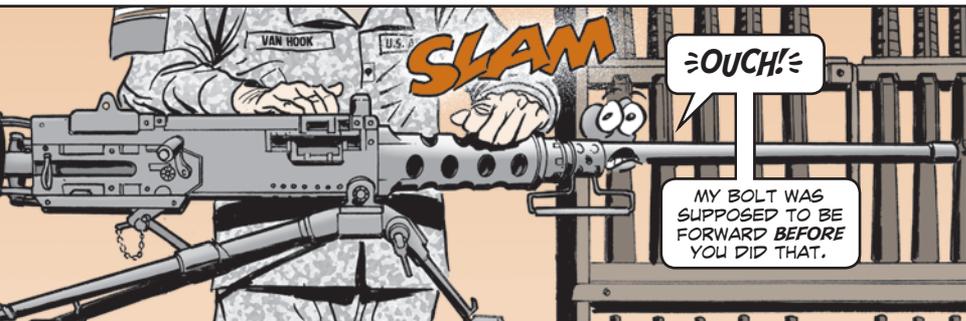


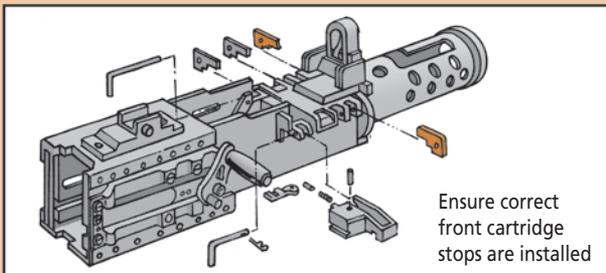
# PROPER M2A1 LOADING BOOSTS BOLT HEALTH



**M2A1** machine gun bolts are taking a beating because gunners aren't loading ammo correctly. As a result, the tops of bolts are ending up with dents, gouges and excessive wear.

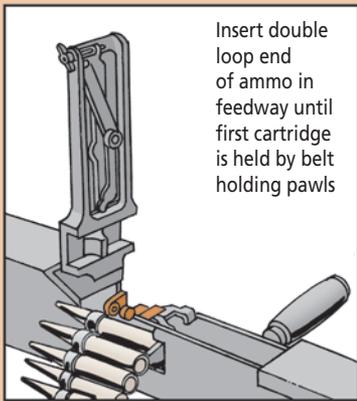
TO LOAD UP ON CORRECT LOADING...

- Ensure the bolt is forward and the correct front cartridge stops are installed.



Ensure correct front cartridge stops are installed

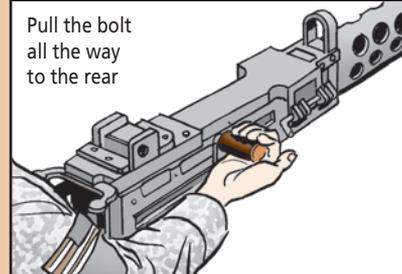
- Open the machine gun cover and insert the double loop end of the ammo belt in the feedway until the first cartridge is held by the belt holding pawls. **Never close the cover while the bolt is held to the rear.** That damages the bolt and feed tray when the bolt goes forward.



Insert double loop end of ammo in feedway until first cartridge is held by belt holding pawls

- Close the cover. Pull the retracting slide handle all the way back until the bolt is completely to the rear. Release the handle. Do this twice if you're going to fully load the M2A1.
- If the M2A1 is set for single shot, the bolt will remain in the rear position, so move the slide handle forward before releasing the bolt with the bolt latch release.

Pull the bolt all the way to the rear



If the M2A1 is set for automatic fire, the slide handle will automatically go forward with the bolt when the bolt is released.

- Press the trigger to fire.

M2/M3-Series Bradley...

## STAND YOUR M242 ON THIS!

I SURE WISH YOU HAD A STAND TO SET ME ON.

I'M SO TIRED OF ALL THIS STANDING AROUND.

Dear Half-Mast,  
We have seen a lot of Bradley units with a stand to set the M242 automatic gun on. But we can't find an NSN for the stand or any directions on how to make one. Can you help?

SFC S.P.

Dear Sergeant S.P.,  
There is no NSN for the stand, but you can have one made from plans that TACOM will send you. Call TACOM's Brian Webster at DSN 786-1179, (586) 282-1179 or email: [brian.l.webster.civ@mail.mil](mailto:brian.l.webster.civ@mail.mil) for a copy of the plans.

*Half-Mast*