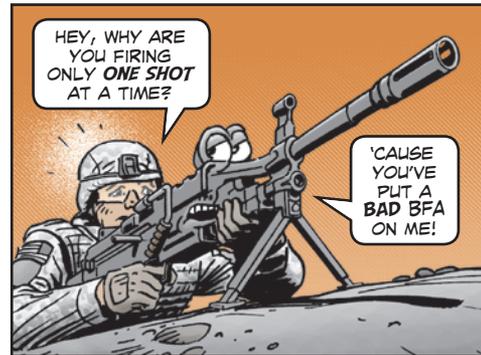
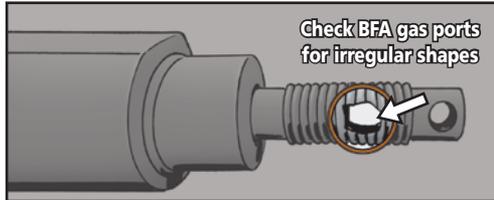


Dear Editor,

If you expect to train successfully with your rifle or machine gun, you must make blank firing attachment (BFA) preventive maintenance (PM) part of your SOP. A bad BFA makes for a bad training day.

Before you go to the field, check BFAs for gas ports that are elongated, egg-shaped, or even rectangular. They should be round. Also inspect BFAs for dents or any other damage. If you find problems, get a new BFA from your armorer.

If your machine gun fires only one shot at a time, suspect the BFA. It's either damaged or installed wrong. Get it checked out.



In addition, you need to make sure you have the right BFA. Some machine guns use a different BFA depending on which barrel you're firing. It's easy to mix up the M16 rifle and M4 carbine's BFAs. In some cases, you can damage the weapon using the wrong BFA. At the very least, you'll have firing problems.

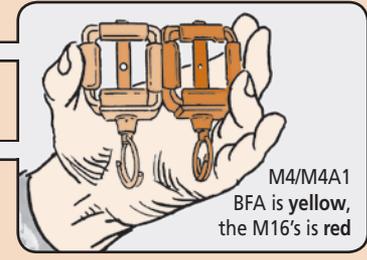
Scott Wayne Taylor
Small Arms Repairman
Ft Benning, GA

Editor's note:
Excellent points, Scott. Here are the NSNs for the BFAs for each weapon:

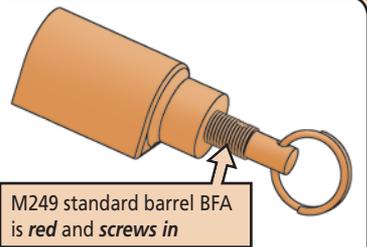
M2 machine gun. Use the M19 BFA, NSN 1005-01-091-7510. But remember that before you can install the M19 (BFA) on the M2A1, you must first remove the M2A1's flash suppressor and install a barrel cap in its place. The procedure is in WP 0002 in the M19's TM 9-1005-314-13&P.

M16-series rifle, NSN 1005-00-118-6192; M4/M4A1 carbine, NSN 1005-01-361-8208.

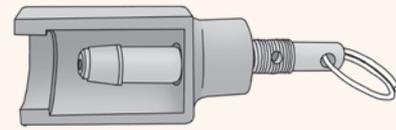
The M16 and M4 BFAs look alike, except for one big difference: The M16 BFA is red and the M4's is yellow. If you switch them, you'll have firing problems.



M249 machine gun, NSN 1005-21-912-8997 (standard barrel), NSN 1005-01-537-0491 (short barrel). If you use the standard barrel BFA with the short barrel, you can damage the M249.

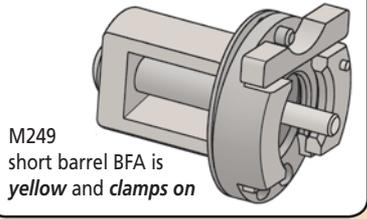


M240B, M240D, M240H, M240N and M240L machine guns. Use the M24 BFA, NSN 1005-01-480-0289, for the standard barrel. For the M240L short barrel, use the M26 BFA, NSN 1005-01-565-6693. Using the wrong BFA can damage the M240L.



Use M24 BFA for standard barrel

The M24 has two repair parts: the shaft, NSN 5340-01-481-8127, and pull ring, NSN 5325-01-480-6849.



M26 BFA should be used with M240L short barrel



M240, M240C, and M240E. Use the M21 BFA. The M21 has three separate components: chamber and discriminator assembly, NSN 1005-01-142-2841; weapons spare parts ordnance bag, NSN 8105-01-147-9841; and the M1-series tank firing attachment adapter, NSN 1005-01-218-0693. They must be ordered separately.

