

PRODUCT REVIEW

HK G3

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FEBRUARY 2018

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



PTR-91 G.I.

Ludwig Vorgrimler's G3 rifle (c. 1959), first manufactured by Heckler & Koch, is the best full power self-loading service rifle due to its combination of reliability, durability, ergonomics, accuracy, firepower and economy of manufacture, and is a top choice for sharpshooters when fitted with a telescopic sight.

It uses a delayed blowback action. The standard G3A2 has a fixed stock while the G3A3 uses a collapsible stock. Aftermarket folding stocks are also available for them.

The G3 is far more accurate than assault rifles like the

AK-47, 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.

I recommend the semi-auto PTR-91 G.I. variant pictured above with the steel trigger housing and magazine paddle, which is readily available in the US, relatively inexpensive, and has an excellent reputation.

I prefer aluminium magazines which are far lighter than steel magazines and very reliable if not as robust. Don't use worn magazines for tactical use.

For sharpshooting use (it is less than ideal for assault use due to its weight) it is best fitted with a scope like the Hensoldt Wetzlar 4x24, which is ideal for precision rifle fire.

For some uses a red dot sight like the Aimpoint T-2 is best, in a low profile mount like the B&T HK MP5 low mount for Aimpoint (BT-10266).

If you have trouble cocking it fit an extended cocking handle, while recoil can be mitigated by fitting a heavy recoil buffer, a #17 locking piece (which also allows reliable operation with a sound suppressor), and a wider HK21 butt plate.

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

The G3 is an excellent choice for sharpshooters due to its reliability, power, accuracy, and rapid fire ability.

RECOMMENDED ACCESSORIES

Operator's Manual
G3 Manual. [HKPARTS.NET]

Armorer's Manual
G3 Operator Repair Manual. [HKPARTS.NET]

Cleaning Kit
.308 Rifle HK Cleaning Kit. [HKPARTS.NET]

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

Rear Sight Tool
HK Rear Sight Tool. [HKPARTS.NET]

Dry Fire Rounds
A-Zoom Snap Caps. [Lyman Products Corp.]

Ear Plugs
EarPro EP3 or EP4. [SureFire]

Sling
HK 3 Point Sling. [HKPARTS.NET]

HOT TIP

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

HENSOLDT WETZLAR TELESCOPIC SIGHT 4X24



M2 in STANAG mount for the G3.

Mount has sight channel for the G3's iron sights.

The Hensoldt Wetzlar Telescopic Sight 4x24 for the G3 rifle came in three variants; the Model 1, Model 2, and Model 3 (Fero-Z 24), all of which have a rangefinding reticle and BDC turret calibrated for the 7.62x51mm NATO round (100 to 600 M).

The M2 and M3 can be fitted with a reticle illuminator, while the windage and elevation turrets on the M3 have internal "click" adjustments (the M1 and M2 have friction adjustments).