WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A magazine comprising:

a plurality of followers;

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

wherein the plurality of followers and the at least three springs are adapted to facilitate merging of substantially four columns of 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.

2. The magazine of claim 1, wherein the at least three springs comprise three springs, the plurality of followers comprises two followers, the magazine further comprising a spring cup disposed substantially intermediate a bottom two of the springs, and the spring cup is adapted to facilitate at least partial nesting of the bottom two of the springs.

3. The magazine of claim 1, wherein the substantially two interlocked and staggered columns comprise at least one of the cartridges in one column and at least two of the cartridges in another column.

4. The magazine of claim 1, wherein:

the plurality of followers are adapted to nest at least partially together; and

at least two of the at least three springs are adapted to nest at least partially together.

5. The magazine of claim 1, wherein:

the at least three springs comprise three springs; and

the three springs are adapted to nest at least partially together.

6. The magazine of claim 1, further comprising:

a housing;

a dividing wall having a bottom and adapted to separate the cartridges into two sets of the cartridges; and

wherein the dividing wall is not fastened to the housing and is held to the housing only at the bottom of the dividing wall.

7. The magazine of claim 1, further comprising:

a housing within which the plurality of followers and the at least three springs are substantially disposed, the housing having a wider lower region and a narrower upper region; and

a dividing wall having a bottom and adapted to separate the cartridges into two sets thereof in the lower region, wherein the dividing wall is not fastened to the housing and is held to the housing only at the bottom of the dividing wall.

8. The magazine of claim 1, further comprising a housing and a dividing wall, wherein:

the plurality of followers comprise an outer follower and an inner follower, wherein the inner follower is adapted to nest at least partially within the outer follower;

the inner follower is adapted to separate from the outer follower to enter the upper region of the housing;

at least two of the at least three springs are adapted to nest at least partially one within the other;

one of the at least three springs is adapted to move the inner follower and the outer follower when the inner follower and the outer follower are in the lower region and another one of the at least three springs is adapted to move the inner follower when the inner follower is in the upper region; and

the housing, the plurality of followers, the at least three springs, and the dividing wall are adapted to cooperate to merge the substantially four columns of the cartridges into the substantially two interlocked and staggered columns of the cartridges.

9. The magazine of claim 1, further comprising a dividing wall and wherein:

the at least three springs are adapted to receive the dividing wall therethrough;

the at least three springs are round springs;

a first one of the springs is an outer spring;

a second one of the springs is an inner spring that is adapted to nest at least partially within the outer spring; and

wherein the outer spring provides substantially more force than the inner spring.

10. The magazine of claim 1, further comprising:

a housing having a top end and a bottom end substantially opposite the top end;

a first one of the followers is an outer follower movably disposed within the housing;

a second one of the followers is an inner follower movably disposed within the housing and adapted to nest at least partially within the outer follower;

a first one of the springs and a second one of the springs are disposed within the housing and adapted to move the outer follower away from the bottom end of the housing;

a third one of the springs disposed within the housing and adapted to move the inner follower away from the outer follower and toward the top end of the housing, the third spring being adapted to nest at least partially within the outer follower; and

wherein the first spring, the second spring, and the third spring are adapted to expand to move the cartridges to a firearm.

11. The magazine of claim 1, further comprising:

a housing having a dividing wall and a transition zone;

wherein:

the housing is configured to merge the substantially four columns of the cartridges into the substantially two columns of the cartridges proximate the transition zone;

one of the followers is a four column follower; and

the four column follower bridges both sides of dividing wall and the transition zone has two opposed walls that are symmetrical.

12. The magazine of claim 11, wherein the substantially four columns comprise two staggered double columns of the cartridges that are offset by a distance of ¼ of a diameter of the cartridges.

13. The magazine of claim 1, further comprising:

a housing having a two column section and a four column section;

wherein:

the housing is configured to merge the substantially four columns of the cartridges into the substantially two columns of the cartridges; and

one of the plurality of followers comprises a two column follower adapted to advance the substantially two columns of cartridges in the two column section of the housing and advance one column of the cartridges in the four column section.

14. The magazine of claim 13, wherein the cartridges are offset by a distance of ½ of a diameter of the cartridges in the two column section and the substantially four columns of the cartridges comprise substantially two interlocked double columns that are offset from each other by a distance of ¼ of a diameter of the cartridges.

15. A magazine comprising:

feed lips configured to angle the cartridges contacting the feed lips upward by approximately 2° with respect to a perpendicular to an aft wall of the magazine; and

spring loaded surfaces configured to force the substantially two columns of the cartridges together as the cartridges approach the feed lips.

16. A magazine comprising a housing configured to facilitate merging of four columns of cartridges into substantially two interlocked and staggered columns of cartridges and, the housing comprising:

a substantially straight section configured to fit an M4/M16 magazine well;

a first curved section adjacent the straight section;

a second curved section adjacent the first curved section;

wherein the cartridges comprise M4/M16 cartridges and the first curved section has a substantially shorter radius than a curve of a column of the cartridges caused by a taper of the cartridges;

wherein the first curve changes an angle of the housing such that the cartridges are substantially perpendicular to a wall of the housing;

wherein the second curved section substantially matches a curve of a column of the cartridges caused by the taper of the cartridges such that the cartridges in the second curved section are substantially perpendicular with respect to the back wall of the housing; and

wherein the first curve is tangent to both the straight section and the second curve.

17. The magazine of claim 1, further comprising a housing having a plurality of ribs and wherein the at least three springs are round springs and the at least one spring is guided by the ribs.

18. The magazine of claim 1, further comprising:

a housing having side walls; and

wherein the housing is configured such that shoulders, necks, and projectiles of the cartridges do not contact the side walls.

19. A firearm comprising the magazine of claim 1.

20. A magazine for providing cartridges to a firearm, the magazine comprising:

a housing having a top end and a bottom end substantially opposite the top end;

an outer follower movably disposed within the housing;

an inner follower movably disposed within the housing and adapted to nest at least partially within the outer follower;

a spacer movably disposed within the housing;

a first spring disposed substantially between the bottom end of the housing and the spacer and adapted to move the spacer away from the bottom end of the housing;

a second spring disposed substantially between the spacer and the outer follower and adapted to move the outer follower away from the spacer;

a third spring disposed substantially between the inner follower and the outer follower and adapted to move the inner follower away from the outer follower; and

wherein the third spring is adapted to nest at least partially within the second spring, the second spring is adapted to nest at least partially within the first spring, and the first, second, and third springs are adapted to expand to move the cartridges to the firearm.

21. A firearm comprising the magazine of claim 20.

22. A method for providing cartridges to a firearm, the method comprising:

moving the cartridges away from a bottom end of a housing of a magazine and toward a top end of the housing using a first spring disposed in the housing, a second spring disposed in the housing, and an outer follower disposed in the housing; and

moving the cartridges away from the outer follower and toward the top end of the housing using a third spring disposed in the housing and an inner follower disposed in the housing.

23. The method as recited in claim 22, wherein the inner follower is adapted to nest at least partially within the outer follower.

24. The method as recited in claim 22, wherein the second spring is adapted to nest at least partially within the first spring.

25. The method as recited in claim 22, wherein the third spring is adapted to nest at least partially within the outer follower.

26. A magazine configured to operate according to the method of claim 22.

27. A firearm comprising the magazine of claim 26.

28. A magazine comprising at least three springs adapted such that at least two of the springs nest at least partially one within the other.

29. A magazine comprising:

a housing; and

at least three springs adapted to move cartridges within the housing.

30. A magazine comprising:

a housing adapted to merge four columns of cartridges into two columns of the cartridges, the housing having side walls and a transition;

a dividing wall within the magazine;

a four column follower adapted to bridge two sides of the dividing wall; and

wherein two opposing side walls of the housing at the transition are substantially symmetrical.

31. The magazine of claim 30, further comprising a two column follower adapted to advance the two columns of the cartridges when the two column follower is in a two column section of the magazine and adapted to only support/advance one column of the cartridges when the two column follower is in a four column section of the magazine.

32. The magazine of claim 30, further comprising a last cartridge support surface on the inner and on outer follower are adapted to pass through each other and adapted to independently support the last cartridge.

33. A magazine comprising:

a housing adapted to merge four columns of cartridges from a four column section into two columns of cartridges in a two column section; and

wherein the magazine is adapted such that the cartridges are offset with respect to one another by approximately ½ of a cartridge diameter in the two column section and two interlocked double columns are offset with respect to one another other by ¼ of a cartridge diameter in the four column section.

34. A magazine comprising:

a housing adapted to contain two columns of cartridges within a portion thereof;

two feed lips formed at an upper end of the housing; and

at least one spring loaded surface adapted to force a front of the cartridges of the two columns together as they approach the feed lips.

35. A magazine comprising:

a housing configured to facilitate merging of four columns of cartridges into substantially two interlocked and staggered columns of cartridges and having a plurality of ribs;

at least one round spring; and

wherein the ribs are adapted to guide the at least one round spring.

36. A magazine comprising a housing adapted to fit an M4/M16 magazine well, the housing having a feed lip opening greater than 0.480 inches.

37. A magazine comprising:

a housing adapted to contain two columns of cartridges within a portion thereof; and

wherein the housing has a cartridge guide surface that extends from an aft rib to a back wall of the housing for an uppermost cartridge in a feed location of the housing and the housing has a feed lip opening that is greater than 1.27 cartridge diameters.

38. A magazine comprising:

a housing having a transition with two opposed approximately symmetrical side walls; and

wherein the housing is adapted to facilitate merging of four columns of cartridges into two single columns of the cartridges and the housing is adapted such that the cartridges terminate in a single feed position.

39. A magazine comprising:

a housing having a transition with two opposed approximately symmetrical side walls; and

wherein the housing is adapted to facilitate merging of four columns of cartridges into two single columns of the cartridges and the housing is adapted such that the cartridges terminate in a double feed position.

40. A magazine comprising:

a housing having a plurality of side walls; and

wherein the housing is adapted to facilitate merging of substantially four columns of cartridges into substantially two interlocked and staggered columns of cartridges such that shoulders, necks, and projectiles of the cartridges contained in the housing do not contact the side walls.

41. A box magazine comprising a hardened surface feed ramps formed into an insert attached to a front wall.

42. A magazine comprising:

a housing formed of sheet metal and having a front wall and side walls; and

wherein the front wall wraps partially around the side walls and is permanently attached to the side walls.

43. The magazine of claim 42, wherein the front wall is attached to the side walls using spot welding where the front wall overlaps the side walls.

CLAIMS

1. 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.

2. The magazine of claim 1, wherein when the outer follower and the inner follower are nested:

one of the columns of cartridges supported by the outer follower is held by the outer follower above a first surface of the inner follower by a gap of approximately ¼ of a cartridge diameter.

3. The magazine of claim 2, wherein when the outer follower and the inner follower are not nested:

the first surface of the inner follower is adapted to close the gap and contact at least one of the cartridges.

4. The magazine of claim 1, wherein two of the substantially four columns of cartridges are offset relative to a remaining two of the substantially four columns of cartridges by a distance of approximately ¼ of a cartridge diameter.

5. The magazine of claim 1, wherein one of the substantially two columns of cartridges is offset relative to a remaining one of the substantially two columns of cartridges by a distance of approximately ½ of a cartridge diameter.

6. The magazine of claim 1, further comprising a housing configured to facilitate merging of the substantially four columns of cartridges into the substantially two columns of cartridges.

7. The magazine of claim 6, wherein the housing includes a short neck portion and wherein the substantially two columns of cartridges each include only one cartridge interlocked on each side of the short neck portion .

8. The magazine of claim 6, wherein the housing includes a short neck portion adapted such that the cartridges terminate in a double feed position in which the substantially two columns include at least one cartridge in one column and at least one cartridge in another column .

9. The magazine of claim 8, further comprising a dividing wall having a top end, wherein minimum distances between the top end of the dividing wall and opposing sides of the housing are equal and approximately a cartridge diameter and wherein the substantially two columns of cartridges each include only one cartridge interlocked on each side of the short neck portion.

10. The magazine of claim 6, further comprising a dividing wall having a top end, wherein minimum distances between the top end of the dividing wall and opposing sides of the housing are equal and approximately a cartridge diameter, and wherein the substantially two columns of cartridges each include a plurality of interlocked cartridges in a two column portion of the housing.

11. The magazine of claim 1, further comprising:

a housing having a top end and a bottom end;

a spacer movably disposed within the housing;

a first spring disposed substantially between the bottom end of the housing and the spacer and adapted to move the spacer away from the bottom end of the housing;

a second spring disposed substantially between the spacer and the outer follower and adapted to move the outer follower away from the spacer;

a third spring disposed substantially between the inner follower and the outer follower and adapted to move the inner follower away from the outer follower; and

wherein the third spring is adapted to nest at least partially within the second spring, the second spring is adapted to nest at least partially within the first spring, and the first, second, and third springs are adapted to expand to move the cartridges.

12. A firearm comprising the magazine of claim 1.

13. 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.

14. The method of claim 13, wherein the supporting substantially four columns of cartridges comprises holding, with the outer follower, one of the columns of cartridges supported by the outer follower above a first surface of the inner follower by a gap of approximately ¼ of a cartridge diameter.

15. The method of claim 14, wherein the moving comprises closing the gap and contacting at least one of the cartridges with the first surface of the inner follower.

16. The method of claim 13, wherein two of the substantially four columns of cartridges are offset relative to a remaining two of the substantially four columns of cartridges by a distance of approximately ¼ of a cartridge diameter.

17. The method of claim 13, wherein one of the substantially two columns of cartridges is offset relative to a remaining one of the substantially two columns of cartridges by a distance of approximately ½ of a cartridge diameter.

18. The method of claim 13, further comprising merging the substantially four columns of cartridges into the substantially two columns of cartridges using a housing of the magazine.

19. The method of claim 18, wherein the housing includes a short neck portion and wherein, following the merging, the substantially two columns of cartridges each include only one cartridge interlocked on each side of the short neck portion .

20. The method of claim 18, further comprising terminating the cartridges in a double feed position using the housing, wherein the substantially two columns include at least one cartridge in one column and at least one cartridge in another column .

21. The method of claim 20, wherein the magazine includes a dividing wall having a top end and wherein minimum distances between the top end of the dividing wall and opposing sides of the housing are equal and approximately a cartridge diameter and wherein the substantially two columns of cartridges each include only one cartridge interlocked on each side of the short neck portion.

22. The method of claim 18, wherein the magazine includes a dividing wall having a top end and wherein minimum distances between the top end of the dividing wall and opposing sides of the housing are equal and approximately a cartridge diameter and wherein the substantially two columns of cartridges each include a plurality of interlocked cartridges in a two column portion of the housing.

23. The method of claim 13, wherein the magazine includes a housing having a top end and a bottom end, a spacer, a first spring disposed substantially between the bottom end of the housing and the spacer, a second spring disposed substantially between the spacer and the

outer follower, and a third spring disposed substantially between the inner follower and the outer follower, the method further comprising:

moving the spacer away from the bottom end of the housing with the first spring;

moving the outer follower away from the spacer with the second spring;

nesting the third spring at least partially within the second spring;

nesting the second spring at least partially within the first spring;

expanding the first, second, and third springs to move the cartridges; and

wherein the moving the inner follower away from the outer follower comprises moving the inner follower away from the outer follower with the third spring.

24. The method of claim 13, further comprising providing the cartridges to a firearm using the outer follower and the inner follower.

25. 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.

26. The magazine of claim 25, wherein the substantially two interlocked and staggered columns of the cartridges include at least one cartridge in one of the two columns and at least one cartridge in another of the two columns in at least a portion of the housing.

27. 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.

28. The magazine of claim 27, wherein the inner follower is adapted to nest within the outer follower, wherein, when the outer follower and the inner follower are nested, one of the columns of cartridges is held by the outer follower above a first surface of the inner follower by a gap of approximately ¼ of a cartridge diameter, and wherein, when the outer follower and the inner follower are not nested, the first surface of the inner follower is adapted to close the gap and contact at least one of the cartridges.

29. The magazine of claim 27, wherein the substantially two interlocked and staggered columns of the cartridges include at least one cartridge in one of the two columns and at least one cartridge in another of the two columns in at least a portion of the housing.

30. The magazine of claim 27, wherein the housing includes a transition with two opposed approximately symmetrical side walls and wherein the housing is adapted such that the cartridges terminate in a single feed position or a double feed position.

31. The magazine of claim 27, further comprising:

two feed lips formed at an upper end of the housing; and

at least one spring loaded surface adapted to force a front of the cartridges of the substantially two interlocked and staggered columns together as they approach the feed lips.