

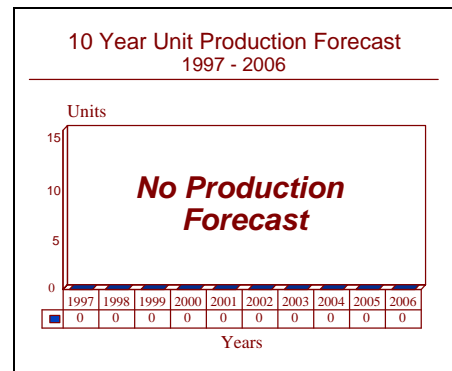
ARCHIVED REPORT

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M44 155 mm Self-Propelled Howitzer - Archived 4/97

Outlook

- The serial production of the M44 ended in 1958
- A total of 608 M44 systems was manufactured
- Only a minimal additional modernization and retrofit potential exists for the remaining systems



Orientation

Description. A tracked 155 millimeter self-propelled artillery system

Sponsor. The development and procurement of the M44 was sponsored by the United States Department of Defense through the United States Army Materiel Command and Armament, Munitions and Chemical Command.

Contractors. This artillery system was manufactured by Massey Harris Ferguson Corporation; Racine, Wisconsin, United States of America.

Licenseses. None

Status. The manufacture of the M44 was completed in 1958 and the system remains in service in a number of countries.

Total Produced. A total of eight prototypes, 250 T99 systems modified to M44 standard, and 350 new production M44 systems was manufactured.

Application. Mobile artillery support for the field army at the battalion level.

Price Range. The M44 has mainly been transferred under outright grant or very liberal Foreign Military Sales policies. Only two transactions of this weapon are known to have been made by international arms brokers/principals. The latest known transaction was made in 1978 and resulted in a unit cost of \$69,000.

Technical Data

Crew. Five

Muzzle Brake. None

Recoil System. Hydromechanical

Breech Mechanism. Interrupted screw-Wellin stepped thread

Ammunition. The M44 can fire most NATO standard 155 millimeter ammunition except the M712 guided projectile and improved conventional munitions.

Dimensions. The following dimensions are for the M44A1, the final production standard.

	SI units	US units
Length	6.16 meters	20.21 feet
Width	3.24 meters	10.63 feet
Height	3.11 meters	10.20 feet
Combat weight	29.03 tonnes	32.0 tons
Fuel capacity	568 liters	151.06 gallons
Ordnance caliber	155 millimeters	6.10 inches

Performance. The automotive performance is on a metallated road. The basic M44A1 without the fuel injected engine has a ten kilometer lower range than the M44A1.

Maximum speed	56.3 kilometers per hour	34.96 miles per hour
Maximum range	132 kilometers	81.97 statute miles
Step	76.2 centimeters	2.50 feet
Trench	1.83 meters	6.0 feet
Slope	32%	32%
Gradient	60%	60%
Fording	1.07 meters	3.51 feet
Elevation	+65°	+65°
Depression	-5°	-5°
Traverse	150° left and right	150° left and right
Maximum ordnance range	14,600 meters	15,966.6 yards
Maximum rate of fire	6 rounds per minute	6 rounds per minute

Engine. The basic model of the M44 uses a Continental (now Teledyne Continental) AOS-895-3 six-cylinder, air cooled supercharged spark ignition engine rated at 373 kilowatts (500 horsepower) at 46.67 revolutions per second (2,800 revolutions per minute). The power-to-weight ratio is 15.52 kilowatts per tonne (18.87 horsepower per ton). The M44A1 uses a fuel-injected version of that same engine designated AOSI-895-5; this version is rated the same as the -3. A 24-volt electrical system with four model 6TN 12-volt batteries is the standard electrical fit. A General Motors Model 4-41-2 engine is used as an auxiliary power unit to operate the generator.

Gearbox. The Allison Transmission Division of General Motors Corporation CD-500-3 gearbox with four forward and two reverse gear ratios is used.

Suspension and Running Gear. The M44 uses a torsion bar suspension with six dual-tired road wheels and four return rollers on each side. The first, second, fourth and fifth road wheel stations are provided with hydraulic shock dampers.

Fire Control. The M44 can be used for direct and indirect fires as needed. For indirect fires, the targeting information is from a forward observer through a fire direction center command post. The crew of the M52 receives this data by radio and then lays the cannon in the appropriate manner. The gunner has a M12A7K four power panoramic telescope with a ten degree field of view, a M93 direct fire telescope with similar optical parameters, azimuth indicator and M1A1 gunner's quadrant.

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