

## PRODUCT REVIEW

# MOSINKA

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## BOLT ACTION RIFLE (7.62x54MMR)



Mosin M38 Carbine

Sergei Mosin's Model 1938 Carbine (c. 1938) is compact variant of the Model 1890/30 Rifle (c. 1930).

Mosin rifles and carbines, affectionately known as the Mosinka, played a crucial role in the defeat of Nazi Germany in the hands of millions of Russian soldiers, notably snipers like Vasili Zaitsev and Roza Shanina, and were widely used by partisans including the Bielski brothers.

The M38 was made for support troops but was often used in the front lines in preference to the much longer M91/30 Rifle in urban terrain. If you are unable to find a good M38 use an M44, M53, M91/38 or M91/59. The first two are essentially an M38 with the addition of a permanently fitted folding bayonet (best removed), while the later two are simply M91/30 rifles shortened to resemble an M38, a conversion most gunsmiths can readily duplicate.

### MAGAZINE RELIABILITY

The one-piece interrupter/ejector (I/E) can become worn and fail to work reliably, in which case you can try bending it so it hugs the receiver as close as possible, which makes the I/E protrude as much as it can into the receiver to ensure

They should be loaded with the rim of the top round in front of the rim of the round below it to help prevent a rim lock stoppage. They should not have such a stoppage even if this is not done, but wear, corrosion, or foreign material in the magazine can cause the interrupter to fail.

Do not place a single-fed round on top of the follower or the bullet tip will hit the chamber shoulder when you push it forward with the bolt due to its rim and case taper.

If the bolt is not fully closed the extractor won't snap over the rim, so you can run the bolt forward and back and still have a round in the chamber.

Unlike some bolt action rifles the magazine baseplate is easily released to facilitate cleaning.

The heavy trigger pull makes it difficult to hit small targets. This can be addressed with a trigger job and/or fitting the Anti-friction Ball Trigger (Huber Concepts), ideally with a Slack Spring (C&R

positive function. If that doesn't work replace the I/E (have a spare in any case).

You might also like to obtain a HV ("jam free") magazine that the Finns fitted to their Mosins, which have a dimple on either side of the magazine body that

Surplus Spring) which helps prevent accidental discharges with a light trigger by preventing trigger slop.

The trigger pull should not be less than a 4-lbs and must pass the Russian 1-ft drop test.

In addition to improving the trigger it is highly desirable to improve the sights by adding a fully adjustable rear sight like the Mosin-Nagant MicroClick (Mojo Sighting Systems), which can be converted to an open rear sight (which are better for moving targets) by having a gunsmith grind off the top half of the ring. The front sight is best replaced with the Tactical Green Fiber-Optic Adjustable Sight (Smith-Sights) that greatly improves visibility in low light situations or when aiming at dark targets.

The safety knob is best replaced with the Pull Ring Bolt Piece Cocking Knob (Max Shepherd). A longer, turned down sniper style bolt handle is also desirable as it improves leverage (Max Shepherd).

helps keep the second round level and to the rear of the magazine; otherwise this round could nose dive if the rifle has a weak magazine spring, a misaligned or obstructed magazine follower, or a worn, misaligned or obstructed I/E. Better safe than sorry.

### SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

The M38 has an unmatched combination of reliability, durability, robustness, simplicity and compactness in a bolt action.

### RECOMMENDED ACCESSORIES

#### Handbook

7.62mmR Mosin Nagant Handbook. [Arms & Militaria Press]

#### Maintenance Video

Disassembly/Reassembly of the Mosin-Nagant Rifle. [AGI]

#### Cleaning Kit

Mosin Nagant Cleaning Kit. [Strike Hard Gear]

#### Cleaner/Lubricant

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

#### Broken Shell Extractor

7.62x54R 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]

#### Recoil Pad

Kick Killer Slip-On Butt Pad. [Action Products, Inc.]

#### Stripper Clips

Mosin Nagant Stripper Clips. [Strike Hard Gear]

#### Illuminated Front Sight

Tactical Green Fiber-Optic Front Sight. [Smith-Sights]

#### Telescopic Sight

PU combo. [Accumounts]

#### Bandolier

Mosin Nagant Bandolier. [Strike Hard Gear]

#### Sling

Military style Mosin-Nagant sling. [Strike Hard Gear]

### HOT TIP

A round's rim must be in front of the rim of the round below it to prevent a jam.