



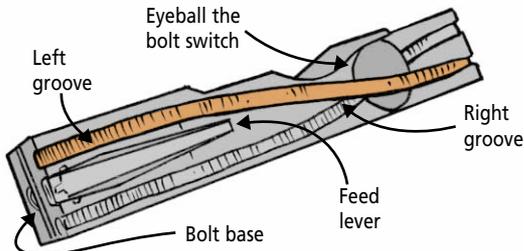
# Etiquette for Good Feeding

An M2 machine gun that can't be fed ammo or whose barrel can't be locked in place is an M2 that can't do much to protect you or your unit. Feast on these feeding tips to keep your M2 spitting out ammo:

**Feeding:** If you get the feed wrong when you put your M2 back together after maintenance, not only will you not be able to feed ammo to it, but you'll also damage the feed pawl guide lever when you slam the feed cover in place. A quick glance, though, tells you if you've got the feed right...if you know what to look for.

The key is the bolt switch. If you're firing with left-hand feed, the left groove beginning at the bolt's base should run through the bolt switch unblocked.

For left-handed feeding, left groove should be unblocked



Right hand feed? The right groove should be unblocked. Always check the feed before you fire.

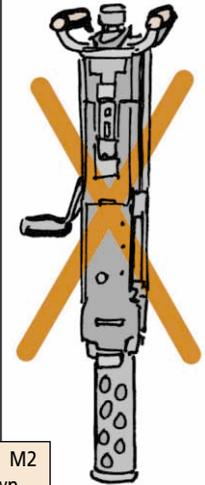
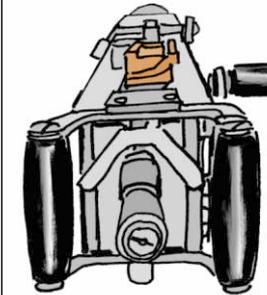
**Barrel locking spring:** If the spring is weak or missing, the barrel will not stay tight and your M2 will lose the correct headspace. If you can easily move the spring with your finger, it's too weak. Report a missing or weak spring.

Is barrel locking spring weak?



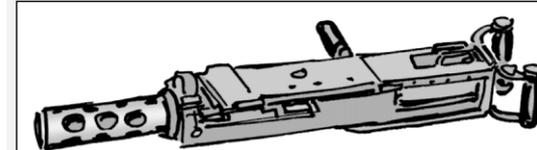
**Rear sight:** The M2 is a heavy-duty weapon, but it does have one weak spot: the rear sight. If you leave the sight sticking up all the time, you'll soon need a new sight. One good jolt snaps it off. When you're not firing, fold the sight down. It also helps if you lay your M2 down and don't set it on end where it can take a fall. And, of course, never drop it. You'll be less likely to drop it if you get help carrying it.

Fold rear sight down when not firing



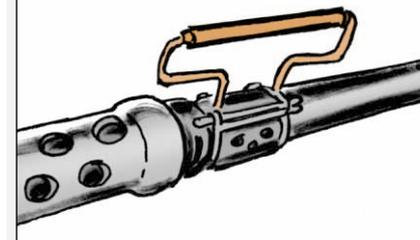
Lay M2 down...

...don't stand on end



**Hot barrel:** You don't want to try to change a hot barrel in the field without strong protection for your hand. Using your glove or a rag will give you a burned hand. The best protection is the mitt that comes with the M2. If the mitt is missing, your armorer can order more with NSN 8415-01-092-0039. He should order extras since the mitt disappears. Each M2 should also have a barrel carrying handle, NSN 1005-00-550-4080. Then you can unscrew the barrel with the mitt and pull it out with the carrying handle.

Do you have barrel carrying handle and...



...barrel carrying mitt?

