

# SALW Guide

Global distribution and visual  
identification







## Malawi

Country report

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

# Weapons Distribution

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

|                |   |                  |   |
|----------------|---|------------------|---|
| AK-47 / AKM    |  | HK G3            |  |
| Daewoo K1 / K2 |  | Lee-Enfield SMLE |  |
| FN FAL         |  | Makarov PM       |  |
| FN High Power  |  | Sterling MP L2A3 |  |

## 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 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 variations. The weapons are used by all former Warsaw Pact countries, and they are in service with numerous armed forces, both regular and irregular. They can be found in many countries in Asia and Africa.



|                         |   |
|-------------------------|---|
| <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   |



## Daewoo K1 / K2

The South Korean Daewoo K1A was developed as a short-barrelled version of the K2 assault rifle explaining their technical and physical resemblance. The K1A is the enhanced version of the previous mass produced K1 rifle. Furthermore, the rifles combine technical elements of the operating systems from the AR15/M16-rifles and the AK-series. Both the K1 and K2 are still in production and in service within the South Korean Armed Forces. *length depends on the model: - Daewoo K1A: 838 mm stock extended - Daewoo K2: 980 mm butt extended*



|                         |   |
|-------------------------|---|
| <b>Category</b>         | <i>Assault Rifles</i>                     |
| <b>Operating system</b> | gas piston, selective fire with 3rd burst |
| <b>Cartridge</b>        | 5.56 x 45mm / .223 Remington              |
| <b>Length</b>           | 838 mm                                    |
| <b>Feeding</b>          | detachable, box magazine                  |

The following ammunition can be used by the **Daewoo K1 / K2**:

## 5.56 x 45mm / .223 Remington

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



## FN FAL

The FN FAL (Fusil Automatique Leger - Light Automatic Rifle) is one of the most famous and widespread military rifle designs of the 20th century. It can be found in both the 7.62 NATO and, very rarely, the 5.56 NATO versions. The furniture may be wood, metal or plastic. There are various barrel lengths. In the UK (L1A1), Canadian, Indian and Dutch versions, there is no automatic fire mode. The gas system is fitted with a gas regulator, so that it could be easily adjusted for various environment conditions, or cut off completely, so that rifle grenades could be safely launched from the barrel.



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



## FN High Power

The High Power is one of the most widely used military pistols of all time, having been used by the armed forces of over 50 countries. The pistol is often referred to as an HP (for "Hi Power" or "High Power") or as a GP (for the French term, "Grande Puissance"). Technically, the High Power pistol, also known as Browning HP 35, GP 35 or Model 1935, is a recoil operated, locked breech pistol. It uses linkless barrel to slide locking invented by Browning. The trigger is single action, with external hammer. Original HPs featured frame mounted safety at the left side of the frame, that locks both sear and slide. Modern versions, since Mark II, also featured ambidextrous safety levers, that are also more comfortable to operate.

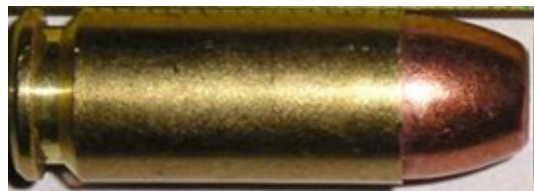


|                         |   |
|-------------------------|---|
| <b>Category</b>         | <i>Self-Loading Pistols &amp; Revolvers</i>         |
| <b>Operating system</b> | Short recoil operated, locked breech, single action |
| <b>Cartridge</b>        | .40 S&W<br>9mm Parabellum (9 x 19mm)                |
| <b>Length</b>           | 200 mm  |
| <b>Feeding</b>          | Box magazine  |

The following ammunition can be used by the **FN High Power**:

### .40 S&W

|                 |         |
|-----------------|---------|
| Bullet diameter | 10.2 mm |
| Case length     | 21.6 mm |
| Overall length  | 28.8 mm |



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

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

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



## HK G3

The furniture can be wood or plastic. The plastic stock may be green, sand or black. There is also a collapsing stock. The rifle is hammer fired and has a trigger mechanism with a 3-position fire selector switch that is also the manual safety toggle that secures the weapon from accidentally discharging (fire selector in the “E” or “1” position - single fire mode, “F” or “20” - automatic fire, “S” or “0” - weapon is safe, trigger disabled mechanically). The weapon can be fitted with an optional 4-position safety/fire selector group illustrated with pictograms with an ambidextrous selector lever. The additional, fourth selector setting enables a 3-round burst mode of fire. Around 10 million items have been produced.



|                         |                               |
|-------------------------|-------------------------------|
| <b>Category</b>         | <i>Assault Rifles</i>         |
| <b>Operating system</b> | Roller-delayed blowback       |
| <b>Cartridge</b>        | 7.62 x 51mm / .308 Winchester |
| <b>Length</b>           | 1023 mm                       |
| <b>Feeding</b>          | Box magazine                  |

The following ammunition can be used by the **HK G3**:

### 7.62 x 51mm / .308 Winchester

|                 |          |
|-----------------|----------|
| Bullet diameter | 7.82 mm  |
| Case length     | 51.18 mm |
| Overall length  | 69.85 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).



|                         |                                  |
|-------------------------|----------------------------------|
| <b>Category</b>         | <i>Rifles &amp; Carbines</i>     |
| <b>Operating system</b> | Manually operated, rotating bolt |
| <b>Cartridge</b>        | 7.7 x 56mm R / .303 British      |
| <b>Length</b>           | 1130 mm                          |
| <b>Feeding</b>          | Box magazine                     |

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.



|                         |   |
|-------------------------|---|
| <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   |



## Sterling MP L2A3

Sterling submachine guns were widely manufactured for export. More than 70 countries purchased various quantities of Sterling submachine guns. 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 9x19 ammunition.



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

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

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

|                       |  |   |
|-----------------------|--|---|
| <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*.

## Contact

**Internationales Konversionszentrum Bonn -  
Bonn International Center for Conversion (BICC) GmbH**

Lars Wirkus  
Head of Data & Geomatics  
Pfarrer-Byns-Str. 1  
53121 Bonn

Germany

E-Mail: [wirkus@bicc.de](mailto:wirkus@bicc.de)

Internet: [www.bicc.de](http://www.bicc.de)

**Zentrum für Verifikationsaufgaben der Bundeswehr (ZVBw) - Bundeswehr  
Verification Center (BwVC)**

Global Arms- and Proliferation Control Division

Captain Laurentius Wedeniwski

Selfkant-Kaserne

Rue de Quimperle 100

52511 Geilenkirchen

E-Mail: [LaurentiusWedeniwski@bundeswehr.org](mailto:LaurentiusWedeniwski@bundeswehr.org)

## Overall project coordination

Lars Wirkus

Head of Data & Geomatics

Bonn International Center for Conversion (BICC)

**Responsible for all content (including photos):**

Zentrum für Verifikationsaufgaben der Bundeswehr (ZVBw) - Bundeswehr Verification Center.

Captain Laurentius Wedeniwski: Small Arms and Light Weapons Guide (2016).

**Responsible for design, editorial and technical implementation:**

Internationales Konversionszentrum Bonn - Bonn International Center for Conversion (BICC) GmbH.

Technical management: Lars Wirkus

Programming: Rolf Alberth