

Prototype 40mm Grenade Launcher, ca. 1987



George M. Chinn, of Mercer County, Kentucky, an automatic weapons historian and inventor, helped develop this prototype. Designed by Chinn and produced by Belcan Engineering in the late 1980s, this weapon blends parts from the M79 single-shot grenade launcher and recoil buffers from the .50 cal Browning machine gun. The goal was an automatic grenade launcher that could be fired from the shoulder, greatly increasing the firepower of the infantryman. The early prototype is a concept piece and is not automatic. After Chinn's death in 1987, the project was abandoned.

Donated by Ralph Anderson, 2000.46.1

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