

The Mark of Good Barrel Marking

NO ONE ID'ED THESE BARRELS AND NOW THEY DON'T KNOW WHICH MACHINE GUN THEY BELONG TO.



Both barrels for the M2, M249 and M240B machine guns need to stay with their machine gun so that you don't have to keep firing through the same barrel. That's what ruins barrels.

But that's especially true for the M249 and M240-series barrels. They are headspaced specifically for their machine gun. If they are used with another machine gun, the headspacing may be wrong and the weapon could be damaged and Soldiers injured.

To prevent a barrel mixup, both barrels must be ID'ed with their machine gun's serial number. That way a Soldier can tell at a glance if he has the right barrel.

But how to mark the barrels? Some units engrave the number on the barrels. That's bad. Engraving ruins the finish of the barrel. Others write the number on in ink. Not good either. The ink quickly wears off.

The best way is to stamp the number on a dog tag and then safety wire the tag to the barrel. Order dog tags with NSN 8465-00-242-4804. Your support unit can stamp numbers on the dog tags. If the dog tags have a rubber edging, remove it. The hot barrel will melt the rubber.

The best place to position the tag for the M249 and M240B is under the heat shield where it can't catch on anything. Make sure the ends of the safety wire are clipped off so they can't poke fingers.

