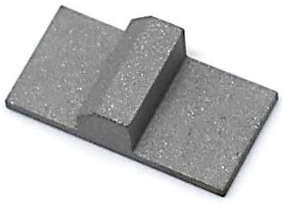
Magazine Front Catch to convert metric FN FAL magazines to inch pattern L1A1 / SLR magazines

Thank you for choosing a high-quality ***TECTAL*** product!

The *magazine front catch* is 100% „Made in Austria“.
It enables the conversion of the more easily obtainable and affordable metric FN FAL magazines to inch pattern magazines used in L1A1 rifles.

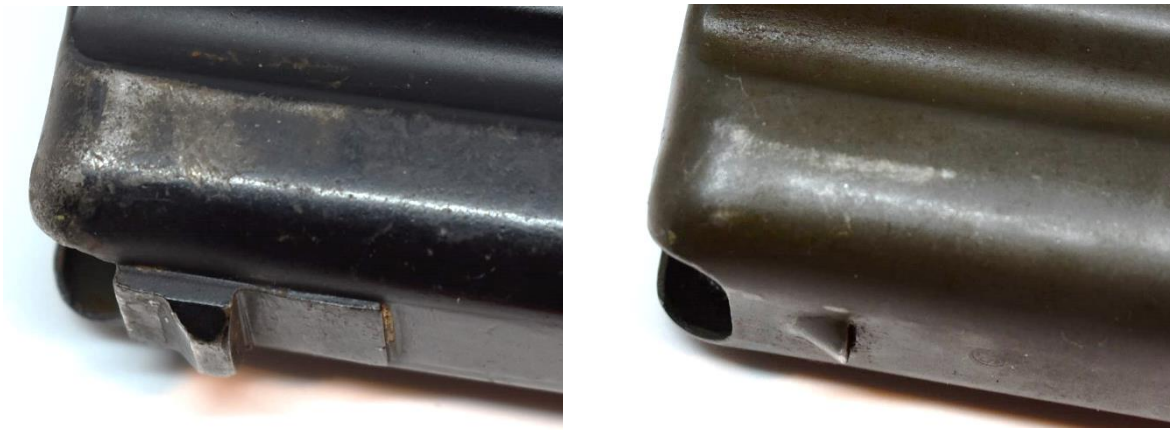
The *TECTAL magazine front catch* is attached to a FN FAL magazine body and allows for proper retention and thereby improved functioning of a FN FAL magazine in a L1A1 magazine well. For the purpose of retrofitting the geometry of the *magazine front catch* differs slightly from the L1A1 original.



Supplied Parts:

- 2 pcs. *TECTAL Magazine Front Catch PN 08.200*

The magazines of metric pattern FN FAL rifles (FN FAL / Stg 58 / etc.) differ from those used in inch pattern rifles (L1A1 / C1A1 / etc.) primarily by the magazine front catch.



Comparison original L1A1 SLR (l.) with FN FAL (r.) magazine front catch

The compatibility of original FN FAL magazines with L1A1 rifles is limited. In practice, failures to feed can occur frequently as the FN FAL magazines do not lock correctly into the front of the magazine-well of L1A1 rifles causing an incorrect magazine / ammunition position in relation to the bolt.

No reference in literature or the original manuals could be found - so far - which would indicate an intended interchangeability of the two magazine types.

Further differences with little to no functional relevance between the FN FAL and L1A1 magazines are the detailed execution of the rear magazine catch and the execution of the magazine base plate.

INSTALLATION

Tools requied:

- File, fine sand paper

- Spot welding equipment or
  TIG welding equipment or
  Oxy-fuel welding equipment
  (Hard-soldering / brazing equipment)

The installation requires welding equipment for thin sheet metal and skill in using it. If in doubt have the installation done by a professional welder! Hard-soldering / brazing can be considered as an alternative although equipment and skill are similarly required.

As supplied the *front magazine catch* is slightly larger and typically requires minor fitting. This also allows for small adjustments especially in case of non-optimal installation or deviating magazine bodies.

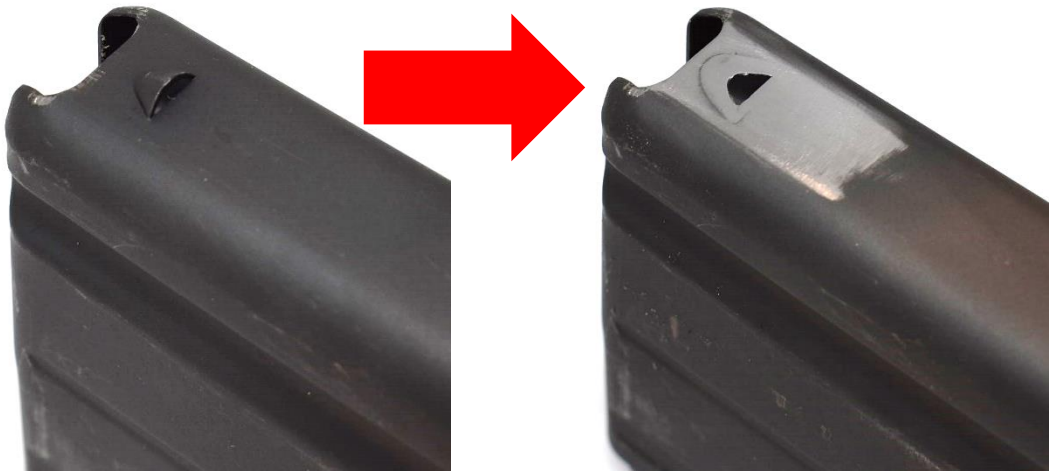
During all installation steps take care not to deform or damage the magazine body or the feed lips to allow for proper function of the magazine following the conversion.

Especially clamping the magazine body in a vice without proper internal support can easily lead to deformations!

1. Disassemble the magazine, i.e. remove the magazine base plate, the magazine spring and follower.

   CAUTION: *The magazine spring is under tension even when the magazine is unloaded. While the magazine spring in metric FN FAL magazines is usually somewhat retained by the base plate retaining tabs on the magazine body in combination with the magazine spring shape, maintain a firm grip on the base plate during removal and release the magazine spring tension in a controlled manner. Wearing safety glasses is strongly recommended during disassembly and assembly of a magazine!*

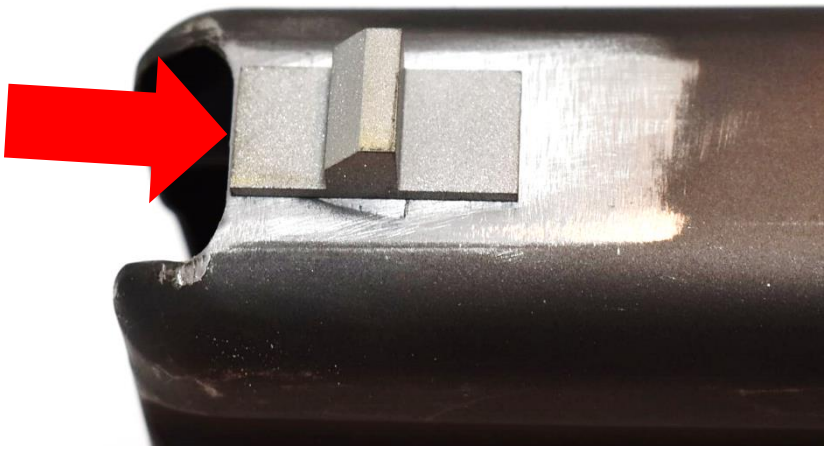
2. Remove the original magazine front catch and the surrounding coating carefully. The surface for the installation of the magazine front catch must be flat and bare metal. The use of a file and subsequently fine grit sand paper is recommended.



   <u>Note:</u> Depending on the coating and the chosen installation method the <u>removal of the coating on the inside</u> opposite of the attachment point may be required!

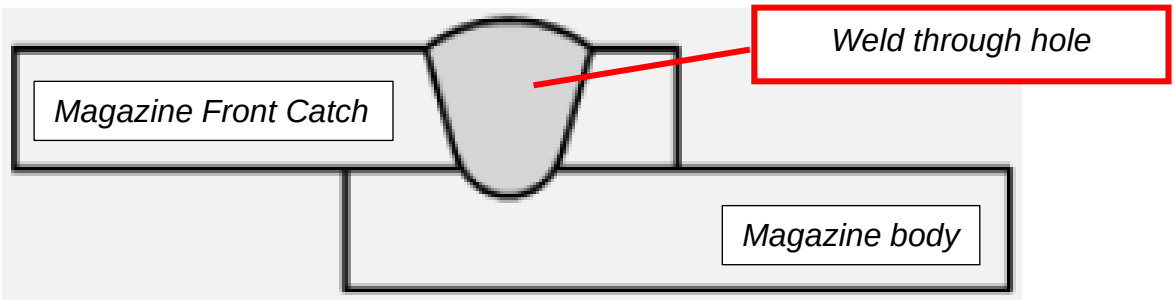
3. Remove the preservation oil from the *TECTAL Magazine Front Catch* thoroughly in preparation of the installation.

4. Position the *TECTAL Magazine Front Catch* so that the top edge is flush with the straight front edge of the magazine body. The *magazine front catch* shall remain flat and in full contact with the magazine body during and after mounting!



5. Attach the *magazine front catch* to the magazine body by spot welding or another suitable method in 2 spots above and below the *magazine front catch*.

The magazine front catch is manufactured from high quality, weldable steel. If spot welding is not possible different welding methods may be used e.g. by drilling two holes and welding there or by utilizing a hard-soldering / brazing process.

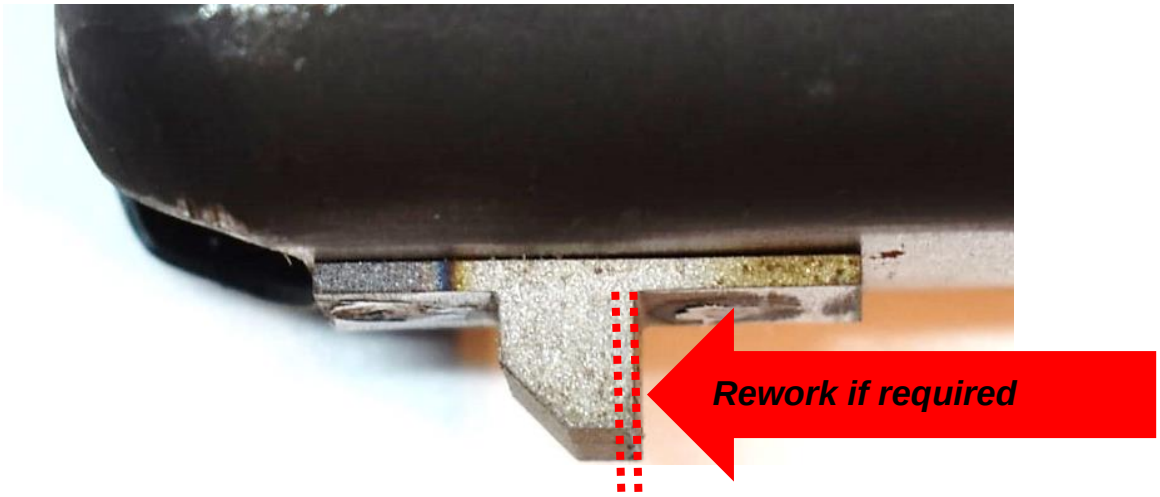


6. Clean the welding areas inside and outside as required (see pic. on p.4).

7. Insert the modified magazine body into the magwell and carefully test if it locks in and is properly retained **WITHOUT** excessive force or pressure.

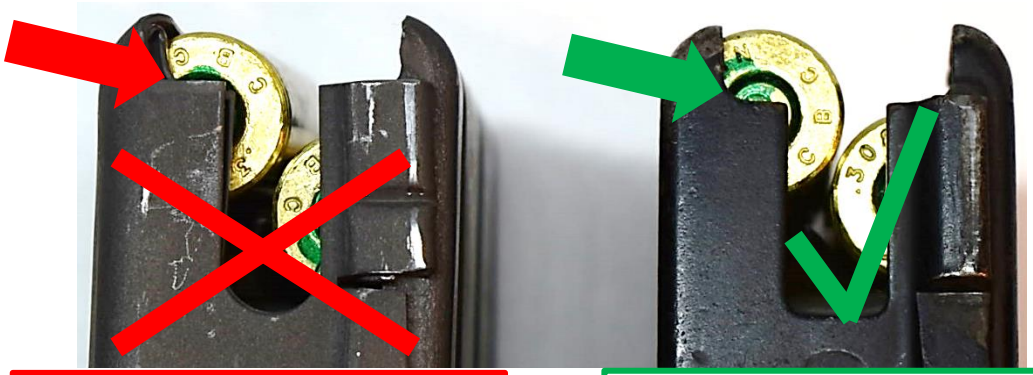
NEVER force a magazine into the magwell or try to lock it in with excessive force to avoid damage or deformation to the magazine and/or the gun!

If so required rework the bottom surface of the *magazine front catch* in small steps and parallel to the original surface using a file. Test fit the magazine repeatedly until it locks in properly and without excessive force.



8. Check the condition of the magazine parts, re-assemble the magazine and test for function. Some important points are:
   a. *Magazine body* … no damage or deformation, follower free to move, magazine lips not bent or damaged otherwise, base plate retaining tabs undamaged
   b. *Magazine follower* … no damage or deformation, moves freely in magazine body
   c. *Magazine spring* … sufficient tension, not bent or damaged otherwise.
   d. *Magazine base plate* … not bent or damaged otherwise, proper engagement with the base plate retaining tabs of the magazine body for secure retention especially when the magazine is loaded

The following pictures show one possible consequence of damaged / deformed feed lips:



Feed lip bent → cartridge rests too deep inside the magazine → bolt cannot pick up the top round properly or at all resulting in a failure to feed

Feed lips in order → cartridge rests properly inside the magazine → bolt can feed the round reliably

9. Once a full function test and any rework has been completed it is strongly recommended to protect any bare metal from corrosion. At minimum a film of oil shall be applied. Depending on the original surface finish of the magazine body the appearance can be further matched by applying suitable paint or cold blueing.

   The following picture shows an example of a phosphate coated magazine body following installation and subsequent conservation.

NOTES ON INSTALLATION AND MAINTENANCE

INSTALLATION

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During all installation steps take care not to deform or damage the magazine body or the feed lips to allow for proper function following the conversion. Especially clamping the magazine body in a vice without proper internal support can easily lead to deformations!

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MAINTENANCE

During routine maintenance the magazine and the *magazine front catch* shall be checked and if required - but especially after use in a humid environment - properly cleaned and preserved as it is not made from stainless steel to allow for welding. Corresponding to its function the *magazine front catch* is subject to wear by use.

In case of any questions please contact us at

office@tectal.at