[0006] Optical sights may be used with pistols by mounting them to the slide. Because the slide reciprocates after firing, and does so rapidly, the attachment of the optical sight to the slide should be secure. Some handguns have an optical sight in place of the rear sight and the integral nature of that type of attachment helps to assure a secure connection.

[0007] Some handguns provide a place for the attachment of a particular optical sight. Here, too, the type of attachment, although designed for removability, is still relatively secure because the gun receives a particular, removable optical sight.

[0008] Also, a gunsmith may be hired to modify an existing pistol so that it will receive a particular optical sight.

[0009] As improvements continue in optical sight technology, and better sights become available, there is a need for a system that enables owners to mount any improved optical sights that may become available from different manufacturers to the user's pistol and do so securely.

[0010] One common solution for this need is the use of a "cut" or flat area formed on the top surface of the slide of a pistol that receives an adaptor plate. An adaptor plate corresponds to an optical sight, and provides the interface for the gun to receive that optical sight. A different adaptor plate is required to adapt a different optical sight to that gun. Screws attach the optical sight to the adaptor plate and to the slide below it. This method offers versatility but lacks the security of a direct mounting solution and places the optical sight higher above the slide than a direct mounting solution making co-witness with the existing sights difficult.

[0011] A better way of removably attaching an after-market optical sight to the slides of automatic pistols would be an advantage.

SUMMARY

[0011a] According to a first aspect of the present disclosure, there is provided a device, including: (a) a firearm having a top surface with a first portion and a second portion, said first portion and said second portion being defined by a step, said step having a height; (b) an adaptor plate operable to fit into said second portion of said top surface, said adaptor plate having a thickness not thicker than said height of said step, said adaptor plate having a first configuration including at least one mounting feature and defining a topography of the adaptor plate; and (c) an optical sight having a bottom surface and wherein said bottom surface of said optical sight is fastened directly to said first portion of said top surface and extends over said adaptor plate, said adaptor plate being in said second portion, said bottom surface of said optical sight having a second configuration including at least one topographical feature which is complementary to the at least one mounting feature such that the at least one topographical feature of the optical sight

mates to the at least one mounting feature of the adaptor plate, said adaptor plate being operable to align said optical sight with respect to said top surface of said firearm.

[0011b] According to a second aspect of the present disclosure, there is provided a device, including: (a) a firearm having a top surface including a first portion and a second portion, said second portion being defined by a step with respect to said first portion, said step having a height, said first portion having at least one attachment point formed therein, and said second portion having a first shape; (b) an adaptor plate receivable in said second portion of said top surface, said adapter plate having a second shape, said second shape complementary to said first shape of said second portion, said adaptor plate having a first configuration including at least one mounting feature and defining a topography of the adaptor plate; and (c) a optical sight having a bottom surface and wherein said bottom surface of said optical sight conforms to and is fastened directly to said first portion of said top surface of said firearm and extends over said adaptor plate in said second portion, said bottom surface of said optical sight having a second configuration including at least one topographical feature which is complementary to the at least one mounting feature such that the at least one topographical feature of the optical sight mates to the at least one mounting feature of the adaptor plate, wherein said adaptor plate is operable to align said optical sight with said top surface of said firearm

[0011c] According to a third aspect of the present disclosure, there is provided a device, including: (a) a firearm having a top surface with a first portion and a second portion, said first portion and said second portion being defined by a step, said step having a height; (b) an adaptor plate operable to fit into said second portion of said top surface, said adaptor plate having a thickness not thicker than said height of said step, said adaptor plate having an upper surface with mounting posts disposed thereon; and (c) an optical sight having a bottom surface and wherein said bottom surface of said optical sight is fastened directly to said first portion of said top surface and extends over said adaptor plate, said adaptor plate being in said second portion, said bottom surface of said optical sight having mounting holes complementary to the mounting posts such that receiving the mounting posts into the mounting holes interconnects the adaptor plate to the optical sight for assembly and wherein the arrangement of the mounting posts and mounting holes is configured to align the optical sight with the top surface of said firearm.

[0012] According to its major aspects and briefly recited, herein is disclosed a system for enabling an optical sight to be removably attached to the slide of a pistol or other firearm. The present system provides the versatility of the adaptor

CLAIMS

1. A device, comprising:

(a) a firearm having a top surface with a first portion and a second portion, said first portion and said second portion being defined by a step, said step having a height;

(b) an adaptor plate operable to fit into said second portion of said top surface, said adaptor plate having a thickness not thicker than said height of said step, said adaptor plate having a first configuration comprising at least one mounting feature and defining a topography of the adaptor plate; and

(c) an optical sight having a bottom surface and wherein said bottom surface of said optical sight is fastened directly to said first portion of said top surface and extends over said adaptor plate, said adaptor plate being in said second portion, said bottom surface of said optical sight having a second configuration comprising at least one topographical feature which is complementary to the at least one mounting feature such that the at least one topographical feature of the optical sight mates to the at least one mounting feature of the adaptor plate, said adaptor plate being operable to align said optical sight with respect to said top surface of said firearm.

2. The device of claim 1, wherein said first portion of said top surface is larger than said second portion.

3. The device of claim 1, wherein said first portion has at least one attachment point formed therein and said optical sight has at least one corresponding attachment point formed therein, and wherein said device further comprises at least one fastener cooperating with said at least one attachment point on said optical sight and said at least one corresponding attachment point of said top surface of said firearm to fasten said optical sight to said first portion.

4. The device of claim 1, wherein said first portion has at least one attachment point formed therein and said optical sight has at least one corresponding attachment point formed therein, and wherein said device further comprises at least one fastener cooperating with said at least one attachment point and said corresponding attachment point to fasten said optical sight to said first portion of said top surface of said firearm.

5. The device of claim 1, wherein said firearm has a front sight and a rear sight, and wherein said optical sight and said front sight and said rear sight co-witness.

6. The device of claim 1, further comprising a spring located between said second portion and said adaptor plate.

7. The device of claim 1, further comprising a spring, and wherein said adaptor plate has a bottom surface with a feature formed therein and wherein said feature in said bottom surface of said adaptor plate is able to receive said spring.

8. The device of claim 1, further comprising a spring and wherein said second portion has a feature formed therein and wherein said feature of said second portion is operable to receive said spring.

9. The device of claim 1, wherein said second portion of said top surface has a first shape and said adaptor plate has a second shape, and wherein said first shape and said second shape are complimentary shapes.

10. The device of claim 1, wherein the adaptor plate is one of a plurality of interchangeable adapter plates, each having a different first configuration.

11. A device, comprising:

(a) a firearm having a top surface including a first portion and a second portion, said second portion being defined by a step with respect to said first portion, said step having a height, said first portion having at least one attachment point formed therein, and said second portion having a first shape;

(b) an adaptor plate receivable in said second portion of said top surface, said adapter plate having a second shape, said second shape complementary to said first shape of said second portion, said adaptor plate having a first configuration comprising at least one mounting feature and defining a topography of the adaptor plate; and

(c) a optical sight having a bottom surface and wherein said bottom surface of said optical sight conforms to and is fastened directly to said first portion of said top surface of said firearm and extends over said adaptor plate in said second portion, said bottom surface of said optical sight having a second configuration comprising at least one topographical feature which is complementary to the at least one mounting feature such that the at least one topographical feature of the optical sight mates to the at least one mounting feature of the adaptor plate, wherein said adaptor plate is operable to align said optical sight with said top surface of said firearm.

12. The device of claim 11, further comprising a spring received between said adaptor plate and said second portion.

13. The firearm of claim 11, wherein said adaptor plate has a thickness and said step has a height, and wherein said thickness of said adaptor plate is less than said height of said step.

14. The firearm of claim 11, wherein said first portion is larger than said second portion.

15. The firearm of claim 11, wherein said first portion conforms to a bottom surface of said optical sight.

16. The firearm of claim 11, wherein said optical sight has at least one attachment point formed therein and said first portion has at least one corresponding attachment point formed therein, and wherein said firearm further comprises at least one fastener received in said at least one attachment point of said optical sight and in said at least one corresponding attachment point formed in said first portion, said at least one fastener affixing said optical sight to said first portion of said top surface of said firearm.

17. The firearm of claim 11, wherein said configuration of said adaptor plate includes at least one mounting feature.

18. The firearm of claim 11, wherein said firearm may have a front sight and a rear sight and wherein said front sight and said rear sight co-witness with the optical sight.

19. The device of claim 11, wherein the adaptor plate is one of a plurality of interchangeable adapter plates, each having a different first configuration.

20. A device, comprising:

(a) a firearm having a top surface with a first portion and a second portion, said first portion and said second portion being defined by a step, said step having a height;

(b) an adaptor plate operable to fit into said second portion of said top surface, said adaptor plate having a thickness not thicker than said height of said step, said adaptor plate having an upper surface with mounting posts disposed thereon; and

(c) an optical sight having a bottom surface and wherein said bottom surface of said optical sight is fastened directly to said first portion of said top surface and extends over said adaptor plate, said adaptor plate being in said second portion, said bottom surface of said optical sight having mounting holes complementary to the mounting posts such that receiving the mounting posts into the mounting holes interconnects the adaptor plate to the optical sight for assembly and wherein the arrangement of the mounting posts and mounting holes is configured to align the optical sight with the top surface of said firearm.