

Featured Equipment: The Browning M2HB .50inch HMG

Famous the world over for the sheer power of its .50 calibre (12.7mm(round, the Browning M2HB ('Heavy Barrel') emerged from the US Army's request in 1918 for a more potent weapon with which to attack enemy vehicles and aircraft. The M2HB machine gun, or Browning .50 Calibre Machine Gun is a heavy machine gun designed just after World War I by John Browning. Browning's initial answer was the water-cooled M1921 (a M1917 modified to accept Winchester's

new .50 cartridge), which in the 1930s became the M2 air-cooled weapon. The cartridge's power meant that the barrel could over-heat after only 75 rounds of constant firing, so a heavy barrel was added to dissipate heat and this became the dominant model, the M2HB. Apart from numerous changes to mounts and other components, the M2HB used today is essentially the same as the original. It is the primary heavy machine gun of NATO countries, and has been used by

many other countries. It is nicknamed 'Five-O Browny' by the South African troops. The M2HB machine gun was used in the Border War.

"Twentieth-Century Small Arms", by Chris McNab

For more detailed information on the Browning, see Wikipedia:

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Browning_machine_gun



Vehicle mounted machine guns provided crucially needed fire support at times. Here a M2HB is mounted on top of a Casspir

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Specifications

Country of Origin:	USA
Caliber:	12.7mm NATO (.50in)
Length:	1655mm (65in)
Weight:	38.5kg (84lb) 58kg with tripod
Barrel:	1143mm (45in), 8 grooves, rh
Feed/magazine capacity:	110-round metallic disintegrating link belt
Operation:	Recoil, air-cooled
Cyclic rate of fire:	550rpm
Muzzle velocity:	898mps (2950fps)
Effective Range:	2000m (6600ft)

“It is the primary heavy machine gun of NATO countries.”

The Browning M2HB .50inch heavy machine gun



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