

## PRODUCT REVIEW

# RPG-7

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## ROCKET PROPELLED GRENADE LAUNCHER



RPG-7 with PGO-7 optical sight.

The Russian RPG-7 (c. 1962) is a much improved variant of the RPG-2 (c. 1949). Whereas RPG-2 grenades were propelled solely by a gunpowder charge that was burned up within the tube

The grenades comprise two parts: the warhead and sustainer motor (rocket) section, and a booster section that contains the gunpowder charge which must be attached prior to firing. This feature

makes them easier to transport. The most common weapon for use against armored vehicles using single-stage HEAT warheads (like the PG-7V). Tandem HEAT warheads (like the PG-7VR) were developed for use against reactive armor, while fragmentation warheads (like the OG-7V) and thermobaric warheads (like the TBG-7V) were developed for anti-personnel use.

A slightly lighter version was developed in China called the Type 69 RPG (5.6 kg), while a much lighter version called the GS-777 Lightweight Shoulder-Fired Recoilless Launcher was developed by AirTronic USA, which weighs just 3.5 kg but is not as robust or durable.



RPG-7D

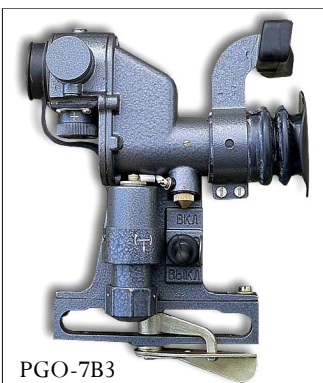
(like the experimental Panzerfaust 250), the RPG-7 also has a solid fuel rocket that ignites after the grenade leaves the launcher, which greatly increases the velocity and effective range.

variant is the RPG-7D that can be broken down into two parts in order to make it easier for paratroopers to transport (also desirable for guerilla use).

The RPG-7 was originally developed as an anti-armor

weapon for use against armored vehicles using single-stage HEAT warheads (like the PG-7V). Tandem HEAT warheads (like the PG-7VR) were developed for use against reactive armor, while fragmentation warheads (like the OG-7V) and thermobaric warheads (like the TBG-7V) were developed for anti-personnel use.

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PGO-7B3

### PGO-7 OPTICAL SIGHT

A number of sights have been developed for the RPG-7. The most prolific is the PGO-7 which is attached via an AK-47 style mount. It has a battery illuminated range-finding reticle and a temperature correction turret. It is also useful as a spotting scope.

The Chinese developed a near identical version of the PGO-7 for the Type 69 RPG with an improved reticle, but uses a different mount so it cannot be used on the RPG-7 (or AK-47).

I recommend the Zenit PGO-7B3 (available from Kalinka Optics).

### SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

The RPG-7 is the best grenade launcher due to its simplicity, ruggedness, durability, reliability, ease of use and versatility, thus is ideal for militia use.

### RECOMMENDED ACCESSORIES

#### Handbook/Log Book

Practical Guide to the Operational Use of the RPG-7 Rocket-Propelled Grenade Launcher/Firearm Usage & Maintenance Log Book. [Blackheart International]

#### Cleaning Kit

Cleaning Rod Set. [Numrich Gun Parts Corporation]

#### Bore Solvent/Lubricant

Gunzilla BC-10. [Gunzilla]

#### Firing Pin Kit

Firing Pin Spare Parts Kit. [Numrich Gun Parts Corporation]

#### Boresighter

RPG-7 Boresighter. [Blackheart International]

#### Muzzle Cover

Muzzle Cover (front and rear caps). [Numrich Gun Parts Corporation]

#### Ear Plugs

EarPro EP3 or EP4 Sonic Defenders. [SureFire]

#### Grenade Backpack

RPG-7 Gunner Backpack. [Blackheart International]

#### Sling

RPG-7 Launcher Sling. [Blackheart International]

### KEY SPECIFICATIONS

Weight: 7kg (15 lbs)  
Length: 950mm (37.4 in)  
Grenade Velocity: 115 m/s  
Effective Range: 200m  
Max Range: 900m (self detonates)

### HOT TIP

Moving vehicles are best engaged within 100 meters to ensure a high hit probability.