

Kalashnikov AKM (& close derivatives)

■ TYPE: ASSAULT RIFLE ■ ALSO REFERRED TO AS: AK/KALASHNIKOV



Model illustrated: AKM, Russia

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

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.

PROBABLE GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION

Region	State forces	Non-state/illicit
Western Europe	○	▶
Eastern Europe	●	▶
Middle East & North Africa	●	●
Sub-Saharan Africa	●	●
Central Asia	●	●
South Asia	▶	●
East Asia	●	●
Pacific	▶	▶
North America	○	▶
Central America	●	●
South America	▶	●

● Expect regular use ▶ Expect occasional use ○ Do not expect use

Variants and their distinguishing features

VARIANTS (Model/manufacturer)

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

MUZZLE COMPENSATOR

Without compensator



▶ AK-47 pattern

With compensator



▶ AKM pattern

GRENADE LAUNCHING SIGHTS

Grenade launching sight



▶ M70 (shown)
▶ Tabuk

No sight



▶ All other AKM pattern weapons

STOCK DESIGN

Sidefolding



▶ Type 56-2



▶ RomArm AKM (shown)
▶ MPiKMS-72

Underfolding



▶ Misr



▶ Type 56-1 (later) (shown)
▶ AKMS
▶ Tabuk (short) version

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

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.