

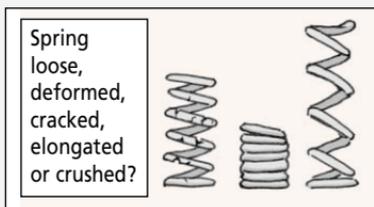
# Steer Clear of Bad Sear Spring

A bad sear spring stops your M2 machine gun in its tracks, as in no shooting. But just two quick checks weed out bad springs.

To get at the sear spring, depress the sear and remove the sear slide. Remove the sear and sear spring.

**Check 1:** Is either end of the spring deformed, or does it fit loosely in the sear or bolt?

**Check 2:** Is the spring cracked, broken, collapsed, or elongated? Set the spring upright on a flat surface and push it down. If it doesn't spring back to its full position, it's a bummer.



If you spot any of these problems, get a new sear spring from your armorer.

# EYES DON'T HAVE IT

Looks can be deceiving. Just because the headspace and timing gauges for the M2, M3, or M296 machine guns don't have obvious problems like pitting, rust, or bent parts doesn't always mean they're ready for action.

Some of those gauges have been in service for years and are just plain worn out. There's no calibration requirement for the gauges, so you can't tell if they're OK just by looking. A bad gauge gives a bad reading for your machine gun. That could lead to poor firing or no firing.

If you have doubts about a gauge, have it sent to TMDE for calibration. Then you'll know for sure. Calibration procedures are in the calibration pub, TB 43-180.

If you need new headspace and timing gauges, NSN 5220-00-535-1217 gets both.

