

## PRODUCT REVIEW

# KALASHNIKOV AK-47

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## SELF-LOADING RIFLE (7.62x39MM)



GP WASR-10 HI-CAP

Mikhail Kalashnikov's AKM-47 (c. 1959) is a lighter variant of the original AK-47 (c. 1947).

Most AK type assault rifles use a 1mm thick sheet metal receiver introduced on the AKM instead of the heavier and more rigid machined steel receiver on the original AK-47 which is slightly more accurate (no practical difference) but less durable as the stiffer receiver is prone to cracking.

Most AKMs use a five part delay mechanism to prevent an out-of-battery discharge due to the change in bolt bounce characteristics during full auto fire due to the lighter receiver, unless fitted with a heavier RPK receiver (1.5mm).

Twenty-shot magazines are less likely to snag on clothing or cover than the 30-shot variety and easier to conceal. Steel magazines are the most durable, though the Bulgarian

Circle 10 polymer magazines are reliable and much lighter.

The original 7.62x39mm round is best as its bullets are better at penetrating light cover than the smaller, faster bullets used in the 5.45x39mm and 5.56x45mm rounds that readily tumble/fragment.

It is best not to shorten the barrel as this compromises reliability. Short barrel variants like the AKS-74U use non-standard components and are very loud with significant muzzle flash, so use a folding stock if you need a rifle that is easier to transport discreetly.

The AK selector/safety lever is poorly located, which can be alleviated by fitting a Mark VI Enhanced AK Selector Safety Lever from Krebs Custom; while the Fuller rear sight mod (from Rifle Dynamics) will make aiming easier and faster.

I recommend the semi-

automatic GP WASR-10 HI-CAP with the wood buttstock replaced with a wire side folding stock (pictured), which folds to the right side of the receiver so it doesn't interfere with an optical sight mounted to the left side of the receiver. Variants with the lever release are easier to operate than those with the push button release.

The minimalist wire stock is tough and makes an AK easier to conceal than those fitted with the large plastic side folding stock fitted to the 100 series AKs, which cannot be fully closed if you have an optical sight like the PRO mounted to the left side of the receiver. Wrap it with paracord to improve comfort.

SVD style flash hidiers allow the use of a bayonet, while the BM-1 Accessory Mount from RS Regulate is ideal for fitting a tactical light or laser.

## AIMPOINT PATROL RIFLE OPTIC (PRO)



With its 30mm tube the PRO has a wider field of view than is the case with compact sights like Aimpoint's Micro T-2 (20mm tube), and is more tolerant of imperfect sight alignment as when one must quickly shoot from an awkward firing position.

The bright 2 MOA red dot will work for close range snap shots and provides a precise aiming point at longer ranges.

The RS Regulate side mount (AK-301 lower/AKM upper) is adjustable so will fit worn bases and allows one to centre the PRO over the receiver.

## SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

The AK is ideal for militia use due to its unmatched combination of reliability, durability, robustness, simplicity and firepower.

## RECOMMENDED ACCESSORIES

### Handbook/Log Book

AK Handbook/Firearm Usage & Maintenance Log Book. [Blackheart International]

### Maintenance Video

AKS - MAK90 - AKS 47 Semi-Auto Rifles. [AGI]

### Cleaning Kit

AK-47 Cleaning Kit. [Strike Hard Gear]

### Cleaner/Lubricant

Slip 2000 725/Slip 2000 EWL. [Slip 2000]

### Maintenance Tool

Field Survivor 3. [Samson Manufacturing Corp.]

### Dry Fire Rounds

A-Zoom Snap Caps. [Lyman Products Corp.]

### Ear Plugs

EarPro EP3 or EP4 Sonic Defenders. [SureFire]

### Wire Folding Stock

East German AK-47 Folding Stock. [AK-Builder.com]

### Illuminated Front Sight

XS AK 24/7 Tritium Stripe. [XS Sights Systems]

### Front Sight Tool

Magna-Matic AK47 Front Sight Tool. [Magna-Matic Defense]

### Flash Hider

NDS-28 "Tabuk" (SVD style). [NoDak Spud LLC]

### Sling

Tactical Sling (TAS-AK).

## HOT TIP

Download magazines by two rounds to help prevent metal fatigue to their springs.