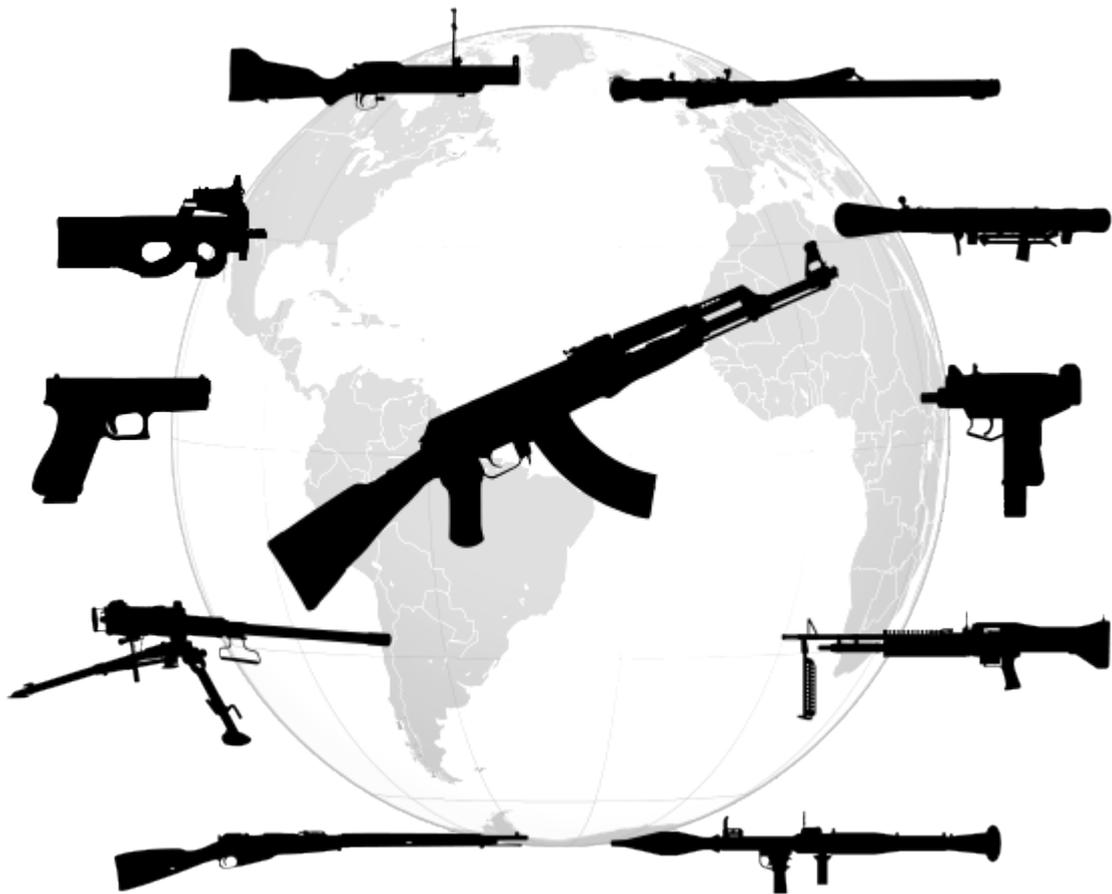


# SALW Guide

Global distribution and visual  
identification



## Rwanda

Country report

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

# Weapons Distribution

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

AK-47 / AKM	 	IWI Tavor TAR-21	
AK-74		MAS 49	
Browning M 2		MAS 49/56	
FN FAL		RPG 7	
FN Herstal FN MAG		Simonov SKS	
FN High Power		UZI	
HK G3			

## 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





*Kalashnikov & variants*  
001/md-01-300w.png  
marking details (RUS)

*Kalashnikov & variants*  
001/md-02-300w.png  
marking details (RUS)

*Kalashnikov & variants*  
001/md-03-300w.jpg  
marking details (EGY)

*Kalashnikov & variants*  
001/md-04-300w.jpg  
marking details (CHN)

001/md-01-b-300w.png

Type: CHN Model 56 (AK47)



weapon specifics

Type: CHN Model 56 (AK47)  
001/ws-02-300w.png

weapon specifics

Type: Former Yugoslavia Zastava M 70  
(AKM)

001/ws-03-300w.png

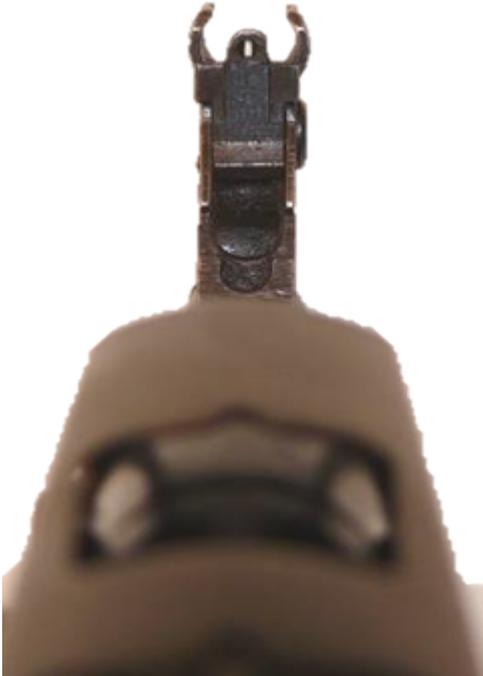
weapon specifics

Type: Former Yugoslavia Zastava M 70  
(AKM)



weapon specifics

Type: Former Yugoslavia Zastava M 70  
(AKM)



weapon specifics

Type: AMD 65 (HUN)



weapon specifics

Type: PA Model 86 (ROU)



weapon specifics

AK 47



weapon specifics

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.



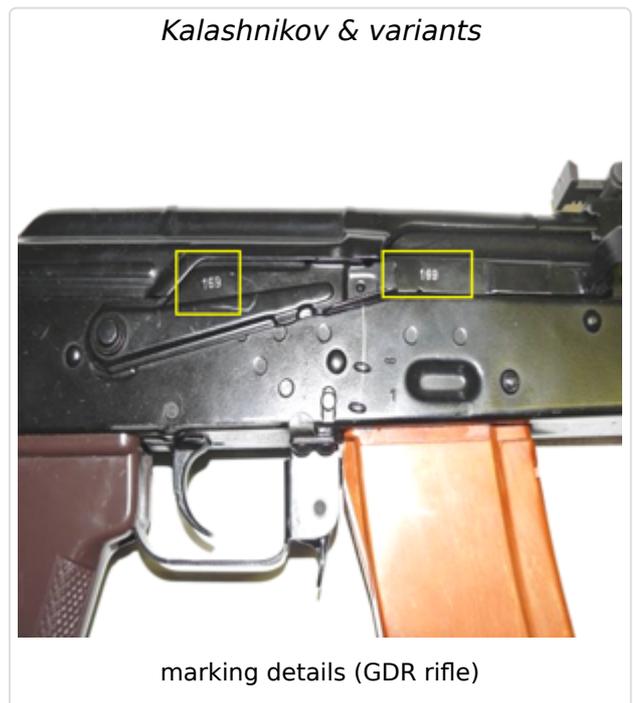
<b>Category</b>	<i>Assault Rifles</i>
<b>Operating system</b>	Gas operated, rotating bolt with 2 lugs
<b>Cartridge</b>	5.45 x 39mm
<b>Length</b>	943 mm
<b>Feeding</b>	Box magazine





Kalashnikov & variants  
026/md-01-300w.png  
marking details (DEU)

Kalashnikov & variants  
026/md-02-300w.png  
marking details



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

Type: *Browning M2HB-QCB*



left view, Browning M2HB-QCB air-cooled machine gun of current manufacture with quick-change barrel, on M3 tripod

Type: *Browning M2HB*



right view, Browning M2HB air-cooled machine gun on M3 tripod

Type: Browning M2E2



weapon specifics, Browning M2E2 new Browning modification with quick-change barrel

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

## 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.



<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

Type: ISR FAL "Romat"



left view

FN FAL



left view

FN FAL



right view

FN FAL



right view

FN FAL



right view

FN FAL



right view

FN FAL



marking details

Type: "Gewehr G1"



Produced for the German armed forces



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 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.



<b>Category</b>	<i>Heavy Machine Guns</i>
<b>Operating system</b>	gas, automatic
<b>Cartridge</b>	7.62 x 51mm / .308 Winchester
<b>Length</b>	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**

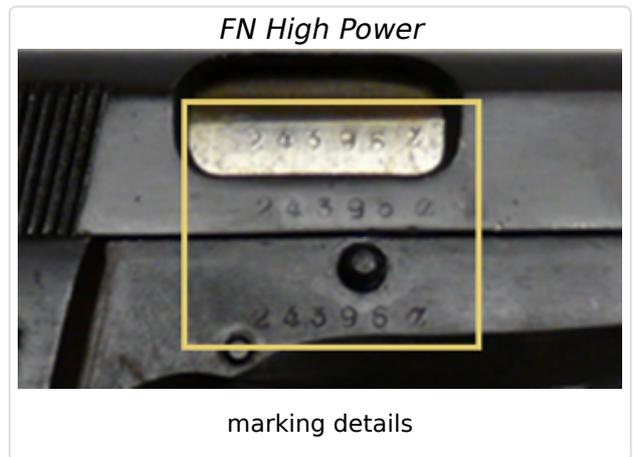
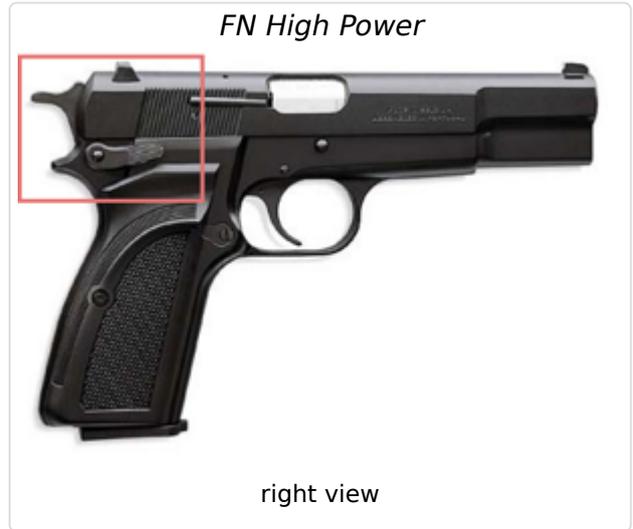
Bullet diameter	7.82 mm
Case length	51.18 mm
Overall length	69.85 mm

**FN 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 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 G3 constructed from Heckler & Koch (H&K) in cooperation with a Spanish agency Centro de Estudios Técnicos de Materiales Especiale (CETME) in the beginning Model A & B, after further development, West German Army (Bundeswehr) implemented this rifle. 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.



<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

Type: G3 A1



left view

Type: G3 A3



left view

Type: G3 A3ZF



left view

Type: G3 A4



left view

Type: G3 A3



right view

Type: South African G3



The butt is very similar to the FN FAL

Type: CETEME rifles (Spain)



right view, CETEME model B, the "father of the G3 rifle"

Type: CETEME rifles (Spain)



right view

HK G3



right view

HK G3



marking details

HK G3



marking details

HK G3



marking details

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



## IWI Tavor TAR-21

The IWI Tavor-21 assault rifle was designed to replace the different M16 variants within the Israel Defense Forces (IDF). In 2009, it was selected as the new standard issue weapon of the Israeli infantry. It is also in service in several other countries, such as India, Thailand and Turkey. Different models have been developed for Special Forces or sporting. Nevertheless, the TAR-21 has not caught up to the M16's success due to its higher price. The bullpup rifle can be either fired in semi-automatic or full automatic fire mode.



<b>Category</b>	<i>Assault Rifles</i>
<b>Operating system</b>	gas, selective-fire
<b>Cartridge</b>	5.56 x 45mm / .223 Remington
<b>Length</b>	725 mm
<b>Feeding</b>	box magazine

The following ammunition can be used by the **IWI Tavor TAR-21**:

### 5.56 x 45mm / .223 Remington

Bullet diameter	5.7 mm
Case length	44.7 mm
Overall length	57.4 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

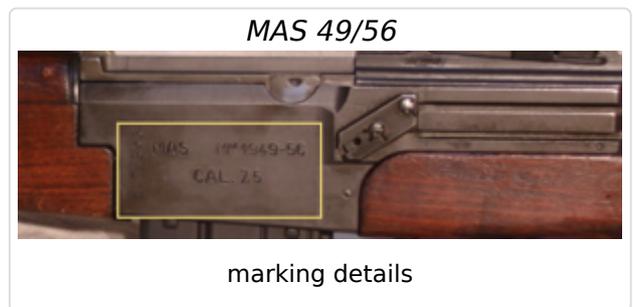


## MAS 49/56

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



## 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



Type: PG-7VM grenade



left view

Type: PG-7VL HEAT grenade



left view

Type: PG-7VR tandem (dual warhead) HEAT grenade



left view

Type: TBG-7V thermobaric (FAE) grenade



left view

Type: OG-7V fragmentation antipersonnel grenade (1999)



left view



Type: RPG-7D anti-tank grenade launcher

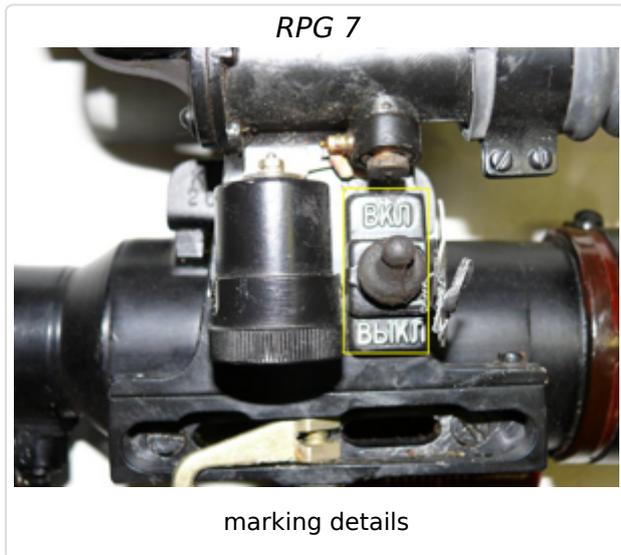


Version for airborne troops, disassembled for transportation / airdrop

RPG 7



marking details



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



Simonov SKS



marking details

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



## 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.



<b>Category</b>	<i>Submachine Guns</i>
-----------------	------------------------

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

*Type: CHN, Norinco Uzi*



left view, , sporter model single action, semi-automatic

*MP UZI*



right view

*MP UZI*



right view

*MP UZI*



right view

*Type: Mini Uzi*



right view

*Type: Micro Uzi*



right view



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

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

Zentrum für Verifikationsaufgaben der Bundeswehr (ZVBw) - Bundeswehr Verification Center.  
Major Laurentius Wedeniwski: Small Arms and Light Weapons Guide (2016).

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

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