

HOW DO WE STOP JAMMED MAGAZINES?

WE'VE GOT TO DO SOMETHING ABOUT YOUR JAMMING.

CAN'T HAVE THAT IN COMBAT.

YOU'RE PAYING ENOUGH ATTENTION TO ME...

...BUT YOU'RE FORGETTING MY MAGAZINES!

Dear MSG Half-Mast,

Is there any guidance for preventing magazines for the M16-series rifle and M4/M4A1 carbine from jamming? We've heard it's better to load no more than 28 rounds in a magazine to prevent jamming. Is that true?

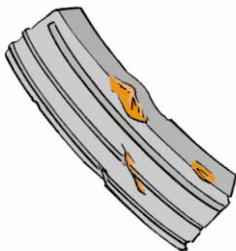
SGT M.B.

Dear Sergeant M.B.,

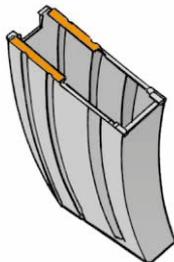
If a magazine is in good shape, it should hold 30 rounds with no problem. But there are many magazines in the field that may not be reliable any longer. Here's how you can tell:

Check each of your seven magazines for dents and corrosion. If a magazine has more than minor dents and corrosion, get a new magazine. Eyeball the magazine's feed lips. If they're bent, get a new magazine. If the magazine's spring and follower have come apart, don't try to reattach them. Get a new magazine.

Check each magazine for dents and corrosion



Feed lips bent?



Never stretch the spring to try to make it work better. That ruins the spring.



Never use a speed loader or jam the feed lips against a table edge or anything else hard while loading a magazine. That can bend the feed lips and ruin the magazine. Bent feed lips can cause double feeds.

Never use a table edge to force rounds in magazine



Load a magazine like it shows on Page 0008 00-23 in TM 9-1005-319-10:

Use the 10-round stripper clip and magazine filler found in each bandoleer to load 30 rounds in the magazine. With the magazine filler in place, push with your thumb on the rear of the top cartridge until all 10 rounds are below the feed lips. Remove the empty stripper clip while holding the magazine filler in place. Repeat until three 10-round clips are loaded.

Use stripper clip and magazine filler to load magazines



PS MORE

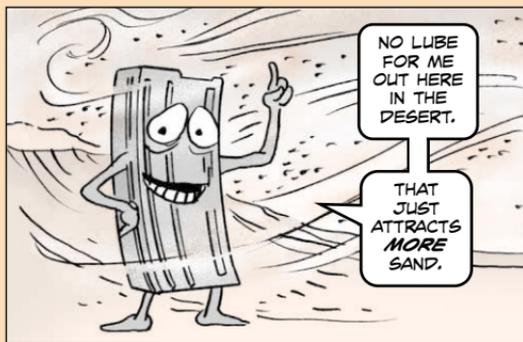
When possible, don't leave magazines fully loaded all the time. Over time that pressure may cause the magazine's spring to lose its spring and then you may have feeding problems.

Of course, a dirty magazine will be more likely to jam, especially if sand is coating moving parts. When you clean your rifle, also clean magazines. Take each magazine apart and run a clean cloth through each tube until all dirt is gone. Wipe off dirt from the follower and spring. If you're not in the desert, lightly lube the spring to prevent corrosion.



But in the desert don't lube any part of the magazine. Lube will just attract sand, which leads to jamming.

In the desert especially, do everything you can to keep sand and dirt out of magazines. Keep magazines in their sealed bags. NSN 1005-00-193-8306 brings 500 plastic magazine bags.



M9 Pistol

Most of this also applies to the M9 pistol magazines. Load M9 magazines by hand. Don't stretch their springs. Don't leave M9 magazines loaded all the time. Keep them clean. Don't lube them in the desert. Disassemble and clean them after every mission. Keep magazines in their sealed plastic bags or the ammo pouch, NSN 8465-01-207-5573, as much as possible. See Page 3-26 in TM 9-1005-317-10 for care of the magazine.

