



May 31, 2006 Rev 1

TECHNICAL NOTE 66: AR-10 GENERATION II 20 ROUND MAGAZINE

BACKGROUND:

During the 1994 Assault Weapon Ban, ArmaLite® was required to produce AR-10 magazines by conversion of pre-ban M14 magazines. Since expiration of this ban ArmaLite® has instituted production of a new, Generation II magazine featuring improved reliability.

DESCRIPTION:

M14 magazines converted to early 20 round AR-10 magazines feature a patented spring-loaded bolt stop trip that presses the bolt stop up to halt the carrier group's forward movement. The spring pressure creates friction in the magazine and reduces its tolerance for dust, dirt, or ammunition variations. ArmaLite's® new Generation II magazine differs: the bolt stop trip is pressed outward from the steel follower of the magazine, and no spring or spring resistance is created. The pressed trip requires a wholly new magazine shell that bears a channel at the rear to allow space for the trip.



*Gen I magazine with spring
loaded bolt catch trip*



*Gen II magazine with
pressed trip*

All AR-10 rifles shipped after the beginning of May, 2006 are equipped with a new bolt stop that reaches forward slightly so that it engages the trips of all Gen I and Gen II magazines.

The bolt stops of most earlier rifles will work with the new magazines. However, the trip of new magazines may miss the bolt stop of some earlier rifles. These rifles require a new, late-model bolt stop. The new bolt stop is available from ArmaLite® for a modest price.

The new magazines are carefully made to prevent looseness that can reduce reliability. Normal manufacturing tolerances result in a close fit in the magazine well that requires some magazines to be pulled from the rifle instead of relying on gravity to drop them free. This is a normal condition.

Rifles shipped into Assault Weapon Ban (AWB) States will be provided 20 shot magazines based on M14 magazines.

ArmaLite® will offer magazine conversion kits to the residents of AWB states that allow them to convert an M14 magazine to a current-design AR-10 magazine.

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