AD NUMBER
AD491158
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AMC per ltr, 9 Apr 1976

DEVELOPMENT OF AIMING POST, M1A2 (M1A1E1)

"PREPARED FOR THE U. S. ARMY MATERIEL COMMAND BY THE ARMY MATERIEL RESEARCH STAFF, UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH, UNDER CONTRACT DA-36-034-AMC-3785(X)".

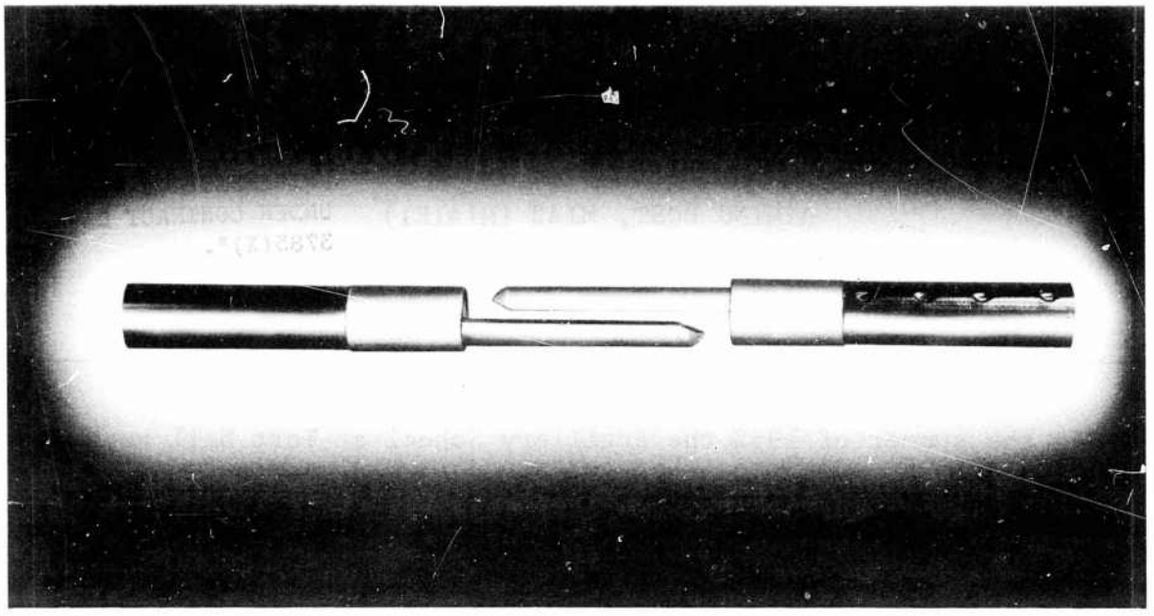
In the summer of 1952 the Artillery School at Fort Sill recommended to Army Field Forces that the standard M1A1 aiming post be modified to provide a point on each of the two sections of the post, instead of having a point on only the lower section, as in the standard model. The School stated that situations arose in which additional posts were needed, and frequently only upper sections, which were not pointed, were the only ones available. It was possible to use them, but the nature of the terrain often made it difficult to emplace them. If both sections were pointed, it would make no difference if the lower section were lost or damaged, for the upper section could be emplaced just as easily. Also, the addition of a point to the upper section would not prevent both sections from being assembled as one post and used in the same manner as the M1A1 post. Ordnance modified the M1A1 post in accordance with this recommendation, the new post being designated the M1A1E1.

A cold-rolled steel point was fixed to the upper ends of the top sections of twelve M1A1 aiming posts. The posts were then sent to Army Field Forces Board No 1 for testing, early in 1953. In its test report the Board stated that a point on each section of the aiming post doubled the effective number of posts available to each gun crew.

As a result of the Board's favorable report, action was begun in April 1954 to classify the M1A1E1 aiming post as a standard item. Before such action was completed, however, OCO recommended that the means of connecting the two sections of the post be modified so that the sections would be identical. This necessitated redesigning the the connectors. One post with the new connectors was fabricated and sent to Army Field Forces Board No 1 for examination. After its examination the Board replied that the new design was satisfactory and,

RELATED TIR'S

____	TIR 9-6-8	Development of Miscellaneous Fire Control Equipment for Artillery
____	TIR 9-6-8E1	Infinity Aiming Post, T6
7-56	TIR 9-6-8F1	Aiming Post Reflectors, T1 and T2
7-56	TIR 9-6-8H1	Instrument Light, T16



BAYONET-TYPE CONNECTOR OF AIMING POST, M1A2

consequently, when the M1A1E1 was classified standard as the M1A2 aiming post in June 1954, the new connector was substituted for that of the M1A1. At the same time the M1A1 post was classified substitute standard.

Each section of the M1A2 aiming post is made of steel tubing, 1.125 inches in diameter. One end has a cold-rolled steel tip. A projection extends four inches from the open end of the section, and attached to the inner wall of the tubing near its mouth is a semi-circular steel spring. When two sections are put together to form an M1A2 aiming post, the projections slip past each other and press against the springs to provide a firm connection.

The M1A2 aiming post will also be used as a sighting reference for infantry mortars.

At present it is not planned to procure any M1A2 aiming posts until the supply of M1A1's has been exhausted.

TENTATIVE PRINCIPAL CHARACTERISTICS

Model	M1A2
Material	
Tubing	steel
Diameter	1.125 in
Point	cold-rolled steel
Length	
Each section	54.5 in
Assembled post (two sections)	101 in

Stripes	
Color	alternating red and white
Number (assembled post)	12 red; 11 white; 2 white half-stripes
Width	3.75 in
Weight	no information