

PK (& close variants)

■ **TYPE:** GENERAL-PURPOSE MACHINE GUN ■ **ALSO REFERRED TO AS:** PK, PKM

Model illustrated: PKM, Russia



Technical Information

Calibre
7.62 x 54R

Length
1160mm

Weight (unloaded)
7.55 kg

Barrel length
643 mm

Feed device
Non-disintegrating metal belt:
100, 200, and 250 rds

Sighting systems:
Fore: Post, cylindrical
Rear: Vertical leaf

Operating system:
Gas, automatic fire

Rate of fire:
250 rds/min

Muzzle velocity:
825 m/s

Accessories:
tripod mount, night sight

The PK general-purpose machine gun was developed in the late 1950s. The weapon is belt-fed (rather than magazine-fed) and it is chambered for the 7.62 x 54R rimmed cartridge. The PK's most distinctive visual feature is the pierced stock, which features a large oval hole.

PROBABLE GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION

Region	State forces	Non-state/illicit
Western Europe	○	○
Eastern Europe	●	○
Middle East & North Africa	●	▶
Sub-Saharan Africa	●	●
Central Asia	▶	▶
South Asia	▶	○
East Asia	▶	▶
Pacific	○	○
North America	○	○
Central America	●	▶
South America	○	○

● Expect regular use ▶ Expect occasional use ○ Do not expect use

Variants and their distinguishing features

VARIANTS (Model/manufacture)

- PK, PKM, PKT, PKD; Russia, Kazakhstan, Romania
- MG, MG-M1; Bulgaria
- Type 80; China
- Karabin Maszynowy; Poland
- M84; Yugoslavia (Serbia)

The designation PKMS is given to PKM weapons that are mounted on a tripod. The weapons do not differ from each other, so this Weapons ID Sheet does not ascribe the designation PKMS to a specific model of PK machine gun. PKMSN models, similarly, feature a basic PKM weapon with tripod and night sights. PKT and PKD variants have a longer, heavier barrel and feature neither a bipod nor a pistol grip/trigger assembly. Most PK variants differ very little from one another and factory proof marks are the best means of establishing country of manufacture (see Weapons ID Sheet for 'Kalashnikov-pattern rifles: identifying marks').

Points to include when recording information about the weapon:

1. Serial number, including all prefix and suffix characters
2. Characters adjacent to fire selector
3. Any other engraved/stamped information on weapon

MARKING INFORMATION

Manufacturer proof marks are on the top cover of the weapon (model illustrated: MG-M1, Bulgaria)

BARREL FLUTING

Fluted



- ▶ PK
- ▶ MG

Un-fluted:



- ▶ PKM
- ▶ MG-M1
- ▶ Type 80

STOCK DESIGN

Pierced stock



- ▶ All models except PKT, PKD, and M84

Solid stock



- ▶ M84

TRIPOD MOUNT AND NIGHT SIGHTS

PKM in PKMSN format



Compiled by the Small Arms Survey with the technical assistance of the National Firearms Centre, Royal Armouries, United Kingdom. For further information or if you have identification queries, contact weaponsID@smallarmssurvey.org or call: +41 22 908 5777. This identification sheet may be downloaded in printable PDF format at www.smallarmssurvey.org/weaponsID

WARNING:
Make a full and informed appraisal of the local security situation before conducting any research related to small arms and light weapons.