

# Kalashnikov AK-47 (& close derivatives)

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



Model illustrated: AK-47, Bulgaria

## Technical Information

### Calibre

7.62 x 39 mm M1943

### Length

Fixed stock: 880 mm

Folding stock:

– Extended: 880 mm

– Folded: 645 mm

### Weight (unloaded)

AK-47: 3.725 kg

AK-47S: 3.980 kg

### Barrel length

417 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 (later models only)

The designation AK-47 is often used, generically, to refer to all Kalashnikov-pattern assault rifles. However, the AK-47 is a specific model of Kalashnikov. Later Kalashnikov-pattern weapons retain many design features of the AK-47. Those listed in this Weapons ID Sheet are the closest to the original design.

## 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)

- AK-47 (pre-1949); Russia
- AK-47 (post-1949); Russia
- AK-47S; Russia
- AK-47; Bulgaria
- Type 56 (early); Albania
- Type 56 (early); China
- AK-47 Hungary
- M70 (early); Yugoslavia (Serbia)

Type 56 (early) models resemble the post-1949 AK-47. Later Type 56 models resemble the AKM (see Weapons ID Sheet for 'Kalashnikov AKM'). Later Bulgarian AK-47s feature black plastic stocks and may feature lateral grooves on the hand guard. 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'.

## ABOVE THE MAGAZINE

Vertical grooves  
2 rivets



▶ AK-47 (pre-1949)

Broad groove



▶ All other AK-47 variants

## STOCK DESIGN

Under-folding



▶ AK-47S  
▶ Type 56-1

Fixed



▶ All other AK-47-pattern weapons

## GRENADE LAUNCHING SIGHTS

Grenade launching sight



▶ M70 (early)

No sight



▶ All other AK-47-pattern weapons

## BAYONET

Attached, folding



▶ Type 56 (early)

### 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@smallarmsurvey.org](mailto:weaponsID@smallarmsurvey.org) or call: +41 22 908 5777. This identification sheet may be downloaded in printable PDF format at [www.smallarmsurvey.org/weaponsID](http://www.smallarmsurvey.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.