

THREADED PLUG IN WRONG POSITION

Dear Editor,

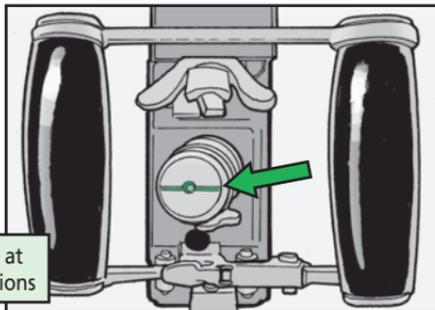
While reading your article on M2 machine gun PM in PS 682 (Sep 09), I noticed on top of Page 31 the backplate threaded plug was shown in the wrong position.

The line on the plug is at the 1 and 7 o'clock positions, which means the plug is not locked into the backplate. In that position, the backplate could come off during firing.

To lock the plug in, it should be tightened and then backed off until the headless shoulder pin is aligned in the notch. If the plug is locked in correctly, its line will be at the 3 and 9 o'clock positions. WP 0024 00-4 in TM 9-1005-213-23&P explains how to do this.

Curtis Bradley
TACOM LAR
Iraq

Plug line should be at
3 and 9 o'clock positions



Editor's note: Excellent catch, Curtis. Several readers also wrote to point out that the M2 was not used in WWI. The M2 first entered the Army in the early 1930s. So it's been doing duty for close to 80 years. And another reader pointed out the picture on Page 31 of the two Soldiers carrying the M2 should have the Soldier's hands on the right completely under the receiver, not partly under the backplate.

Thanks, readers, for paying attention. We'll pay more attention, too.

PALM UP FOR CHARGING

Dear Editor,

In your article on the M2 machine gun in PS 682 (Sep 09) you show MSG Half-Mast charging the weapon with his palm down.

That is something every machine gunner should *not* do. When you charge the weapon with your palm down, your thumb is right next to the charging handle slot. If there is a malfunction and brass shoots out that slot, your thumb takes a direct hit. That could cripple you for life.

With your palm up, though, your hand is much better protected from flying brass. You should *always* charge all the machine guns—not just the M2—with your palm up.

Cameron Clark
Rock Island, IL

Editor's note: Good point, Cameron. This is something that should be stressed during training for all the machine guns. It might save a Soldier from serious injury.