

## PRODUCT REVIEW

# DRAGUNOV

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## SELF-LOADING RIFLE (7.62x54R)



Yevgeny Dragunov's SVD was designed as a squad support weapon for designated marksmen, not a dedicated sniper rifle. Though it makes an excellent sniper rifle for close-to-mid range use it is not capable of the same precision as dedicated bolt action sniper rifles so is not ideal for long range use, but it is a far better support weapon than any bolt action rifle due to its rapidity of fire provided by its self-loading action and 10 round quick detachable magazine.

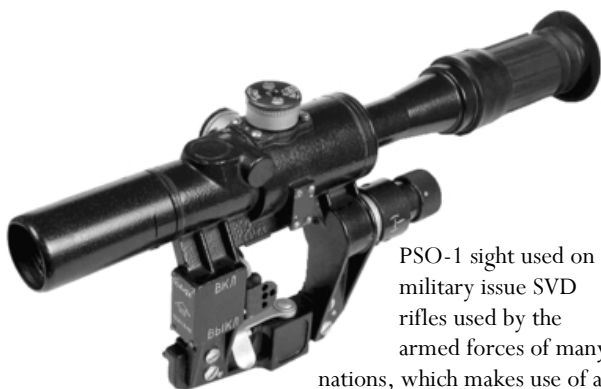
The standard SVD Dragunov has a 24.4" barrel and fixed stock, whereas the SVDS is fitted with a folding stock and a shorter 22.2" barrel and flash hider for use by paratroopers and special forces troops.

The SVD is far more accurate than assault rifles like the AK-47 when used with match grade rounds made specifically for this rifle; namely the 7N1 and 7N14 rounds which provide very good accuracy and excellent penetration thanks to their steel cores.

I recommend the SVDS for militia use as it is far easier to discreetly transport than the SVD thanks to its folding stock and shorter barrel/flash hider, fitted with a PSO-1 type telescopic sight like the PO4x24 Optical Sight described below.

It should be noted that there are similar looking rifles like the Romanian PSL chambered for the 7.62x54R round, but they use AK-47 style actions thus are markedly less accurate than the SVD.

## NPZ OPTICS PO4x24 OPTICAL SIGHT



The PO4x24 Optical Sight from NPZ Optics is an improved version of the

PSO-1 sight used on military issue SVD rifles used by the armed forces of many nations, which makes use of a AA battery to power the illuminated reticle instead of the RTS-63 battery used in the original PSO-1.

This fixed 4x telescopic sight comes with a rangefinding reticle and bullet drop compensating (BDC) turret for the 7.62x54R round (ideally the 7N1 or 7N14).

When zeroed for 100 m with the top chevron as the aiming mark the lower chevrons serve as aiming marks for 200 m, 300 m and 400 m respectively.

The Tigr mount is designed for use with the SVD type base whereas the Saiga mount is designed for the shorter AK type base.

## SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

The SVD is the best self-loading rifle for sharpshooters due to its combination of reliability, durability, robustness, simplicity, power and accuracy, thus ideal for militia use.

## RECOMMENDED ACCESSORIES

### Handbook

Practical Guide to the Operational Use of the SVD Dragunov Sniper Rifle. [Blackheart International]

### Log Book

Firearm Usage & Maintenance Log Book. [Blackheart International]

### Cleaning Kit

SVD Cleaning Kit (with 3-piece cleaning rod). [Kalashnikov Concern]

### 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

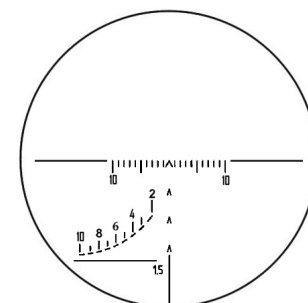
EarPro EP3 or EP4 Sonic Defenders. [SureFire]

### Laser Rangefinder

Elite 1600 ARC. [Bushnell]

### Sling

VTAC 2 Point Padded Sling. [5.11]



## HOT TIP

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