

Canadian C7A2 Rifle

The C7 was the first fully automatic weapon issued to Canadians as a standard service rifle. The C7 offered many distinct improvements over the American M16 on which it was modeled and was produced in Canada by Diemaco of Kitchener, Ontario. Some of the major changes to the American weapon were full automatic capability as opposed to 3 round burst, one extra twist to the rifling for improved accuracy, and plastic better able to withstand arctic conditions. The C7 was originally equipped with plastic "disposable" magazines, but since they were not produced in quantities high enough to allow them to be truly disposable (and reusing them caused wear to the easily broken plastic lips) the plastic magazines were eventually disposed of and replaced with a metal US-designed 30 round magazine.



The C7A1 was the first major change to the basic production model, most notably replacing the iron sight/carrying handle with a C79 3x optical sight manufactured by Elcan as shown at right. The weapon could also mount an AN PAQ 4 laser pointer or Night Image Intensification Sight (Kite Sight).



Canadian soldiers of the Kandahar Provincial Reconstruction Team (PRT) on a patrol with the C7A2

- **C7A2** - The C7A2, has a four-point telescoping stock unit similar to that of the C8 carbine and a 3-rail TRI-AD I mount on the front sight triangle. The C7A2 is also issued with the C79A2 ELCAN optical gunsight with 3.4x magnification but with a uniform green rubber armored coating, but some soldiers who are issued it have

either been issued or have purchased sights like the EOTech holographic weapons sight and the Trijicon ACOG

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- **C7A3** - The Canadian Forces is looking to upgrade and modernize their stockpile of C7A2 rifles with the newer C7A3 from Colt Canada in the future. One of the biggest upgrades is the replacement of the standard flat-top upper receiver with standard handguards, handguard end cap and front sight base with a monolithic upper receiver with integrated aluminum quad-rail handguard for increased modularity with accessories and free-floating the barrel for augmented precision.
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- **C8A1** - The improved C8A1 (Diemaco C8FT) is essentially a C8 carbine with a C7A1 flat-top upper receiver.
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- **C8A2** - The C8A2 carbine is very similar to the C8, but having a cold-hammer forged heavy 14.5" barrel (as opposed to the 14.5" pencil-profile barrel) and a flat-top upper receiver.
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- **C8SFW** - The Special Forces Weapon (SFW) features a longer, 400 mm (15.7 in) barrel of a heavier profile than the C8A1
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- **C8A3** - Features the same cold-hammer forged barrel and flat-top upper receiver as the C8FTHB as well as all the mid-life upgrades that appeared on the C7A2 such as the green furniture, ambidextrous charging-handle latch, magazine release and selector lever. It also includes the TRIAD I rail for C8, which has one slot less than the C7 TRIAD I, to accommodate the M203A1 sight

Colt Canada C7 Rifle



A Colt Canada C7A1 with the bayonet attached.

Type	Automatic rifle
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Place of origin	Canada
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Service history

In service	1984–present
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Used by	See <i>Users</i>
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Wars	War in Afghanistan
Production history	
Manufacturer	Colt Canada (current) Diemaco (former)
Produced	1982–present
No. built	200,000+
Variants	C7, C7A1, C7A2, C8
Specifications	
Mass	3.3 kg (7.3 lb) (unloaded) 3.9 kg (8.6 lb) (with 30-round magazine)
Length	1,006 mm (39.6 in) (C7/C7A1/C7A2) (A2 stock extended) 929.8 mm (36.61 in) (C7A2) (stock collapsed)
Barrel length	508 mm (20.0 in)
Cartridge	5.56×45mm NATO
Action	Gas-operated, rotating bolt
Rate of fire	700–900 RPM
Muzzle velocity	900 m/s (3030 ft/s)
Effective firing range	400 m (440 yd) (effective) 600 m (660 yd) (effective in a section)
Feed system	30-round detachable STANAG magazine
Sights	Iron sights, C79 optical sight



C7 BAYONET WITH SCABBARD



C7A2 M2005 bayonet