



Machinegun Conversion Devices

FACT SHEET



“Glock Switch” installed on a pistol slide. (This is a counterfeit “Glock” logo.) Note: The MCD commonly referred to, and illicitly marketed as, a “Glock switch” is illegally produced or imported by various unlicensed individuals and entities that are not affiliated with the Glock Corporation; the Glock Corporation does not manufacture, market, or sell MCDs for its firearms.



3D printed Chip. (This MCD was made using 3D printing and mimics the Original Equipment Manufacturer slide cover plate, making it difficult to identify.) Note: Chips can be identified by examining the underside of the slide. A leg will extend forward from the cover plate under the slide. A standard slide cover plate will not have an extruded leg present.

ATF is a law enforcement agency in the U.S. Department of Justice that protects our communities from violent criminals, criminal organizations, the illegal use and trafficking of firearms, the illegal use and storage of explosives, acts of arson and bombings, acts of terrorism, and the illegal diversion of alcohol and tobacco products.

Machinegun Conversion Devices (MCDs) are defined as machineguns under the National Firearms Act, even when not installed. MCDs include traditional “Drop In Auto Sears” (DIASs), which are designed for use on AR-type firearms, and more recently developed “switches,” which are designed for use on certain semiautomatic pistols. MCDs are easily integrated with semiautomatic firearms to illegally convert them to fire automatically.

- “Machinegun” is defined in 26 U.S.C. § 5845(b) and 18 U.S.C. § 921(a)(24) 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.”

Machineguns, including MCDs, may not be possessed or transferred under Federal law, although limited exceptions exist. 18 U.S.C. § 922(o), 27 C.F.R. 479.105.

Machinegun Conversion Devices:



Images depicting 3D printed “Swift Links,” which are designed to be installed in the fire-control cavity of an AR-15 type receiver.



Image depicting a “Lightning Link,” which is designed to be installed in the fire-control cavity of an AR-15 type receiver.

MCDs include those commonly referred to as a:

- Switch
- “Glock Switch”
- Auto Sear
- “Glock Auto Sear”
- DIAS
- Lightning Link
- Swift Link
- Selector Switch
- “Glock Selector Switch”
- Chip
- Certain forced reset triggers

Firearms traffickers often utilize the internet to unlawfully sell or transfer MCDs, although individuals can make MCDs by different methods, to include additive manufacturing, commonly referred to as “3D printing.”

Privately made firearms (PMFs) include what are commonly referred to as “ghost guns,” MCDs, and homemade firearm silencers. MCDs pose an extraordinary threat to public safety.

RESOURCES:

Contact your local ATF office for additional information on PMFs, including MCDs, and firearms investigative and tracing efforts at www.atf.gov/contact/local-atf-offices.

ATF website - Definition of “Frame or Receiver” and Identification of Firearms: <https://www.atf.gov/rules-and-regulations/definition-frame-or-receiver>

ATF eRegulations: <https://regulations.atf.gov/>

For assistance tracing PMFs, contact eTrace Customer Service at eTraceAdmin@atf.gov or (304) 260-1540.

For additional PMF Training, email PMFTraining@atf.gov.