

The M14 Conversion to The M1 Garand
Version One

Project Completed and Written
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Introduction:

The M14 is a rifle that I wanted to acquire from the first time that I saw it and once I learned that it could be converted to the M1 Garand then I knew I would be investing in one. As is, the M14 does not look too out of place on the WWII airsoft field, sort of a larger version of the M1 Carbine. But still it was not a weapon that was available during World War Two.



Therefore, I set out to modify my TM M14 to a M1 Garand. Will the end result of this modification give you an exact replica of a real M1 Garand? No, no it will not. If you want an exact replica of a M1 Garand rifle then I would suggest purchasing the Marushin M1 Garand rifle. I have had the pleasure of seeing a Marushin rifle up close and it is truly a beautiful weapon. However, if you are looking for an alternative to the Marushin gas powered rifle then this may be a project for you to consider. This version of the modification will bring your M14 very close to looking and feeling like a M1 Garand.

You can also choose to go beyond this project and make your version look even more authentic by modifying the stock, changing the butt plate, cutting off the auto/semi firing switch, etc. However, this version of the modification will step you through easily modifying your TM M14 within a few hours.

The project cost me approx. \$150cdn and I know that it could have been done for less because I purchased items that I did not use for this version, such as a M1 Garand wood stock, butt plate and screws. The unused items will be used in a later version to achieve a full wood and metal rifle. I was also lucky enough to pick up a plastic M14 faux wood stock on E-bay for \$25 USD. I purchased this item for two reasons, one, if I screwed up the project I would have a back up, and second, if I want to switch the rifle back to a M14 I can easily do that.

I should note at this point that this conversion will require you to shorten your existing M14 plastic stock, so if you are not willing to do that then you may **not** want to go any further or consider buying a back up TM M14 stock.

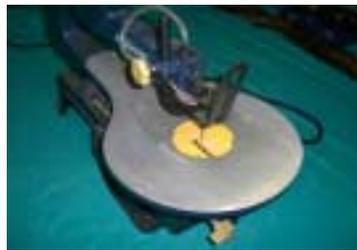
There are several sources to obtain the Garand parts that are needed for this project. I purchased my parts from two sources, E-bay and Numrich Gun Parts Corporation. I got the Gas Cylinder, the Frontguard, Rearguard and the stock from E-bay at a great price and everything else was purchased from Numrich Gun Parts. The above-mentioned items are also available from Numrich; I just purchased them from e-bay because I got them at the right price. I really like Numrich Gun Parts because they have everything at very good prices and the website (<http://www.e-gunparts.com/>) actually shows what is in and out of stock. I tried ordering from the website but for some reason it wouldn't work

for me so instead I just called them up and placed the order. I will include them on our vendor page of the Ontario Airsoft WWII Re-enactors' website.

I should point out that this is my first modification and I do not profess to be a gunsmith nor an expert in anyway. There is an existing conversion kit out there that you can purchase for \$350USD (look on the Weapons section of the website), that I'm sure has been done much better than my modification. I'm also sure that there could have been better ways that I could have done certain things but hopefully I have made all the mistakes for you and if you do find better ways to modify this project please share it so I can include it with these instructions.

Tools needed for the Conversion:

Scroll saw or hacksaw
1.5 Allen key
2.5 Allen key
Dremel Tool and cutting disks
Rubber mallet
Flat Head Screwdriver
Electrical tape
Thick Gel Super Glue
Measuring tape



Items Needed for Conversion:

M14 rifle
Plastic M14 stock
Gas Cylinder and plug
Front site and screw
Front handguard
Rear handguard
Rear handguard clip
Handguard liner
Handguard Ferrule
Lower Band
Black Electrical tape
Wood Dowel (7 to 9½ inches in length and 3/8" thick)
Stain (Walnut)



Disassembly:

1. Basically, follow the manual to field strip the weapon. If you do not have a manual then following these steps.
 - Pull the trigger guard (you may need to use the loading rod to do this) and pull out the trigger housing



- Slightly separate the receiver assembly from the stock. Open the buttplate and pull out the battery connector and fuse. If you do not do this part then you will not be able to pull the receiver assemble out any further.



- Gently pull away the barrel and receiver assembly from the stock and disconnect the connector.



2. Use the 1.5 Allen key to unscrew the Flash Suppressor Set Screw.



3. Once the Flash suppressor set screw is far enough back (you do not need to remove it) you can then unscrew the Flash suppressor nut off and remove the Flash suppressor from the barrel.



4. Next, remove the Gas Cylinder assembly by using the 1.5 Allen key to unscrew the Gas Cylinder assembly screw. Once the assembly is free remove it from the barrel.



- Using a screwdriver gently remove the Hand Guard Rear Band so that you will be able to remove the Hand Guard.



- Using a 2.5 Allen Key remove the Front swivel. Also remove the steel re-enforcement off the stock.



There... you have completed the disassembly. Take all the M14 parts and put them away. At this point you may want to take a break maybe even a drink to steady the nerves because the hard part comes next.

Modifications:

I should note that at this point you may want to go a different way, such as getting a longer outer barrel. Longer outer barrel means less cuts. However, what I did and documented is as follows.

7. Mark off 5/8 of an inch from the back of the Rear hand guard to the clip. Sorry guys, but for you metric boys, you will need to do the conversion. Cut this section off.



8. Using a Dremel you will now need to extend the groove on the outer barrel so the Rear hand guard clip will be able to catch. You will need to extend it approx. 1/4 of an inch. Note: the rifle is upside down to give you a better angle.



9. Now that you have cut down the rear hand guard you will also need to adjust the section of the rear hand guard that meets the stock so that the bolt slide will fit. I used the Dremel to make the cuts. Take your time with these cuts. Cut across 5/8 and then cut at an angle the same length. Better to make small cuts and check the fit.



10. Mark off 3 ¾ inches from the front end of the plastic stock. This should be just at the one end of the swing swivel. Note: I used black electrical tape to mark off the cut off line. Make the cut.



11. You will now need to trim the inside of the stock, at the new cut, so that it will fit around the Lower Band of the Handguard. I used the Dremel for this part and worked slowly checking the fit and making any additional trimming as needed. The plastic almost melts as you are making these small cuts so be very careful.



Okay, that's it for cutting. Now let's move on to the assembly.

12. Again, using the Dremel, cut the inner and top of the Stock Ferrule Assembly. The more of the back edge that you can leave the better but you will not be able to leave much seeing that you will need to pull apart the assembly so that it will fit onto the stock. I cut too much of mine off, I should have left more of an edge. Now put this aside until it is time to add it to the stock.



Assembly:

13. My front handguard did not come with the metal hardware so let's just assume yours did not either and assembly the front handguard first.



- Attach the Handguard Ferrule to the front of the Handguard and the Lower Band to the back of the Handguard. The Handguard Liner is then pushed into place from the bottom of the handguard to help hold the Ferrule and lower band in place.



14. My Gas Cylinder was already assembled with the Front sight, Gas Cylinder lock and plug, and the Stock Swivel.



- However, we do need to add the dowel to the cylinder. I used a 7-inch dowel that was $\frac{3}{8}$ inches thick. I used black electrical tape to cover the dowel and to give me the thickness, that when inserted into the Gas Cylinder, that it would stay in place. First, run a strip of tape vertically from one end to the other and then back

to the start. Then wrap the tape around the dowel horizontally, covering the entire length of the dowel.



- Once you have finished taping the dowel insert it into the Gas Cylinder making sure that the dowel protrudes 5 3/8 inches from the Gas Cylinder. The end of the dowel has to meet the operating rod.



15. Okay, everything has been cut and modified, so we are now ready to re-assemble the rifle.

- Clip the Rear handguard to the barrel.
- Now slide the Front handguard over the barrel and fit the rear handguard into the Lower Band.
- Slip the Gas Cylinder assembly, including the modified dowel, over the outer barrel. Make sure that the groves of the outer barrel line up with the teeth of the Gas Cylinder. Note that the teeth of the M1 Gas Cylinder are thicker than the Teeth of the M14 Flash suppressor, which means one of two things. One, you could modify the outer barrel by grinding down the groves, or two, take a rubber mallet and force the teeth of the Gas Cylinder to fit into the grooves. I chose to do the latter. Again, keeping in mind that if I ever want to change the rifle back to a M14 I can do so. You will need to hammer the Gas Cylinder until the back is connected to Handguard Ferrule (see the above picture), this will only take a few hits. With the teeth of the Gas Cylinder biting into the outer barrel grooves the Gas Cylinder is secured.

(I should note that if you do decide to grind the front of the outer barrel that the barrel is slightly short and you would have to adjust your cuts accordingly. However, this would allow you to secure the Gas Cylinder to the outer barrel by using the Gas Cylinder Lock.)

- The following picture shows the assembly without the stock and before the Front Handguard's colour was adjusted.



16. Now that you know that everything fits properly, you may need to adjust that colour of the Handguard parts. If you don't need to then move to step 16 for final assembly. Otherwise use your stain to adjust the colour. I used a walnut stain. Plus, to save time I did not strip the parts, instead I put light coats, allowing them to dry between applications without wiping off the stain, until I had the desired colour.
17. Use the Thick Gel Super Glue to attach the cut Stock Ferrule Assembly to the front of the stock.



18. The final part of the assembly is to re-connect the stock. Follow the disassembly steps in reverse order. Once the stock is in place you will need to take a strip of black electrical tape, cut it in half (length wise) and wrap it around the front of the stock and the Rear

Handguard to secure the stock in place (still working on a better method to secure the front of the stock).



Your assembly is complete and your AEG M1 Garand is ready to take the field.



The next step is to modify the M14 Mags so that it does not protrude out of the bottom as far as they do on the M14, but that's for another project.