

Kalashnikov AK-74

■ **TYPE:** ASSAULT RIFLE ■ **ALSO REFERRED TO AS:** AK, KALASHNIKOV



Model illustrated: AK-74, Russia

Technical Information

Calibre

5.45 x 39 mm

Length

Fixed stock: 945 mm
Folding stock
– extended: 933 mm
– closed: 695 mm

Weight (unloaded)

AK-74: 3.40 kg
AKS-74: 3.35 kg

Barrel length

477 mm

Feed device

30-round detachable box magazine

Sighting systems

Fore: Post
Rear: U-notch tangent

Operating system

Gas, selective fire

Rate of fire

650 rds/min

Muzzle velocity

900 m/s

Accessories

Bayonet, grenade launcher (some models)

The AK-74 was designed in the early 1970s. Mechanically, it is almost identical to the AKM but is designed to fire the smaller 5.45 x 39 mm cartridge. The standard model differs visually from the AKM in having a prominent, cylindrical flash hider/compensator attached to the muzzle and a broad groove in the stock.

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/manufacture)

- AK-74; Russia, Bulgaria (AR-M1), Romania
- AKS-74; Russia, Bulgaria (AR-M1F), Poland (Tantal), Romania (Model 86)
- AKS-74U; Russia, Bulgaria (AR-SF), Poland (Onyx)

There are few significant visual differences between AK-74 weapons and the later AK-100 series of assault rifles (see Weapons ID Sheet for 'AK-100 series'). The calibres differ, however, and only the AK-105 uses the same 5.45 x 39 mm cartridge as the AK-74. This model resembles the AR-M1F. The two types can be distinguished by their differing manufacturer proof marks (see Weapons ID Sheet for 'Identifying marks: Kalashnikov-pattern weapons').

MUZZLE DESIGN

Slanted muzzle compensator



▶ AKM-pattern. See Weapons ID Sheet for 'Kalashnikov AKM'

Flash hider/compensator



▶ AK-74 (all long-barrelled versions)
▶ AK-100 series

STOCK DESIGN – FINGER GROOVES

Broad



▶ AK-74 derivatives
▶ AK-100 series

No groove:



▶ AK-47 and AKM types

BARREL LENGTH

Short barrel, cone-shape compensator:



▶ AKS-74U
▶ AR-SF
▶ Onyx

Medium barrel, short flash hider:



▶ Model 86 (short)
▶ AR-M1F

Long barrel, cylindrical flash hider:



▶ AK-74 (all remaining models)
▶ AK-100 series

STOCK DESIGN – FIXED AND FOLDING

Fixed (wooden or plastic)



▶ AK-74
▶ AR-M1

Side-folding



▶ Model 86
▶ AR-SF
▶ Onyx
▶ Tantal

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