

WEAPON GUIDE

FN FAL

SMALL ARMS REVIEW TEAM

SELF-LOADING SERVICE RIFLE (7.62x51MM/.308W)



DS Arms SA58 FAL 18" Bush Warrior Rifle – fixed stock and folding stock variants.

Dieudonné Saive's FAL battle rifle (c. 1953), first manufactured by FN Herstal, is a superb full power self-loading service rifle due to its combination of reliability, durability, ergonomics, accuracy and firepower, and is a top choice for sharpshooters when fitted with a telescopic sight via mount like the DSA FAL SA58 Extreme Duty Scope Mount which has a Picatinny rail so a wide range of optical sighting aids can readily be fitted.

It uses a gas operated action with an adjustable gas port to suit a wide range of ammunition.

The FAL is more accurate than most assault rifles, while the 7.62x51mm NATO (.308W) round has better penetration of cover than the 7.62x39mm, 5.45x39mm and 5.56x45mm assault rifle rounds, especially when used with AP bullets.

The FAL uses metric parts, whereas the very similar L1A1 manufactured for use by Commonwealth forces uses imperial parts, so many parts are not interchangeable. FAL magazines will fit in the L1A1, but not visa versa. The L1A1 rifle was only manufactured as a semi-automatic as full power battle rifles are very difficult

to control in fully automatic fire thus waste a lot of rounds.

I recommend the semi-auto DS Arms rifle pictured, which is based on the Bolivian contract FAL. It has a rugged Holland style fixed rear sight rather than the more fragile flip up rear sight most such rifles have. The Bush Warrior Rifle also has a folding cocking handle that folds flat against the receiver, preventing any snagging or gouging if slung against your back. DS Arms also make folding stock Paratrooper variants of their FAL type rifles, and kits to convert fixed stock FAL rifles to this configuration.

PRIMARY ARMS SLX 3X MICROPRISM



The SLX 3X from Primary Arms is a superb general purpose telescopic sight for tactical use on battle rifles.

There is a variant with a bullet drop reticule (BDC) for the 5.56x45mm (.223R) and 7.62x51mm (.308W) rounds (ACSS Raptor 5.56/7.62 YP).

It is best attached to an FAL via the DSA FAL SA58 Extreme Duty Scope Mount from DS Arms which has a Picatinny rail, while the SLX 3X is best attached to it via a QD mount like the AD-B2 Cantilever Mini ACOG Mount from American Defense Manufacturing.

RECOMMENDED ACCESSORIES

Log Book

Firearm Usage & Maintenance Log Book. [Blackheart International]

Operator's Manual

DSA FAL Armorer's Manual. [DS Arms]

Cleaning Kit

FN_FAL Cleaning Kit. [C.J. Weapons]

Firearm CLP

Beak Free CLP. [Safariland]

Broken Shell Extractor

UTG .308/7.62x51mm Broken Shell Extractor (TL-EX308). [Leapers Inc.]

Tools

FAL SA58 Tool Kit. [DS Arms]

Dry Fire Rounds

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

Sling

FN FAL Raptor 2 Point Sling. [Specter Gear]

Ear Plugs

EarPro EP3 or EP4. [SureFire]

SPECIFICATIONS

Weight: 4.25 kg (9.4 lb)

Length: 109 cm (43 in)

Barrel Length: 533 mm (21 in)

Action: gas operated

Magazine Capacity: 20 rounds

HOT TIP

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