



May 31, 2006

## 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 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 20 shot 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 20 shot 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. The trip of new magazines may miss the bolt stop of many 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.

The price of the new magazine is \$44.95, but prices will remain higher in AWB states due to the need to begin production with a pre-September 1994 M14 magazine. 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.