

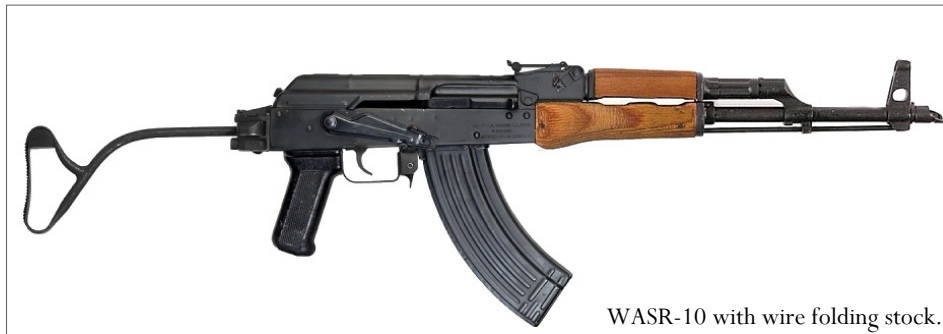
PRODUCT REVIEW

KALASHNIKOV AK-47

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SELF-LOADING RIFLE (7.62x39MM)



WASR-10 with wire folding stock.

Mikhail Kalashnikov's AK-47 (c. 1947) was followed by the lighter AKM (c. 1959) which is the best assault rifle due to its unmatched combination of reliability, durability, robustness, firepower, penetration, and ease of cleaning and repair.

Most AK type 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 some believe is slightly more accurate (no practical difference) but less durable as the stiffer receiver is prone to cracking.

Most AKMs use a 1mm thick stamped sheet metal receiver instead of the heavier and more rigid machined steel receiver on the earlier AK-47 which is less durable (prone to cracking unless they are cold hammer forged as on Arsenal's SAM7 series rifles).

Twenty round magazines are less likely to snag than the 30

round variety. Steel magazines are the strongest and most durable, though Circle 10 brand 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.

Short barrel variants use non-standard components, are very loud with a lot of muzzle flash, and have less muzzle velocity and muzzle energy, so fit a folding stock to a standard AK if you want a more compact rifle.

The AK selector/safety lever is poorly located, which can be addressed 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-auto

Century Arms WASR-10 which has a chrome lined bore and chamber to aid corrosion resistance and the extraction of fired cartridge cases. The wood buttstock is best replaced with a wire side folding stock which folds to the right side of the receiver so it doesn't interfere with an optical sight mount on 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 polymer side folding stock like those fitted to the AK-74M and 100 series AKs. Wrap it with paracord for comfort.

The BM-1 Accessory Mount from RS Regulate is ideal for fitting a tactical light or laser.

The POSP 4x24 scope is great value, though a non-magnifying red dot sight like the Aimpoint PRO is best for assault use.

AIMPOINT PATROL RIFLE OPTIC (PRO)



With its 30mm tube the PRO has a wider field of view than smaller red dot sights like Aimpoint's Micro H-1, and is more tolerant of imperfect sight alignment if one must quickly shoot from an awkward firing position. Both are great, but the PRO looks right on an AK.

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

The AKMS side mount from RS Regulate is recommended. It 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

Manual / Log Book

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

Maintenance Video

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

AKM Cleaning Kit

AK-47 Cleaning Kit. [Strike Hard Gear]

Cleaner/Lubricant

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

Broken Shell Extractor

7.62x39 Broken Shell Extractor. [C.J. Weapons Accessories]

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]

AKM Flash Hider

Cage Comp (bayonet compatible). [Damage Industries]

AKM Sling

Tactical Sling (TAS-AK). [Eagle Industries]

HOT TIP

Training magazines can suffer metal fatigue to their springs so don't use them for combat.