



DEFENCE UNEXPLODED ORDNANCE WEBSITE ORDNANCE INFORMATION SHEET

**ALL UXO MAY BE HAZARDOUS IF DISTURBED
DO NOT TOUCH – TAKE A PHOTO – MARK THE LOCATION – CALL THE POLICE**

GRENADE - US MARK II

Description

- ☛ The Mark II (Mk II) grenade is a US hand-thrown or rifle-fired (using an adaptor) high explosive fragmentation grenade that was introduced in 1918. It was widely used during WWII until the 1970s when it was replaced by the M26, and later M26A1, grenade. It is commonly referred to as the "pineapple" because of its shape and external serration.
- ☛ A practice variant of the Mk II was also available containing a reduced charge of black powder.
- ☛ The Mk II grenade was primarily used by US forces stationed or training in Australia during WWII (mainly Qld and to a lesser extent NSW, VIC & NT) however some stocks of these grenades may have also been used by Australian units during or after WWII. These grenades were also often souvenired and therefore may be found in homes around Australia.
- ☛ Unlike earlier types of US grenades, the Mk II was shipped fully fuzed – any Mk II grenades that have the safety pin removed should be assumed to fully armed.
- ☛ Unexploded items of this type may be found in many areas throughout Australia but more likely to be found in QLD – typically on or just below the ground surface.

Technical Data

- ☛ Mmunition length : approx. 110-115 mm
- ☛ Diameter : approx maximum 57-59mm
- ☛ Total weight : approx 590-600 grams
- ☛ Fuse/Burster : Contains a simple time fuse
- ☛ Filling : HE - approx 55-60 grams of flaked/granular TNT or EC blank fire powder
- ☛ Identification :
 - The body of the munition is usually made of cast iron and serrated to assist fragmentation.
 - The body of the High Explosive variant is usually olive drab with a single or double yellow band at the top (some repainted grenades may not have the yellow band); the whole body of earlier models may be painted yellow.
 - Low Explosive grenades were made of blackened iron or were painted grey or black.
 - A red (and later blue) body was mostly used to indicate 'practice'. Bronze, gold, or brass usually denoted 'inert'.
 - Other colours may denote different types of dangerous filling (e.g. grey, dark green, light green – smoke or chemical; red – incendiary or riot control; violet – incapacitating).
 - **Caution** – US colours have changed over the past 70+ years and colours may have faded over time. **Treat all found munitions as dangerous.**
 - Many other types of grenades were used in Australia – treat all objects that look like grenades or other suspicious objects as if they were live munitions.

Images

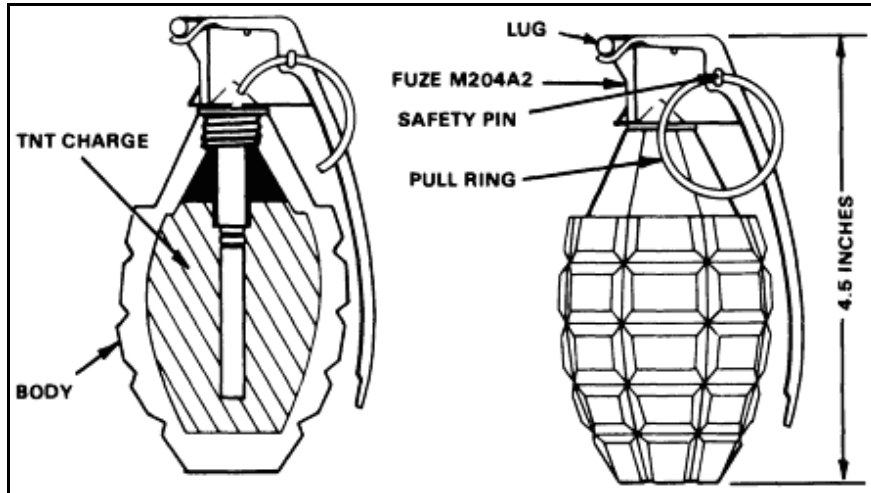


Figure 1 - Typical construction of US Mk II grenade



Figure 2 - Common colour/markings of Mk II grenade (HE)



Figure 3 - Early model of the MK II (HE) painted yellow



Figure 4 - US soldier throwing a Mk II grenade