

M2 vs. M2A1 BARRELS



HEY LITTLE
M2A1 BARREL
BUDDY,
HOW ABOUT
SWITCHING
PLACES?

SORRY,
MR. M2, YOU
CAN'T HANDLE
A SWITCH
WITH ME!

The good news is that all of the new M2A1 machine gun's barrels are interchangeable. You can switch any M2A1 barrel with any M2A1 receiver without worrying about its affecting headspace and timing of the machine gun.

The bad news is this doesn't apply to the M2 machine gun. No M2 barrel can be used with an M2A1 machine gun and no M2A1 barrel can be used with an M2. If you try to use an M2 barrel in an M2A1 machine gun, it will damage the M2A1 and possibly you.

How do you tell the difference between barrels? M2A1 barrels have interrupted threads on the receiver side of the barrel, a barrel lock pin (or lug), and a carrying handle assembly. M2 barrels have the same serial number as their receiver and do not have a carrying handle assembly or barrel lock pin.



You can interchange M2 barrels with other M2 machine guns, but of course you then must go through the timing and headspacing procedure before you fire the M2.

The M2A1 does not need to be headspaced and timed when you change its barrel. Any M2A1 barrel can be used with any M2A1 receiver without affecting headspace and timing. See WP 0023 00-1 in TM 9-1005-347-10 for more info on taking care of the M2A1 barrel.