

Heckler & Koch G3 (& close derivatives)

■ TYPE: RIFLE ■ ALSO REFERRED TO AS: G3



Model illustrated: H&K G3A3

Technical Information

Calibre

7.62 x 51 mm NATO

Length

Fixed stock: 1024 mm
Retractable stock:
– extended: 1020 mm
– closed: 840 mm

Weight (unloaded)

G3A3: 4.58 kg
G3A4: 4.6 kg

Barrel length

488 mm

Feed device:

20- or 30-round detachable box magazine

Sighting systems

Fore: Post
Rear: 'V' and rotating apertures

Operating system

Delayed roller-locked, selective fire

Rate of fire

500–600 rds/min

Muzzle velocity

780–800 m/s

Accessories

Bayonet, bipod

The Heckler & Koch G3 was developed from the Spanish CETME Model B rifle between 1954 and 1959. The (usually green) plastic furniture and ergonomically moulded pistol grip are distinctive features of the weapon. Older (pre-1964) versions have wooden stocks and hand guards. Iranian models feature a synthetic stock and hand guard whose pale brown colour is similar in appearance to wooden furniture.

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

FURNITURE CONSTRUCTION – HAND GUARD PROFILE

Wooden circular



▶ G3A1 (pre-1964)

Plastic circular



▶ G3A3 and G3A4

Plastic angular



▶ G3A3 and G3A4 (late production)

VARIANTS

(Model/manufacture)

- G3A1; Germany (pre-1964)
- G3A2; Germany, France, Greece, Portugal
- G3A3; Germany, Pakistan, Iran (G3-A1), Mexico, Myanmar, Norway (AG-3), Portugal, Saudi Arabia, Turkey (G3-A3), United Kingdom
- G3A3ZF; Germany (optical sights)
- G3A4; Germany, Greece, Turkey (G3-A4), Iran (G3A1-1), Mexico, Pakistan (G3P4), Portugal
- G3K; Germany (short barrel)

Most G3 manufacturer marks are stamped on the left panel of the magazine housing. Greek variants feature a stylized 'EBO' in the shape of a diamond, between the magazine housing and fire selector, on the left-hand side of the weapon. Saudi Arabian models are marked with a palm tree above two crossed swords.

MARKINGS

On the left side of the weapon, forward of the fire selector



- ▶ HK: Germany
- ▶ MEK: Turkey
- ▶ Diamond in a circle: Germany (pre-1969)
- ▶ K below a crown: Norway
- ▶ POF: Pakistan
- ▶ FMP: Portugal

- ▶ Three crossed weapons in a cog wheel: Iran
- ▶ Lion within wreaths surmounted by a crown: Iran (pre-1979)
- ▶ RSAF below a crown: United Kingdom

STOCK DESIGN

Fixed



- ▶ G3A1
- ▶ G3A2
- ▶ G3A3

Retractable



- ▶ G3A1-1
- ▶ G3A4
- ▶ G3K

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.