**Kalashnikov AKM (& close derivatives)**

**TYPE:** ASSAULT RIFLE  
**ALSO REFERRED TO AS:** AK/KAŁASHNIKOV

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**Model illustrated:** AKM, Russia

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**Technical Information**

- **Calibre:** 7.62 x 39 mm M1943
- **Length**
  - Fixed stock: 896 mm
  - Folding stock (extended): 907 mm
  - Folding stock (folded): 657 mm
- **Weight (unloaded)**
  - AKM: 3.06 kg
  - AKMS: 3.53 kg
- **Barrel length**
  - (muzzle to bolt face): 436 mm
- **Feed device**
  - 30-round detachable box magazine
- **Sighting systems**
  - Fore: Post, adjustable
  - Rear: U-notch tangent
- **Operating system**
  - Gas, selective fire
- **Rate of fire**
  - 600 rds/min
- **Muzzle velocity**
  - 715 m/s
- **Accessories**
  - Bayonet

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**The Kalashnikov AKM was developed from the AK-47. The rifle entered service in 1959. It differs from the AK-47 in having a pressed, rather than forged, receiver. This feature is visible in the number of rivets on the sides of the receiver. The weapon is also distinguishable from the AK-47 because it usually features a slanted ‘cutaway’ compensator fitted to the muzzle.**

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**PROBABLE GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION**

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<th>Non-state/illicit</th>
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- ☐ Expect regular use  
- ☐ Expect occasional use  
- ☐ Do not expect use

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**VARIANTS**

- **(Model/manufacturer)**
  - AKM, Russia
  - AKMS, Russia
  - Type 56 (later), China
  - Type 56-1 (later), China
  - Type 56-2, China
  - Misr, Egypt
  - MP44M, Germany (GDR)
  - Tabuk, Iraq
  - Type 68, North Korea
  - PMKM, Poland
  - RomArm AKM, Romania
  - M70, Serbia

Models that resemble the Type 56 (later), but feature notably elongated barrels forward of the foresight, are Albanian. For detailed information on manufacturing marks, fire selector annotation, and marks applied to rear sights, see Weapons ID Sheet for ‘Kalashnikov-pattern rifles: identifying marks’.

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**MUZZLE COMPENSATOR**

- **Without compensator**
- **With compensator**
  - AK-47 pattern
  - AKM pattern

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**GRENADE LAUNCHING SIGHTS**

- **Grenade launching sight**
- **No sight**
  - M70 (shown)
  - Tabuk
  - All other AKM pattern weapons

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**STOCK DESIGN**

- **Sidefolding**
- **Underfolding**
  - Type 56-2
  - Misr
  - Type 56-1 (later) (shown)
  - AKMS
  - Tabuk (short version)
  - RomArm AKM (shown)
  - MP44M-72

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**Points to include when recording information about the weapon:**

1. Serial number, including all prefix and suffix characters
2. Characters adjacent to fire selector
3. Any other engraved/stamped information on weapon

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**Compiled by the Small Arms Survey with the technical assistance of the National Firearms Centre, Royal Armouries, United Kingdom. For further information or if you have identification queries, contact weaponsID@smallarmssurvey.org or call +41 22 908 5777. This identification sheet may be downloaded in printable PDF format at www.smallarmssurvey.org/weaponsID**

**WARNING:**

Make a full and informed appraisal of the local security situation before conducting any research related to small arms and light weapons.