

COLT AUTOMATIC RIFLE
MODEL M16A2
MAY 1969

Colt Automatic Rifle, Model
M16A2, May 1969

Colt Industries  Colt's Firearms
Division

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M16A2 DESCRIPTION AND DATA

It is Colt's belief that Colt's M16A2 will demonstrate better performance and superior durability when compared to the M16A1.

Prototype number 1 features a closed, adjustable gas system which is completely housed in the front sight assembly. This allows the user to optimize his weapon's efficiency according to conditions dictated by climate or ammunition. No gas deposits are permitted to enter the breech mechanism and the result is a cleaner operating weapon.

In addition, a larger extractor, a failure-free extractor spring and increased dwell before unlocking have been incorporated.

The inclusion of the top-side sling allows the user to carry the weapon in the assault-ready position as well as over the shoulder.

Conversion of an M16 to an M16A2 requires only that the upper receiver, buffer, and barrel assembly be replaced. The lower receiver assembly remains unchanged.

M16A2 FEATURES

1. Better extraction through delayed unlocking and a stronger extractor.
2. Top and side sling capability.
3. Adjustable gas system.
4. Burst control (2 or 3 rounds).
5. Buttstock stowage of cleaning equipment.
6. Simplified handguard disassembly.

M16A2 ADVANTAGES

1. Gas is exhausted behind the front sight rather than into the bolt group; thereby reducing the frequency of cleaning.
2. Weapon can be slung over the shoulder in the assault-ready position.
3. Adjustable gas system compensates for variations in ammunition and climatic conditions.
4. Rate of fire remains relatively constant (within \pm 15 rounds per minute) at any setting.

CHARACTERISTICS

	M16A2 (Prototype)	<u>M16A1</u>
Caliber	.223	.223
Overall Length	38.6"	38.6"
Barrel Length	20"	20"
Width	2.4"	2.4"
Height (without magazine)	8.8"	8.8"
Height (with 20 round magazine)	8.8"	8.8"
Height (with 30 round magazine)	10.2"	10.2"
Rifling Pitch	1 in 12	1 in 12
Number of Grooves	6	6
Weight without magazine	6.9 lbs	6.5 lbs.
Weight with buttstock stowage without magazine	7.8 lbs.	7.4 lbs.
Weight with 20 round magazine (full)	8.4 lbs.	8.0 lbs.
Weight with 30 round magazine (full)	8.7 lbs.	8.3 lbs.
Muzzle Velocity	3250 ft/sec	3250 ft/sec
Muzzle Energy	1285 ft-lbs	1285 ft-lbs
Safety	Rotary	Rotary
Rate of Fire	700 ± 100 round per minute through gas adjustment	700 - 940 rpm
Method of Operation	Piston Impingement	Piped Gas
Weight of Reciprocating Group	1.33 lbs.	1.00 lbs.
Total Number Parts	143	164
Total Different Parts	117	117















