

SALW Guide

Global distribution and visual
identification


























Switzerland

Country report

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

Weapons Distribution

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

Browning M 2			
FIM-92 Stinger			
FN Herstal FN MAG			
FN MINIMI			
Glock 17			
HK MP5			
Mauser K98			
Mosin-Nagant Rifle Mod. 1891			
Panzerfaust 3 (PzF 3)			
Remington 870P			
Saab AT4			
SIG SG510-4			
SIG SG540			
SIG SG550			

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.

Browning M 2

The Browning .50 caliber machine gun has been used extensively as a vehicle weapon and for aircraft armament. The M2 fires from a closed bolt, operated on the short recoil principle. Nearly 5 million items were produced.



Category	<i>Heavy Machine Guns</i>
Operating system	Fires from a short bolt, operated on the short recoil principle
Cartridge	12.7 x 99 mm NATO (.50BMG)
Length	1650 mm
Feeding	Belt

The following ammunition can be used by the **Browning M 2**:

12.7 x 99 mm NATO (.50BMG)

Bullet diameter	13 mm
Case length	99 mm
Overall length	138 mm

NO IMAGE

FIM-92 Stinger

Its combat debut occurred during the Falklands War. The Stinger was also used by the Afghan Mujahedeen, the Hamas and the UNITA. The Central Intelligence Agency supplied nearly 500 Stingers (some sources claim 1,500–2,000) to the Mujahedeen in Afghanistan. After the 1989 Soviet withdrawal from Afghanistan, the United States attempted to buy back the Stinger missiles, with a 55 million dollar program to buy back around 300 missiles. The U.S. government collected most of the Stingers it had delivered, but some of them found their way into Iran, Qatar and North Korea.



Category	<i>Portable Launcher of Anti-aircraft Missile Systems</i>
Operating system	MANPAD

Cartridge	
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The following ammunition can be used by the **FIM-92 Stinger**:

FN Herstal FN MAG

The Belgian FN MAG (Mitrailleuse d'Appui Général, meaning general-purpose machine gun) entered into production in 1958. It is one of the most widespread machine gun designs and is used in more than 90 countries around the globe. It is still manufactured in Belgium and produced under license in several countries including Argentina, Egypt, the US and the UK. It can be carried by infantry and is usually fired while mounted on a tripod.



Category	<i>Heavy Machine Guns</i>
Operating system	gas, automatic
Cartridge	7.62 x 51mm / .308 Winchester
Length	1260 mm
Feeding	disintegrating metal link belt

The following ammunition can be used by the **FN Herstal FN MAG**:

7.62 x 51mm / .308 Winchester

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



FN MINIMI

The development of the Belgian FN Herstal MINIMI began in the early 1960s, but it did not enter into production until 1982. Since then, the MINIMI light machine gun has been in service in more than 35 countries including in the armies of the US and the UK. The gas-operated MINIMI is one of the most widely used guns in its class and caliber. It is usually belt fed and fired from a bipod, but it can also be fed by magazine and mounted on a tripod.



Category	<i>Light Machine Guns</i>
Operating system	gas, automatic only
Cartridge	5.56 x 45mm / .223 Remington 7.62 x 51mm / .308 Winchester
Length	1040 mm
Feeding	disintegrating metal link belt or box magazine (M16 type)

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

5.56 x 45mm / .223 Remington

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



7.62 x 51mm / .308 Winchester

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



Glock 17

Several modified versions of the Glock 17 have also been introduced. The Glock 17C incorporated slots cut in the barrel and slide to compensate for muzzle rise and recoil. The Glock 17L incorporates a longer slide and extended barrel. Initially, the Glock 17L had three holes in the top of the barrel and a corresponding slot in the slide; however, later production pistols lack the holes in the barrel. The Glock 17MB is a version with ambidextrous magazine catch. Glock pistols are designed with three independent safety mechanisms to prevent accidental discharge. The system, designated "Safe Action" by Glock, consists of an external integrated trigger safety and two automatic internal safeties: a firing pin safety and a drop safety. The external safety is a small inner lever contained in the trigger.



Category	<i>Self-Loading Pistols & Revolvers</i>
Operating system	short recoil-operated, locked breech
Cartridge	9mm Parabellum (9 x 19mm)
Length	186 mm
Feeding	Box magazine

The following ammunition can be used by the **Glock 17**:

9mm Parabellum (9 x 19mm)

Bullet diameter	9 mm
Case length	19.15 mm
Overall length	29.69 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



Mauser K98

There are many variants of this weapon, and it has been widely copied. A number of non-European nations used the Mauser Karabiner 98k rifle as well as a few guerrilla organizations to help establish new nation-states. One example was Israel who used the Mauser Karabiner 98k rifle from the late 1940s until the 1970s. During the 1990s, the Yugoslavian Karabiner 98k rifles and the Yugoslavian M48 and M48A rifles were used alongside modern automatic and semi-automatic rifles by all the warring factions of the Yugoslav wars. There are a number of photographs taken during the war in Bosnia showing combatants and snipers using Yugoslavian-made Mauser rifles from high-rise buildings in the Bosnian city of Sarajevo.



Category	<i>Rifles & Carbines</i>
Operating system	Manually operated, rotating bolt
Cartridge	7.92x57 mm (8x57 IS)
Length	1110 mm
Feeding	Internal magazine

The following ammunition can be used by the **Mauser K98**:

7.92x57 mm (8x57 IS)

Bullet diameter	8.08 mm
Case length	57 mm
Overall length	82 mm



Mosin-Nagant Rifle Mod. 1891

Copies of this rifle were manufactured in China, Hungary and Poland. Some of these were sporterized and converted to various calibers. Large numbers of these weapons were imported into both France and USA. The model 91/44 is shorter and has an attached bayonet. 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>Rifles & Carbines</i>
Operating system	Manually operated, rotating bolt
Cartridge	7.62 x 54mm R
Length	1306 mm
Feeding	Internal magazine

The following ammunition can be used by the **Mosin-Nagant Rifle Mod. 1891**:

7.62 x 54mm R

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



Panzerfaust 3 (PzF 3)

The Panzerfaust 3 (Tank fist 3 or "The German RPG") entered into production in 1987 and is still in service with the German Bundeswehr and several other countries, such as Japan and the Netherlands. This light anti-tank weapons (LAW) system is man-portable, shoulder-fired and unguided, and is known for its high kill probability, firing from enclosed spaces (due to the recoilless countermass principle) and low costs. More than 250,000 units of the PzF 3 have been produced since the early 1990s.



Category	<i>Portable Launcher of Anti-tank Missile and Rocket Systems</i>
Operating system	light anti-tank weapon
Cartridge	

The following ammunition can be used by the **Panzerfaust 3 (PzF 3)**:

Remington 870P

The Remington Model 870 pump-action shotgun is available in 11 versions with various barrel lengths, furniture alternatives and magazine capacities. The first model entered into production in 1951. Current

models are still being produced today, adding to the more than 10,000,000 estimated units already produced. The Model 870P is the police model with its receiver made of steel. This model can also carry four extra rounds of ammunition. The Remington 870 series is in service with numerous military and police forces worldwide.



Category	<i>Rifles & Carbines</i>
Operating system	manual, slide-action
Cartridge	12-gauge
Length	971 mm
Feeding	underbarrel tubular magazine

The following ammunition can be used by the **Remington 870P**:

12-gauge

Bullet diameter	18.53 mm
Case length	-
Overall length	-

NO IMAGE

Saab AT4

The Saab Bofors Dynamics AT4 entered into production in Sweden in the early 1980s and is still being produced today. It is a single-shot recoilless weapon and one of the most common light anti-tank weapons in the world. It is preloaded and after firing, the AT4 cannot be reloaded. The AT4's main disadvantage is that it creates a considerable back blast.



Category	<i>Portable Launcher of Anti-tank Missile and Rocket Systems</i>
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Operating system	recoilless, one-man-portable
Cartridge	

The following ammunition can be used by the **Saab AT4**:

SIG SG510-4

The Swiss SIG SG510 was produced between 1957 and 1983. It is also known as the Fass 57 (French/Italian, for Fusil d'Assault 57/Fucile d'Assalto 57) or Stgw 57 (German for Sturm Gewehr 57). The SG510-4 model, which is shorter and lighter than the original SG540, uses 7.62x51mm NATO munition and is in service by the Chilean and Bolivian armed forces.



Category	<i>Assault Rifles</i>
Operating system	delayed-blowback; selective-fire
Cartridge	7.62 x 51mm / .308 Winchester
Length	1016 mm
Feeding	detachable box magazine

The following ammunition can be used by the **SIG SG510-4**:

7.62 x 51mm / .308 Winchester

Bullet diameter	7.82 mm
Case length	51.18 mm
Overall length	69.85 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



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
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Case length	44.7 mm
Overall length	57.4 mm



Ammunition head stamps

The following is a non-comprehensive overview of ammunitions head stamps used within this country for ammunition marking.



Cartridge factory, Solothurn.

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
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>

<p>Visual</p>	<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>
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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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