

Beer Gun

This thing, to put it simply, is a monster of mid-20th century engineering. The Beer Gun looks roughly like a drastically scaled-down version of a M61 Vulcan rotary cannon; while it is light enough to be fired by a person, there's a handle on the top to grab while firing. The user frankly needs it, given that this thing kicks like a mule. The Beer Gun has six muzzleloading barrels: each barrel can fit one standard-sized can of Budweiser beer from the 1950s (the US Army manual that accompanies each Beer Gun is *adamant* that only Budweiser is to be used). The firing mechanism is one heavy-duty titanium spring per barrel: once a chamber has been fired, it takes a total of one minute of steady ratcheting with an included jack to cock the spring back. There are no electrical or chemical components to the Beer Gun at all, and all of the mechanical parts are designed to be as rugged as possible.

Each chamber can be set for 'open' or 'closed.' If open, firing the Beer Gun shoots out a can of beer, at a high enough speed to hurt if you hit center of mass from not too far away, and maybe kill if you manage to hit somebody in the head (this thing is woefully if not outright ridiculously

inaccurate against human-sized targets). If closed, the beer is instead punctured while in the chamber and forced out from the Gun in an admittedly impressive but pointless cloud-spray of, well, beer. The chamber must then be popped open and the beer can shaken out before it can be reused. Also: the Beer Gun can mechanically set to fire each barrel individually, or all at once.

As a joke, the Beer Gun is a strange one. As a weapon, it's remarkably useless. So why did the US Army make 10,000 of these things, and why are crates of them stashed in GSA and National Guard storage facilities across the continental United States?

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