



U.S. BOMB TYPES

INCENDIARY CLUSTER BOMBS

The most devastating conventional bomb used by the Americans was the M-69 incendiary cluster. The first B-29 raids against the Japanese mainland were performed in the fall of 1944, using high-altitude daylight precision bombing with high-explosive bombs. For several reasons, this strategy proved ineffective, and by the spring of 1945 operations switched to low-level incendiary bombing at night.

The M-69 firebomb had been developed earlier in the war and proved ideal for the task of burning Japanese cities to the ground. The M-69 was a simple weapon, shaped like a long tin can and weighing just 2.3 kg (6.2 lb). Since dropping quantities of individual bombs from high altitude would be wildly inaccurate - it was designed to be incorporated into an "aim able cluster", a type of cluster bomb that contained 38 of the M-69 firebombs.

Aim able clusters would be released over the target and break apart at about 900m (2,000 ft) altitude, scattering their M-69s. Each M-69 would then eject a long strip of cloth to orient itself and crash nose-first into the buildings below. On impact the payload of napalm would ignite and shoot out of the tail of the bomb in a burning jet. Under ideal conditions, this jet could extend 45m (100 ft).

NAPALM

Name	Type	Bomb Wt	High Explosives Wt
AN-M30	General Purpose	100 lb	54 lb
AN-M57	General Purpose	250 lb	123 lb
AN-M64	General Purpose	500 lb	262 lb
AN-M65	General Purpose	1,000 lb	530 lb
AN-M66	General Purpose	2,000 lb	1,051 lb
AN-M56	Light Case	4,000 lb	3,245 lb

Name	Type	Weight	Notes
M47A2	Jellied Oil	100 lb	Most Widely Used Incendiary by U.S. Cluster of 36 M69 Dropped in Huge Numbers During Fire Raids On Japan
M19	Jellied Oil	220 lb	

MINES

Mk. I-IV - 1,500 lb and 1,850 lb

First introduced for Bomber Command Operations in April 1940, the Mk. I - IV was sturdily built and designed to withstand drops from aircraft flying at 200 mph at altitudes varying from 100 to 15,000 ft. Containing approximately 750 lb of explosives the mine could be detonated using various triggering devices depending on the application required. The type along with the Mk. V and VII became the standard mine used by the Command until being replaced by the Mk. VI in 1944.



Mk. V - 1,000 lb

Introduced into service sometime during 1940-41 this mine was a smaller version of the Mk. I-IV. Containing between 625 lb and 675 lb of explosives this mine was usually detonated using magnetic triggers, although it could be configured to use our triggering devices.

Mk. VI - 2,000 lb

A similar mine to the Mk. I-IV in that it could be configured in various ways to detonate. This mine differed only in that it contained 2,000 lb of explosives in comparison to the 750 lb of the Mk. I-IV.

Mk. VII - 1,000 lb

Introduced in 1944, the Mk.VII was an improved version on the Mk.V although no increase in the size of explosive charge was made.

Source: [Web Archive-www.ww2guide.com](http://www.ww2guide.com)