

Concealed Firearms

These are examples of unusual firearms, including several that have been combined with other weapons. Guns like these were typically made for assassinations or other nefarious purposes, to avoid strict government controls on firearms, or simply because cleverly concealed guns were interesting novelties.

A small firearm, such as the one on the far right, could be hidden up a kimono sleeve using its attached clip. A firearm could instead be hidden in plain sight by incorporating a barrel and firing mechanism into a short sword, a dagger, or a policeman's cudgel (*jitte*). Firearms were carefully regulated, but short swords and *jitte* were common enough that they would not have drawn suspicion. Samurai wore a pair of long and short swords as a mark of rank, and they typically did not remove their short swords, even when indoors.

The object on the far left was likely not carried at all. Instead, it is designed to be used as part of a trap: its firing mechanism can be triggered by a tripwire attached to the lever at the end of its barrel.