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## m4 carbine M4 Carbine &#39;stepped&#39; barrel

Posted by panzer...@gmail.com - 2008/09/14 05:42

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<http://media.militaryphotos.net/photos/M4-Carbine/carbine07> <http://www.fas.org/man/dod-101/sys/land/m16.htm> The above links show the M4 carbine. I've always wondered what the 'step' in the barrel just forward of the front sight is for. On the F.A.S site's pictures it shows a M4 with m203 grenade launcher, the launcher seems to clip on just where the 'step' in the barrel is. IIRC M16s mount the M203 without the 'step' in the barrel so why is it needed on the M4?  
Jeremy Thomson

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## m4 carbine M4 Carbine &#39;stepped&#39; barrel

Posted by Herb Leong - 2008/09/14 05:42

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<http://media.militaryphotos.net/photos/M4-Carbine/carbine07> <http://www.fas.org/man/dod-101/sys/land/m16.htm> #The above links show the M4 carbine. I've always wondered what the 'step' in the barrel just forward of the front sight is for. On the F.A.S site's pictures it shows a M4 with m203 grenade launcher, the launcher seems to clip on just where the 'step' in the barrel is. IIRC You just answered your own question! =) Yes, it's for the grenade launcher. A device most normal M4 style barrel owners will never get to look at in person, let alone mount on their rifles... M16s mount the M203 without the 'step' in the barrel so why is it needed on the M4? If you take the handguards off of a issued M16 (with a non-National Match heavy barrel), you will notice that the barrel under the M16's handguards is the same diameter of the step-down on a M4... So there is a step, so to speak, that goes from forward of the chamber to the front sight base. /herb

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Posted by Plink - 2008/09/14 05:42

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Posted by George - 2008/09/14 05:42

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# M16s mount the M203 without the 'step' in the barrel so why is it needed on the M4? # I beleive the barrel is larger in diameter. George in Las Vegas

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## m4 carbine M4 Carbine &#39;stepped&#39; barrel

Posted by Tony Belding - 2008/09/14 05:42

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On 2006-07-04 06:28:15 -0500, panzer...@gmail.com said: # I've always wondered what the 'step' in the barrel just forward of the front sight is for. On the F.A.S site's pictures it shows a M4 with m203 grenade launcher, the launcher seems to clip on just where the 'step' in the barrel is. IIRC M16s mount the M203 without the 'step' in the barrel so why is it needed on the M4? The original M16 and M16A1 had a lighter profile barrel, and the narrow part of the M4's step is the same diameter as the M16 barrel at that location. Even the M16A2 only beefed up the muzzle end of the barrel (the part you could see), but I believe under the handguards it was still the same diameter as the M16. As you guessed, with an M4 the notch is necessary for mounting an M203 on it. Incidentally, I'm no fan of the M4. The barrel notch is only one of its annoying quirks, and not even close to being the worst.

