the last cartridge, to the feed position. However, a single follower that will advance all four columns of cartridges cannot readily be made to continue upwardly through a double column portion of a magazine. Such double column magazines or portions of magazines are required so as to fit the magazine well of a firearm within the M4/M16 family of weapons, whose interface dimensions for the magazine fit have been recommended as a NATO standard.

[0010] In view of the foregoing, it would be beneficial to provide an improved box magazine, such as a box magazine that has increased capacity and/or enhanced reliability with respect to contemporary magazines.

SUMMARY

[0010a] In a first aspect, there is provided a magazine comprising:

an outer follower;

an inner follower adapted to nest at least partially within the outer follower;

wherein the outer follower is adapted to cooperate with the inner follower to support substantially four columns of cartridges when the outer follower and the inner follower are nested so that the outer follower supports three of the substantially four columns of cartridges and the inner follower supports one of the substantially four columns of cartridges when the outer follower and the inner follower are nested; and

wherein the inner follower is adapted to support substantially two columns of cartridges when the outer follower and the inner follower are not nested.

[0010b] In a second aspect, there is provided a method comprising:

nesting an inner follower of a magazine at least partially within an outer follower of the magazine;

during the nesting, supporting substantially four columns of cartridges with the outer follower and the inner follower, wherein the outer follower supports three of the substantially four columns of cartridges and the inner follower supports one of the substantially four columns of cartridges;

moving the inner follower away from the outer follower; and

following the moving, supporting substantially two columns of cartridges with the inner follower.

[0010c] In a third aspect, there is provided a magazine comprising:

a housing adapted to attach to a firearm;

a dividing wall within the housing and adapted to separate cartridges into two sets of the cartridges;

one outer follower and one inner follower adapted to move and coordinate advancement of the two sets of cartridges, wherein the outer follower and the inner follower are adapted to nest at least partially together with the dividing wall passing therethrough;

at least one spring adapted to move the followers;

wherein the housing, the outer follower, and the inner follower are adapted to coordinate merging of substantially four columns of the cartridges into substantially two interlocked and staggered columns of the cartridges to accelerate movement of the cartridges and mitigate a force required for stripping the cartridges from the magazine.

[0010d] In a fourth aspect, there is provided a magazine comprising:

a housing adapted to attach to a firearm;

a dividing wall within the housing and adapted to separate cartridges into two sets of the cartridges;

one outer follower adapted to move and coordinate advancement of both of the two sets of cartridges and one inner follower adapted to move and coordinate advancement of both of the two sets of cartridges;

at least three springs adapted to move the plurality of followers; and

wherein the outer follower, the inner follower, the housing, and the at least three springs are adapted to coordinate merging of substantially four columns of the cartridges into substantially two interlocked and staggered columns of the cartridges to accelerate movement of the cartridges and mitigate a force required for stripping the cartridges from the magazine.

[0011] According to an embodiment, a high capacity box magazine is provided. The high capacity box magazine typically requires less frequent magazine changes than conventional lower capacity box magazines. A plurality of nested followers that are adapted to nest one within another and a plurality of springs that are configured to nest one within another may facilitate the advancement of cartridges within the box magazine to a firearm in a manner that substantially maintains the reliability of a conventional lower capacity box magazine without requiring significantly greater length of the magazine in order to accommodate the increased capacity. For example, two followers and a plurality of springs may facilitate the advancement of cartridges within the box magazine. A spring cup or cups may be used to nest additional springs that work in series and are nested within each other to further reduce the required height of the springs.

[0012] ~~The scope of the disclosure is defined by the claims, which are incorporated into this section by reference.~~ A more complete understanding of embodiments of the present disclosure will be afforded to those skilled in the art, as well as a realization of additional advantages thereof, by a consideration of the following detailed description of one or more embodiments. Reference will be made to the appended sheets of drawings that will first be described briefly.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE FIGURES

[0013] Fig. 1 shows a weapon system that comprises a firearm and a high capacity magazine, in accordance with an embodiment of the disclosure.