

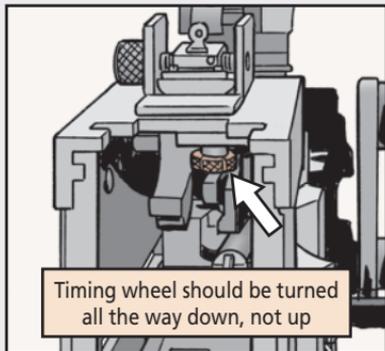
# No Time to Skip Timing Steps

Dear Half-Mast,

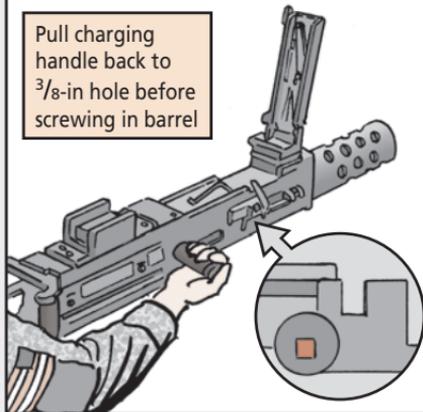
Here at the Ft Leonard Wood DOL, we're running into Soldiers who think they've found a faster way to time their M2 machine guns. Unfortunately, they're not saving time but instead shortening the life of their M2s.

The mistake they're making is running the timing wheel all the way up instead of all the way down, like you're supposed to. Then when the M2 doesn't fire with the NO FIRE gage end inserted and does fire with the FIRE end inserted they think the M2's ready for action. It's not. It's timed too fast.

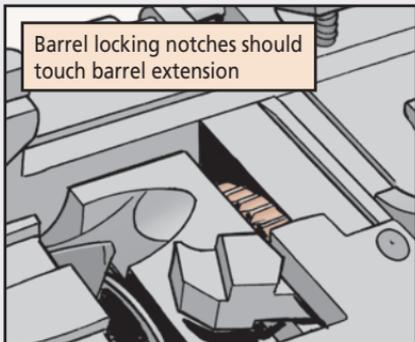
Another mistake Soldiers are making during headspacing and timing is not pulling the charging handle back to the 3/8-in hole in the receiver while another Soldier screws in the barrel. When you don't do that, the barrel won't screw in completely. That means bad headspacing and timing. If the barrel is screwed in all the way, its locking notches will touch the barrel extension. That's a good way to check that the barrel is screwed in completely.



Pull charging handle back to 3/8-in hole before screwing in barrel



Barrel locking notches should touch barrel extension



Gary Becker  
DOL  
Ft Leonard Wood, MO

YOUR POINTS ARE WELL TIMED, GARY. LET'S HOPE SOLDIERS USE THEIR HEADSPACE AND FOLLOW THEM.

ANOTHER GOOD CHECK WITH THE BARREL IS TO TRY TO TURN IT WITH THE BOLT FORWARD. IF IT TURNS AT ALL, EITHER THE BARREL OR BARREL LOCKING SPRING IS SHOT. THE M2 SHOULDN'T BE FIRED.

