

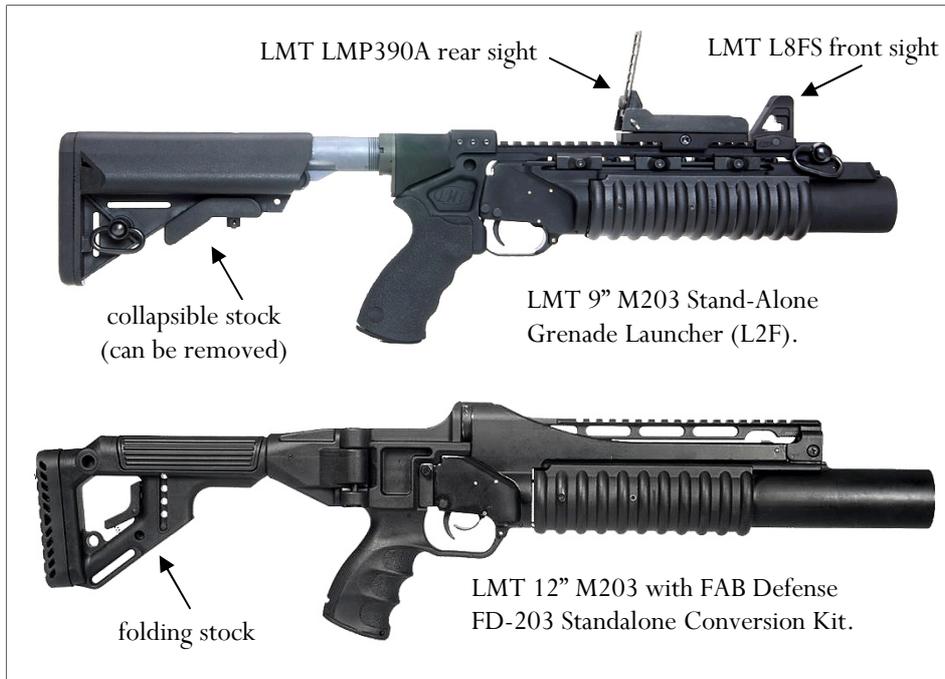
## PRODUCT REVIEW

# M203

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## 40MM GRENADE LAUNCHER



The American M203 grenade launcher (c. 1969) was developed as a replacement for the stand-alone, single-shot

This was ill-advised as rifles with an attached grenade launcher are too heavy. It is far better to equip soldiers with a

grenade launcher.

The best 40x46mm rounds are the M433 HEDP, which will penetrate 2" of armor



M79 (c. 1961) that would be directly attached to the M16 rifle (pictured). They are both breech loaded weapons.

The bulk and weight of the M79 grenade launcher meant grenadiers could not carry a rifle, which compromised their effectiveness in combat, so some thought it best to attach a grenade launcher to a rifle.

lightweight rifle and a small, lightweight grenade launcher than a rifle with an attached grenade launcher which is difficult to use efficiently in ideal conditions, much less if one is exhausted or injured, due to its weight and compromised ergonomics. Thus the M203 is best deployed as a stand-alone

grenade launcher. The best 40x46mm rounds are the M433 HEDP, which will penetrate 2" of armor plate, a 12" pine log, a 16" concrete block, or a 20" sandbag; and the M397A1 HE. On impact a small charge in the nose of the M397A1 grenade is detonated,

which raises the grenade 5 feet into the air before an impact delay fuze detonates it. This is intended to prevent obstacles on the ground shielding the enemy from fragments.

M203 owners may prefer the lightweight FD-203 Standalone Conversion Kit from FAB Defense which has a folding stock.

### SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

Stand-alone M203 grenade launchers are the most practical means of using cased 40x46mm grenades as rifles with attached grenade launchers are too heavy.

### RECOMMENDED ACCESSORIES

#### Handbook

Practical Guide to the Operational Use of the M203 Grenade Launcher. [Blackheart International]

#### Log Book

Firearm Usage & Maintenance Log Book. [Blackheart International]

#### Cleaning Kit

Grenade Launcher Cleaning Kit. [Brownell's]

#### Ear Plugs

EarPro EP3 or EP4 Sonic Defenders. [SureFire]

#### Stocks

FD-203 Stand-Alone Conversion Kit. [FAB Defense]

### KEY SPECIFICATIONS

Cartridge: 40x46 mm grenade  
Weight: 1.36kg (3.0 lbs)  
Length: 380 mm (15")  
Barrel Length: 305 mm (12")  
Feed System: breech-loaded  
Grenade Velocity: 76 m/s  
Effective Range: 400 m



### HOT TIP

Moving vehicles are best engaged within 100 meters to ensure a high hit probability.