

Stop Gun Oil Buffer Leaks

Dear Editor,

During annual gauging and maintenance on the XM296 .50 cal machine gun, TM 9-1090-214-23&P tells us to fill the buffer assembly until hydraulic fluid runs out the filler holes. But that creates two problems.

First, you get a mess when you put the filler screws back into an overfilled buffer assembly.

Second, you can't clean the threads in the filler holes or apply sealing compound when the buffer is overfilled.

If the threads in the filler holes aren't treated with sealing compound, oil can leak out. As the oil runs low, the firing rate gets sluggish. If all the oil runs out, the gun could fire one shot and stop, or fire at its maximum rate.

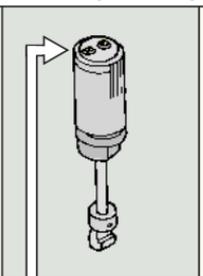
We solved these problems by filling the oil buffer to just below the bottom of the filler holes. That stops the mess when the filler screws are put in and it lets us clean the threads and apply sealing compound.

Then, when we insert the filler screws (with sealant applied) a tight seal is formed.

Stopping leaks makes for cleaner equipment and avoids potential firing problems.

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Oil buffer body assembly



Fill to just below bottom of filler holes

FROM THE DESK OF THE *Editor*

Good work! That cleans up that problem. TACOM-Rock Island agrees with you and plans to add that change to the TM.

