

# SALW Guide

Global distribution and visual  
identification



## Madagascar

Country report

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

# Weapons Distribution

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

|              |   |                     |   |
|--------------|---|---------------------|---|
| AK-47 / AKM  |  | MAT 49              |  |
| AK-74        |  | Makarov PM          |  |
| Browning M 2 |  | RPG 2               |  |
| DShk         |  | RPG 7               |  |
| MAS 49       |  | Simonov SKS         |  |
| MAS 49/56    |  | Tokarev TT-30/TT-33 |  |

## 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.



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

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



## 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.



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

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

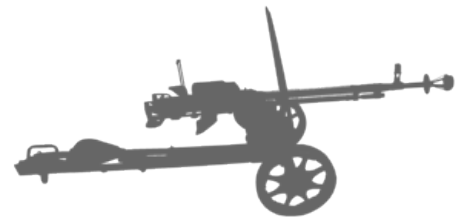
## 12.7 x 99 mm NATO (.50BMG)

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



## 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.



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



## MAS 49

The MAS-49 is a French semi-automatic rifle that replaced various bolt action rifles as the French service rifle. The MAS-49 and MAS 49/56 use a direct gas impingement system with no gas piston. In this system gas is vented from a port on top of the barrel and piped directly into an



open cylindrical hollow located in front and on top of the bolt carrier. The system has the advantage of not depositing gas fouling on the bolt itself, a separate part located underneath the bolt carrier. Many MAS-49/56 rifles were imported as surplus in the USA and had been rechambered to fire the 7.62x51mm NATO round.

|                         |                              |
|-------------------------|------------------------------|
| <b>Category</b>         | <i>Rifles &amp; Carbines</i> |
| <b>Operating system</b> | Gas operated, tilting bolt   |
| <b>Cartridge</b>        | 7.5 x 54mm                   |
| <b>Length</b>           | 1100 mm                      |
| <b>Feeding</b>          | Box magazine                 |

The following ammunition can be used by the **MAS 49**:

## 7.5 x 54mm

|                 |        |
|-----------------|--------|
| Bullet diameter | 7.8 mm |
| Case length     | 54 mm  |
| Overall length  | 78 mm  |



## MAS 49/56

The MAS-49 is a French semi-automatic rifle that replaced various bolt action rifles as the French service rifle. The MAS-49 and MAS 49/56 use a direct gas impingement system with no gas piston. In this system gas is vented from a port on top of the barrel and piped directly into an open cylindrical hollow located in front and on top of the bolt carrier. The system has the advantage of not depositing gas fouling on the bolt itself, a separate part located underneath the bolt carrier. Many MAS-49/56 rifles were imported as surplus in the USA and had been rechambered to fire the 7.62x51mm NATO round.



|                         |                              |
|-------------------------|------------------------------|
| <b>Category</b>         | <i>Rifles &amp; Carbines</i> |
| <b>Operating system</b> | Gas operated, tilting bolt   |
| <b>Cartridge</b>        | 7.5 x 54mm                   |
| <b>Length</b>           | 1020 mm                      |
| <b>Feeding</b>          | Box magazine                 |

The following ammunition can be used by the **MAS 49/56**:

## 7.5 x 54mm

|                 |        |
|-----------------|--------|
| Bullet diameter | 7.8 mm |
| Case length     | 54 mm  |
| Overall length  | 78 mm  |



## MAT 49

For some 30 years, the MAT 49 was widely used by French military and police forces; it was used throughout the Indochinese and Algerian campaigns. The weapon can still be encountered in former French colonies in Africa and Indochina. It should be noted that North Vietnam once produced a local copy of the MAT 49, chambered for 7.62mm TT rounds. MAT 49s manufactured for police forces, had two triggers, allowing use of full-auto fire or single shots, but most were manufactured as full-auto only.



|                         |  |
|-------------------------|--|
| <b>Category</b>         | <i>Submachine Guns</i>                           |
| <b>Operating system</b> | Blowback-operated, fired from open bolt          |
| <b>Cartridge</b>        | 7.62 x 25mm Tokarev<br>9mm Parabellum (9 x 19mm) |
| <b>Length</b>           | 404 mm   |
| <b>Feeding</b>          | Box magazine                                     |

The following ammunition can be used by the **MAT 49**:

### 7.62 x 25mm Tokarev

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



### 9mm Parabellum (9 x 19mm)

|                 |      |
|-----------------|------|
| Bullet diameter | 9 mm |
|-----------------|------|

|                |          |
|----------------|----------|
| Case length    | 19.15 mm |
| Overall length | 29.69 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.



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





## RPG 2

The RPG 2 design is based on the German Panzerfaust anti-tank weapon developed during World War II. It was made under license by many companies in many countries (e.g. the B-40 in Vietnam), 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.



|                         |  |
|-------------------------|--|
| <b>Category</b>         | <i>Portable Anti-tank Guns</i>         |
| <b>Operating system</b> | Recoilless launch / non rocket booster |
| <b>Cartridge</b>        |  |
| <b>Length</b>           | 650 mm                                 |
| <b>Feeding</b>          | front-loaded                           |

The following ammunition can be used by the **RPG 2**:

## 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.



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

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

## 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.

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

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

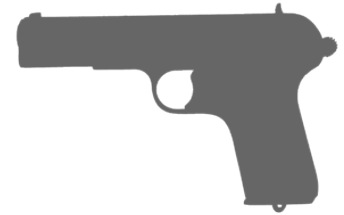
### 7.62 x 39mm

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



## 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.



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



## 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 |
|--|---------|-----------|
|  |         |           |

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

**Table: Example tags**

| <b>Source (sample)</b>                                    | <b>Type of source</b> | <b>Medium of delivery</b> |
|---|-----------------------|---------------------------|
| 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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