

# Protecting by Deflecting

**A** fix has been around for years to prevent the M240 machine gun's feed tray cover from being torn off when the M1's main gun is lowered. But some units haven't gotten the fix and are still replacing covers at \$250 a whack.

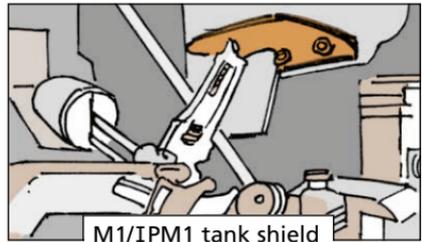
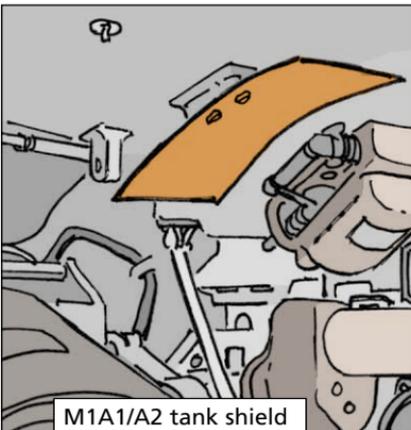
The fix is a deflector that fastens to the turret's ceiling. If the M240 cover is left up after loading, the deflector pushes down the cover when the main gun is lowered.

To make a deflector for the M1A1/A2, cut out a 5x18-in piece of thin metal—tin's good, so is aluminum. Wrap the edges of the deflector with duct tape so it won't cut your hands.

Use the two existing ceiling bolts to bolt the deflector to the turret ceiling. Bend a curve in the forward portion of the deflector so it will push the M240 cover down.



For the M1/IPM1, cut the same size deflector, but attach and bend it like this:



As part of before-operation PMCS, M1 crews should make sure the deflector is bolted in tight. If the deflector's missing, report it.