

M1 Carbine Notes

The history of these rifles is quite interesting to say the least. Many books have been written detailing their wartime production. I personally consider it a fun little rifle to shoot. As with the AR, you will find those who either love them or hate them. But unlike the AR where the rifle itself is usually despised it is the cartridges performance in the carbine that draws a person's ire. The cartridge is very anemic for stopping power. I have been told many first hand accounts of an enemy soldier being hit numerous times and still going. Interestingly all occurred in the Pacific (WWII) and later in Korea, none from Europe, though I am sure there were similar problems. Anyway...

Receivers

Besides the various USGI receivers made there are also several commercially made receivers. Some saw only small numbers made. Springfield, Inc receivers were very good. Plainfield Machine and Iver Johnson are of various quality and for the most part were mediocre. I do not recommend them. Many problems can be encountered with them and the commercial parts they made to build rifles with were basically junk. The Universal Carbine is similar to, but is not the same as the M1 Carbine.

Ammo

With the .30 carbines I use American Eagle 110gr FMJ to function test. This is the only factory load that I have used that has shown 100% reliability. I consider it to be the closest equivalent to a USGI load. While I have not tried every commercial loading, two that I have used, S&B (which I do not recommend and was supplied by a customer) and Winchester Q-Load (the lot that I have) have shown functioning problems. Not in all rifles but enough to be a concern.

Legalities and the Carbine

Normally we look at a carbine and think it's an M1, semi-auto. Well maybe not. If the receiver is marked as an M2 or M3 the Feds consider it a machinegun. It does not matter if it has all semi-auto parts or not. All I can say is that's what happens when non-gun people make the rules. The only M2 marked Carbines accepted are those that are properly registered under the NFA. While it is uncommon they are out there. The other matter is that some M1 Carbines have M2 Hammers installed. Again the Feds consider carbines with this part installed to be Full Auto whether they operate as such or not. As such any carbine that comes into the shop with an M2 Hammer installed will have it replaced with an M1 Hammer at current cost. This is a mandatory policy of the shop. I am sorry but it is not a customer choice, it is not an option. The Carbine will not be returned without the part being replaced. The replaced part will not be returned, no exceptions.