

PRODUCT REVIEW

SA VZ. 61 ŠKORPION

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SA VZ. 61 ŠKORPION - SELF-LOADING SIDEARM (.32 ACP)



Škorpion with 20 round magazine.

The Sa vz. 61 Škorpion (c. 1961) is a subcompact submachine gun designed as a sidearm for lower-ranking army staff, vehicle drivers, armored vehicle personnel and special forces in the Czechoslovak Army.

It has been popular with irregular forces like resistants, insurgents and terrorists who want more firepower than a conventional handgun that is easier to conceal than a submachine gun chambered for the larger and more powerful 9x19mm Parabellum round.

The original was a closed bolt blowback design capable of full-automatic fire and is made today as a closed bolt semi-automatic pistol which can readily be fitted with the original wire folding stock which makes it much easier to fire accurately in high stress situations.

It is chambered for the 7.65×17mmSR Browning Short (.32 ACP) round, though variants have been made in different calibers (vz. 82 in 9x18mm Markov, vz. 83 in .380 ACP, and vz. 91 in 9x19mm Parabellum). The original vz. 61 is by far the most common and has the best reputation for reliability with mil-spec steel magazines.

Although a low powered weapon, it is effective for defensive use in full-automatic form, though of limited utility against people wearing body armor. It is most popular today for use by security personnel and irregular forces like urban guerillas who require a highly concealable weapon to augment their handguns.

They are well suited to use by the resistants in Myanmar fighting that nation's military dictatorship, while 2,085 of

them were gifted to Ukraine by the Czech Republic after Russia's 2022 invasion.

A semi-auto pistol variant is made by Czech Small Arms in the Czech Republic, while companies like VZ58 USA sell folding stock kits, red dot sight (RDS) mounts, and oversized cocking handles that are easier to operate under stress. They are also available with a US standard 1/2x28 threaded barrel to facilitate the use of Western sound suppressors.

It was designed to use round nose FMJ bullets, and is very reliable with them. As the .32 ACP case is semi-rimmed, the rim of the top round must be in front of the rim of the round below it to ensure reliable functioning, which the curved magazines allow. Always use mil-spec curved steel magazines which are the most reliable (10 or 20 rounds).

SOUND SUPPRESSOR (SILENCER)



Most .32 ACP rounds are subsonic, thus very well suited to covert use when fitted with a silencer like the one pictured, which is similar in size to the Omega 45K from Silencer Co.

With a 1/2x28 threaded barrel you can directly attach silencers like the Omega 45K (1.48" x 6.39", 11.1 oz), which can also be attached via a 3-Lug Mount and a 3-Lug Muzzle Device (two lengths), which allows it to be quickly attached/detached.



RECOMMENDED ACCESSORIES

Handbook

SA vz. 61 Pistol Instructions Manual. [Czech Small Arms]

Log Book

Firearm Usage & Maintenance Log Book. [Blackheart International]

Cleaning Kit

SA61 Cleaning/Tool Kit. [Saracen Exports]

Spare Parts Kit

Recoil spring, hammer spring, striker, firing pin, firing pin spring, extractor, extractor spring, extractor pin, return spring (x2). [CSA/ CZ58 USA]

Dry Fire Rounds

A-Zoom Snap Caps. [Lyman Products Corporation]

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HOT TIP 2

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