departing from the spirit and scope of the invention.

Having described the invention what I

claim as new, and desire to have protected by Letters Patent, is:—

1. An automatic gun embodying therein a gun stock, a frame adapted to receive and retain the butts of a plurality of pistols carried thereby, a plurality of automatic magazine pistols mounted in said frame, a trigger mechanism carried by said stock, and connections between said trigger mechanism and the triggers of said pistols respectively.

2. An automatic gun embodying therein a gun stock, a frame adapted to receive and retain the butts of a plurality of pistols carried thereby, a plurality of automatic magazine pistols mounted in said frame, a trigger carried by said stock, a pull bar adapted to operatively engage the triggers of all of said pistols, and a connecting rod operatively connected with said pull bar and said first named trigger.

3. An automatic gun embodying therein a gun stock, a frame adapted to receive and retain the butts of a plurality of pistols carried thereby, a plurality of automatic magazine pistols mounted in said frame, a trigger carried by said stock, a pull bar, a plurality of spring members carried by said pull bar, and adapted to operatively engage the trigger of a pistol, respectively, and a connecting rod operatively connected with said pull bar and said first named trigger.

4. An automatic gun embodying therein a gun stock, a frame adapted to receive and retain the butts of a plurality of pistols carried thereby, a plurality of automatic magazine pistols mounted in said frame, a trigger mechanism carried by said stock, connections between said trigger mechanism and the triggers of said pistols respectively, and means included in said connections whereby said pistols may be fired consecutively, or substantially simultaneously.

5. An automatic gun embodying therein a gun stock, a frame adapted to receive and retain the butts of a plurality of pistols carried thereby, a plurality of automatic magazine pistols mounted in said frame, a trigger carried by said stock, a pull bar, a plurality of spring members carried by said pull bar, and adapted to operatively engage the trigger of a pistol, respectively, said springs being of different tensions, whereby said pistols may be discharged consecutively, or substantially simultaneously, and a connecting rod operatively connected with said pull bar and said first named trigger.

6. An automatic gun embodying therein a gun stock, a frame carried thereby comprising a back plate adapted to engage the rear of a plurality of pistol butts, and a plurality of substantially parallel partitions extending substantially at right angles to said plate, a plurality of automatic magazine pistols mounted adjacent said partitions, with their butts in engagement with said end plate, means adapted to secure said pistols in relation to said frame, a trigger mechanism carried by said stock, and connections between said trigger mechanism and the triggers of said pistols respectively.

7. An automatic gun embodying therein a gun stock, a frame carried thereby comprising a back plate adapted to engage the rear of a plurality of pistol butts, and a plurality of substantially parallel partitions extending substantially at right angles to said plate, a plurality of automatic magazine pistols mounted adjacent said partitions, with their butts in engagement with said end plate, a screw extending from side to side through said partitions and adapted to engage the butts of the pistols, a casing inclosing the trigger guards of all of said pistols, a plurality of tie rods extending through said partitions and operatively engaging said casing, a trigger mechanism carried by said stock, and connections between said trigger mechanism and the triggers of said pistols respectively.

8. An automatic gun embodying therein a gun stock, a frame adapted to receive and retain the butts of a plurality of pistols carried thereby, a plurality of automatic magazine pistols mounted in said frame, a trigger mechanism carried by said stock, connections between said trigger mechanism and the triggers of said pistols respectively, and a safety device operative upon said trigger mechanism.

9. An automatic gun embodying therein a gun stock, a frame adapted to receive and retain the butts of a plurality of pistols carried thereby, a plurality of automatic magazine pistols mounted in said frame, each provided with a safety device, a trigger mechanism carried by said stock, connections between said trigger mechanism and the triggers of said pistols respectively, and a safety device operative upon said trigger mechanism, whereby any of said pistols may be set at safety, or all of said pistols may be simultaneously so set.

10. An automatic gun embodying therein a gun stock, a frame adapted to receive and retain the butts of a plurality of pistols carried thereby, a plurality of automatic magazine pistols mounted in said frame, a trigger carried by said stock, a pull bar adapted to operatively engage the triggers of all of said pistols, a connecting rod operatively connected with said pull bar and said first named trigger, a cam mounted to operatively engage said connecting rod, a spring controlled slide having a thumb piece thereon, exposed exteriorly of said stock, and a pawl carried by said slide, and adapted to operatively engage said cam, whereby the actuation of said pull bar may be prevented.

11. An automatic gun embodying therein a gun stock, a frame adapted to receive and

retain the butts of a plurality of pistols carried thereby, a plurality of automatic magazine pistols mounted in said frame, a trigger carried by said stock, a pull bar adapted to operatively engage the triggers of all of said pistols, and a connecting rod operatively connected with said pull bar and said first named trigger, said trigger carried by said stock having a slotted stem straddling a reduced portion of said connecting bar, the end of said stem being seated between projecting lugs, whereby a floating fulcrum point for said trigger is provided.

In witness whereof I have hereunto affixed my signature this 15th day of May, 1918, in the presence of two subscribing witnesses.

CLARK A. NEWMAN.

Witnesses:
F. T. WENTWORTH,
A. E. RENTON.