

# THE MAGAZINE

Some people like large-capacity magazines. They have their place in the shooting sports. For hunting or target shooting, the factory 10-round BX-1 magazine is all you need.

## Factory

Currently, Ruger® offers magazines that hold 1, 5, 10, 15, 25, and a double-stack 50 round capacity. The original BX-1 rotary 10-round box magazine is probably the most dependable trouble-free magazine compared to all other manufacturers. The BX-1 is the gold standard in reliability.

The newcomers are the BX-15, BX-25, and the double-stack BX-25x2. Last, I hear the BX-25x2 50-round magazine will be discontinued. All these magazines are durable and easy to clean. Most of the BX magazines are available in clear housings.





## **BX Magazine Issues**

Many people claim their BX high capacity magazine works flawlessly on their rifles. But, just as many people say otherwise. If your high capacity BX magazines work flawlessly, you can skip this section.

I added this section to help the people that have issues. I happen to be one of them. I bought five BX-25 magazines back in 2011 when they first came out. If memory serves me right, they cost me \$35.99 each. Today, you can buy BX-25s on sale for \$17.99.

I was never thrilled with my old BX-25s; they were not reliable. I compared reliability with the BX-1s. The magazines were not consistent. It was a hit-and-miss affair. Sometimes I would empty the magazine without a hitch, and other times I would get ejection and feeding issues. I tried several brands of ammunition, but could not pinpoint the problem. It was a hit-and-miss situation. In frustration, I ended up selling them at a gun show. In my case, the BX-25s could not compete with the BX-1s.

Recently I decided to give the higher capacity BX mags another try. Eight years have gone by since my first BX-25s and I figured they have improved. I did not care much for the long extended BX-25 magazines, so this time I bought three BX-15s. I noticed better reliability compared to the old BX-25s I used to have, but I still had occasional feeding and ejection issues. The issues were not as frequent, but the BX-15s were not 100% reliable like all my BX-1 ten-round magazines. I concluded that my BX-15s would work great for target and plinking. But it bugged me that they were not 100% reliable.

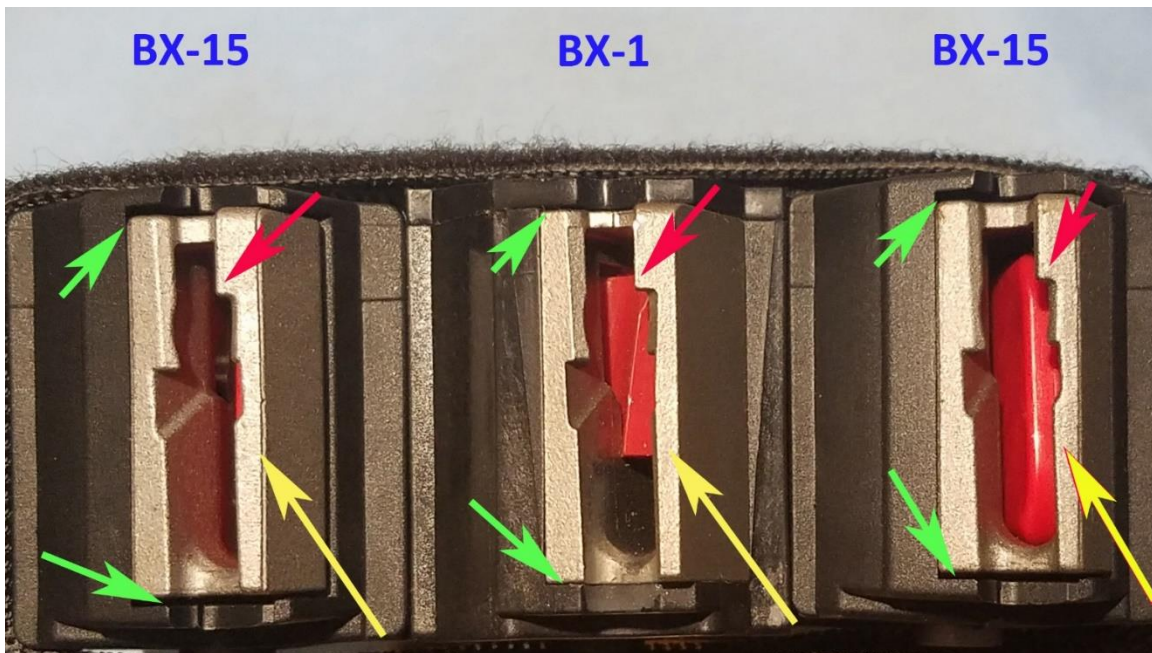
It did not make sense to me because, after all, the magazines look well-made and are sturdy so why these issues? I decided to take a closer look. I wanted to know why these magazines are not as reliable as the BX-1s. I found several things I want to share with you.

- **Issue 1: Extractor and Feed Lips**
- **Issue 2: Magazine fit**
- **Issue 3: Magazine Retaining Pin**
- **Issue 4: Rounded Housing**

## Issue 1: Extractor and Feed Lips

In the image below, there are three magazines. There are three potential issues.

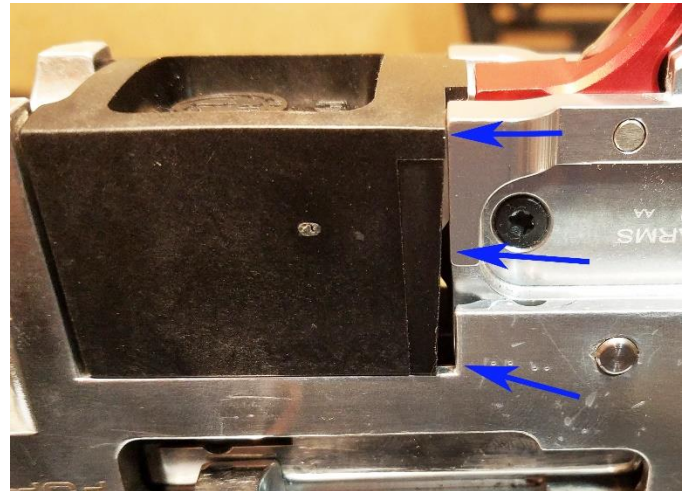
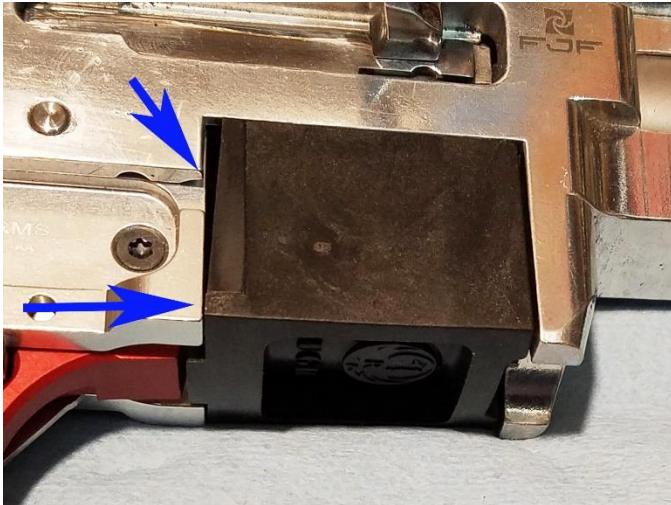
- The RED arrow points to the ejector. Notice that on the BX-1 the ejector has a sharper better-defined cut compared to the BX-15s.
- The YELLOW arrow points to the right lip and the BX-1 has a cleaner straighter cut compared to the BX-15s.
- The GREEN arrow points to the gaps between the housing and the steel feed lips. As you can see, the BX-1 has a better fit. It does not have the gaps like the BX-15s have. This excess gap probably does not affect reliability but it shows a sloppy fit compared to the BX-1.



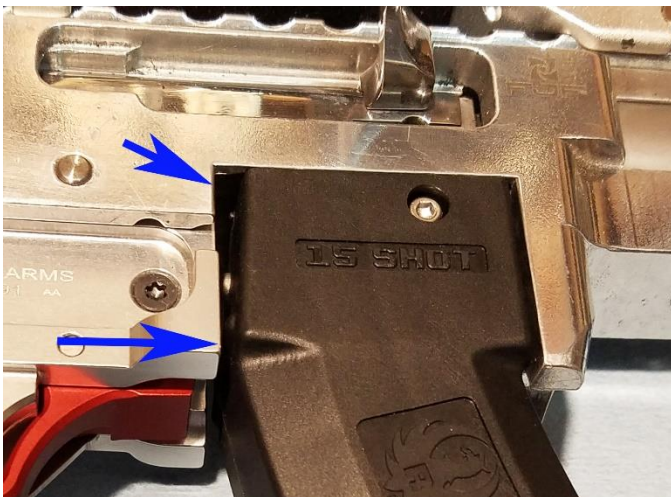


## Issue 2: Magazine Fit

There is another issue with how the magazine seats in the magazine well. In the picture below The BX-1 fits nice and snug. There is just enough clearance to insert and remove the magazine.

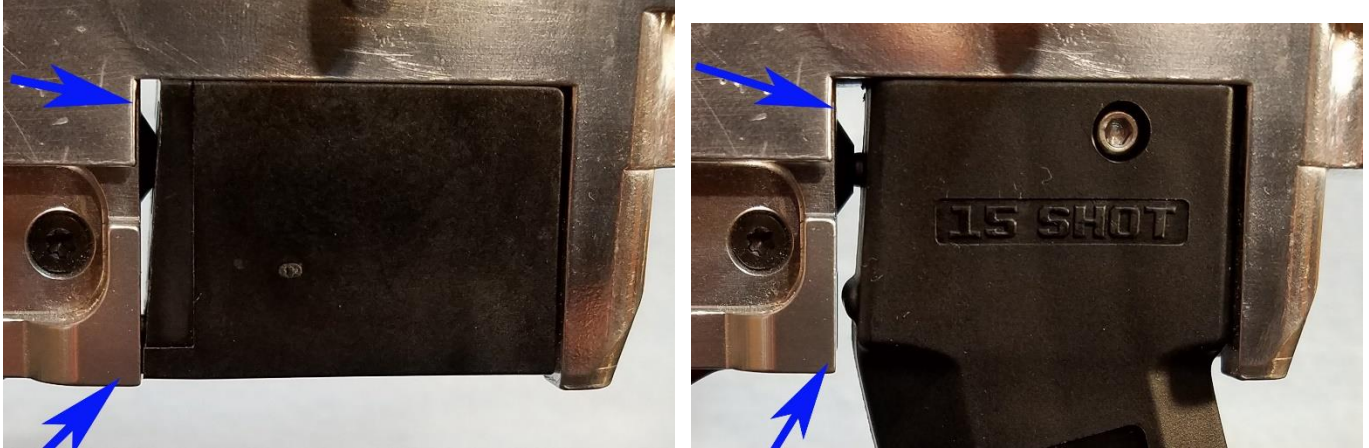


The BX15- is another story. Notice the extra clearance? The loose fit can cause the magazine to wobble inside the magazine well. The BX-25s extend out further, are heavier, and are even more prone to move around than the shorter BX-15s.



### Issue 3: Magazine Retaining Pin

After close inspection, I found yet another issue. In the pictures below, do you see the problem? Notice the magazine plunger will not seat completely on the BX-15 compared with the BX-1.



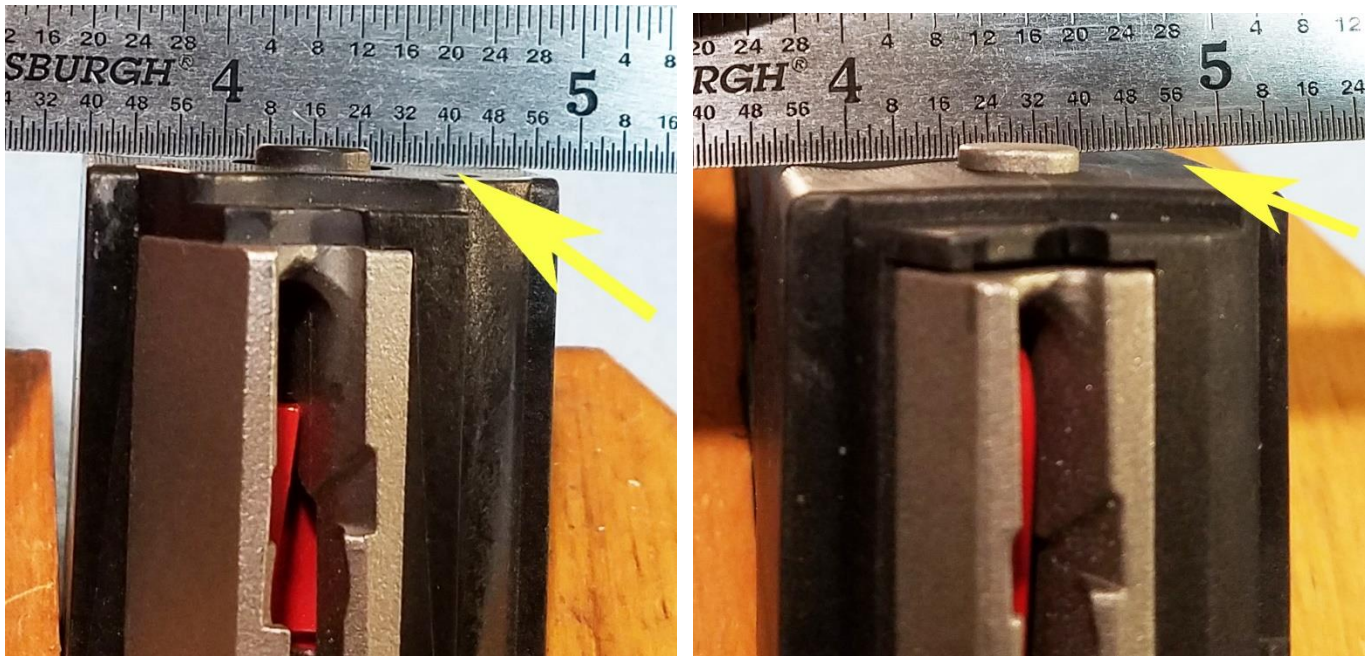
To help with this issue, you can use the aftermarket Kidd magazine plunger with a stronger-than-factory tension spring to help keep the BX-25s and the BX-15s snug.





## Issue 4: Rounded Housing

In addition, there is one more problem. It is not as bad, but since the magazine's design has several other issues, this may contribute to the problem. Notice the ruler is flat against the front of the BX-1. The BX-1 is square and seats flush against the receiver. The BX-15 and BX-25 are slightly rounded. Notice the space/gap at the edge of the ruler. The rounded surface can cause the BX-15 and the BX-25 magazines to rock in the magazine well.



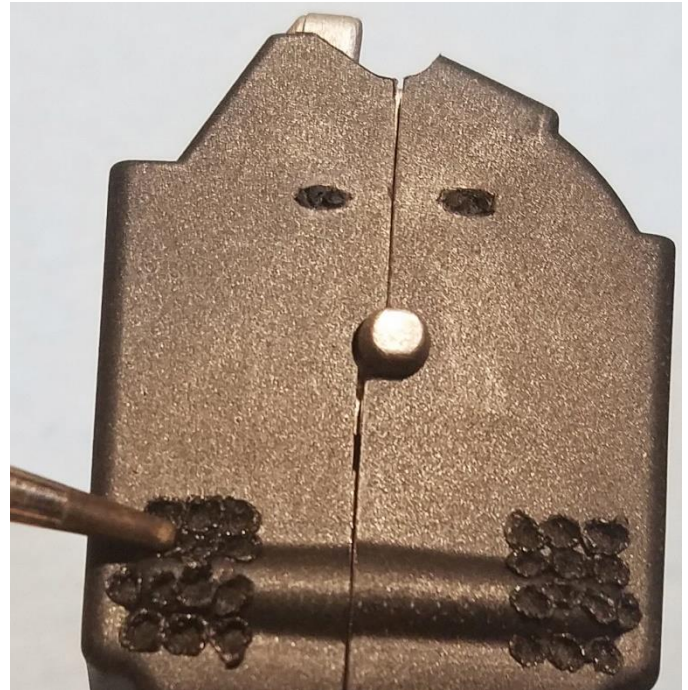
## The BX Fix

If you have reliability issues with your BX-15 or the BX-25 magazines, now you know why. Okay, so now what? If you are a do-it-yourself, here are a few things you can do to fix/improve your BX mags.

- **J&B Weld Magazine Modification**
- **Retaining Pin Modification**
- **Ejector Modification**

## J&B Weld Magazine Modification

In this mod, you need to add material to the magazine to prevent it from having so much play. Here I am using a soldering iron to rough up the area marked within the YELLOW boxes.



Mix some J&B Weld. It is runny at first, so let it sit for 30 to 40 minutes or until it thickens like putty or clay. Apply the J&B Weld to the magazine and let it cure. You do not need that much material. As you can see in the right image below, the magazine only needs to contact the sides of the trigger housing.





Once the J&B Weld has cured, sand off excess material until the magazine fits into the magazine well in the receiver. This modification will make the BX-15 and BX-25 magazines more reliable, or just as reliable as the gold standard BX-1 magazines.

If the J&B Weld modification solved your magazine issue, you are done. If you still have an occasional issue, try the Retaining Pin Mod.

### **Retaining Pin Modification**

In most cases, the J&W weld modification should take care of the BX-15 and the BX-25 issues. It solved my three BX-15 problems. However, if you continue to have issues with the BX-25s, it is because the magazines are a little heavier and the extra length allows for more leverage movement. Continue reading and see if the retaining pin modification will fix your issues.



As you can see in the picture, the magazine plunger does not fully extend into the retaining pin because the pin on the magazine is too thick. I noticed that on the aftermarket magazine plungers it was slightly worse. The magazine retaining pin inserts into the plunger hole less than a 1/16 of an inch.



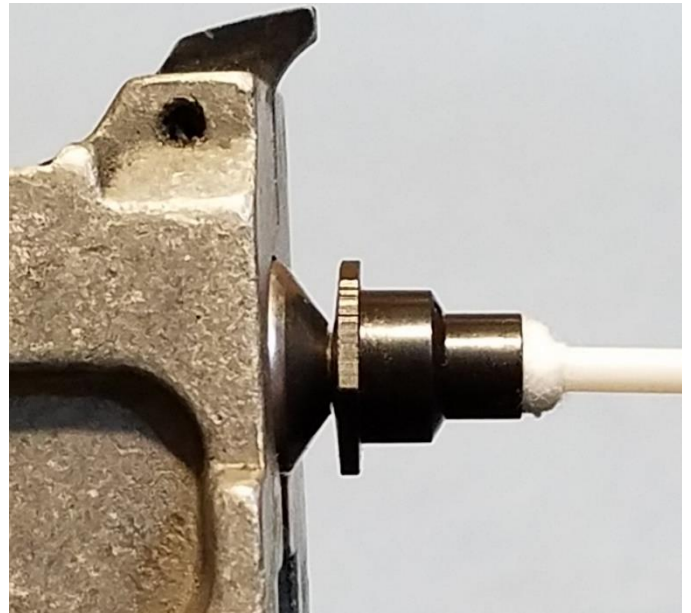
I honestly do not know how critical this retraining pin issue is, but I think at the very least, the magazine's retaining pin should fit like the BX-1 magazine.

In this picture, I removed the BX-15 steel feed lips to show how the pin barely inserts into the magazine plunger hole.

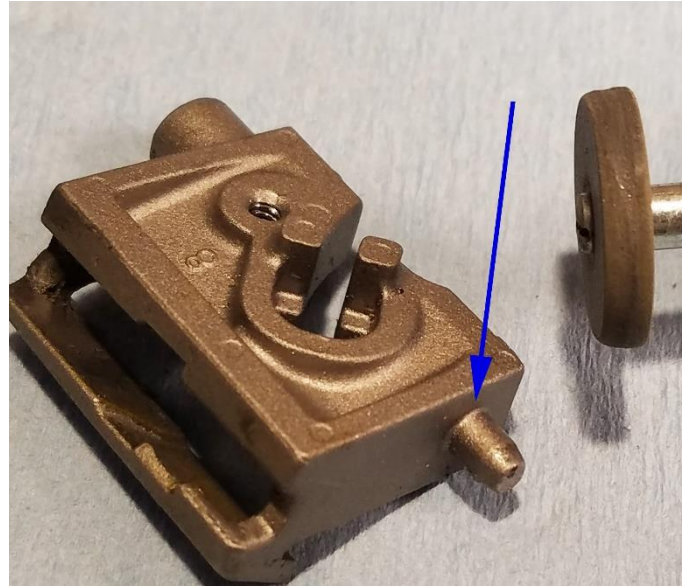
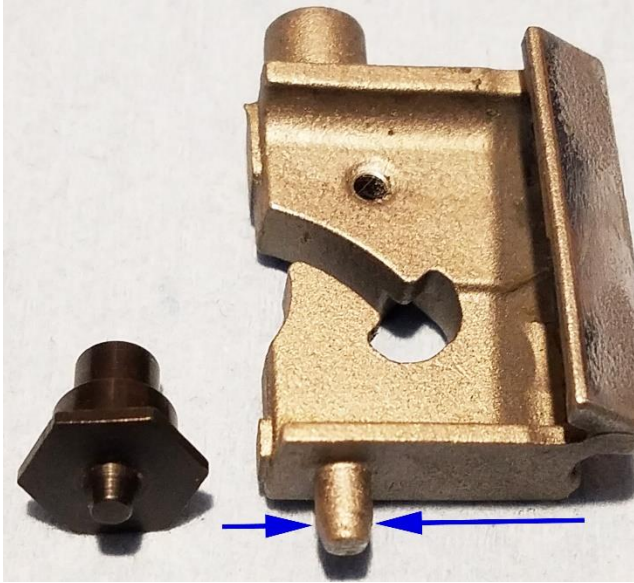
The factory plunger was not much better. The aftermarket magazine plunger is slightly worse because it machined with a tighter tolerance.

The BX-1 retraining pin fully seats into the magazine plunger hole. The plunger face pushes the magazine forward.

The retraining pin on the BX-1 is external that is why it is short. The retaining pin on the BX-15 and the BX-25 are longer because they are internal. The pin extends from inside the housing, and that is why they are slightly longer.



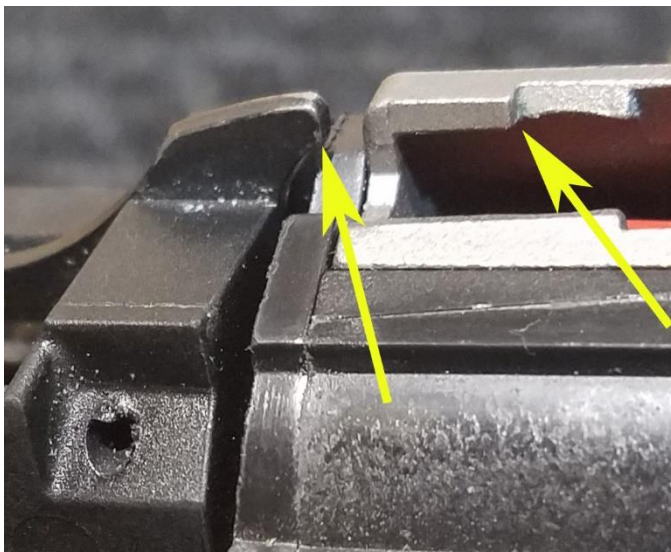
The double blue arrows, in the next picture, shows how far the BX-15 pin inserts into the magazine plunger hole.



Remember, Kidd sells an extra-strength plunger spring that will help secure the magazine better. As I mentioned before, the J&B weld modification solved the BX-15 issues; but, if you still have problems, use a Dremel rubber Emery impregnated polishing wheel. The Emery impregnated polishing wheels come in fine, medium, and coarse. Use the fine wheel. I go around the retaining pin a few turns then test until the retaining pin can fully insert into the plunger hole.

### **Ejector Modification**

I have done this modification on some old BX-25s that belonged to some friends. The BX-15s have the same issue but they seem to work fine at least for me. You may not have to do this, but if you still have issues, read on.

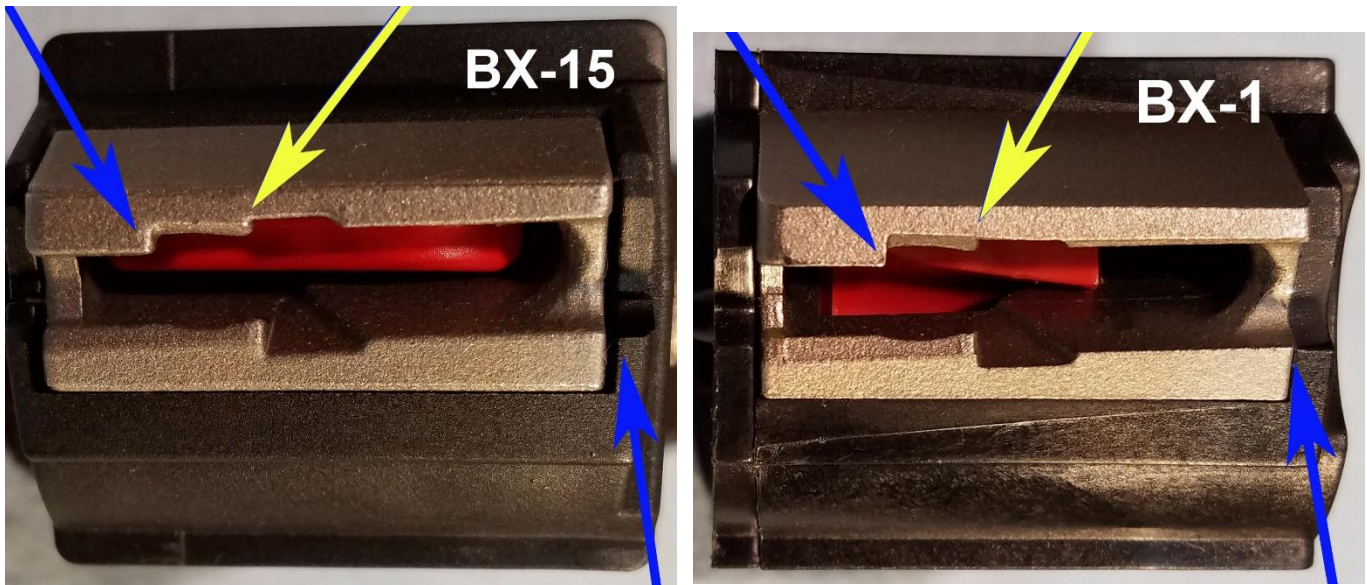


The primary ejector is on the BX magazine; if it fails, then the secondary ejector, in the trigger housing, finishes the job. This is why the BX-15 and BX-25 magazines seem to work even if the primary ejector is flawed.

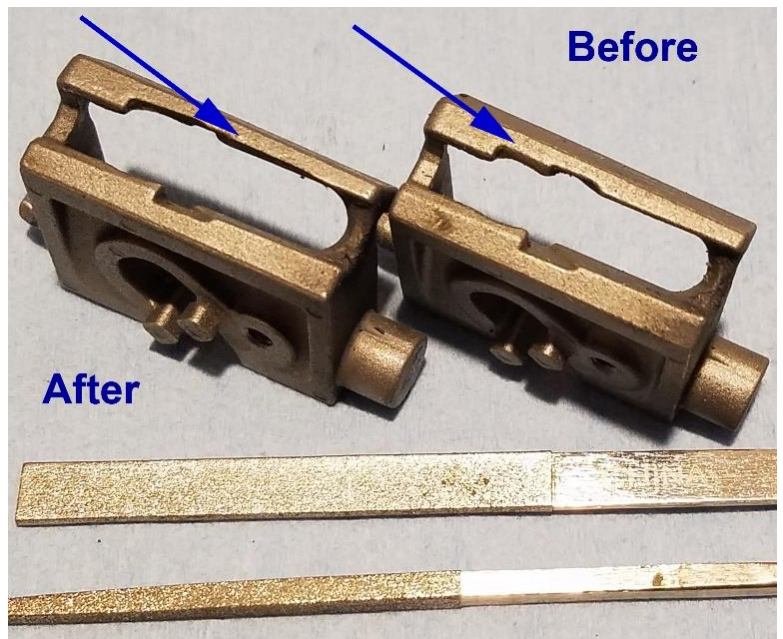
The purpose of the secondary ejector is to eject the shell if the magazine is not inserted.



On the BX-15, the magazine ejector and feed lips are sandy/rough and have uneven material compared to the BX-1.

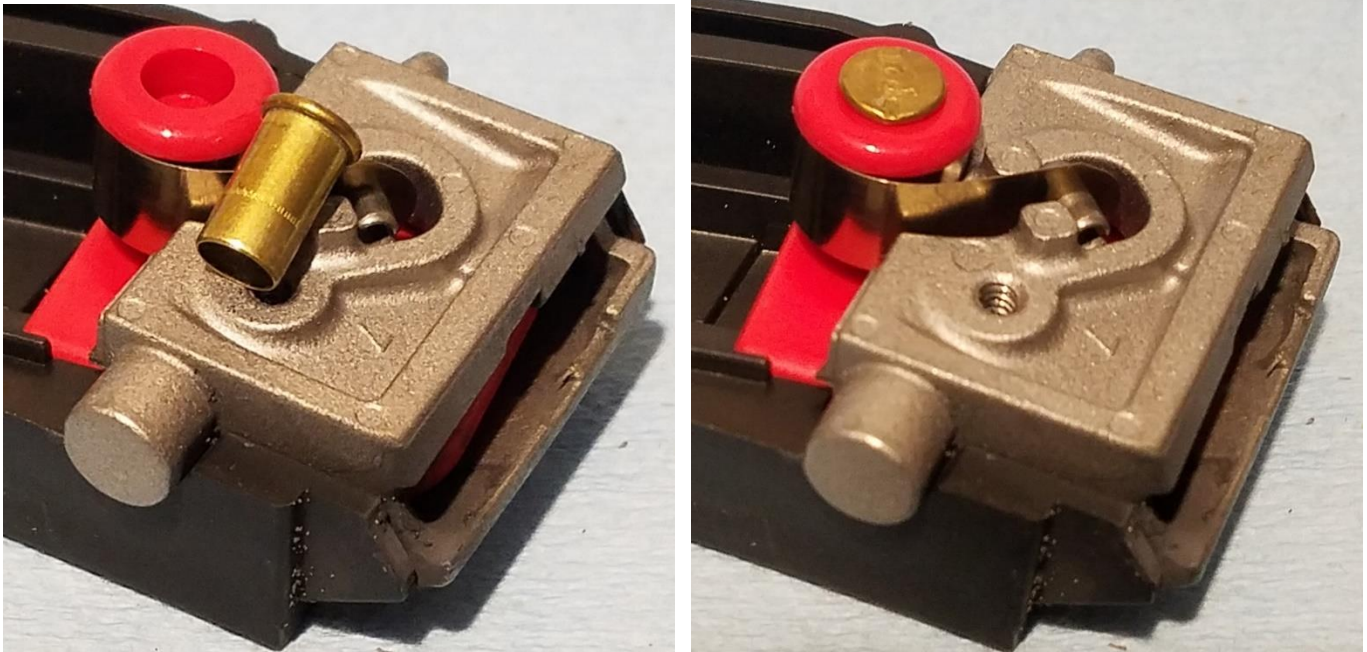


To clean up and straighten the feed lips, I use small jeweler files that I bought at **Harbor Freight Tools**.



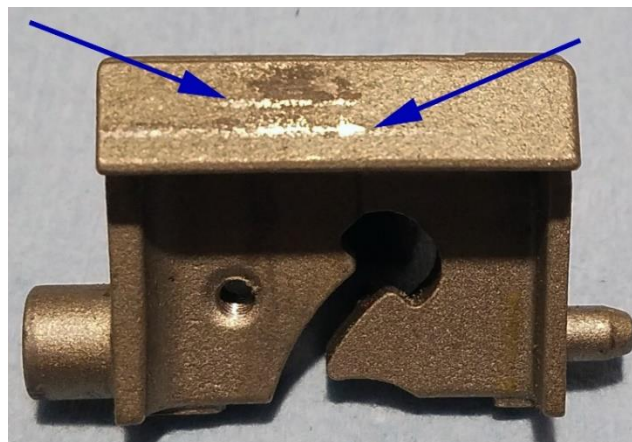
## TIP 1:

This mod is more for the BX-25s. I have not had to do this for the BX-15s. Installing a .22-short shell in the coil spring helps the spring retract better. If you have BX-25s, this may help with better feeding tension. Spray a little dry-lube and assemble the magazine.



## Tip 2:

You will see this in all the BX magazines; some are worse than others are. The bolt will leave marks across one side of the feed lips as shown in this picture. I have not seen any function issues when this happens. However, I do not like seeing it, so I stone the surface with a sharpening stone and finish it off using a buffing wheel to give it a mirror finish.





## Aftermarket Magazines

There are many aftermarket magazines for the 10/22®. Some work better than others do. Over the years, I have bought and tried many of them. To be honest, I have not had good luck with many of them. The only large-capacity magazine that I have used with zero issues is made by Tactical Innovations. The magazine has steel lips and is adjustable. The TI magazines cost double or triple compared to others, but they are worth it. Since I am not partial to extended high capacity magazines my old TI magazine sits neglected.

It has been several years since I bought other brands of magazines. I want to be fair to the other companies making aftermarket magazines for the 10/22®. All the aftermarket magazines I tested in the past years are not a reflection of the current production. I am sure companies have improved their designs.

My advice is to research the magazine you want to buy and buy one to test for yourself. I have never been a fan of high capacity magazines. The BX-15 is all I need. However, I use TriMag couplers and HTA 10/22® Magazine Couplers. These couplers work great for bench shooting.





Here are a few aftermarket 10/22® magazines



**Butler Creek Hot Lips**



**Butler Creek Steel Lips**



**ProMag 70-rds**



**ProMag 32-rds**

It is up to you to do your research. I personally have not had good luck with the ones I bought in the past years. Please note I have not tried all of them. Some that did not work for me in the past could have improved in recent years. New magazines have also entered the market and I have not tried the drum-style magazines.

## ABOUT THE AUTHOR



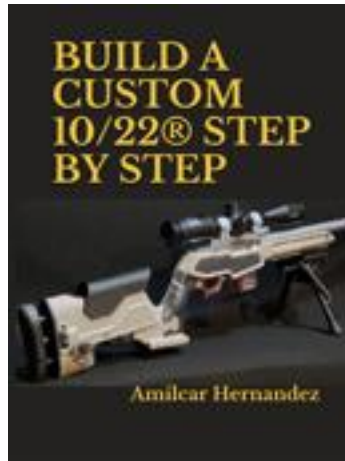
See Amilcar's biography at:

<https://www.aumih.info/bio.html>

Amilcar Hernandez took his first breath of air in 1954 in the industrial city of Monterrey Mexico. After his father abandoned them, he and his mother immigrated to the United States in search of the American Dream. At times, it was the American Nightmare. With dedication and persistence, he learned a new culture, a new language, and a new way of life with some hard knocks along the way. Amilcar is a retired computer system engineer. To keep active and his mind busy, he started a new chapter in his life as a writer.

His interests are riding a motorcycle, fishing, and target shooting.

## **BUILD A CUSTOM 10/ 22 ® STEP BY STEP**



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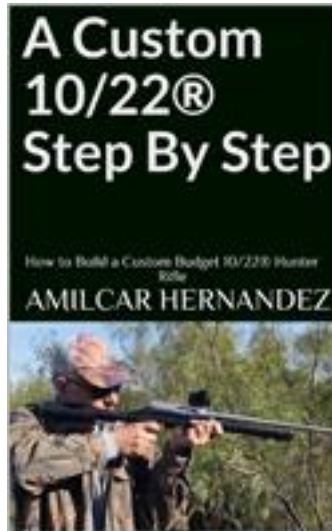
Do you like 22 caliber rifles? Have you always wanted a cool-looking, colorful, tack-driving .22 rifle? Ever thought of building one yourself? It's easy. This book, BUILD A CUSTOM 10/22® STEP BY STEP, takes even the beginner through step-by-step instructions on how to modify, upgrade, and customize your own 10/22. With large color photos, Amilcar shows you exactly what you need to do, and how you need to do it. It won't take thousands of dollars in tools either — in fact, you probably already have all the tools you need. Decades of knowledge and experience went into the making of this book so that you can enjoy a sport that is truly fun and rewarding. Filled with references that will get you to the right places to find just what you need for your own modification, BUILD A CUSTOM 10/22® STEP BY STEP takes the guesswork out of this fun DIY project!





## [A Custom 10/ 22 ® Step By Step](#)

### **How to Build a Budget 10/22® Hunter Rifle**



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This book is a continuation of Build A CUSTOM 10/ 22® STEP BY STEP. In the previous book, every aspect of building a custom 10/22® rifle is discussed. This book takes that information further by illustrating how to build a custom 10/22® type rifle specifically for hunting.

If you ever thought about building a custom rabbit slayer rifle on a modest budget, this is the book for you. This book discusses all the components needed for Building a Custom Budget Hunter rifle together and why the parts were selected. The step-by-step approach will help you build one just like the one in the book or something similar to your liking. The book has detailed images of the step-by-step build project. The author explains why he used the parts he selected and other options available for a builder not on a budget.



## THE HAMMER AND THE NAIL



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It's 21 AD., life is harsh under Roman occupation and even harder for a lonely peasant with no family or friends. Despite his miserable life, Oren seeks to better himself. But the harder he tries, the more difficult his life becomes.

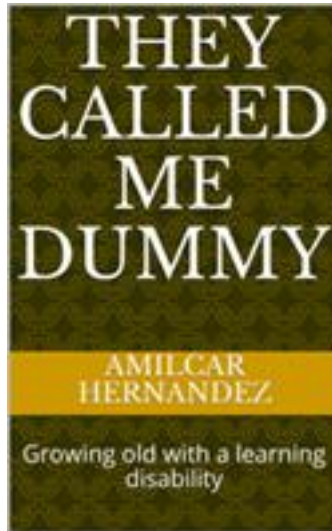
At a low point in his life, fate shines on him. A Roman Tribune offers him work.

In Jerusalem, he finds the security and stability he dreams of—but discovers it comes with a price. He must decide. If he refuses, it could cost him his life. If he accepts, he will lose his soul.



# THEY CALLED ME DUMMY

**Growing old with a learning disability**



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As a child, the author suspected there was something wrong with him. In his mid-thirties, he sought help and that is when he discovered and confirmed he had a learning disability (LD).

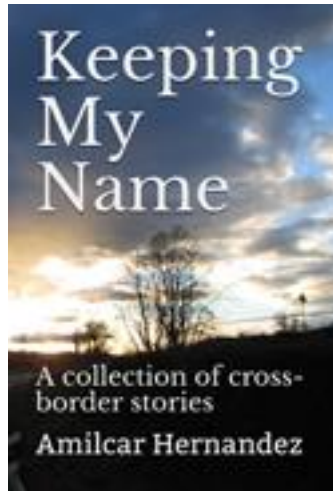
This book is about his experiences growing old with several forms of LD. The author writes of events that span from his childhood up to his golden years. He shares his struggles, his victories, his pains, and his joys. His story will give you an insight into the frustrations, anxieties, challenges, and depression associated with LD. The author explains how he learned to understand and accept his limitations, which helped him to live a positive, satisfying, and rewarding life.





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- A young recruit does not change his name
- A narrow escape with death
- Backing out of a wedding
- Mother's Day will never be the same