



The Colt® M203 Launcher

COURTESY DAVID ALBERT COLLECTION

DIGITIZED FOR
YOUR REVIEW AT
WWW.SMALLARMSOFTHEWORLD.COM

SaW

Colt M203 Launcher- 40 mm

Part of the Colt® M16A2 Combat Proven Family of Weapons

The M203 Launcher is a single shot 40mm weapon designed especially for attachment to the M16A1 and M16A2 rifles, thereby creating a versatile combination weapon capable of firing both 5.56mm rifle ammunition and the whole range of 40mm high explosive and special purpose ammunition.

The most commonly used ammunition for the M203 is the M406 anti-personnel round, which has a lethal radius of five meters, and the M433 multi-purpose round which, in addition to having fragmentation effects, will penetrate up to two inches of steel armor plate. Many other types of ammunition are also available, such as buckshot, tear gas, and various signal rounds, which greatly increase the versatility of this outstanding weapon.

The receiver of the M203 is made of high strength forged aluminum, thereby giving it extreme ruggedness, yet keeping weight to a minimum. A complete self-cocking firing mechanism, including striker, trigger and positive safety lever is included in the receiver allowing the M203 to be operated as a completely independent weapon, even though attached to the M16 rifle. The barrel, which is also made of high strength aluminum, slides forward in the receiver to accept a round of ammunition, and slides backward to automatically lock in the closed position, ready to fire.



The M203 is furnished with a battle sight graduated for 50–250 meters mounted on the handguard and a quadrant sight graduated for 50–400 meters which mounts on the upper receiver of the rifle.



The barrel slides forward to allow loading of cartridges.



The M203 will fire a wide variety of ammunition, such as high explosive antipersonnel and armor piercing dual purpose (shaped charge) rounds.

The M203 attaches directly to any standard Colt M16A1 or M16A2 rifle utilizing only two screws, and without modification to the rifle. Installation is very simple and can be accomplished in five minutes with the use of a standard screwdriver.

SPECIFICATIONS- M203 GRENADE LAUNCHER - 40mm

	English	Metric
Weight (unloaded)	3.0 lb	1.36 kg
Weight (loaded)	3.6 lb	1.63 kg
Caliber	1.57 in	40 mm
Length	15.0 in	38cm
Height (below rifle bbl C/L)	3.3 in	8cm
Width (maximum)	3.3 in	8cm
Barrel length	12.0 in	30cm
Velocity (w/M406 CTG)	245 ft/sec	74.7 m/s
Maximum range	437 yds	400 m
Types of ammunition	M406 High explosive M433 HE armour piercing M576 Buckshot M407 Practice M781 Practice Most other specialized 40 mm ammunition usable in the M79 Launcher	

Each M203 is furnished with a special handguard which takes the place of the normal rifle handguards. A battle sight adjustable for ranges of 50 meters to 250 meters is mounted on the handguard. A quadrant sight, which mounts on the handle of the rifle and is adjustable for 50 to 400 meters, is also furnished with each launcher.



Colt

Firearms Division

Hartford, CT 06101
Telex: 994421 Colt Fire Hfd.

