

# Quick Dividers for the Ammo Can By Jay DIY

I use one of the smaller 10" x 6 ½" x 3 ½" military surplus ammunition cans to take my Thompson 20 round magazines to the shooting range. Up to now I had been wrapping each magazine in a paper towel to protect it during transportation. I recently decided that I needed a divider/liner for the container. It is a pretty tame trip to my range, so I did not need a lot of padding. Besides, I wanted to get as many magazines in the can as possible. I did, however, want to prohibit direct contact between the magazines and other metal surfaces. My answer was to make a simple interlocking divider much like the ones that are used in shipping cartons for glass bottles. I started by loose fitting my 20 round magazines in various patterns in the ammo can. I wanted to get away from having a pile of empties lying around at the range while digging out more loaded magazines. I arrived at an arrangement that accepted sixteen 20 round magazines. There was not enough room for two across, but I could fit the sixteenth magazine sideways with some extra material to keep it from moving sideways. I examined various materials for the dividers but decided on acid free white card stock (110 pound weight). It was cheap, easy to get at the local Wal-Mart, and was easy to work with. I decided on liners for the bottom ends and sides. Additionally, 2 liners the same size as those for the sides and 5 the size of the ends would be made with cuts to interlock and form the dividers. The bottom liner (not shown) is 10" by 3 3/16". The sides and ends were 10" by 6 ½" and 6 ½" by 3 3/16", respectively. To mark the cut lines I just laid a magazine on the sheet of paper and drew lines along it to the paper midpoint. I placed the side of the magazine that would eventually be up against the divider on the paper before drawing the line. Once cut, the dividers slipped together to form a series of rectangular openings that more than coincidentally matched the magazine dimensions. In went the bottom liner, the assembled dividers and finally the side and end liners. I cut a couple extra end liners and folded them like an accordion to take up the space beside magazine sixteen. The extra length that protruded from between magazines 13 and 14 and into where magazine 16 goes was bent to the side (not cut off).

The dividers worked well on the trip to the range. The dividers support the magazines even with several magazines removed. I would not transport the magazines with several removed, however. Empty locations in the matrix should probably have light wood surrogates to maintain the grid pattern if more than a couple are missing. These dividers manufactured in a light sheet metal with paper liners in each magazine location would solve the partial-load shipping problem. The metal dividers would be more of a headache to make and requires putting safe edges on a lot of sharp sheet metal. My only annoyance was that I once forgot to put the lid down on the ammo can while firing a clip or two, and had to fish some empties out of the holes where the magazines had been removed.

In summary, the paper dividers were quick and cheap to make. They keep the magazines, whether full or empty, well organized both on and off the shooting range. If the main drawback of the design is that it forces me to shoot more, I will tough it out and bear the heavy burden (ha-ha).



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10	11	12
13	14	15
16		

Top View

