

# The "Blacker Bombard"



The Bombard was spigot gun - the projectile fitted on to a steel rod (or spigot) instead of into a barrel and was designed to be primarily an anti-tank weapon but could also be used in an anti-infantry role. It was intended to be a cheap anti-tank weapon and but also advantages over a standard anti-tank gun, it was much easier to conceal, required less manpower to operate and was much lighter.

The Bombard weighed around 407lb but could be broken up into around 13 pieces which allowed it to be transported much more easily than a standard anti-tank gun. Production began in August 1941 and continued until around May 1942 and was

replaced by the PIAT a few months later. The majority of the weapons were sent to the home guard but it appears some weapons were used to some success in North Africa.

I have yet to see any penetration figures for the anti-tank bomb but considering its weight I find it unlikely that it would have trouble dealing with any German tank when it was introduced.

## Blacker Bombard ammunition data

Blacker Bombard	Anti-Tank	Anti-Aircraft	High Explosive
Total Weight	11.9 kg	11.9 kg	11.9 kg
HE Weight	8.7 kg	8.7 kg	8.7 kg
Propellant Charge	0.6 kg	0.6 kg	0.6 kg
Length	26 in	26 in	26 in
Diameter	6 in	6 in	6 in
Rate of fire (Max)	120	120	120
Rate of fire (Normal)	60	60	60
Max range	450 yds	450 yds	450 yds
Muzzle velocity	2450 ft/s	2450 ft/s	2450 ft/s

## Blacker Bombard production by year (UK only, Filled only)

Year	1941	1942
Bdr	31,600	31,600
Mobile	12,400	12,400
Static	9,400	9,400
AT	3,600	3,600
HE	229,000	229,000

# Sources - Bombard Handbook, AVIA 22 502 - 514