

M1A/M14 Trouble Shooting Guide

Failure to load (feed/chamber/lock)	dirty/deformed ammo
	damaged or dirty magazine (follower, floor plate, body)

Magazine hard to insert	bent magazine
	dirty magazine or receiver
	round not completely seated in magazine
	damaged operating rod spring guide
	deformed or damaged magazine latch

Magazine not retained in the rifle	magazine latch deformed or damaged
	damaged/deformed operating rod spring guide
	locking recess in front of magazine deformed
	magazine not fully inserted and locked

Failure to feed	weak/broken magazine spring
	damaged/deformed magazine
	damaged stripping lug on bolt
	short recoil (see short recoil)
	dirty ammo or magazine
	weak/broken operating rod spring
	damaged/binding operating rod

Bolt fails to lock	deformed round
	dirty chamber
	worn/dirty extractor (does not snap over rim of cartridge)
	frozen ejector spring
	damaged operating rod, or weak or damaged operating rod spring
	damaged receiver

Failure to extract	spindle valve closed
	cartridge stuck in chamber (sheared rim)
	short recoil (see short recoil)
	damaged extractor
	weak or frozen extractor plunger
	ruptured/separated cartridge

Failure to eject	short recoil (see short recoil)
	weak or frozen ejector spring

Failure of bolt to lock to the rear	bad magazine follower
	damaged or stuck bolt lock
	weak or broken magazine spring

Short recoil	gas plug loose/missing
	bolt binding
	gas cylinder not correctly installed (blocks gas port)
	operating rod binding
	gas piston restricted
	partially closed spindle valve
	improper lube in cold weather
	bad ammo

Failure to fire	bolt not fully forward and locked
	bad ammo
	worn or frozen firing pin
	broken hammer
	weak/broken hammer spring
	hammer or trigger lugs, or

The official remedy for most of the above is to clean, lubricate, use good ammo, replace magazine, or replace the worn or broken part.