

WEAPON GUIDE

HK MP5

SMALL ARMS REVIEW TEAM

SUBMACHINE GUN (9x19MM)



Ludwig Vorgrimler's MP5 (c. 1965) is the best SMG due to its unmatched combination of reliability, durability, ergonomics and accuracy.

The MP5 is a compact variant of Vorgrimler's 7.62mm G3 service rifle (c. 1959) which uses a delayed blowback closed bolt action like the G3, whereas most SMGs use the less accurate blowback open bolt action.

As a round is in the chamber when the trigger is pulled the MP5 will fire immediately, whereas with open bolt designs there is a slight delay as the bolt strips a round from the top of the magazine and slams it into the chamber, disturbing the aim.

The MP5 is easy to discreetly transport and easy for small, injured, cold or exhausted people to use efficiently thanks

to its low weight and recoil.

As the private ownership of full-auto firearms is banned in most nations and full-auto fire is rarely needed, I recommend the semi-auto POF-5 pistol variant from Pakistan Ordnance Factories (POF), which has a steel trigger housing that is stronger than the polymer trigger housings on most MP5 variants (including the original model), fitted with an A3 extendible stock or a folding stock like those from B&T and Choate.

The POF-5 has the barrel lugs needed to attach flash hiders and sound suppressor adaptors, and a threaded barrel to directly attach a sound suppressor.

A 9mm chambered firearm is ideal for covert use when used with a sound suppressor and subsonic ammunition.

Keep it clean and well lubed with a cleaner that will readily remove the carbon build up caused by the fluted chamber. Keep a maintenance log with a round count, replace the extractor spring every 15,000 rounds, and inspect the roller retaining plates and magazine feed lips for damage.

German made magazines from HK and 4th generation KCI magazines from South Korea are very reliable. When you load a magazine make sure the top round is on the left as you look at it from the rear.

Armor piercing rounds like the VBR-Belgium AP 6.3 and 7N31 are best as their bullets better penetrate barriers at close range than the higher velocity 5.56mm and 5.45mm bullets used in assault rifles like the M4 and AK-74 that readily tumble/fragment.

RECOMMENDED ACCESSORIES

Log Book

Firearm Usage & Maintenance Log Book. [Blackheart International]

Operator's Manual

HK MP5 Family Operator's Manual. [HKPARTS.NET]

Cleaning Kit

MP5 & MP5K 9mm Cleaning Kit. [HKPARTS.NET]

Firearm CLP

Beak Free CLP. [Safariland]

Rear Sight Tool

HK Rear Sight Tool. [HKPARTS.NET]

Illuminated Front Sight

HK MP5 Big Dot Tritium Front. [XS Sights Systems]

Dry Fire Rounds

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

Sling

HK 3 Point Sling. [HKPARTS.NET]

Ear Plugs

EarPro EP3 or EP4. [SureFire]

SPECIFICATIONS

Weight: 2.54 kg (5.61 lb)

Length: 68 cm (48.2 in)

Barrel Length: 225 mm (8.9 in)

Action: delayed blowback

Magazine Capacity: 30 rounds



HK 33 "V" rear sight notch.

AIMPOINT MICRO H-1



A small red dot sight like the H-1 is ideal for use on an MP5 as larger sights will make it top heavy, negatively impacting the handling. The CR2032 watch battery lasts 50,000 hours of continuous use (best left on).

The MFI Ultra Low Profile

Red Dot Mount is recommended.

It is best used in conjunction with the HK 33 rear sight drum which has a "V" notch rear sight as the MP5 rear sight drum only has peep sights that make it harder to acquire the H-1's red dot.

HOT TIP

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