Often falsely marketed as a clandestine U.S Army weapon, the King Cobra is a three-shot .22 caliber firearm which has been produced in illicit workshops in Thailand since at least the 1960s. Measuring 4” long, 1 3/4” wide and with a mere 1/2” thick body, it can be easily concealed within a cigarette carton or top pocket of a shirt. The design allows for three successive shots to be discharged using one hand giving it a clear edge over most homemade weapons of this type. The mechanics of the gun are very basic and construction requires little more than a drill, hacksaw and steel plate.

*Example shown open alongside three rounds of .22 Winchester Magnum.*
All pages included should be printed out on 8.5 x 11 US letter paper. Each component template is drawn to scale and can be cut out and glued to their respective thickness of material or used as a reference for measurements. Make sure the ruler at the bottom left of each sheet is 2 inches in length. Alternatively, take a screen-shot and enlarge the plans using a computer program until the ruler is the correct length, then trace the parts needed onto a sheet of paper taped over your computer's screen.

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Barrel block

Cut from 12mm (1/2") thick mild steel plate

Slot 7mm deep using an angle grinder

Front:

Drill through in the positions marked using a 5.5mm dia drill bit. For .22lr, chamber 19mm deep using a 5.6mm bit. For .22 WMR, chamber 25mm deep.

Hinge

Cut from 5mm thick steel plate

Either weld or pin in place

Print on 8.5x11 US letter paper
Latch

Template:

Cut from 5mm thick steel plate

Add serrations using a hacksaw

Drill bottom using a 4mm bit to form spring seat.

Latch spring: 4mm dia, 12mm long compression spring

Assembled:

Secure latch to barrel using 12mm long, 4mm dia steel pin.
**Firing block**

Cut from 12mm (1/2") thick mild steel plate

Drill through side using a 3mm dia bit as close to the edge as possible (Around 3mm in). Keep elevating the work piece towards your drill press chuck and use successively longer bits to reduce tendency to wander.

**Barrel catch pocket**

9mm from front, drill 7mm deep using a 5mm dia bit

Form a slight ramp profile at entrance.

Cut a 5mm wide slot to accept hinge tab on barrel. Once aligned, drill a 4mm dia hole close to the corner, through both pieces to accept a 12mm long 4mm dia steel pin. Corners should be rounded slightly to allow free movement of barrel.
Firing pin holes

Drill three 52mm deep holes at the positions marked using an 8mm dia bit. Drill 5mm deep using an 8.5mm dia bit and using a hand tap cut threads for the first 5mm.

By ‘chain drilling’ a series of holes and using a dremel fitted with a ‘reinforced cutting disc’, three 5mm wide, 30mm long cocking handle slots are produced above each firing pin hole.
Firing pins

Make from a 37mm length of 8mm dia hardened steel round bar

Drill with a 4.2mm bit and tap for an M5 bolt

File down upper edge to a ramp profile

Cocking knobs

M5 x 5mm long socket head bolts x4

Each firing pin channel houses a strong 6mm OD, 1mm wire 20mm long compression spring.
Breech faces

Each breech face (x4) is made from a 4mm length cut from the threaded portion of a 10mm x 1.5 steel bolt.

Use a hacksaw to create a slot for a flat head screw driver to fit allowing each breech face to be screwed in place. On the under side use a hacksaw or dremel to create a 3mm deep, 3mm wide channel for each firing pin to pass through.
Triggers

Cut from 5mm thick steel plate. Hole dia is 3mm.

Templates:

[Diagram of triggers with dimensions labeled]

Seat for a 3mm or 4mm dia compression spring
(can be obtained from a retractable pen)

A 45mm long, 3mm dia pin retains all three triggers to the firing block.
Muzzle-loading adaption

The weapon may be made as a muzzle loader by adapting the chambers to fit three percussion nipples. These can be made by modifying an M6 bolt to the specified dimensions to accept a No.11 percussion cap or plastic cap taken from a toy cap gun ring. An improvised load can be made by crushing matchheads for the main powder charge and loading with a solid airgun pellet for a projectile. The firing pins and breech should be modified for center-fire.

A 12mm long section of an M6 bolt is removed and drilled through in the center using a 2mm dia bit. With the lower 7mm section inserted in a drill press chuck, the 5mm long section is reduced in diameter using a hand file to simulate turning on a lathe. Tap each chamber 10mm deep using a 6mm bottoming tap and thread each nipple down tightly using loctite to secure.