

SALW Guide

Global distribution and visual identification



















Malta

Country report

<https://salw-guide.bicc.de>

Weapons Distribution

The following list shows the weapons which can be found in *Malta* and whether there is data on who holds these weapons:

AK-47 / AKM		RPD	
AK-74		RPG 7	
Beretta AR70/90		RPK	 
Beretta M 12		SIG SG540	
CZ Scorpion		SIG SG550	
DShk		Simonov SKS	
FN FAL		Sten gun	
HK MP5		Sterling L2A3	
Lee-Enfield SMLE		Tokarev TT-30/TT-33	
Makarov PM		UZI	
PK			

Explanation of symbols



Country of origin



Licensed production



Production without a licence



Government: Sources indicate that this type of weapon is held by Governmental agencies.



Non-Government: Sources indicate that this type of weapon is held by non-Governmental armed groups.



Unspecified: Sources indicate that this type of weapon is found in the country, but do not specify whether it is held by Governmental agencies or non-Governmental armed groups.

It is entirely possible to have a combination of tags beside each country. For example, if country X is tagged with a G and a U, it means that at least one source of data identifies Governmental agencies as holders of weapon type Y, and at least one other source confirms the presence of the weapon in country X without specifying who holds it.

Note: This application is a living, non-comprehensive database, relying to a great extent on active contributions (provision and/or validation of data and information) by either SALW experts from the military and international renowned think tanks or by national and regional focal points of small arms control entities.

AK-47 / AKM

The AK 47 (Designed 1946-1948) is best described as a hybrid of previous rifle technology innovations: the trigger, double locking lugs and unlocking raceway of the M1 Garand/M1 carbine, the safety mechanism of the John Browning designed Remington Model 8 rifle, and the gas system and layout of the Sturmgewehr 44. There are many variants. The weapons are used by the former Warsaw Pact countries, and they are still in service with numerous armed forces, both regular and irregular. The model and its variants remain the most popular and widely used rifles in the world because of its reliability under harsh conditions, low production costs.



Category	<i>Assault Rifles</i>
Operating system	Gas operated, rotating bolt with 2 lugs
Cartridge	7.62 x 39mm
Length	870 mm
Feeding	Box magazine

The following ammunition can be used by the **AK-47 / AKM**:

7.62 x 39mm

Bullet diameter	7.92 mm
Case length	38.7 mm
Overall length	56 mm



AK-74

The AK 74 (Designed 1974) is an adaptation of the 7.62mm AKM assault rifle and features several important design improvements. These modifications were primarily the result of converting the rifle to the intermediate-caliber 5.45x39mm cartridge, in fact, some early models are reported to have been converted AKMs, with the barrel re-sleeved to



5.45x39mm. The result is a more accurate and reliable rifle than the AKM. The AK-74 and AKM share an approximate 50% parts commonality (interchangeable are most often pins, springs and screws). There are many variants. The weapons are used by the former Warsaw Pact countries, and they are still in service with numerous armed forces, both regular and irregular. The model and its variants remain the most popular and widely used rifles in the world because of its reliability under harsh conditions, low production costs.

Category	<i>Assault Rifles</i>
Operating system	Gas operated, rotating bolt with 2 lugs
Cartridge	5.45 x 39mm
Length	943 mm
Feeding	Box magazine

The following ammunition can be used by the **AK-74**:

5.45 x 39mm

Bullet diameter	5.6 mm
Case length	39.82 mm
Overall length	57 mm



Beretta AR70/90

The Beretta 70/90 system was developed for the Italian army. The assault rifle AR70/90 was designed for the Italian army infantry and entered into service in 1990. The AR70/90 is also designed to be fitted with a rifle grenade. It is known for its reliability, which earned it the nickname “Excalibur” by the Alpini mountain troops. It remains the standard rifle of the Italian infantry, though it is currently being phased out in favour of the newer Beretta ARX 160 assault rifle.



Category	<i>Assault Rifles</i>
Operating system	gas, selective-fire
Cartridge	5.56 x 45mm / .223 Remington
Length	998 mm
Feeding	detachable, box magazine

The following ammunition can be used by the **Beretta AR70/90**:

5.56 x 45mm / .223 Remington

Bullet diameter	5.7 mm
Case length	44.7 mm
Overall length	57.4 mm



Beretta M 12

The weapon has three safeties: a manual safety which blocks the trigger; an automatic safety on the rear grip which immobilizes the trigger and blocks the bolt in a closed position; and a safety on the cocking handle locking the bolt in case it does not retract sufficiently. The short length of the Beretta is achieved by use of a barrel recessed into the bolt head, known as a telescoping bolt. This reduces length without reducing barrel length or bolt weight.



Category	<i>Submachine Guns</i>
Operating system	Blowback operated, selectively-fired, fires from open bolt
Cartridge	9mm Parabellum (9 x 19mm)
Length	418 mm
Feeding	Box magazine

The following ammunition can be used by the **Beretta M 12**:

9mm Parabellum (9 x 19mm)

Bullet diameter	9 mm
Case length	19.15 mm
Overall length	29.69 mm



CZ Scorpion

The latest CZ Scorpion (also written Skorpion) EVO 3 sub-machine gun entered into production in 2009 and obtained its name from the original CZ Skorpion 1961 model. Despite its name, the EVO 3 is mechanically unrelated to the Skorpion Vz. 61. Originally, it was marketed as a Personal Defence Weapon (PDW), such as the FN P90, but its calibre and overall size classifies the EVO 3 as a sub-machine gun. Several models, changes and improvements have been introduced into the broader CZ Scorpion-family. Many machine gun models of the CZ Scorpion, which are designed to be fired by a single hand, provide single shots or automatic fire and can be fitted with a suppressor. Different CZ Scorpion variants are still produced and available for export sale.



Category	<i>Submachine Guns</i>
Operating system	blow-back, selective-fire
Cartridge	7.65 x 17 mm SR (.32 ACP) 9mm Makarov (9.2 x 18mm) 9mm Parabellum (9 x 19mm) 9x17 mm (.380 ACP)
Length	517 mm
Feeding	detachable, double-column box magazine

The following ammunition can be used by the **CZ Scorpion**:

7.65 x 17 mm SR (.32 ACP)

Bullet diameter	7.94 mm
Case length	17.3 mm
Overall length	25 mm

NO IMAGE

9mm Makarov (9.2 x 18mm)

Bullet diameter	9.27 mm
Case length	18.1 mm
Overall length	25 mm



9mm Parabellum (9 x 19mm)

Bullet diameter	9 mm
Case length	19.15 mm
Overall length	29.69 mm



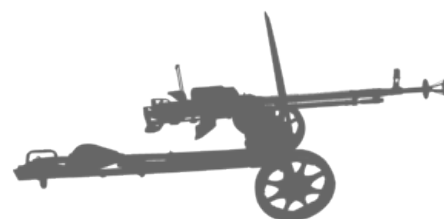
9x17 mm (.380 ACP)

Bullet diameter	9 mm
Case length	17.3 mm
Overall length	25 mm

NO IMAGE

DShk

The DShk was exported to many countries, and it can be found all over the world because the gun is used in many conflicts. The weapon was in service with several armed forces, both regular and irregular, and it can be found in many countries in Asia and Africa.



Category	<i>Heavy Machine Guns</i>
Operating system	Gas operated, belt fed, air cooled, selective fire
Cartridge	12.7 x 108 mm
Length	1625 mm
Feeding	Belt

The following ammunition can be used by the **DShk**:

12.7 x 108 mm

Bullet diameter	12.98 mm
Case length	108 mm
Overall length	147.5 mm

NO IMAGE

FN FAL

The FN FAL (Fusil Automatique Léger - Light Automatic Rifle) is one of the most famous and widespread military rifle. Because of its prevalence and widespread usage among the militaries of many NATO and first world countries during the Cold War, it received the title "The right arm of the Free World". It can be found in both, the 7.62x51mm and, very rarely, the 5.56x45mm NATO versions. The furniture may be wood, metal or plastic. There are various barrel lengths. In the UK (L1A1), Canadian, Indian and Netherland versions, there is no automatic fire mode. The gas system is fitted with gas regulator so it could be easily adjusted for various environment conditions, or cut off completely so rifle grenades could be safely launched from the barrel.



Category	<i>Assault Rifles</i>
Operating system	Gas operated, tilting breechblock, select-fire or semi-automatic only
Cartridge	7.62 x 51mm / .308 Winchester
Length	1100 mm
Feeding	Box magazine

The following ammunition can be used by the **FN FAL**:

7.62 x 51mm / .308 Winchester

Bullet diameter	7.82 mm
Case length	51.18 mm
Overall length	69.85 mm



HK MP5

Though the Heckler & Koch MP5 was designed in the 1960s, it is still one of the most widely deployed sub-machine guns and has been developed into a family with numerous variants. The gun features either a fixed or a sliding (telescoping) butt-stock. The original MP5 offers a choice of single shot or automatic fire, whereas later models received a burst-fire device, allowing two or three-round-bursts each



time the trigger is operated. Current models remain in (licensed) production in several countries, though The China North Industries Corporation, officially abbreviated as Norinco, manufactures an unlicensed copy, the NR08.

Category	<i>Submachine Guns</i>
Operating system	delayed-blowback; selective-fire
Cartridge	9mm Parabellum (9 x 19mm)
Length	680 mm
Feeding	detachable box magazine

The following ammunition can be used by the **HK MP5**:

9mm Parabellum (9 x 19mm)

Bullet diameter	9 mm
Case length	19.15 mm
Overall length	29.69 mm



Lee-Enfield SMLE

Rifles manufactured in the USA may have "UNITED STATES PROPERTY" on the left side of the receiver. Some of the Indian-made weapons can be found using 7.62 NATO caliber. The Lee-Enfield family of rifles is the oldest bolt-action rifle design still in official service. Lee-Enfield rifles are used by reserve forces and police forces in many Commonwealth countries, particularly Canada, where they are the main rifle issued to the Canadian Rangers, and India, where the Lee-Enfield is widely issued to reserve military units and police forces. Many Afghan participants in the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan were armed with Lee-Enfields (a common rifle in the Middle East and South Asia).



Category	<i>Rifles & Carbines</i>
Operating system	Manually operated, rotating bolt
Cartridge	7.7 x 56mm R / .303 British
Length	1130 mm

Feeding	Box magazine
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The following ammunition can be used by the **Lee-Enfield SMLE**:

7.7 x 56mm R / .303 British

Bullet diameter	7.9 mm
Case length	56.4 mm
Overall length	78.1 mm



Makarov PM

The PM has a free-floating firing pin, with no firing pin spring or firing pin block. This allows for the possibility of accidentally firing if the pistol is dropped on its muzzle. It is a simple and sound design, which is considered to be one of the best compact self-defense pistols of its time. While not extremely accurate and lethal at ranges beyond 15-20 meters, it is still a formidable and reliable self-defense weapon. In the former Yugoslavia, the Makarov was produced under license as a commercial export-only version also in caliber 9x17mm (.380 ACP) and 7.65x17mm.



Category	<i>Self-Loading Pistols & Revolvers</i>
Operating system	Blowback operated, double action
Cartridge	9mm Makarov (9.2 x 18mm)
Length	161 mm
Feeding	Box magazine

The following ammunition can be used by the **Makarov PM**:

9mm Makarov (9.2 x 18mm)

Bullet diameter	9.27 mm
Case length	18.1 mm
Overall length	25 mm



PK

The PK was made under license by many companies in many countries. It was exported to many countries and can be found all over the world because the gun is used in many conflicts. The weapon was in service with several armed forces, both regular and irregular, and it can be found in many countries in Asia and Africa.



Category	<i>Light Machine Guns</i>
Operating system	Gas operated, air cooled, belt fed weapon with a quick-detachable barrel
Cartridge	7.62 x 54mm R
Length	1173 mm
Feeding	(Boxed) belt

The following ammunition can be used by the **PK**:

7.62 x 54mm R

Bullet diameter	7.92 mm
Case length	53.72 mm
Overall length	77.16 mm



RPD

The RPD (Ruchnoy Pulemet Degtyarova - Degtyarov Light MG) was one of the first weapons designed to fire a new, intermediate cartridge 7.62x39mm. During its service life, the weapon was modernized several times. The weapon was in service with several armed forces, both regular and irregular, and it can be found in many countries in Asia and Africa.



Category	<i>Light Machine Guns</i>
Operating system	Gas operated, full auto only
Cartridge	7.62 x 39mm

Length	1037 mm
Feeding	Boxed belt

The following ammunition can be used by the **RPD**:

7.62 x 39mm

Bullet diameter	7.92 mm
Case length	38.7 mm
Overall length	56 mm



RPG 7

The RPG 7 was made under license by many companies in many countries, it was exported to many countries, and it can be found all over the world because the gun is used in many conflicts. The weapon was in service with several armed forces, both regular and irregular, and it can be found in many countries in Asia and Africa.



Category	<i>Portable Anti-tank Guns</i>
Operating system	Recoilless launch + rocket booster
Cartridge	
Length	650 mm
Feeding	front-loaded, manual reload

The following ammunition can be used by the **RPG 7**:

RPK

The RPK was made under license by many companies in many countries. It was exported to many countries, and it can be found all over the world because the gun is used in many conflicts. The weapon was in service with several armed forces, both regular and irregular, and it can be found in many countries in Asia and Africa.



Category	<i>Light Machine Guns</i>
Operating system	Gas operated, magazine fed, air cooled, selective fire
Cartridge	7.62 x 39mm
Length	1040 mm
Feeding	Box magazine

The following ammunition can be used by the **RPK**:

7.62 x 39mm

Bullet diameter	7.92 mm
Case length	38.7 mm
Overall length	56 mm



SIG SG540

The Swiss SIG SG540 was designed as a potential replacement for the SG510. It was produced between 1977 and 2002 in Switzerland and remains in production in Chile only. While the SG540 and the SG 543 models are chambered for the 6.56 x 45 mm caliber, the SG542 uses 7.62 x 51 mm NATO cartridges.



Category	<i>Assault Rifles</i>
Operating system	gas, selective-fire
Cartridge	5.56 x 45mm / .223 Remington
Length	950 mm
Feeding	detachable box magazine

The following ammunition can be used by the **SIG SG540**:

5.56 x 45mm / .223 Remington

Bullet diameter	5.7 mm
Case length	44.7 mm

Overall length	57.4 mm
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SIG SG550

The Swiss SIG SG550 assault rifle is based on the SG540. It entered into production in 1981 and is also known as the Fass 90 (Fusil d'assaut 90/Fucile d'assalto 90) in French/Italian or Stgw 90 in German (Sturmgewehr 90).

As special attention was paid to making it lighter, the butt, handguard and magazine are largely made of plastic.



Category	<i>Assault Rifles</i>
Operating system	gas, selective-fire
Cartridge	5.56 x 45mm / .223 Remington
Length	998 mm
Feeding	detachable, polymer box magazine

The following ammunition can be used by the **SIG SG550**:

5.56 x 45mm / .223 Remington

Bullet diameter	5.7 mm
Case length	44.7 mm
Overall length	57.4 mm



Simonov SKS

SKS is a self-loading Carabine. It utilizes a short-stroke gas piston with its own return spring, and a tilting bolt locking, where a bolt tips down to lock onto the floor of the receiver. Charging handle is attached to the right side of the bolt carrier and moves when gun is fired. Safety switch is located inside the trigger guard. The early model 50



weapons are shorter and are usually found without the bayonet. The SKS was an extremely reliable, simple constructed weapon with two unique distinguishing characteristics: a permanently attached folding bayonet, and a hinged non-detachable magazine. However, it was incapable of fully automatic fire and limited by its ten round magazine capacity, and was rendered obsolescent by the introduction of the AK-47 in the 1950s. The SKS was only briefly a standard infantry weapon in front-line units of the Soviet Armed Forces before being replaced by the AK-47. The weapon was in service with several armed forces, both regular and irregular, and it can be found in many countries in Asia and Africa. The SKS remains popular on the civilian market as a hunting and marksmanship arm in many countries, including the United States and Canada.

Category	<i>Rifles & Carbines</i>
Operating system	Gas operated, tilting bolt
Cartridge	7.62 x 39mm
Length	1020 mm
Feeding	Box magazine

The following ammunition can be used by the **Simonov SKS**:

7.62 x 39mm

Bullet diameter	7.92 mm
Case length	38.7 mm
Overall length	56 mm



Sten gun

Prior to 1941 UK was keen to produce a own submachine gun as an alternative Rate of fire 550 450 550 600 rounds per minute to the US-Thompson submachine gun. Royal Small Arms Factory, Enfield designed the STEN gun. In the beginning, unreliable but extremely cheap and easy to produce. After further development, the guns of 1942 and beyond were, in general, highly effective weapons. In Germany, the STEN models "Potsdam" and "Neumünster" were manufactured during WW II. In late 1944, the Mauser works in Germany secretly started manufacturing copies of British Mk II Sten, apparently for diversion and sabotage purposes. These weapons were intended to duplicate the British original as closely as possible, right down to the markings. Also, during WW II some resistance groups in German-occupied countries (DNK, FRA, NOR, POL) produced significant numbers of Stens.



Category	<i>Submachine Guns</i>
Operating system	Blowback-operated, fired from open bolt
Cartridge	9mm Parabellum (9 x 19mm)
Length	895 mm
Feeding	Box magazine

The following ammunition can be used by the **Sten gun**:

9mm Parabellum (9 x 19mm)

Bullet diameter	9 mm
Case length	19.15 mm
Overall length	29.69 mm



Sterling L2A3

Sterling submachine guns , were purchased in more than 70 countries. However, it must be noted that these weapons were rather popular among British troops because of their relatively compact size, adequate firepower and accuracy and good reliability. Special "high power, submachine-gun only" ammunition was procured by British army for Sterling



submachine guns. This ammunition was absolutely safe in Sterling submachine guns, but can cause extensive wear to many 9mm pistols designed for commercial 9x19mm ammunition.

Category	<i>Submachine Guns</i>
Operating system	Blowback-operated, select-fire, fires from open bolt
Cartridge	9mm Parabellum (9 x 19mm)
Length	481 mm
Feeding	Box magazine

The following ammunition can be used by the **Sterling L2A3**:

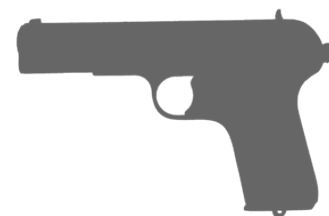
9mm Parabellum (9 x 19mm)

Bullet diameter	9 mm
Case length	19.15 mm
Overall length	29.69 mm



Tokarev TT-30/TT-33

The TT looks like the Browning FN 1903, and the mechanism is similar to the Colt M1911. In Hungary, the TT was modified and produced for export to Egypt in caliber 9mm and with a safety lock. For its time, the Tokarev TT was a formidable weapon, with good penetration and effective range. It was of good reliability and easy to maintain. What it lacked most, was the manual safety and its grip shape was not too comfortable. It was in service with several armed forces, both regular and irregular, and it can be found in many countries in Asia and Africa.



Category	<i>Self-Loading Pistols & Revolvers</i>
Operating system	Short recoil operated, closed breech, single action, semi-automatic
Cartridge	7.62 x 25mm Tokarev
Length	194 mm
Feeding	Box magazine

The following ammunition can be used by the **Tokarev TT-30/TT-33**:

7.62 x 25mm Tokarev

Bullet diameter	7.8 mm
Case length	25 mm
Overall length	34 mm



UZI

The UZI and the Czechoslovakian series Sa 23 to Sa 26 were the first weapons to use a telescoping bolt design, in which the bolt wraps around the breech end of the barrel. This allows the barrel to be moved far back into the receiver and the magazine to be housed in the pistol grip, allowing for a heavier, slower-firing bolt in a shorter, better- balanced weapon. The pistol grip is fitted with a grip safety, making it difficult to fire accidentally. There were built further variants, also as Military variants, such as Mini Uzi, Micro Uzi and Uzi Pistol. Mini- and Micro-Uzi submachine guns were produced either in open-bolt or closed-bolt versions. The Uzi was also copied respectively cloned and spread around the whole world.



Category	<i>Submachine Guns</i>
Operating system	Blowback-operated, fired from open bolt
Cartridge	9mm Parabellum (9 x 19mm)
Length	470 mm
Feeding	Box magazine

The following ammunition can be used by the **UZI**:

9mm Parabellum (9 x 19mm)

Bullet diameter	9 mm
Case length	19.15 mm
Overall length	29.69 mm



Tagging of Sources

We believe that our Guide should be as transparent as possible without endangering the confidentiality of our sources. Rather than name the exact source for each unit of data, we have created tags so that users can at least know whether the data comes from a primary or secondary source, and by which medium it can or has been found. All incoming data is validated and then tagged by the project team at BICC before it enters our database.

Sources are tagged according to the following criteria:

1. Primary Sources:

These are presentations of facts. They are proof of an SALW event (e.g. a transfer, sighting, misuse, etc.) because the source was created at the time of the event itself. Primary sources are usually original documents such as transfer authorizations, firearms legislation, or academic journals presenting results of a study on SALW holdings in a particular country, for example. However, they can also be information offered by a person with direct knowledge of an SALW event or who has documented an SALW event at the time that it happened.

2. Secondary Sources:

These are interpretations or evaluation of facts. Secondary sources contain commentary and analysis of SALW events that are documented in primary sources.

Sources are also tagged according to the dominant medium of delivery:

A. Written - the source is based on written words.

B. Oral - the source is based on spoken words.

C. Visual - the source is based on seen events or optical images.

These criteria make our tags two-dimensional. While the process of classifying sources is a primarily subjective one, the project team at BICC has developed the following table to serve as an example of possible sources within each category.

Table: Examples of sources on SALW distribution

	Primary	Secondary
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Written	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fact books • Weapons Transfer authorizations • End-user certificates • Transcripts of interviews, legal proceedings, speeches/ presentations, meetings, conferences or symposia • Newspaper articles • Written correspondence (e.g. letters, emails, text messages, etc.) • Blogs • Peer-reviewed journal articles • Treaties, constitution, laws • Records of organizations (e.g. annual reports) • Surveys, questionnaires <p>Etc...</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wikipedia • Literature reviews • Training or safety manuals on gun control, ammunition, physical stockpile security management) • Minutes of meetings, conferences, symposia • Indexes (e.g. Global Militarization Index) • Newspaper articles <p>Etc.</p>
Oral	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interviews with experts, including radio or telephone • Legal proceedings • Speeches or interventions by experts or national representatives in government or international meetings <p>Etc ...</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Speeches, panel presentations, etc. on data provided by experts <p>Etc...</p>
Visual	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Artifacts (e.g. the weapons themselves, ammunition) • Photographs of weapons, ammunition, etc. • Videos (e.g. YouTube, those recorded by mobile phone) • Television documentaries, news reports <p>Etc ...</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PowerPoint presentations on results found by experts <p>Etc...</p>

Table: Example tags

Source (sample)	Type of source	Medium of delivery
IHS Jane's Weapons Infantry (2015-2016)	primary	written
Panel discussion of weapons use of non-state armed groups	secondary	oral
Documentary on paramilitaries in Colombia	primary	visual

About the Guide

The Interactive Guide on **Small Arms and Light Weapons** is an open access tool, designed to build knowledge on how to identify different types, makes and models of commonly used SALW in organized violence; to collect data on the global and country-specific spread of these SALW; and to describe some of their visual and technical specifications.

The guide is not an exhaustive list of all SALW that are used around the world.

Global SALW control relies on, among other things, data and knowledge of the weapons themselves. Our aim is that the Guide will be used to support national reporting duties on SALW holdings; facilitate and ameliorate the collection of data on SALW; and increase general knowledge of global distribution of SALW.

The interactive Guide was developed by **BICC** in close cooperation with the **Bundeswehr Verification Center** (BwVC), and with the generous support of the *Federal Foreign Office, Germany*.

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