



DUTY
HONOR
SERVICE

MINNESOTA
NATIONAL GUARD
ESTABLISHED 1856

RESPECT
INTEGRITY
EXCELLENCE

M2 .50 CALIBER 12.7 MM MACHINE GUN

Mission

To deter, and if necessary, compel adversaries by enabling individuals and small units to engage target with accurate, lethal, automatic indirect fire



Entered Army Service

1921

Description and Specifications

The M2 is an air-cooled, belt-fed machine gun that fires from a closed-bolt, operated on the short recoil principle. It replaces the M2 heavy machine guns in selected units and will be the primary suppressive weapon for combat support and combat service support units.

Length:	65.13 in (1,654.3 mm)
Height:	7.79 ft
Weight:	84 lb (38.1 kg)
Barrel Weight:	24 lb (10.9 kg)
Barrel Length:	45 in (1,143.0 mm)
Basic Load (vehicle mount):	400 rounds
Crew:	1-4

Information courtesy Army.mil

The M2 Machine Gun, or Browning .50 Caliber Machine Gun, is a heavy machine gun which was designed towards the end of World War I by John Browning. It was nicknamed *Ma Deuce* by US troops, or simply called the "fifty-cal." The gun is effective against infantry, unarmored or lightly-armored vehicles and boats, light fortifications, and low-flying aircraft

The Browning .50 machine gun has been used extensively as a vehicle weapon and for aircraft armament by the United States from the 1920s to the present day. It was heavily used during World War II, the Korean War, the Vietnam War, as well as during operations in Iraq in the 1990s and 2000s. It is the primary heavy machine gun of NATO countries, and has been used by many other countries. It is still in use today, with only a few modern improvements. The M2 has been in use longer than any other small arm in U.S. inventory. It was very similar in design to the smaller Browning Model 1919 machine gun.

Manufacturer

Saco Defense Industries

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT: Minnesota National Guard Public Affairs at public.affairs@mn.ngb.army.mil or go to www.MinnesotaNationalGuard.org/press_room/fact_sheets/military_equipment.php for a list of equipment used by the Minnesota National Guard.