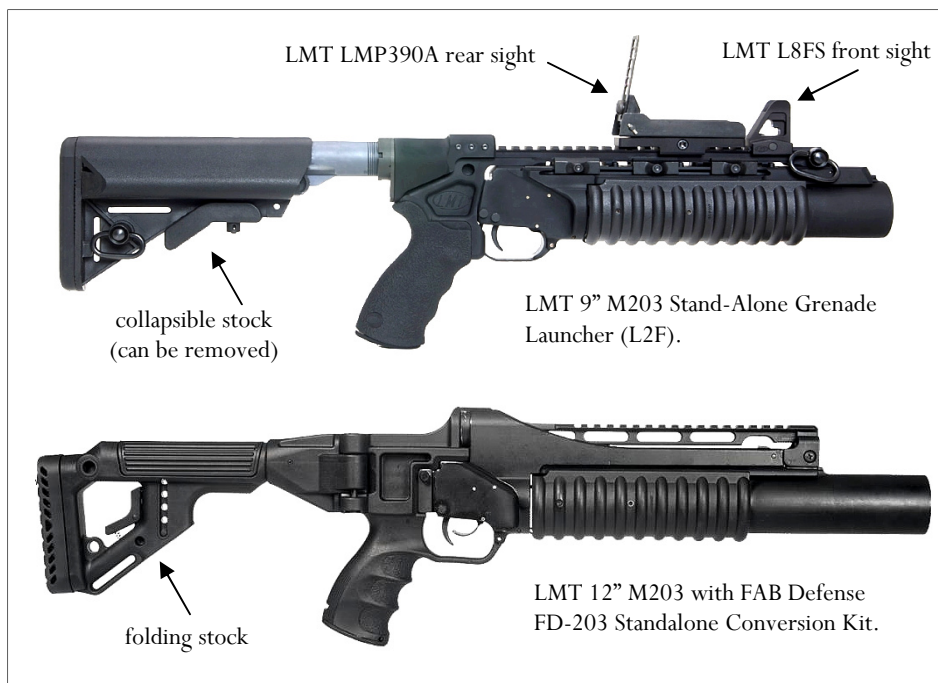


## WEAPON GUIDE

# M203

SMALL ARMS REVIEW TEAM

## 40MM GRENADE LAUNCHER



The American M203 grenade launcher (c. 1969) was developed as a replacement for the stand-alone, single-shot

This was ill-advised as rifles with an attached grenade launcher are too heavy. It is far better to equip soldiers with a

The best 40x46mm rounds are the M433 HEDP, which will penetrate 2" of armor plate, a 12" pine log, a 16" concrete block, or a 20" sandbag, and the M397A1 HE.

On impact a small charge in the nose of the M397A1 grenade is detonated, which raises the grenade

five feet into the air before an impact delay fuze detonates it.

The collapsible stock on the LMT L2F (rail mounted M203) can be replaced with a folding stock, though some may prefer the FAB Defense FD-203 Standalone Conversion Kit (for the barrel mounted M203) which has a built-in folding stock.



M79 (c. 1961) that would be directly attached to the M16 rifle (pictured above). They are both breech loaded weapons.

The bulk and weight of the M79 grenade launcher meant grenadiers could not carry a rifle, which compromised their effectiveness in combat, so some thought it best to attach a grenade launcher to a rifle.

lightweight rifle and a small, lightweight grenade launcher than a rifle with an attached grenade launcher which is difficult to use efficiently in ideal conditions, much less if one is exhausted or injured, due to its weight and compromised ergonomics. Thus the M203 works best as a stand-alone grenade launcher.

## RECOMMENDED ACCESSORIES

**Log Book**  
Firearm Usage & Maintenance Log Book.  
[Blackheart International]

**Handbook**  
Practical Guide to the Operational Use of the M203 Grenade Launcher.  
[Blackheart International]

**Cleaning Kit**  
Grenade Launcher Cleaning Kit.  
[Brownell's]

**Ear Plugs**  
EarPro EP3 or EP4.  
[SureFire]

**Stock**  
FD-203 Standalone Conversion Kit.  
[FAB Defense]



## SPECIFICATIONS

Cartridge: 40x48mm grenade  
Weight: 1.36 kg (3 lb)  
Length: 615 mm (24.2in)  
Coll. Length: 38 cm (15 in)  
Feed System: breech loaded  
Velocity: 76 m/s  
Effective Range: 400 m

## HOT TIP

Moving vehicles are best engaged within 100 meters to ensure a high hit probability.