Nov. 30, 1971 L. D. SHIPLEE III 3,623,256

AMMUNITION MAGAZINE HOLDER

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FIG. 2

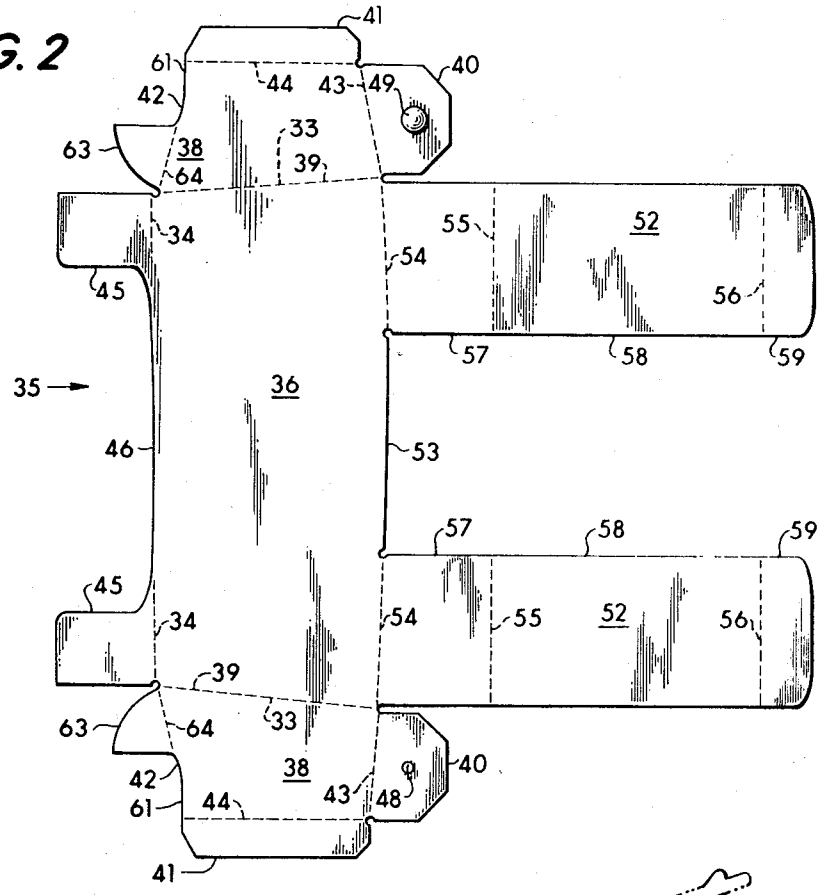

FIG. 1

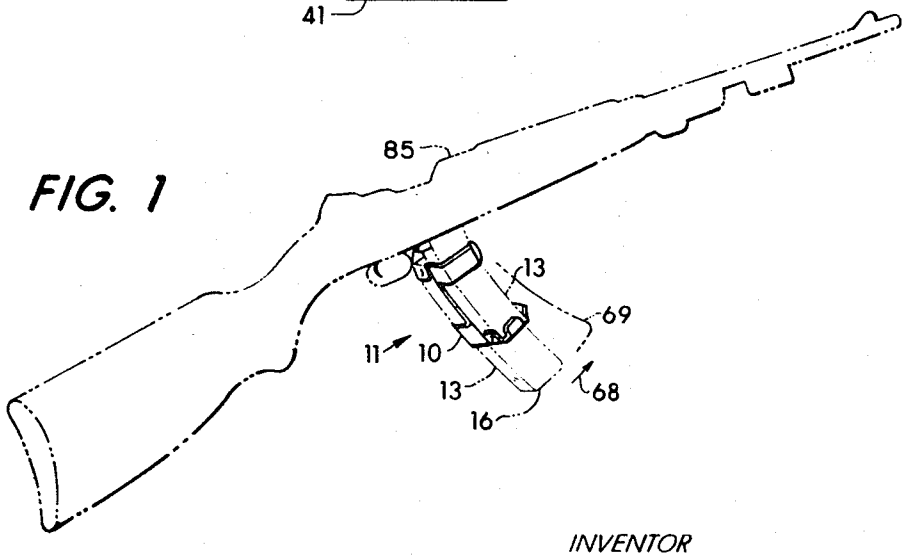

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FIG. 4

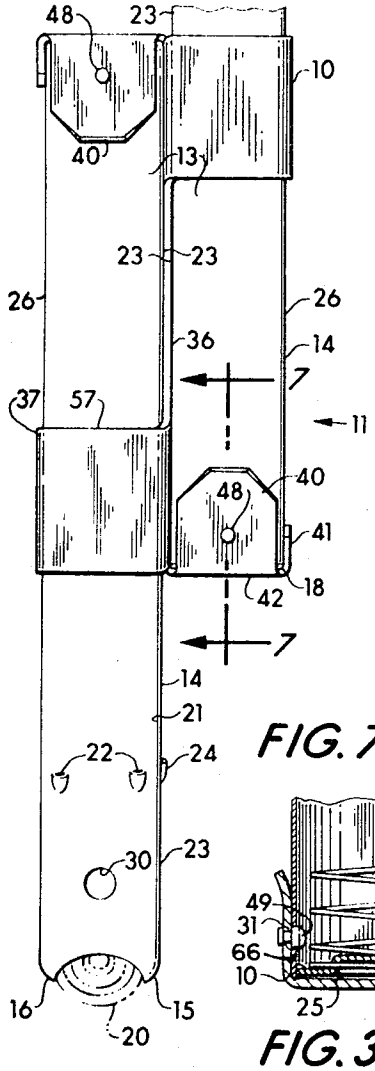

FIG. 5

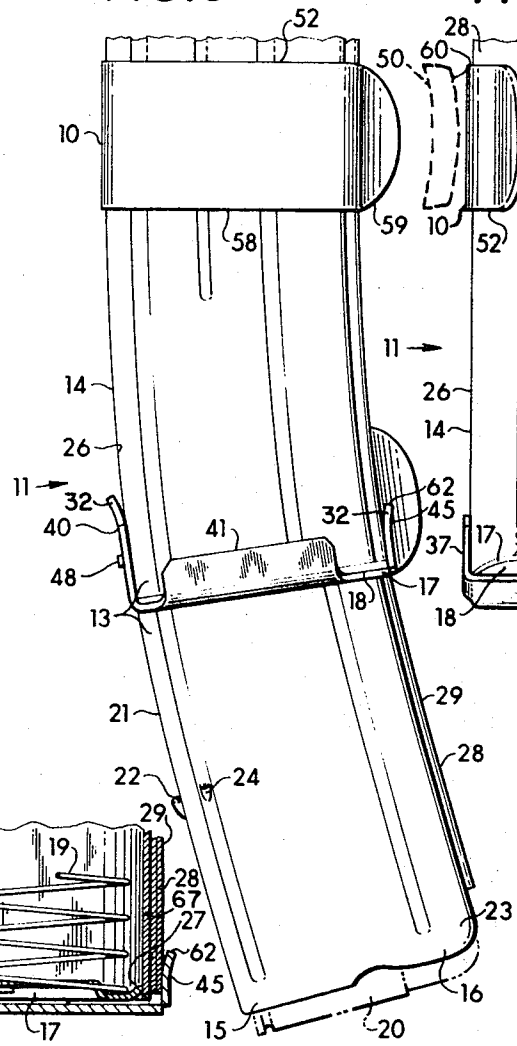

FIG. 6

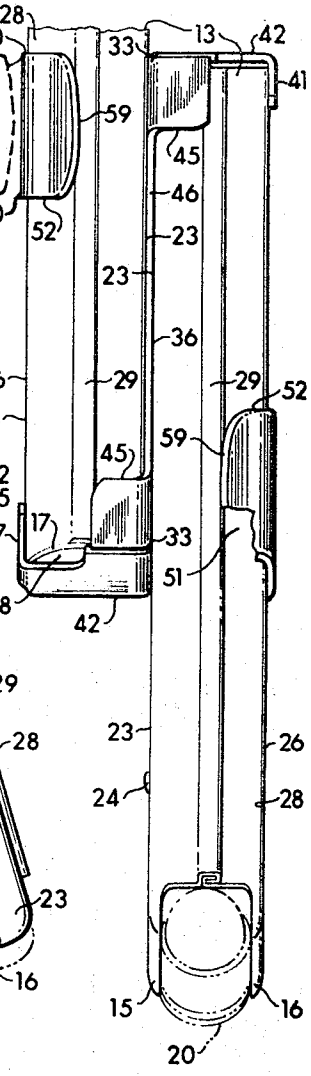

FIG. 7

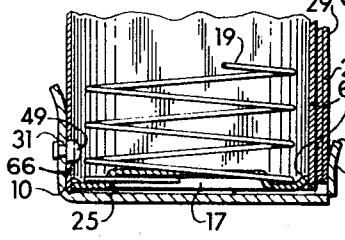

FIG. 3

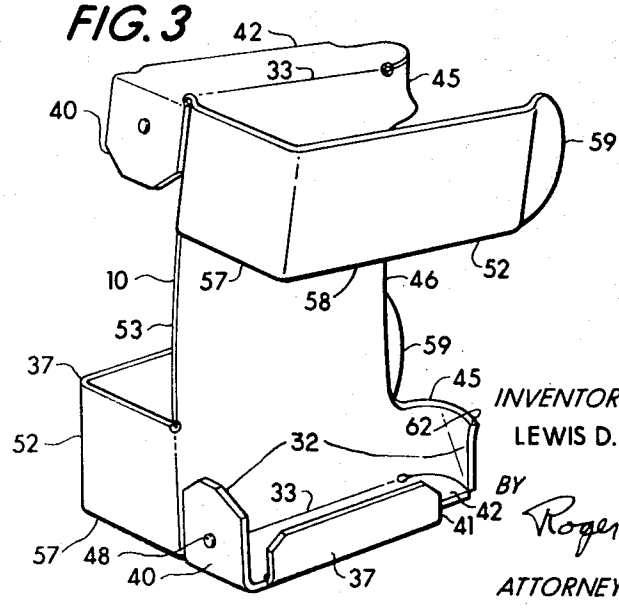

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FIG. 8

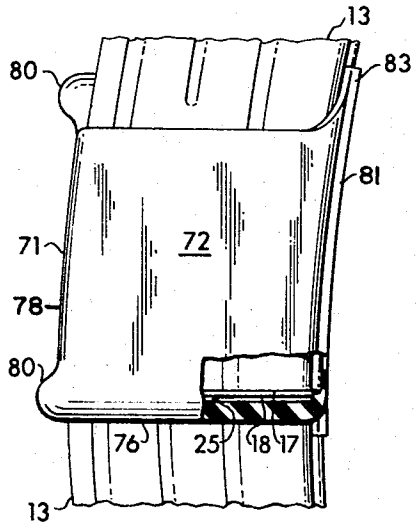


FIG. 9

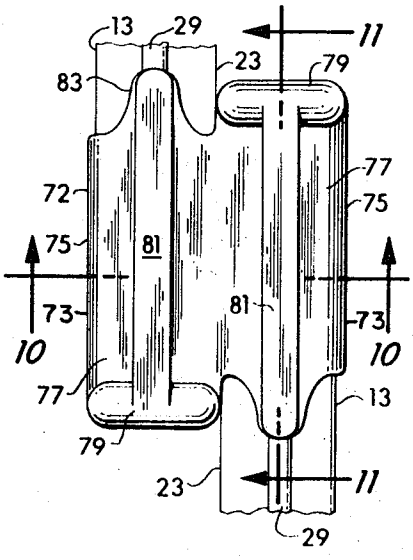


FIG. 11

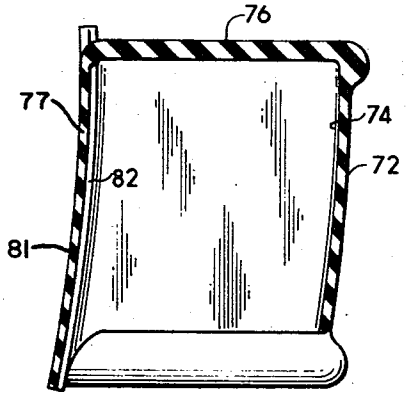
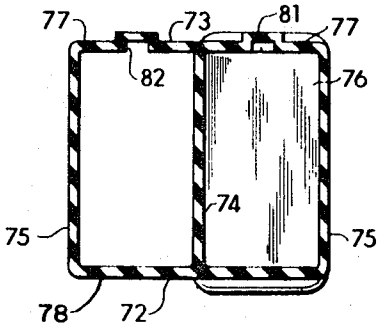


FIG. 10



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3,623,256

AMMUNITION MAGAZINE HOLDER

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Filed Apr. 3, 1970, Ser. No. 25,350
Int. Cl. F41c 25/00
U.S. Cl. 42—50 7 Claims

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A holder for a pair of box-type ammunition magazines has a pair of receivers with a common wall which is located between and contacts the left side walls of and at the base ends of the magazines. Pocket-type receivers made of resilient material are used in one embodiment and another embodiment has a clamping arrangement in the receivers which permits quick release of either magazine.

This invention relates to firearms and more particularly to ammunition magazine holders which permit a pair of full magazines to be coupled together in an assembly that enables either magazine to be inserted in the firearm while the other magazine is held readily available for use as a replacement.

Modern day repeating firearms are commonly fired in bursts that consume a large number of ammunition rounds depending primarily upon the length of time that the trigger is depressed. The ammunition rounds are stored in magazines which are coupled to the firearm and are automatically delivered to the firearm as the firearm is being discharged.

The magazines have a limited storage capacity and only hold enough rounds for two or three short bursts before becoming empty. In most cases, the magazines are elongated box-type structures which when coupled to the firearm extend downwardly from a position in front of the trigger housing, and the ammunition storage capacity of the magazine is limited to a design length which will permit effective firing of the firearm from a prone position while nevertheless affording the user minimum exposure to enemy fire power.

The full magazines are normally carried by the foot soldier in bandoliers or in clothing pockets, and under combat conditions, much time is lost in withdrawing the full magazines from the bandoliers and clothing pockets for use in replacing empty magazines. Because of this, the foot soldier has resorted to the simple expedient of taping two magazines together by means of friction tape so as to have a readily accessible replacement when the ammunition in one of the magazines is consumed. In doing this, the magazines are so arranged in the taped assembly that the feed ports of the magazines are at opposite ends of the assembly and the left side walls of the magazine casings are held together in the arrangement in a face-to-face relation by means of the friction-type tape which is used. This arrangement enables the soldier to discharge the rounds in one of the magazines, release the empty magazine from the firearm, and then, by a simple rotation of the wrist to be in a position to insert the other magazine in its place.

By using tape to hold the magazines together, one is unable to quickly separate the magazines in the assembly and this has certain disadvantages. For one, the overall length of the assembly is somewhat longer than that of a single magazine and consequently, there is greater exposure to enemy fire power when the firearm is used by the soldier from a prone position. In addition to this, there is a tendency on the part of the foot soldier

to throw away both magazines during a lull in the action if any rounds have been delivered from either magazine so as to be assured of a full magazine in the firearm and an immediately available replacement for the next encounter. This, of course, means that there is a considerable waste of ammunition under actual combat conditions.

A general object of the invention is to provide improved magazine holder for automatic firearms and which enable empty magazines to be replaced in the assembled arrangement provided by the holder.

Yet another object of the invention is to provide an improved magazine holder which will enable the foot soldier to use the firearm from a prone position and without greater exposure to enemy fire power than is contemplated by the basic design of the firearm and its magazine.

Another object of the invention is to provide a holder for a pair of magazines that facilitates the removal of the empty magazine and its replacement with a full magazine and thus encourages a reduction in the amount of ammunition that is otherwise thrown away under combat conditions.

A further object of the invention is to provide magazine holders that are inexpensive to manufacture and useful for providing a readily available replacement under combat conditions.

The novel features which are believed to be characteristic of this invention are set forth with particularity in the appended claims. The invention, itself, however, both as to its organization and method of operation, together with further objects and advantages thereof, may best be understood by reference to the following description taken in connection with the accompanying drawings, in which:

FIG. 1 shows the preferred embodiment of the invention as seen in an assembly of two magazines where one is attached to a fully automatic firearm, the magazines and the firearm being shown in broken lines;

FIG. 2 illustrates a blank from which the holder seen in FIG. 1 may be formed;

FIG. 3 is an isometric view of the preferred embodiment;

FIG. 4 is a back side view of the holder as seen in an assembly which includes a pair of ammunition magazines, certain parts being broken away and others diagrammatically illustrated;

FIG. 5 is a side view of the assembly seen in FIG. 4, with certain parts broken away and others illustrated diagrammatically;

FIG. 6 is a front view of the assembly seen in FIGS. 4 and 5, with certain parts broken away and other illustrated diagrammatically;

FIG. 7 is a sectional view along the lines 7—7 of FIG. 4;

FIG. 8 is a side view of an assembly which includes a pair of ammunition magazines that are coupled together by another holder which embodies certain principles of the invention, certain parts being broken away to expose other parts;

FIG. 9 is a front view of the assembly seen in FIG. 8, with certain parts broken away;

FIG. 10 is a section view along the lines 10—10 of FIG. 9, with the magazines being removed; and

FIG. 11 is a section view along the lines 11—11 of FIG. 9, with the magazines being removed.

Reference is now made to the embodiment illustrated in FIGS. 1 through 7 and wherein the holder embodying certain principles of the invention is designated at 10 and seen as a component of an assembly 11 that includes a pair of ammunition magazines 13 which are held together in the assembly by means of the holder 10.

The elongated magazines **13** are of the box-type which have four side walls and will be readily recognized as being of the type used with M1, M2 and M3 thirty caliber carbines. Each magazine **13** has an arcuate case **14** which is equipped with a feed port **15** at one end **16** of the opposite ends of the magazine, and with a base plate **17** at the other end **18** of the opposite ends of the magazine.

Case **14** is hollow and houses a coiled spring **19** which at one end bears against the base plate **17** and at the other end against a follower (not shown). Spring **19** biases the follower and the ammunition rounds which are housed in the casing toward the feed port end **16** of the magazine in a manner which is well known in the art.

Adjacent the feed port end **16**, the back side wall **21** of the magazine case **14** is provided with a pair of detents **22** and adjacent this wall **21** the left side wall **23** of the magazine case is equipped with another detent designated at **24**. Detents **22** and **24** are engaged by appropriate components of the firearm when the magazine is coupled to the firearm for firing purposes as is well known in the art.

The base plate **17** is retained at the base end **18** of the magazine by a pair of tabs **25** that are respectively located in the left side **23** and right side **26** walls of the magazine casing. The arrangement permits the base plate **17** to be slid forwardly for gaining access to the hollow of the magazine and as is well known in magazines of the type illustrated, the plate **17** has a detent **27** which encounters the inside of the front side wall **28** in the assembled magazine so as to prevent such movement in the absence of sufficient deformation of the front end of the plate to carry the detent **27** below the lower edge of the wall **28**.

The case in the illustration is formed of sheet metal where the edges are interlocked in the front side wall **28** to provide an elongated longitudinally extending rib **29** that is located between the left and right side walls of the magazine. In the back wall **21**, the metal is stamped to provide small openings **30** and **31** and which are respectively located adjacent to the feed port and base plate ends, **16** and **18**.

The holder **10** is designed to hold magazines **13** in an arangement such that the feed port ends **16** are at opposite ends of the assembly **11** and in a manner such that the left side walls **23** generally confront or face each other in the area of the base plate ends **18** of the magazines **13**. In this arrangement, the base plate **17** of each magazine is offset from the feed port end **16** of the other magazine so that either magazine can be inserted in the firearm without interference from the other magazine. The arrangement also leaves the rounds **20** in each magazine in position such that they face in the same direction, and hence the firearm user can simply release the magazine which is coupled to the firearm and by a simple rotation of the wrist, can place the other magazine in position for insertion into the firearm.

Although the holder may be formed by molding suitable plastic material into the shape generally shown in FIG. 3, it is preferably made from a metal blank such as designated at **35** in FIG. 2 and which is preferably of resilient material such as spring steel. Blank **35** has an elongated center plate section **36** which serves as a common wall for the two receivers **37** which are formed by appropriately bending the blank into the structural shape best seen in FIG. 3. Section **36** is somewhat elongated and has opposite ends designated at **33**. Here the blank **35** has opposite end sections **38** which are integrally joined to the center plate section **36** as along the lines designated at **39**. The main portion **42** of each end section **38** serves as the bottom wall of the receiver **37** with which it is associated and each section **38** has a pair of tabs designated at **40** and **41** and which are integrally joined to the main portion **42** as along the lines **43** and **44** respectively. In the formation of the structure shown in FIG. 3 these tabs **40** and **41** are bent normal to the plane of the main portion **42** of section **38**. As thus bent tab **41** laps a portion of the

right side wall **26** of the magazine in the receiver and prevents the base end of the magazine from moving away from the common wall provided by the center plate section**36**.

At the front side edge **46** of the plate section **36** the blank is provided with a pair of small tabs **45** and which are integrally joined to the section **36** as along the lines **34**. These tabs **45** are arcuately bent in opposite directions in forming the holder **10** and each tab **45** serves as a yieldable resilient member that cooperates with the yieldable resilient member formed by tab **40** of the receiver in providing a clamp **32** in the structure of the receiver. The clamp formed by tabs **40** and **45** is located adjacent to the bottom wall in each receptacle and as seen in FIG. 7 tab **40** engages a portion **66** of the magazine back wall **21** which is located adjacent the base end of the magazine while tab **45** engages a corner portion **67** of the magazine front wall **28**. Each tab **40** has a rounded headed rivet **48** which project inwardly in the receiver and which is aligned for reception in the opening **31** which is located in the back side wall **21** adjacent to the base plate **17** of the magazine. Rivet **48** has a narrow cylindrical head portion **49** and by virtue of the clamping action which accompany the use of tabs **40** and **45**, this cylindrical portion **49** is engaged by the opening defining edges of the back wall when an attempt is made to withdraw the magazine from the receiver by movements along the longitudinal axis of the assembly. The rivet thus provides a means which by reception in the opening of the magazine prevents withdrawal of the magazine from the receiver except as indicated hereinafter.

Along the back side edge **53** of the plate section **36**, the blank is equipped with a pair of elongated sections **52** that are integrally joined to the center plate section **36** as along lines **54**. In the formation of the holder, these sections **52** are bent in opposite directions along the lines **54** and are also bent along the lines **55** and **56** so as to provide a prong like structure which is offset from the bottom wall of the receiver and embraces the magazine generally intermediate its opposite ends. When suitably bent the sections **52** have a portion **57** which engages the back side wall **21** of the magazine, a side portion **58** which engages the right side wall **26** of the magazine and an end portion **59** which is located adjacent to the front side edge of the common wall and engages a portion **51** of the magazine front side wall **28** which is offset from that engaged by tab **45**.

Sections **52** provide a resilient means for clamping the magazines against the common side wall formed by the center section **36** and being made of resilient material can be deformed and bent away from the common side wall as for example to the position indicated at **50** in FIG. 6 so as to provide an opening **60** between the front side edge **46** and end portion **59** which will accommodate withdrawal of the magazine from the receiver. In this respect, the end portion **59** generally flares forwardly so that forward pressure exerted at the feed port end **16** of the magazine will cause the end portion **59** to ride off the wall portion **51** as the section **52** deforms to provide the opening **60** for withdrawal of the magazine from the receiver.

The main portion **42** of section **38** has a cutout **61** which leaves a tab **63** at the front end of the bottom wall of the receiver and which is capable of bending because of the resilient nature of the material as along the lines **64**. In addition to this and as seen in FIGS. 3, 5 and 7, the corner portion **62** of tabs **45** flare slightly forwardly in the receiver arrangement. These structural arrangements enable the magazine to be released from the rivet **48** by exerting a forward pressure at the feed port end **16** of the magazine so as to cause the magazine to rock forwardly on the bottom wall structure of the receptacle. This type of pressure on the magazine causes tab **45** to yield sufficiently far enough to permit withdrawal of the rivet head from opening **31** and simultaneously causes the prong like section **52** to yield and provide the opening

60 through which the magazine can be withdrawn from the receiver. Thus, as seen in FIG. 1, when one of the magazines 13 of assembly 11 is latched or coupled to the firearm 85 the other magazine can be quickly withdrawn from its receiver by simply causing the feed port end to be shoved forwardly as in the direction of arrow 68. This type of action will cause the depending magazine to move forwardly as indicated as 69 and thereafter to become dislodged from the receiver.

By virtue of the structural arrangement, it will be apparent that the armsman can quickly release the lowermost magazine from the grasp of the holder and thereby is capable of assuming a prone position at which the firearm is no higher from the ground than that which would normally be assumed when the firearm is equipped with but one magazine. In addition to the quick release feature of the embodiment, it will also be apparent that the empty magazines can be simply replaced during combat lulls and that the need for discarding ammunition containing magazines in order to provide suitable ammunition availability can be appreciably reduced.

Reference is now made to the embodiment of the invention shown in FIGS. 8 through 11. In this case the magazines 13 are in all respects like those illustrated in the prior embodiment and the pair of magazines 13 are held in the assembly 71 by means of a holder which is designated at 72. Like the arrangement in the prior embodiment, the holder 72 has a pair of receivers 73 which share a common wall 74 that is interposed between the left side walls 23 of the magazines held by the receivers.

The holder in this instance is made of resilient material such as rubber or the like which can be molded in the form shown in the figures. Each receptacle has an outside wall 75 which is offset and spaced apart from the common inside wall 74 and also has a bottom wall 76, a front side wall 77, and a back side wall 78. Walls 74 through 78 inclusive are integrally joined in the molded arrangement and at the base of each receiver 73 the front and back walls are provided with transversely extending ribs 79 and 80 respectively. The front wall of each receiver is also provided with a vertically extending rib 81 and internally of the pocket like receiver the rib is provided with a groove 82 which will accommodate the rib 29 arrangement in the front wall of the magazine 13.

At the open end of each receiver, the front wall 77 is provided with a tab 83 which facilitates stretching the resilient material of the holder when the base portion of the magazine is being inserted or withdrawn from the pocket-type arrangement which is thus provided.

The receivers in this case snugly fit the magazine at the base end and the magazines are primarily held in the receivers by friction occasioned by the snug fit.

In this case a magazine can be withdrawn from the receiver by pulling the magazine in the direction of the longitudinal axis of the assembly and this can be accomplished quickly as the armsman assumes a prone position so as to also provide an arrangement where the elongated nature of the assembly can be quickly modified to provide minimum exposure when the firearm is used at a prone position.

While only certain preferred embodiments of this invention have been shown and described by way of illustration, many modifications will occur to those skilled in the art and it is, therefore, desired that it be understood that it is intended herein to cover all such modifications as fall within the true spirit and scope of this invention.

What is claimed as new and what it is desired to secure by Letters Patent of the United States is:

1. A holder for a pair of elongated box-type ammunition magazines comprising a pair of magazine receivers which have a common side wall that is arranged for facial contact with and interposition between the left side walls of a pair of magazines received by the receivers, said common side wall having opposite ends and a front side edge therebetween, each of said receivers including a bottom wall which confronts the base end of a magazine received thereby, clamping means which is located adjacent to the bottom wall and has a yieldable resilient member that is located at the front side edge of the common wall and arranged to engage a front side wall portion of a magazine received thereby, and resilient means which is offset from the bottom wall and arranged to clamp a received magazine against said common side wall; said resilient means having an end portion that is located adjacent to the front side edge of the common side wall and arranged to engage another front side wall portion of a magazine received by the receiver and being yieldable to provide an opening between the front side edge and the end portion which will accommodate withdrawal of a received magazine from the receiver, and the bottom walls of said receivers being integrally joined to and located at the respective opposite ends of said common wall.

2. A holder in accord with claim 1 where said clamp means has another yieldable member that is arranged to engage a back side wall portion of a magazine received by the receiver and has means receivable in an opening in said back side wall portion.

3. A holder in accord with claim 1 where said yieldable resilient member is integrally joined to said common wall, where said clamp means has another yieldable member that is integrally joined to said bottom wall and arranged to engage a back side wall portion of a magazine received by the receiver.

4. A holder in accord with claim 3 where the other yieldable member has means receivable in an opening in said back side wall portion.

5. A holder in accord with claim 1 where said resilient means is integrally joined to said common wall.

6. A holder in accord with claim 3 where said resilient means is integrally joined to said common wall.

7. The combination comprising an ammunition magazine holder having a pair of hollow magazine receivers which are integrally joined and made of resiliently deformable material, and a pair of elongated box-type magazines which are respectively received in said receivers; each of said magazines having a base end and a feed end and including a left side wall, a right side wall, and a front side wall with a longitudinally extending rib intermediate the left and right side walls, said receivers having a common wall which has opposite ends and which is arranged between and in facial contact with the left side walls of the respective magazines, said receivers having bottom walls which confront the base ends of the respective magazines and which are respectively located at the opposite ends of said common side wall, each of said receivers having an opening which is located at the end of said common wall that is opposite the end location of the bottom wall thereof, and each of said receivers having a front wall with an internal groove in which the rib of the received magazine is disposed.

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