

# MOSIN-NAGANT M38

BY RICHARD LUTZ

FEBRUARY 2018

## BOLT ACTION RIFLE (7.62x54MMR)



Model 1938 Carbine

Mosin-Nagant (pronounced “MO-seen Nah-GON”) rifles and carbines, known as the Mosinka, played a crucial role in the defeat of Nazi Germany in the hands of millions of Russian soldiers and partisans like the Bielski brothers.

The original Model 1891 Infantry Rifle is based on a rifle designed by Sergei Mosin with two features borrowed from a design by Léon Nagant (stripper clip guide and captive magazine spring). A modernized version was adopted in 1930 (M91/30), followed by the Model 1938 and Model 1944.

The M38 Carbine was made for support troops but was often used in the front lines in preference to the longer rifle.

If you are unable to find a good M38 use an M44, T53, M91/38 or M91/59. The first two are essentially an M38 with the addition of a folding bayonet (1.5 pounds heavier), while the later two are M91/30 rifles shortened to resemble an M38.

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, which can be addressed with a trigger job and/or fitting the Anti-friction Ball Trigger (Huber Concepts), ideally with a Slack Spring (C&R

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).

A flash suppressor is desirable on the carbines as military ammunition was optimized for use in the M91/30 rifle which has an 8.5 inch longer barrel.

I recommend 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 from Max Shepherd, which also offers a longer, turned down sniper style bolt handle that improves leverage.

### 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

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

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 springz, a misaligned or obstructed magazine follower, or a worn, misaligned or obstructed I/E. Better safe than sorry.

### SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

Mosin-Nagant rifles have an unmatched combination of reliability, durability and robustness in a bolt action rifle.

### 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]

#### Bandolier

Mosin Nagant Bandolier. [Strike Hard Gear]

#### Illuminated Front Sight

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

#### Telescopic Sight

PU combo. [Accumounts]

#### Sling

Mosin Nagant sling. [Strike Hard Gear]

### HOT TIP

The magazine spring can suffer metal fatigue from regular use so replace it every five years.