

**Claims**

What is claimed is:

1. An ammunition magazine configured to bottom-feed a plurality of ammunition cartridges into an upper receiver of a firearm, the ammunition magazine comprising:
  - 5 a magazine housing including a catch and a floor plate receiver;
  - a spring within the magazine housing;
  - a floor plate retainer disposed at a bottom end of the spring;
  - a floor plate disposed at a bottom end of the magazine housing and reversibly mated with the floor plate retainer; and
  - 10 a magazine follower disposed at a top end of the spring, the magazine follower including:
    - a cartridge-shaped protrusion on a top surface,
    - a ramp on the top surface and disposed adjacent to the cartridge-shaped protrusion,
    - 15 a front leg disposed on a distal end of the magazine follower, and
    - a rear leg disposed generally opposite the front leg.
2. The ammunition magazine of Claim 1, wherein the ammunition round is a 0.223 inch round.
3. The ammunition magazine of Claim 1, wherein the ammunition round is a 5.56 mm  
20 round.
4. The ammunition magazine of any one preceding claim, wherein the magazine follower further comprises a tail fin configured to slide vertically within a tail recess of the magazine housing.
5. The ammunition magazine of any one preceding claim, wherein the ramp is  
25 configured to enable a cartridge to be fed from the ammunition magazine to a chamber

of an upper receiver of a firearm without enabling a bullet portion of the cartridge to contact a feed ramp of the upper receiver.

6. A magazine follower comprising:

- a cartridge-shaped protrusion on a top surface,
- 5 a ramp on the top surface and disposed adjacent to the cartridge-shaped protrusion,
- a front leg disposed on a distal end of the magazine follower, and
- a rear leg disposed generally opposite the front leg.

7. The magazine follower of Claim 6 further comprising a tail fin disposed adjacent the rear leg and configured to slidably mate with a tail recess of a magazine housing.

8. The magazine follower of Claim 6 or Claim 7, wherein the ramp is configured to enable a cartridge to be fed from the ammunition magazine to a chamber of an upper receiver of a firearm without enabling a bullet portion of the cartridge to contact a feed ramp of the upper receiver.

9. An ammunition magazine comprising a magazine follower configured to orient all ammunition cartridges housed therewithin at an angle of about 0.2° to about 5° relative to a longitudinal axis of an associated chamber.

10. The ammunition magazine of Claim 9, wherein the angle is about 1.5°.

11. The ammunition magazine of Claim 9 or Claim 10, wherein the magazine follower does not contact a bullet portion of the ammunition cartridges.

12. The ammunition magazine of any one of Claims 9-11, wherein a bullet portion of the ammunition cartridges do not contact a feed ramp proximate to the associated chamber.

13. The ammunition magazine of any one of Claims 9-12, wherein the follower includes a ramp on its top surface, and wherein the ramp is configured to orient a first ammunition cartridge housed within the ammunition magazine at an angle of about 2° to about 20° relative to the longitudinal axis of the associated chamber.

14. A magazine follower configured to orient a first ammunition cartridge housed within an associated ammunition magazine at an angle of about 2° to about 20° relative to a top surface of the magazine follower.
15. The magazine follower of Claim 14 comprising a ramp on its top surface, wherein  
5 the ramp is configured to orient the first ammunition cartridge housed within the associated ammunition magazine at an angle of about 2° to about 20° relative to the top surface.
16. The magazine follower of Claim 14 or Claim 15, wherein the follower is configured to not contact a bullet portion of the ammunition cartridge.
- 10 17. The magazine follower of Claim 15 or Claim 16, wherein the ramp includes a concave top surface and/or a groove oriented along its longitudinal length.
18. The ammunition magazine of any one of Claims 9-13 or the magazine follower of any one of Claims 14-17, wherein the ammunition cartridge is a shouldered cartridge.
19. The ammunition magazine or magazine follower of Claim 18, wherein the  
15 ammunition cartridge is a .223 cartridge or a 5.56 cartridge.
20. A single stack ammunition magazine comprising:  
a magazine housing base including:  
a left-hand feed ramp insert,  
a left-hand feed lip insert including a plurality of tabs, and  
20 a plurality of key seat slotted pockets configured to slidably mate with the tabs of the left-hand feed lip insert;  
a removable plate including:  
a right-hand feed ramp insert,  
a right-hand feed lip insert including a plurality of tabs, has and  
25 a plurality of key seat slotted pockets to slidably mate with the tabs of the right-hand feed lip insert;

a magazine spring disposed within a magazine housing defined by the magazine housing base and the removable plate; and

a magazine follower disposed at a top end of the magazine spring.

21. The single stack ammunition magazine of claim 20, wherein the base has key seat  
5 slotted pockets to accept corresponding tabs of a left-hand feed lip insert allowing up  
and down movement of the left-hand feed lip insert.
22. The single stack ammunition magazine of claim 21, wherein the left-hand feed lip  
comprises an elastic material.
23. The single stack ammunition magazine of claim 20, wherein the key seat slotted  
10 pockets are configured to cooperate with the tabs of the right-hand feed lip insert to  
enable up-and-down movement of the right-hand feed lip insert within the magazine  
housing.
24. The single stack ammunition magazine of claim 23, wherein the right-hand feed lip  
insert comprise an elastic material.
- 15 25. The single stack ammunition magazine of any one of claims 20-24, wherein the  
magazine is configured to enable top-loading of an ammunition cartridge into the  
magazine housing.
26. The single stack ammunition magazine of any one of claims 20-25, wherein the  
magazine follower comprises a top surface including a cartridge-shaped protrusion and  
20 a ramp disposed adjacent to the cartridge-shaped protrusion.
27. The single stack ammunition magazine of any one of claims 20-26, wherein the left-  
hand feed lip insert and the right-hand feed lip insert cooperate with each other to  
position a cartridge substantially mid-way laterally between the left-hand feed lip insert  
and the right-hand feed lip insert.
- 25 28. The single stack ammunition magazine of any one of claims 20-27, wherein the left-  
hand feed ramp insert and the right-hand feed ramp insert each contact a shoulder of  
an ammunition cartridge to guide the cartridge into a chamber without enabling a bullet  
portion of the cartridge to contact an inner surface of the chamber.
29. A double stack ammunition magazine comprising:

a magazine housing base having an integrated left-hand feed ramp insert;  
a removable magazine box plate having an integrated right-hand feed ramp  
insert;

5 a magazine spring disposed within a magazine housing defined by the magazine  
housing base and the removable magazine box plate; and

a magazine follower disposed at a top end of the magazine spring.

30. The double stack ammunition magazine of claim 29, wherein the right-hand feed  
ramp insert and the left-hand ramp insert are each configured to guide a cartridge  
including a bullet portion from the magazine housing into a barrel extension without the  
10 bullet portion contacting an interior surface of the barrel extension.

31. The double stack ammunition magazine of claim 30, wherein the right-hand feed  
ramp insert and the left-hand feed ramp insert each contact a shoulder of the cartridge  
to guide the cartridge into a chamber without enabling a bullet portion of the cartridge to  
contact an inner surface of the chamber.

15 32. The double stack ammunition magazine of claim 30 or claim 31, wherein the barrel  
extension includes a right-hand loading slot and a left-hand loading slot configured to  
guide a cartridge from the magazine into a chamber.

33. The double stack ammunition magazine of any one of claims 30-32, wherein the  
left-hand feed ramp insert is configured to contact a shoulder of a cartridge, but not a  
20 bullet portion of the cartridge, upon the cartridge being advanced towards the barrel  
extension by a bolt.

34. The double stack ammunition magazine of any one of claims 30-33, wherein the  
right-hand feed ramp insert is configured to contact a shoulder of a cartridge, but not a  
bullet portion of the cartridge, upon the cartridge being advanced towards the barrel  
25 extension by a bolt.

35. The magazine of any one of claims 20-34, wherein the cartridge has a common  
bottle-neck design including a shoulder.