is open. The reloading of a machine gun is often performed with a hand on the handle, the free second hand having to open the cover then position the belt thereon, before releasing it to reclose the cover. This loading operation is often performed under stress since it is done in a vulnerable position without ammunition in position ready to fire. If, during this operation, the machine gun is moved, its feed channel inclined, there is a risk that the band may not be positioned correctly once the cover is closed. The loading operation will then be followed by a malfunction (shot not started).

[0018] To sum up, the conventional machine guns present the following main drawbacks:

- The mobile cover disposed on the top of the weapon prevents the reliable positioning of fixed accessories such as a sighting scope;
- At the end of a belt, one or more links generally remain in the channel, and, the firer must generally discharge these links before being able to reload;
- The poor discharging of a link can lead to a malfunction by blocking the reloading mechanism;
- The positioning of the belt, and in particular the positioning of the last cartridge is imprecise and can thus lead to malfunctions;
- Since the belt is not held, the user must hold it until the cover is closed, which demands the use of both hands.

Summary of the invention

[0019] A first aspect of the invention relates to a machine gun comprising a feed channel for an ammunition belt and a cover for the feed channel the closing movement of which induces an adjustment of the longitudinal position of the ammunition belt in the feed channel. In one embodiment, the invention can further relate to a machine gun for feeding an ammunition belt, comprising a frame body having an essentially tubular geometry and comprising a feed channel and a cover disposed laterally, inclined relative to a vertical axis, wherein the feed channel is inclined according to an angle of between 20° and 70°, preferably between 30° and 60°.

[0020] Advantageously, the adjustment of the longitudinal position of the belt in the channel is obtained via an element that makes it possible to push the belt in the feed channel during the closure movement of the cover, and that allows the passage of the belt during subsequent firing cycles (non-return ratchet).

Claims

1. A machine gun (1) for feeding an ammunition belt (5), comprising a frame body (22) having an essentially tubular geometry and comprising a feed channel and a cover disposed laterally, inclined relative to a vertical axis,

wherein the feed channel is inclined according to an angle of between 20° and 70°, preferably between 30° and 60°.

2. The machine gun (1) as claimed in claim 1, wherein the cover (2) is associable with an axis of rotation (4) which is essentially vertical.

3. The machine gun (1) as claimed in one of the preceding claims, comprising, on its top face, a fixed accessory assembly interface, this interface being able to preferably comprise a rail of Picatinny type (21).

4. The machine gun (1) as claimed in one of the preceding claims, characterized in that closure movement of said cover (2) comprises a component parallel to said feed channel, so as to allow an accurate adjustment of a first ammunition item.

5. The machine gun (1) as claimed in any one of the preceding claims, wherein said feed channel comprises means for holding the ammunition belt (5) when the cover (2) is open.

6. The machine gun (1) as claimed in one of the preceding, wherein the cover (2) of the feed channel comprises means (14, 13) for ejecting links of the belt (5) of ammunition items (18).

7. The machine gun (1) as claimed in one of the preceding, wherein the cover (2) of the feed channel comprises holding means (11) for the links of the ammunition belt (5).

8. The machine gun (1) as claimed in claim 2, comprising means (14) for advancing the ammunition belt (5) bearing in use on a link (10).

9. The machine gun (1) as claimed in one the preceding claims, wherein the frame body (22) is produced in a material having a density less than 6 kg/l, such as aluminum or titanium.

10. The machine gun (1) as claimed in one of the preceding claims, wherein the frame is produced by a casting method.

11. The machine gun (1) as claimed in claim 10, wherein finishing of the frame is done by spark machining after casting.

12. The machine gun (1) as claimed in one of the preceding claims, wherein the frame is produced by an additive manufacturing method.