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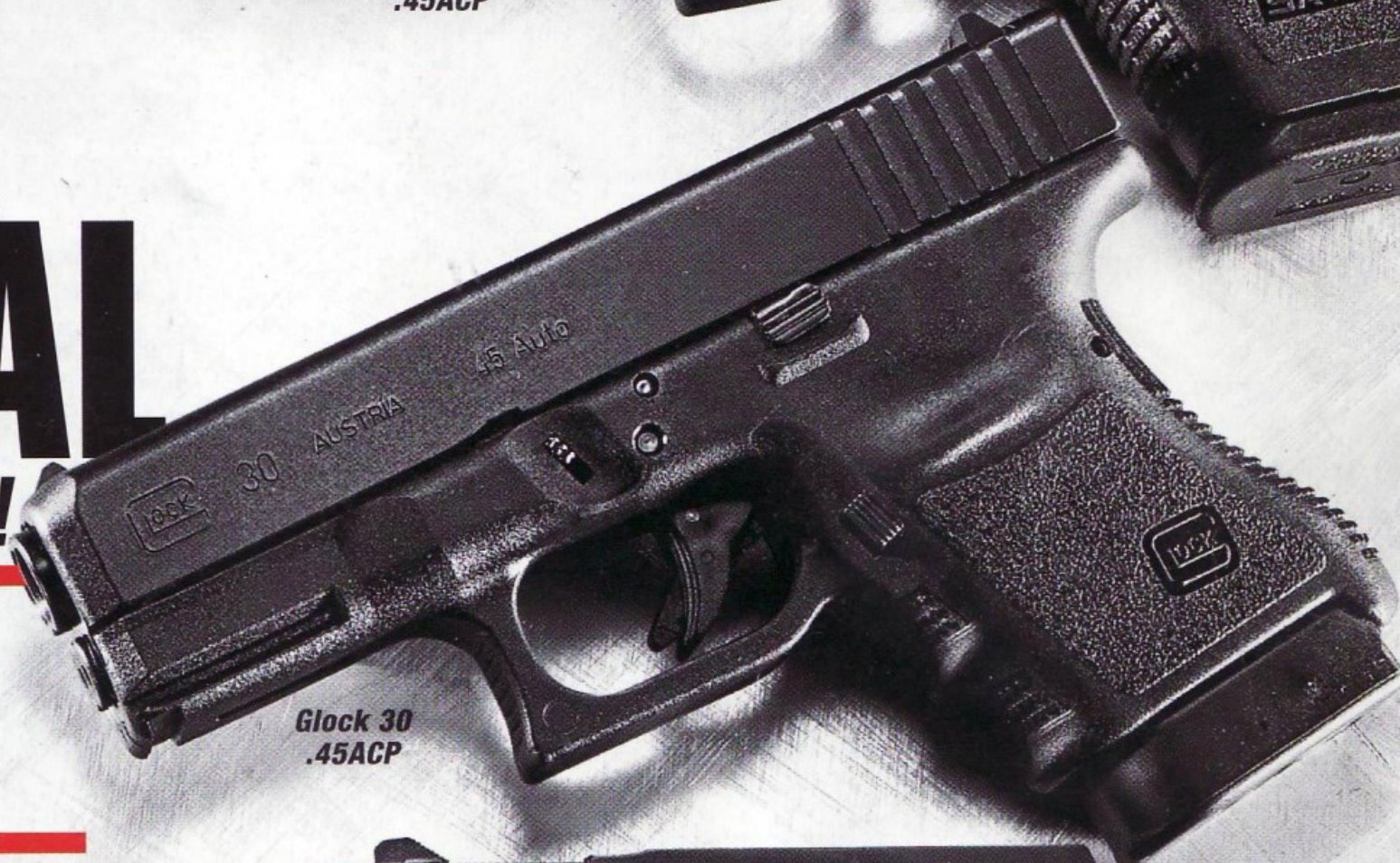
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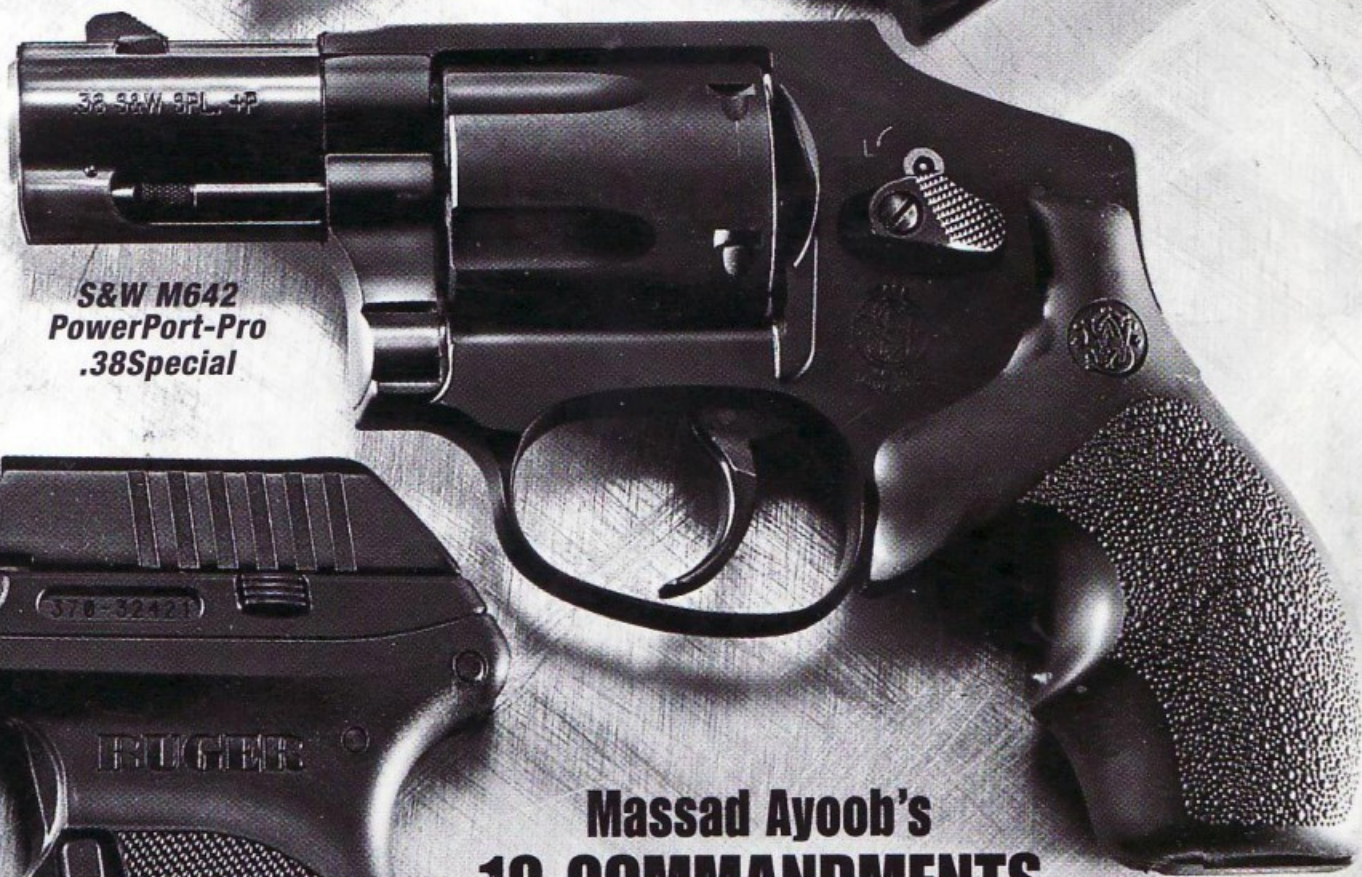
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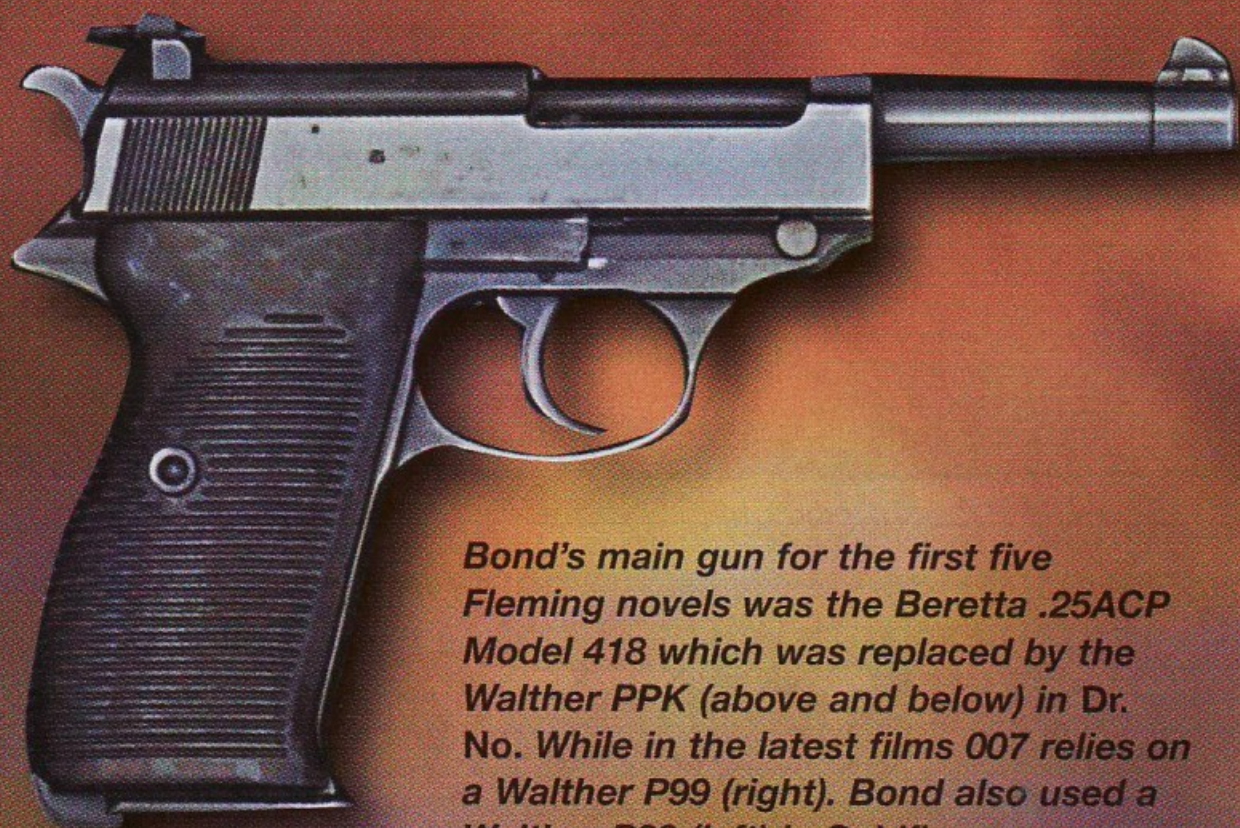


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# GUNS OF



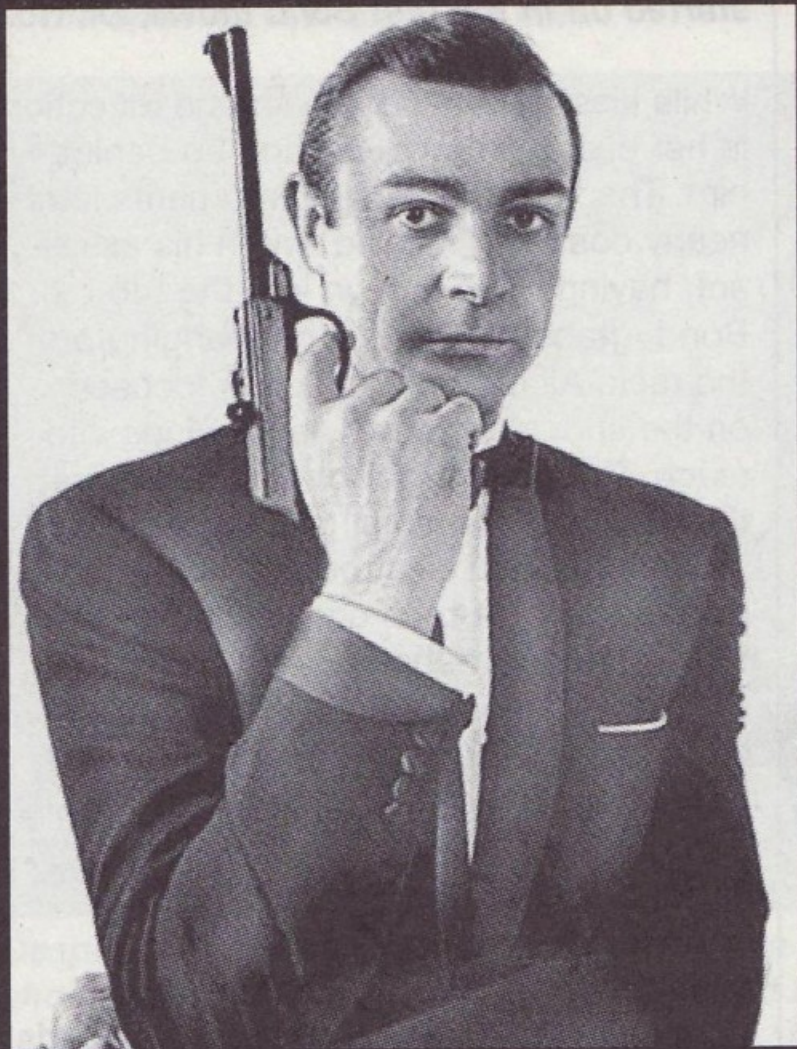
*Bond's main gun for the first five Fleming novels was the Beretta .25ACP Model 418 which was replaced by the Walther PPK (above and below) in Dr. No. While in the latest films 007 relies on a Walther P99 (right). Bond also used a Walther P38 (left) in Goldfinger.*





# JAMES BOND

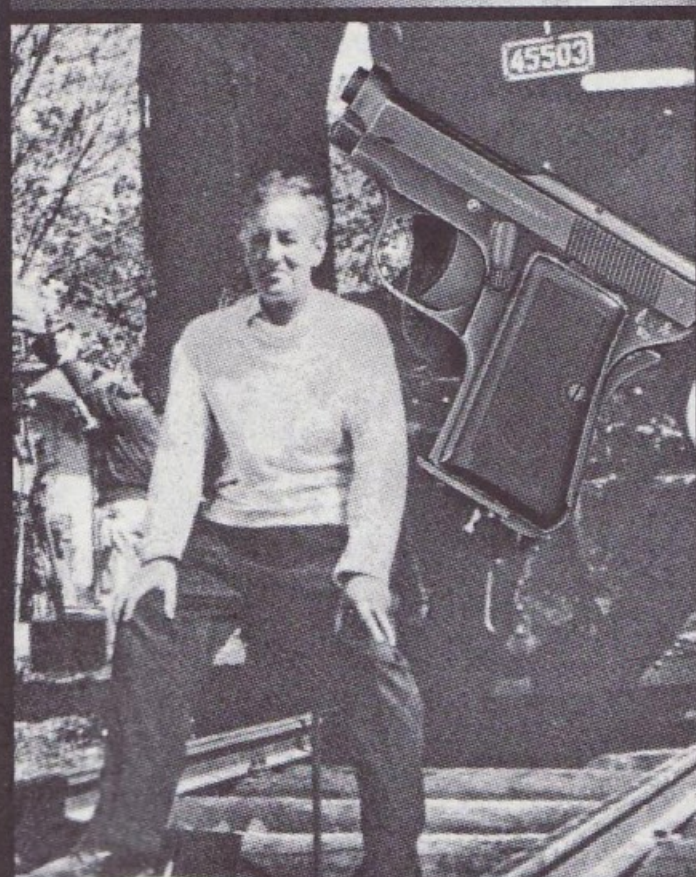
*A close look into 007's guns—we separate fact from fiction!*



**By Dennis Adler**

**F**rom the first time Sean Connery spoke those unforgettable words, "The name is Bond, James Bond," in *Dr. No*, until Daniel Craig repeated them 44 years later in the closing scene of *Casino Royale*, there have been 21 James Bond films, with the 22nd, *Quantum of Solace*, scheduled to open in late 2008. The very mention of James Bond brings to mind the classic image of Sean Connery holding a Walther PPK, but Bond didn't start out with a Walther, not in the Ian Fleming novels, and not even in the movies.

Although much of gun's notoriety stems from the Bond films and novels, 007 began his career with M16 carrying



**Fleming served as a Lt. Commander, and later Commander, in British Naval Intelligence (as would his literary alter ego James Bond). In his WWII undercover work Fleming actually carried a .25ACP Beretta Model 418 just like James Bond in the early books.**



a gun disapproved of by M and more so by the intolerant Major Boothroyd, better known as Q<sup>1</sup>.

As written by Ian Fleming, Bond favored a .25 caliber Beretta model 418 semi-auto. He carried it through five Bond novels: *Casino Royale*, *Live and Let Die*, *Moonraker*, *Diamonds Are Forever*, and *From Russia With Love*. He was ordered to turn in the Beretta and replace it with the Walther PPK in *Dr. No*, the sixth Bond story written by Fleming in 1958. In the Bond films, which were made out of order, this takes place in M's office at the beginning of *Dr. No*, the first Bond film.

Ian Fleming's life as a novelist began after World War II, and his creation of James Bond was based in part on his real experiences as a Lt. Commander,



## GUNS OF JAMES BOND

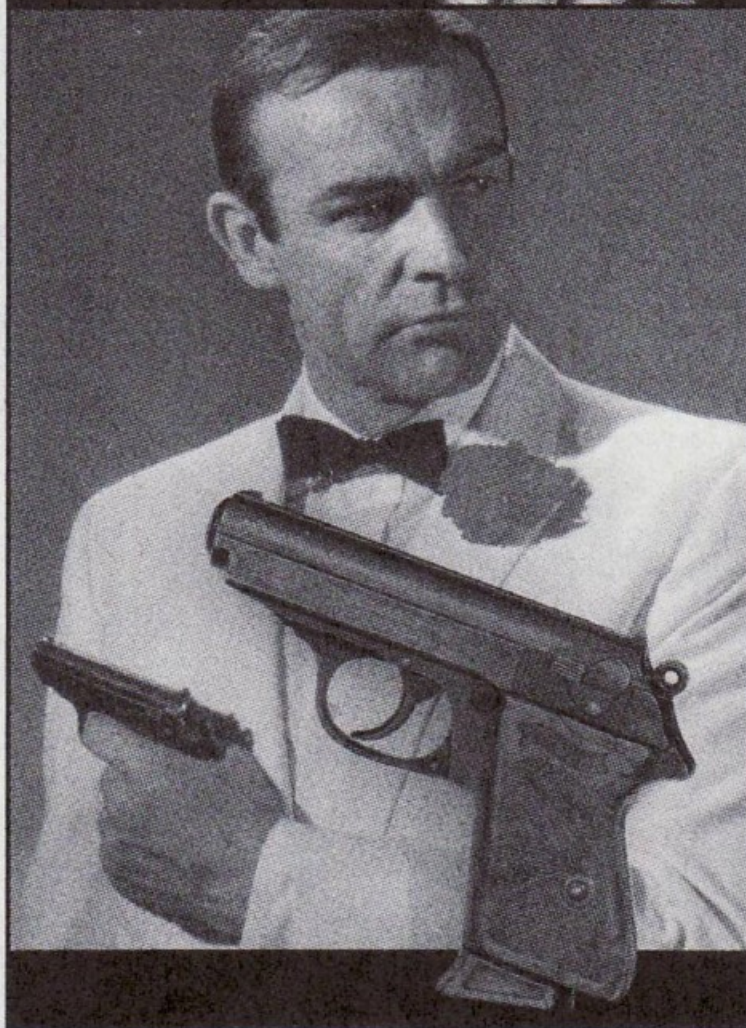
and later Commander, in British Naval Intelligence (as would his literary alter ego James Bond). One of Fleming's later book titles was actually the name of a special operation he had conceived during WWII, Operation Goldeneye. When Fleming wrote *Casino Royale* he had no idea his later books would be so successful and when he first described Bond carrying a Beretta 418 in a flat chamois leather holster, it seemed perfectly reasonable since Fleming had himself carried a Beretta .25ACP during the war.

Fleming, who was born 100 years ago in May 1908, gave Bond a greater variety of firearms than his cinematic counterparts have carried. Most of the books were written in the postwar Fifties, so his perspectives on firearms were quite different. Fleming liked Colts and wrote that 007 used a long barrel ".45 Army Special" in *Casino Royale*. The Colt turned up again in *Moonraker*. Although Fleming called it .45 Army Special, the model was never chambered in .45 Colt. The double-action Colt described by Fleming was more than likely a Colt New Service model. Bond kept it under the dashboard of his prewar era Bentley (which at the time Fleming wrote the books wasn't really that old) and when MI6 replaced Bond's Amherst-Villiers supercharged Bentley with the Aston Martin DB5 in *Goldfinger*, he stashed the big Colt .45 in a hidden compartment under the driver's seat. Fleming also armed his secret agent with a .38 Colt Detective Special in *Moonraker*, and a Smith & Wesson Centennial Airweight in *Dr. No*, along with the newly acquired Walther PPK.

Holsters were seldom a focal point in Bond movies until the opening sequence in *Goldfinger* when 007 takes off his shoulder holster and hangs it over a wooden towel rack next to a bathtub, which had been filled a moment before by a very lovely and wet young woman.



**Note the size difference of the concealable .25ACP Beretta Model 418 used in the early Bond films compared to the .45 Colt DA revolver (top). The Beretta started off in the first Bond movie, *Dr. No*.**



**From *Dr. No* until he retired from Bond films, the first time in 1967, after *You Only Live Twice*, Sean Connery popularized the Walther PPK as the ultimate secret agent's gun. George Lazenby, Roger Moore, Timothy Dalton, and Pierce Brosnan carried on the tradition until 1997's *Tomorrow Never Dies* when Bond trades up to a Walther P99.**



**In the last two Bond films starring Pierce Brosnan, *Tomorrow Never Dies* and *Die Another Day*, 007 turned in his PPK for a new 9mm Walther P99. No one, however, used the P99 as menacingly as Daniel Craig in *Casino Royale*.**

While kissing her, Bond sees the reflection in her eye of a man sneaking up behind him. The fight that ensues moments later nearly costs 007 his life, when his assailant, having been thrown into the tub by Bond, grabs for the Walther hanging on the rack. All of the attention is focused on the shoulder holster as it swings into reach. Bond, who is too far away to grab the gun, tosses a small electric heater into the tub and electrocutes his would-be assassin. He then casually collects the Walther from the floor, slips on his shoulder holster and jacket and, looking back at the girl and the dead man in the tub quips, "Shocking, positively shocking." Fade to black.

What kind of holster is that?

"The original James Bond movie shoulder rig is a mystery," says noted holster maker Jim Lockwood of Legends in Leather. "I have never seen one like it, before or since it was used in the early Bond films. In the books, Bond used what is described as a chamois shoulder rig for his .25 caliber Beretta. In the book *Dr. No*, Bond switches to a Burns Martin Triple Draw shoulder holster for the PPK, which is totally impossible as there was no Triple Draw made for a PPK<sup>2</sup>. In the film version Bond simply removes the Beretta and 'installs' the PPK in the same holster. As a side note, the Beretta Bond hands over in the film, appears to be a 1934 model chambered in .380ACP."

The *Goldfinger* shoulder holster was constructed of two layers of dark blue suede with the single ply pouch made from a natural color piece of the same material. Lockwood's research of the movies, using frame-by-frame and stop action, revealed that Bond's shoulder

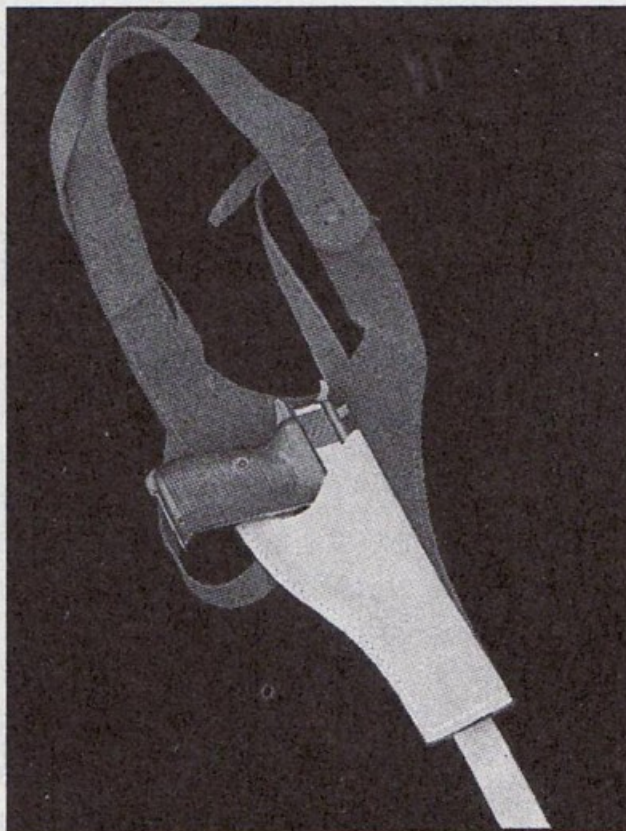




The shoulder holster worn by Sean Connery in *Goldfinger* was a unique design made from very supple suede. The best view of the rig is when Bond is hanging up his jacket in the opening scenes of the film.



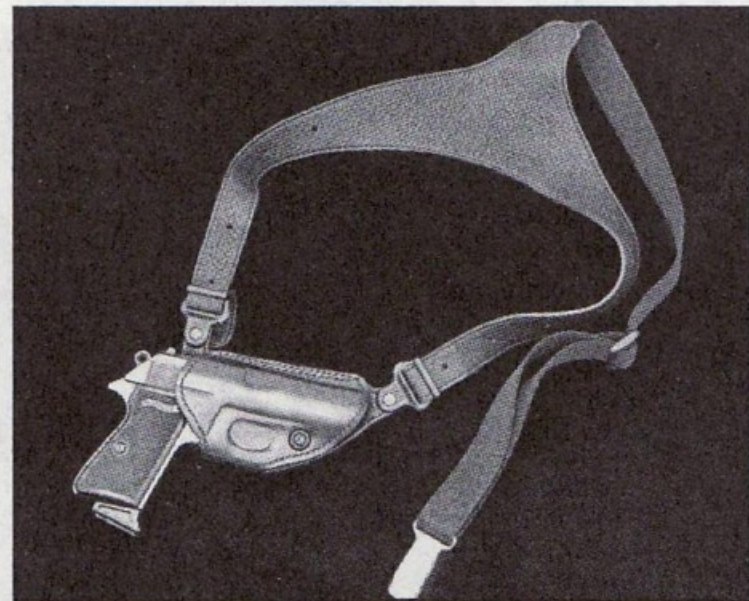
Despite it being used for the Walther PPK in *Goldfinger* Sean Connery's custom fit shoulder holster also amply accommodated a Walther P38, which was used in the film.



holster didn't have any obvious shoulder strap adjustment and was sewn to the holster. The narrow across the back strap is single ply blue suede. "It was likely tailored to fit Sean Connery and made for the movie," says Lockwood. "The holster is also much bigger than is necessary and looks like it will accommodate a Browning Hi-Power or Walther P38." The fact that it would, and does accommodate a Walther P38 is more than a little convenient, as in the nighttime chase scene in *Goldfinger* Bond emerges from his Aston Martin not

with a PPK but a Walther P38. "The holster's belt attachment is also a mystery," says Lockwood. "It is made of natural suede like the pouch, and is seldom if ever is used, as Bond practically never wore a belt, Tux trousers don't have one."

In creating a duplicate of the Bond holster for this article Lockwood copied the pattern and construction of the rig worn in *Goldfinger*. "It is as close to the original as I can get it and it is without doubt one of my favorite shoulder rigs," says Lockwood.



A modern day Bond shoulder holster for the PPK is Galco's Executive, made with a very supple leather shoulder strap and single pants clip clasp, and formed leather holster. Sean Connery would have looked good in this one too!

## Changing Guns

After the success of *Dr. No* United Artists quickly followed up with perhaps the very best of the early Bond films, *From Russia with Love*, the last of the series to rely almost entirely upon on the guile of 007 until Craig picked up the gauntlet of pure physical action in *Casino Royale*. In the Bond films 007 always carried a PPK<sup>3</sup> until Pierce Brosnan stepped into the role in 1995. In *GoldenEye* Brosnan still had the venerable Walther .380 semi-auto, but in 1997's *Tomorrow Never Dies*, he was given the latest handgun from Carl Walther GmbH, the 9mm Model P99, which Craig also used in *Casino Royale*.

Given the modern themes of the latest Bond films, and the fact that we are essentially back to the beginning of the Bond story with *Quantum of Solace*, picking up minutes after the end of *Casino Royale* (the first ever sequel in the history of Bond films), all of the established rules have now been changed. This is a new Bond and one moviegoers have openly accepted, changes and all. At least 007 still carries a Walther.

## FOR MORE INFORMATION

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[1] Major Boothroyd or Q for Quartermaster, was named after Scottish gun expert and author Geoffrey Boothroyd who, shortly after reading *Casino Royale* sometime in 1955/56, wrote to Fleming boldly explaining that the gun Bond was using, a .25 caliber Beretta Model 418, was entirely inappropriate for such a character. [2] Boothroyd suggested to Fleming that Bond should carry an S&W Centennial Airweight or the PPK. [3] There are two exceptions to the PPK in the Connery and Moore films worthy of note. When Sean Connery came back for one last time in the Bond role, 1983's renegade production of *Never Say Never Again*, an independent remake of *Thunderball*, he carried a Walther P5. Coincidentally, Roger Moore also switched to a P5 in *Octopussy*, the "official" Bond film of the year also released in 1983.