

7.62MM M14 & M14A2 (ALSO SPRINGFIELD ARMORY M1A)



HEADQUARTERS, DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY

FIELD MANUAL

No. 23-8

A reprint of the original

U.S. RIFLE

7.62MM, M14 AND M14E2

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*This manual supersedes FM 23-8, 7 December 1929, including C 1, 20 May 1940, and C 2, 15 August 1962.

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1. Purpose and Scope

a. This manual is a guide for commanders and instructors in presenting instruction in the mechanical operation of the M14 and M14E2 rifles. It includes a detailed description of the rifle and its general characteristics; procedures for detailed disassembly and assembly; an explanation of functioning; a discussion of the types of stoppages and the immediate action applied to reduce them; a description of the ammunition; and instructions on

the care, cleaning, and handling of each weapon and its ammunition.

b. Marksmanship training is covered in FM 23-71 and FM 23-16.

c. The material contained herein is applicable without modification to both nuclear and nonnuclear warfare.

d. Users of this manual are encouraged to submit recommended changes or comments to improve the publication. Comments should be keyed to the specific page, paragraph, and line of the text

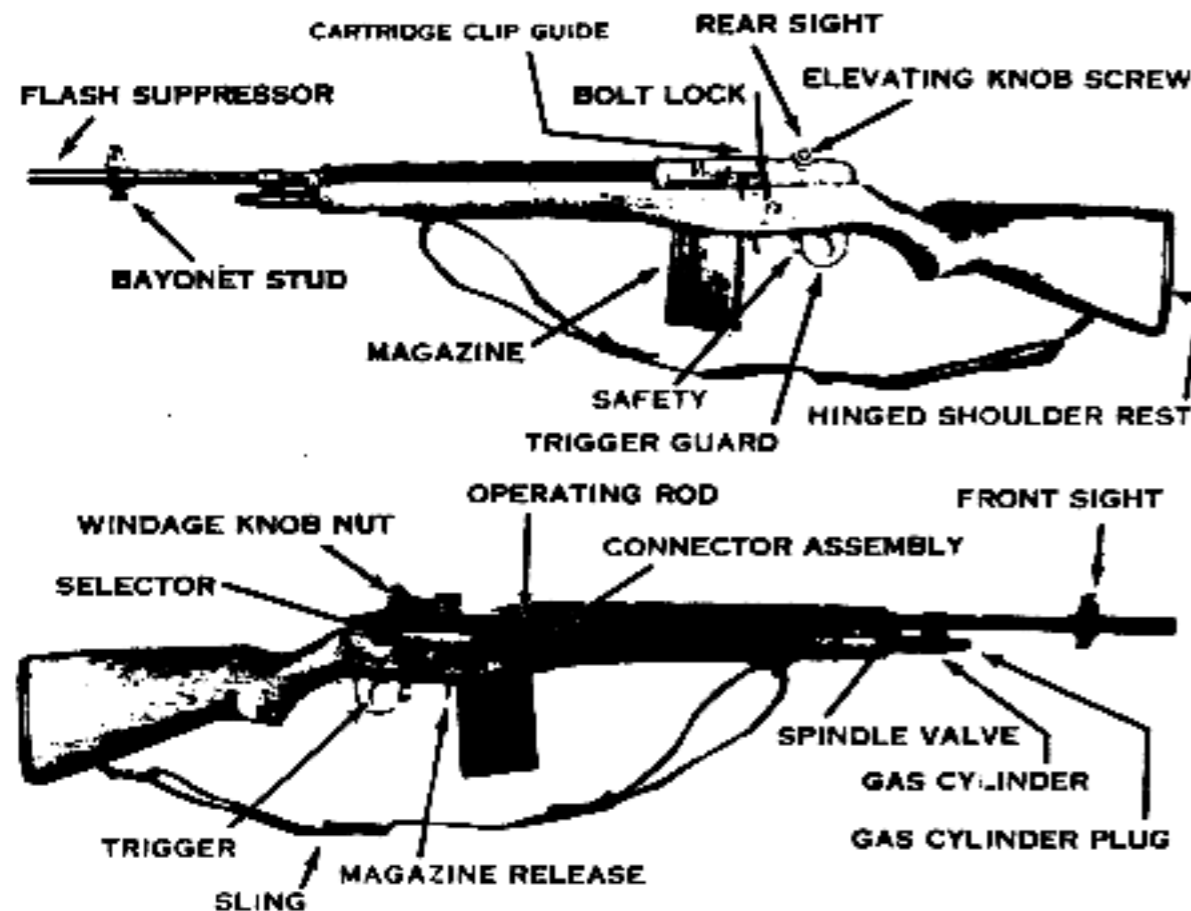


Figure 1. The M14 rifle.

in which the change is recommended. Reasons should be provided for each comment to insure understanding and complete evaluation. Comments should be forwarded direct to the Commandant, United States Army Infantry School, Fort Benning, Ga. 31905.

2. Importance of Mechanical Training

The rifle is the Infantryman's basic weapon. It gives him an individual and powerful capability for combat. To benefit the most from this capability, the Infantryman must develop two skills to an equal degree: he must be able to fire his weapon well enough to get hits on battlefield targets, and he must know enough about its working parts to keep it operating. The Infantryman attains his firing skill in marksmanship training. He learns how to keep his rifle in operable condition through mechanical training.

3. Description of the Rifles

a. M14 Rifle.

- (1) The U.S. rifle, 7.62mm, M14 (fig. 1) is a light-weight, air-cooled, gas-operated, magazine-fed, shoulder weapon. It is designed primarily for semiautomatic fire.
- (2) When employed as an automatic rifle, the selector and bipod M2 must be installed (fig. 2).
- (3) The flash suppressor is designed with a wide rib on the bottom to reduce muzzle climb and the amount of dust raised by muzzle blast.

- (4) The lug on the rear of the flash suppressor is used to secure a bayonet, a grenade launcher, and a blank firing attachment.
 - (5) The spindle valve is used when launching a grenade to prevent gas operation of the rifle, thus avoiding damage to the weapon.
- b. M14E2 Rifle.

- (1) The U.S. rifle, 7.62mm, M14E2 (fig. 3) is an air-cooled, gas-operated, magazine-fed, shoulder weapon. It is capable of semiautomatic or automatic fire; however, it is designed primarily for automatic fire. It features a stabilizer assembly, modified bipod, front and rear handgrip, straight line stock, and a rubber recoil pad.
- (2) The M14E2 stock group is the "straight line" type with a fixed rear handgrip and a folding front handgrip which lies flat along the bottom of the stock when not in use. The location of the front handgrip can be adjusted to one of five positions in 1-inch increments to accommodate all gunners. The rubber recoil pad reduces the effects of recoil. The hinged shoulder rest provides vertical control of the butt end of the rifle. The butt swivel pivots 90° to the left for ease of carrying.
- (3) The stabilizer assembly consists of a perforated steel sleeve which slides over the flash suppressor and is fastened to the muzzle over the bayonet lug by a screw and a locknut. The stabilizer provides muzzle stability and reduces recoil.



Figure 2. The M14 rifle with selector and M2 bipod.

- (4) The M2 bipod is modified by the addition of a sling swivel and a longer pivot pin to accommodate the swivel.
- (5) The M14E2 utilizes a sling with an extra hook assembly. The portion of the sling between the handgrip and the bipod provides additional muzzle control during firing. The portion of the sling between the front handgrip and the bipod allows

the average firer, by applying rearward pressure on the front handgrip, to increase the pressure of the bipod on the ground to approximately 35 pounds, reducing dispersion considerably. When the weapon is carried at sling arms, the sling must be disconnected from the handgrip assembly.

4. General Data

Weights in Pounds (approximate):

M14 rifle with full magazine and cleaning equipment.....	11½
M14 rifle with full magazine, cleaning equipment, selector, and bipod.....	13
Empty magazine.....	½
Full magazine (with ball ammunition).....	1½
Cleaning equipment.....	½
M2 bipod.....	1½
M14E2 rifle with full magazine.....	14½

Lengths in Inches (approx.):

M14, overall, with flash suppressor.....	44½
M14E2, overall, with stabilizer assembly.....	44½

Rights:

Front.....	fixed
Rear.....	adjustable (see click of elevation or windage moves the strike of the bullet .7 centimeter at 25 meters).

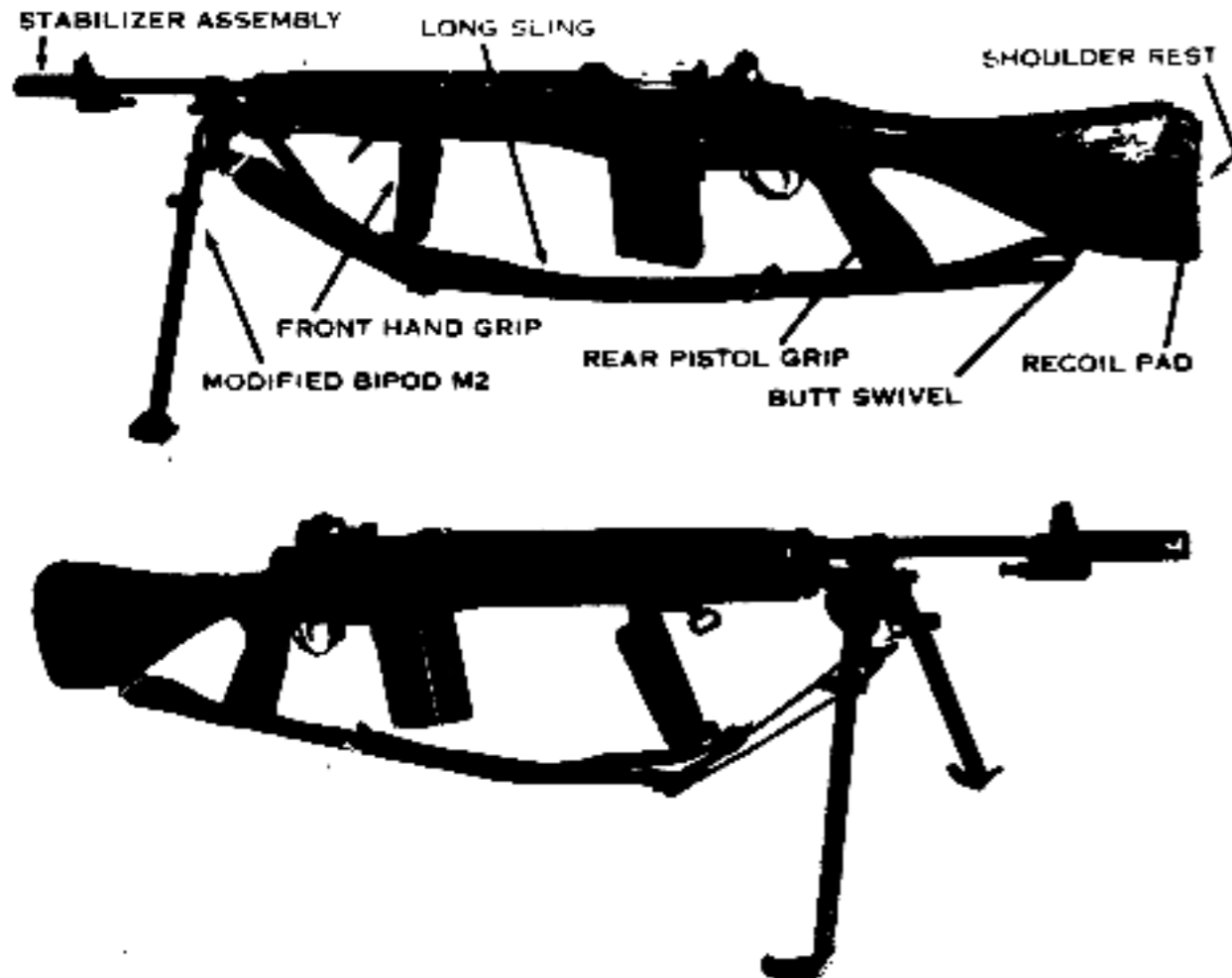


Figure 3. The M14E2 rifle (top—left side view; bottom—right side view).

Trigger Pull in Pounds:

Minimum.....	5.5
Maximum.....	7.5
Muzzle Velocity.....	3,000 f.p.s. (863 m.p.s.).

Cyclic Rate of Fire (rounds per minute): 700-750

Rate of Fire. (These can be maintained without danger to the firer, or damage to the weapon):

Semiautomatic (rounds per minute):	
1 minute.....	40
2 minutes.....	40
5 minutes.....	30
10 minutes.....	30
15 minutes.....	30
20 minutes.....	30
20 minutes (or more).....	15
Automatic (rounds per minute):	
1 minute.....	60
2 minutes.....	50

*The bipod adds much stability to the rifle and enables the automatic firer to effectively engage targets automatically to cover of 300 meters.

5 minutes.....	40
10 minutes.....	30
15 minutes.....	30
20 minutes.....	25
20 minutes (or more).....	20

Range in Meters:

Maximum effective (semiautomatic, without bipod).....	400
Maximum effective (semiautomatic, with bipod).....	*700
Maximum effective (automatic, with bipod).....	**400
Maximum.....	3725

Ammunition..... see chapter 6.

Definitions:

Cyclic rate.....	the rate at which the weapon fires automatically.
Maximum effective range.....	the greatest distance at which a weapon may be expected to fire accurately to inflict casualties or damage.

**Enemy squad formations and heavy crew-served weapon emplacements may be effectively engaged up to this range; bunker openings, windows and like targets, which require precise accuracy, can best be engaged using semiautomatic fire.