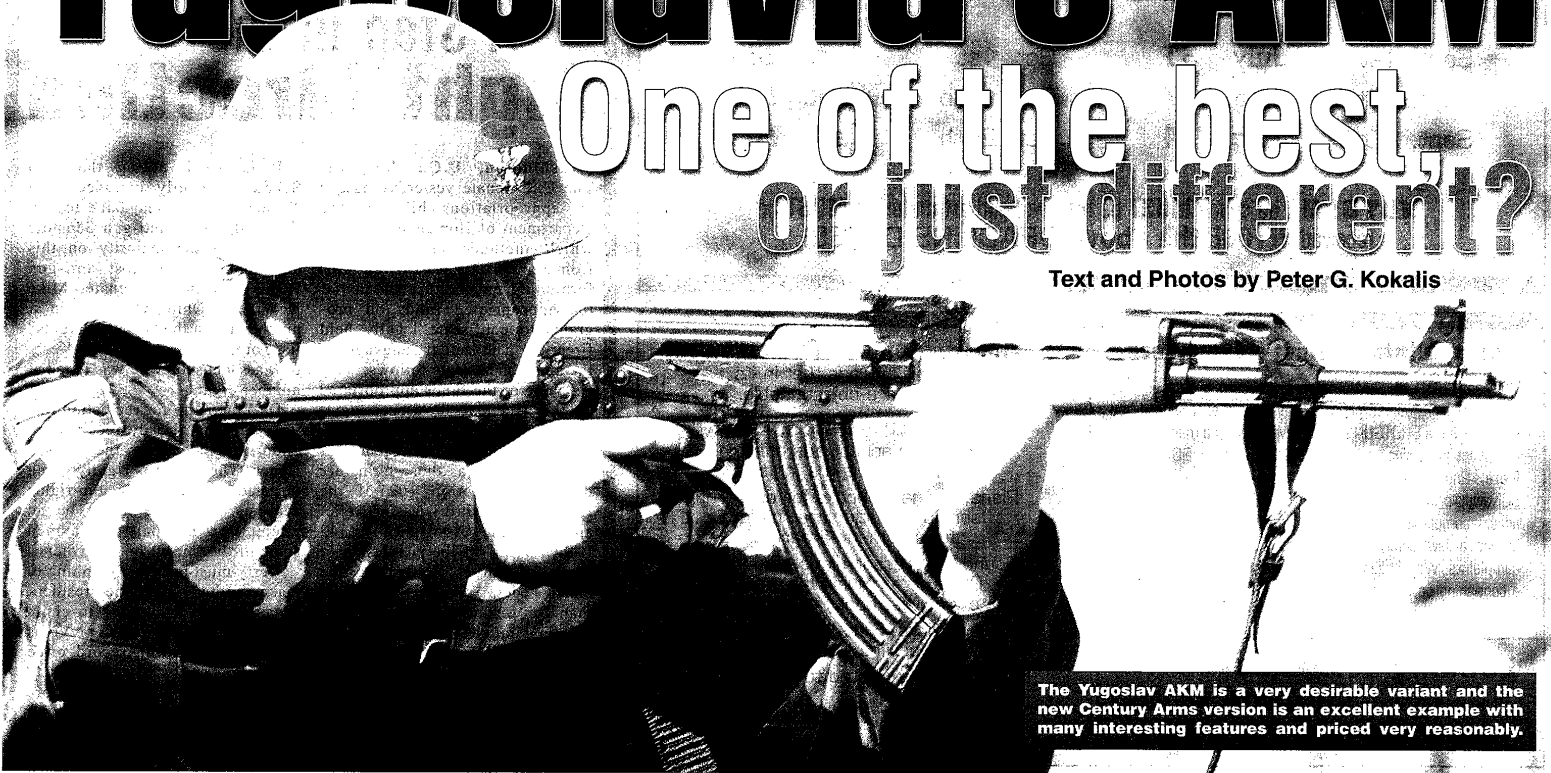


# Yugoslavia's AKM

## One of the best, or just different?

Text and Photos by Peter G. Kokalis



The Yugoslav AKM is a very desirable variant and the new Century Arms version is an excellent example with many interesting features and priced very reasonably.

Kokalis has tried 'em all and says the Yugoslav variants are some of the best-made AKs around.

With the recent sunset of the (so-called) assault-rifle and magazines-of-greater-than-10-rounds ban, the door has once again been opened to the domestic manufacture of an intriguing array of semiautomatic-only versions of shoulder-mounted firearms in military configurations. However, be

advised that these rifles are not, and never were, "assault rifles." Assault rifles, by definition, have selective-fire capability.

While some models that have not been available for a decade and some configurations that have never been seen in semiautomatic-only versions are now available to consumers, the playing

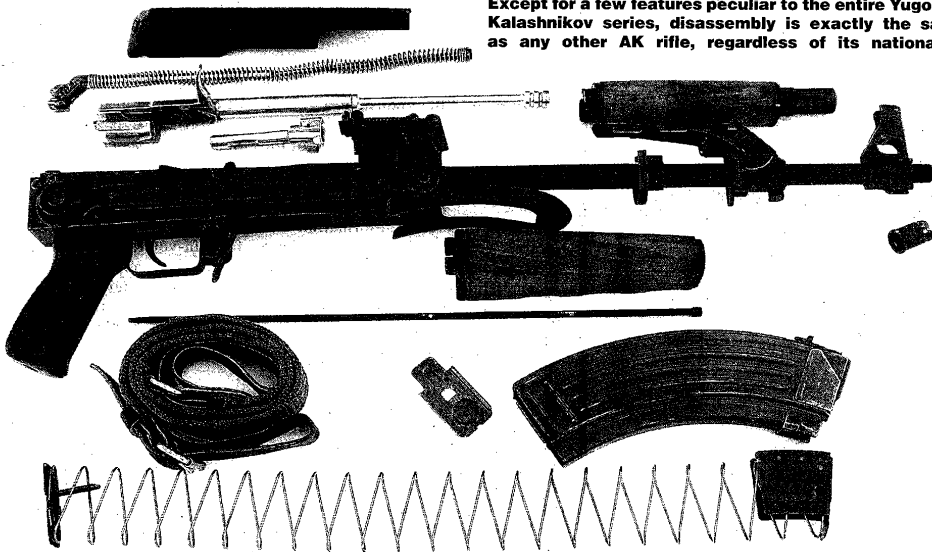
field has very much changed. They may now have folding stocks of any kind, bayonet lugs and flash hiders of all types (providing they do not modify the sound pressure level in any way, i.e., be determined to be sound suppressors by the BATFE).

But, most important, under U.S. Federal Statute 922r at least six of the following components for stamped receiver semiautomatic-only AKs and five for machined receiver weapons, must be made in the United States: 1) frames, receivers, receiver castings, forgings or stampings; 2) barrels; 3) mounting blocks (trunnions); 4) muzzle attachments; 5) bolts; 6) bolt carriers; 7) gas pistons; 8) triggers; 9) hammers; 10) disconnectors; 11) buttstocks; 12) pistol grips; 13) forearm or handguards; 14) magazine bodies; 15) magazine followers; or 16) magazine floorplates. In almost all cases the receivers are made in the United States so that they conform to BATFE regulations with regard to semiautomatic-only capability.

It might be wise to ask yourself how long these types of firearms will be available. Congresswoman Nancy Pelosi, House Democratic Party Minority Leader, and her Senate equivalent have announced that the Democratic Party's agenda, when they take control of both houses in November, will include, among other things, gun control legislation. No matter that violent crime is down to its lowest levels in decades. No matter that these so-called "assault weapons" represent less than 3% of the firearms associated with crime.

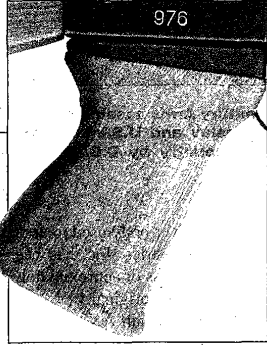
Liberals are forever mesmerized by "feel good" legislation that has no real effect on a problem, as long as it doesn't impact upon their own personal rights and chattel property. They will, you can be sure, do everything in their power not only to reinstate the ban that sunset, but enlarge upon its restrictions. Don't forget that when this legislation was passed 10 years ago and signed into law by President Clinton, Senator Dianne Feinstein of California wanted to include the actual confiscation of all

Except for a few features peculiar to the entire Yugoslav Kalashnikov series, disassembly is exactly the same as any other AK rifle, regardless of its nationality.





The Century Arms Yugo AKM is equipped with the same ribbed, black plastic pistol grip as the military-issue wooden-stocked M70B1 and folding-stocked M70AB2.



The earlier semiautomatic M70B1 rifles were fitted with teak wood grips from the M76 caliber 7.92x57mm sniper rifle (a highly modified version of the Soviet SVD).

magazines of over 10 rounds' capacity already in the public's hands. With that very real prospect in mind, let's take a look at one of the most interesting of new semiautomatic-only, Kalashnikov-type rifles.

Yugoslavian AKMs were imported prior to the ban, first by American Arms, Inc. in North Kansas City, Mo. (in small quantity only) and then subsequently by Mitchell Arms, Inc. in Santa Ana, Calif. Marked as either the "Model AK" (American Arms) or "Model AK-47" (Mitchell Arms), these rifles are actually the semiautomatic-only equivalents (without the grenade-launching sights and gas cut-off) of the wooden-stocked M70B1 and folding-stock M70AB2, both of which are essentially AKMs with sheet-metal receivers.

While Yugoslavia was not a member of the Warsaw Pact, Josip Broz Tito, who was the World War II leader of the Communist

partisans in German-occupied Yugoslavia took control of post-war Yugoslavia and served as head of the Communist-style government until his death in 1980. While Yugoslavia was neutral and non-aligned during the Cold War, the Kalashnikov system was selected for Yugoslavia's armed forces because it was inexpensive to produce, and both rugged and reliable. However, Yugoslavia's AKs have features that make them quite distinctive.

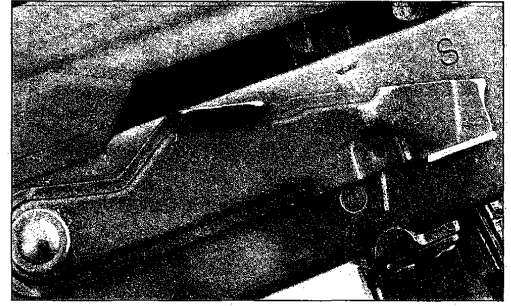
The first Yugoslavian AK was adopted in 1964 and designated as the Automatska puškavz.64 (Model 1964 Automatic Rifle). It was based upon the Soviet AK47 with a Type 3 forged and milled receiver and manufactured at the government-owned factory, Zavodi Crvena Zastava in the city of Kragujevac.

The Yugoslavian Model 1964 has a longer barrel and longer lightening cuts on each side of the receiver above the magazine well than its Soviet equivalent. Eventually, a grenade launcher was added and the designation changed to Model 64A. The Model 64B had a folding buttstock. The AKM type with a sheet metal receiver was adopted in 1970 as the wooden-stocked M70B1 and folding-stocked M70AB2.

The receivers of all other AKM series rifles are fabricated from a 1mm-thick U-section of sheet metal. M70B1 and folding-stock M70AB2 receiver bodies are constructed using a U-section of sheet metal that is 1.5mm in thickness. This 50% increase in wall thickness substantially decreases the accuracy-reducing twisting and flexing of the AKM receiver, which is associated with the recoil and counter-recoil cycles. In addition, the barrel extension, which contains the bolt's locking recesses, is considerably more substantial than that of all other AKMs. There's no free lunch, however, as the M70B1 weighs 8.3 pounds (3.76 kg), empty.

There are some other interesting features on these Yugoslavian AKMs. They are equipped with beta-light night sights—a flip-up at the rear with a horizontal tritium bar on each side of the open U-notch, and a flip-up with a single vertical tritium bar that blocks the round-post front sight.

All of the wood furniture is teak. Dense and attractive, it was never properly oiled, so I suggest application of a mixture composed of equal parts of linseed oil, turpentine and household white vinegar. Although standard-issue M70B1 and M70AB2 rifles come with ribbed, black plastic pistol grips, the semiautomatic-only versions imported to the United States were fitted with teakwood grips from the M76 caliber 7.92x57mm sniper



Stiff, noisy and somewhat difficult to manipulate, the selector lever remains a deficiency on all Kalashnikovs, Kokalis says. This one has two positions, safe or fire.

rifle (a highly modified version of the Russian Dragunov SVD). They may not look like Kalashnikov grips, but they exhibit excellent human engineering. M70B1 rifles have no butt traps for a cleaning kit, but instead are equipped with a half-inch rubber recoil pad, which increases pull length by .8". That's a significant difference as, in general, the Kalashnikov's buttstock is too short for most Westerners.

All the steel components, except for the bolt group (left in-the-white), have been salt blued. With the exception of the receiver cover, which is that of the AK-47, all of the other features on the Yugoslavian rifles are those of the AKM series. Well-made and exhibiting above-average wood-to-metal fit, the Yugoslavian AKMs were especially attractive because of their somewhat enhanced accuracy potential.

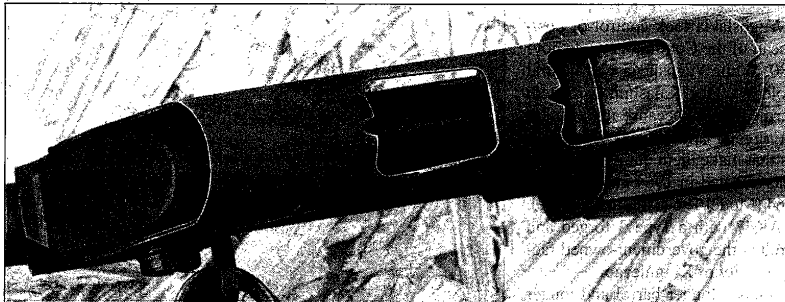
A difference of note between these early semiautomatic-only imported Yugoslavian AKM rifles and the M70B1 and M70AB2 rifles fielded by the Serbian armed forces is the absence of the grenade-launching sight on the gas block. Permanently attached to the rifle, when raised upward to deploy the sight, it cuts off the gas supply to the piston.

During the time frame in which these rifles were imported, the BATF, forever casting about for phony issues to chip away at the rights of gun owners and demonstrate its tender concern over



The new Century Arms rifle at bottom contrasts with an earlier M70B1 variant that was imported by American Arms, Inc. in North Kansas City, Mo., during the 1980s.

## Yugoslavia's AKM



The grenade-launching sight and the gas shut-off valve have only cosmetic value, as the launching tubes and rifle grenades are not available in this country.

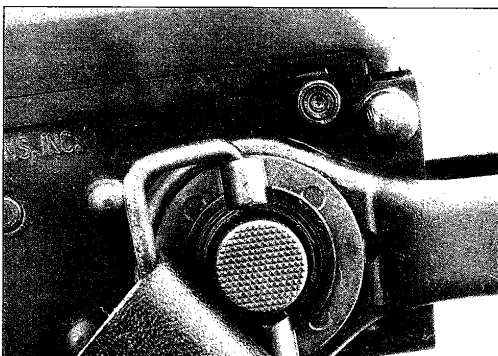
potentially "deadly" features on firearms (such as bayonet lugs, flash suppressors and pistol grips) decided that integral rifle grenade launchers were far too dangerous to be in the hands of the public. No matter that the grenades for these launchers were not only completely unavailable but also tightly controlled themselves as explosive devices. A rifle with an integral grenade launcher was far too sinister for public consumption.

There are several well-known examples. The Swiss SG510-4 caliber 7.62x51mm NATO rifle was developed from the AM55, a blowback-operated system using a delayed roller locking action. It was briefly exported to the United States in a semiautomatic-only configuration. The barrel had integral gas rings for grenade launching off the muzzle and a muzzle brake, which also served as a flash hider.

Now there was probably not a single example of the grenade for this rifle in the United States, even in inert form. Nevertheless, the BATF decided that the rifle could not be imported with integral gas rings on the barrel and the importer was forced to install a plain barrel with a grotesque-looking muzzle device. Swiss firearms, in general, are outrageously expensive. Known as the SIG AMT, no one wanted this monstrosity and few were imported. The BATF had once again succeeded in saving us from ourselves.

Another case in point is the Yugoslavian M59/66A1 rifle. In every regard but one this is a Simonov SKS semiautomatic-only rifle. Its distinguishing characteristic is the spigot-type grenade launcher attached permanently to the muzzle. Once again, the BATF rejected the importation of the M59/66A1 in this configuration. When Mitchell Arms imported the Yugoslavian M59/66A1 it was forced to have this feature removed by the manufacturer. As a consequence, very few were sold. Once more, the BATF had prevented the entry of what they obviously felt was a "weapon of mass destruction."

The original Yugoslavian M70B1 and M70AB2 rifles and the semiautomatic-only versions imported to the United States were manufactured by Zastava Arms, 29 Novembra 12, YU-11000, Belgrade, Serbia. Century International Arms, Inc. (Dept. SGN, 430 South Congress Avenue, Suite 1, Del Ray Beach, Fla. 33445, phone: 1-800-527-1252; fax: 561-265-4520, website: www.cen-



A spring-loaded crosspin at the rear of the receiver must be depressed from the left side before the recoil-spring guide rod/cover latch can be pressed forward.

turyarms.com) is currently producing a semi-automatic-only version of the folding stock Yugoslavian M70AB2 using components made in the United States and Yugoslavia. The receiver is manufactured by D.C. Industries, Inc. in Saint Paul, Minn.

Overall length of the M70AB2 sent to us for test and evaluation is 35 inches (889mm). The

barrel length is 16.34 inches (415mm) with 4-groove rifling and a 1:9.45 right-hand twist. The chamber and bore are chromelined. There is a standard AKM-type muzzle compensator, which is designed to drive the muzzle down and to the left.

The new semiautomatic-only Yugoslavian M70AB2 manufactured by Century International Arms, Inc. is equipped with the grenade launching sight on the gas block complete with the gas cutoff. While of absolutely no value whatsoever, it makes the rifle look far more authentic than the earlier imported specimens.

Further, the teak wood grips from the M76 caliber 7.92x57mm sniper rifle that appeared on the early imported Yugoslavian semiautomatic-only AKs have been replaced with the genuine article—a synthetic black (sometimes dark green) one-piece grip of distinctive shape with raised horizontal ribs on each side that is quite different in appearance from most other AK grips.

The iron sights are essentially those of previous Kalashnikovs. The front sight is a threaded post with protective ears that is adjustable for both elevation and windage zero. While windage can be altered with a punch and hammer, both Russian and Chinese armorer's tools can be located that were designed specifically for this purpose and prevent marring. Remember, to move the point of impact up, you must move the front sight post down. Also, to move the point of impact to the left, you must move the front sight to the right.

The rear sight is a sliding tangent with an open U-notch. In the European manner, it is adjustable for elevation only to 1000 meters in 100-meter increments. There is a battle sight setting (marked with an "0") just behind the 100-meter mark. In elevation, it is the equivalent of 300 meters. The rear sights on almost all AKM rifles, with elevation adjustments out to 800 or 1000 meters never cease to amaze me, as this distance is most assuredly beyond the realistic effectiveness of the 7.62x39mm cartridge and every operator I have ever encountered.

The semiautomatic-only Yugoslavian M70AB2 rifle sent to SHOTGUN NEWS for test and evaluation was equipped with flip-up beta-light night sights. However, both the front and rear tritium inserts were stone dead and thus have cosmetic value only.



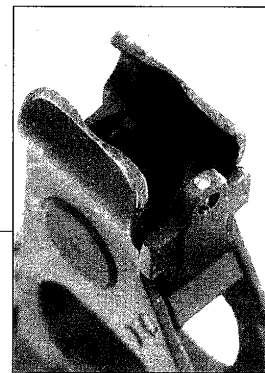
Century Arms assembles the rifles from a combination of Yugoslav and U.S.-made parts and a receiver made in this country by D.C. Engineering of Saint Paul, Minn.

The receiver body used to assemble this rifle as manufactured by D.C. Industries, Inc. has been fabricated from sheet metal with a thickness of approximately 1mm and so it does not duplicate that of the original.

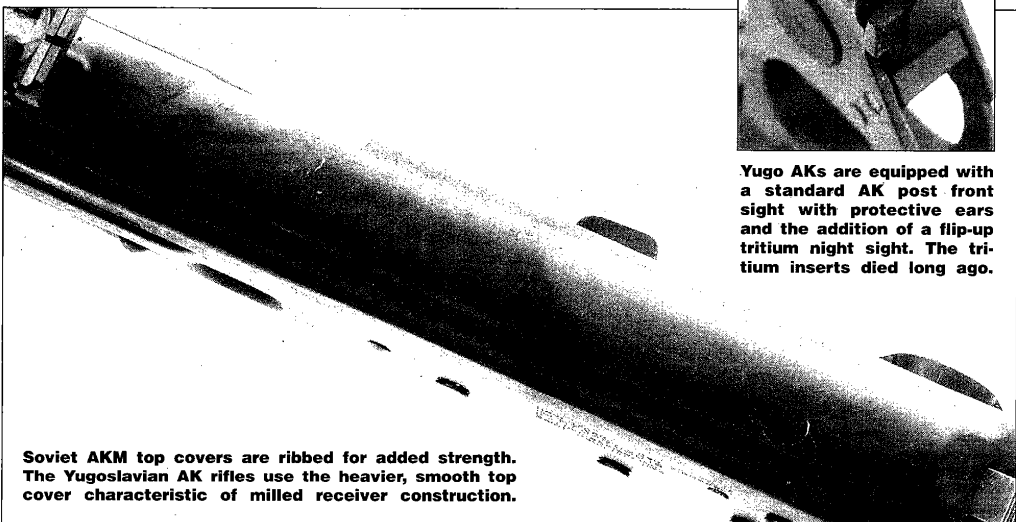
The Yugoslavian AK series is the only one equipped with a bolt hold-open, but a strange one it is. On the left side of an AK magazine follower is a raised cartridge guide with a rounded rear end. A bump stop on the left side of the magazine body prevents the follower from interfacing with the bolt carrier as the carrier travels forward. On 30-round Yugoslavian magazines, the bump stop has been deleted and the rear end of the cartridge guide has been squared off.

After the last round has been fired, when the bolt and bolt carrier commence their counter-recoil cycle, the carrier impinges against the cartridge guide on the follower and stops its forward travel. However, the fly in this ointment is that the moment you remove the empty magazine (with no small amount of resistance I might add), the bolt and bolt carrier fly forward. So, nothing is accomplished except to inform the operator that he has fired the last round. On all other Kalashnikovs, that information is relayed to the operator when he pulls the trigger and hears only a click.

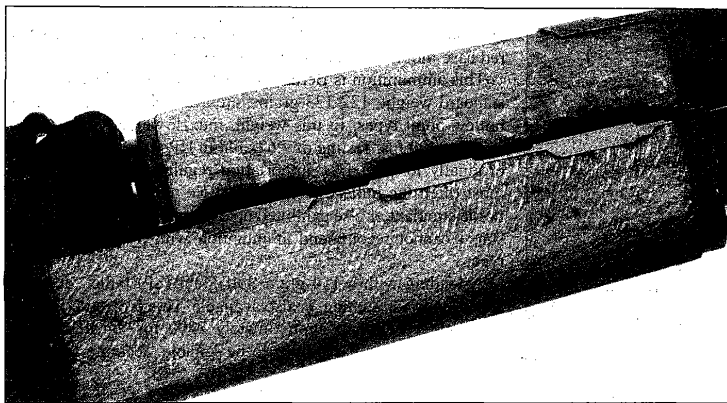
As an aside, don't let any armchair guru tell you that combat-experienced operators count rounds during a gunfight. That's total nonsense. No one can keep track of the rounds he has fired during the insane frenzy of the battlefield and anyone that tells you otherwise has never traveled farther than his couch and the Military Channel. Standard AK magazines can be used in the Yugoslavian AKM.



Yugo AKs are equipped with a standard AK post front sight with protective ears and the addition of a flip-up tritium night sight. The tritium inserts died long ago.



Soviet AKM top covers are ribbed for added strength. The Yugoslavian AK rifles use the heavier, smooth top cover characteristic of milled receiver construction.



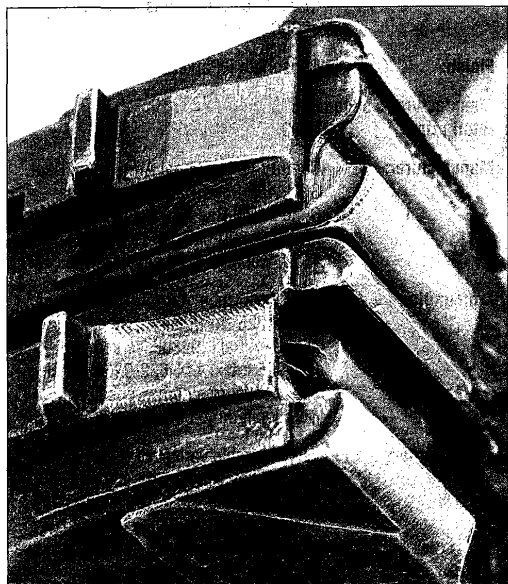
**Kokalis recommends a mixture composed of equal parts of linseed oil, turpentine and household white vinegar for finishing the teak furniture of the Yugoslav rifle.**

While training machine gun crews of King Tomislav Brigade of the HVO in Bosnia-Herzegovina in the early 1990s, I was issued an M70B1 rifle complete with the grenade-launching tube. It was one of the highest quality Kalashnikovs I have ever carried in the field. Well-made and totally reliable, it represented the AK design at its zenith. The Century International Arms M70AB2 is very much the semiautomatic-only equivalent of the justifiably famous Yugoslavian AK series. I recommend it highly.

**Yugoslavian M70B1/AB2 Series: How They Operate**

While I have gone over the Kalashnikov rifle's method of operation in the past, it pays to refresh our brain cells on this topic occasionally as many of the AK's salient features are a direct consequence of its operating sequence and the Yugoslavian variants in particular have their own peculiarities.

Almost all Kalashnikov series assault rifles are gas-operated, but have no gas regulator. I have seen Kalashnikovs go down because of battle damage, faulty ammunition and operator stupidity, but I have never witnessed one malfunction as a result of fouling. In addition to the Yugoslavian M70B1/AB2 series, only the Polish PMK-DGN-60 has an integral gas cutoff to permit firing rifle grenades with ballistite (blank) cartridges. AKs are locked-breech designs with rotary bolts and fire from the closed-bolt position.



**Yugo AK magazines (top) have the bump stop deleted and the cartridge guide rear squared off to hold the bolt back after the last round of the magazine is fired.**

They operate as follows: After ignition of the primer and propellant, gases are diverted into the gas cylinder on top of the barrel. The piston is driven rearward and the bolt carrier, attached to the piston extension, goes through the necessary amount of free-travel until the gas pressure drops to a safe level.

A cam slot milled into the bolt carrier engages the bolt's cam lug and rotates the bolt about 35° to the left to unlock it from its recesses in the barrel extension. Unlike many other designs, the Kalashnikov provides no primary extraction during bolt rotation. Thus, in any of its calibers,

an exceptionally large extractor claw is required.

As the bolt travels back, it rolls the hammer over and compresses the recoil spring. The bolt group ceases its rearward travel when the carrier slams into the rear end of the receiver. The recoil spring then drives the bolt group forward, another round is stripped from the magazine and chambered, and the bolt then comes to rest. The bolt carrier itself continues onward for about 5.5 mm after the bolt's two locking lugs have engaged their recesses in the barrel extension.

The long, single-strand recoil spring is wrapped around a two-piece guide rod on the Yugoslavian M70B1/AB2 series. The front retaining cap permits user separation of the spring and rods. The rear end of the guide rod assembly slides into a notch on top of the receiver's end piece and serves to hold the stamped sheet-metal receiver top cover in place.

Soviet AKM and AK74 top covers have a ribbed configuration for added strength. The Yugoslavian M70B1/AB2 series rifles use the heavier, smooth top cover characteristic of milled receiver construction. A spring-loaded crosspin at the rear of the receiver, just below the receiver cover, must be depressed from the left side before the recoil-spring guide rod/cover latch can be pressed forward to remove the receiver cover. This feature, found only on Yugoslavian AKs, is of dubious value, in my opinion.

The trigger mechanism is based upon that of the .30 M1 Garand. The hammer has two hooks, and there are two sears: a primary sear on an extension of the trigger and a spring-loaded secondary sear directly to the rear. When the hammer is in the cocked position, its left side hook is held by the primary sear. When the trigger is pulled, the trigger extension rotates forward and the primary sear disengages, leaving the hammer free to rotate forward.

In semiautomatic fire, when the bolt rolls the hammer back, it is caught by the secondary sear. When the trigger is released, the trigger extension and primary sear move back to catch the hammer as it is released by the secondary sear. In a full-auto rifle, a boss on the selector-lever axis pin forces the secondary sear back so that it plays no role in controlling the hammer.

The trigger mechanism's mainspring is of the multiple-strand type, which lasts longer and offers better performance under adverse conditions. The trigger pull weight on the semiautomatic-only M70AB2 used in SGN's test and evaluation were exceptionally light at 4.25 pounds, but the amount of gritty creep required to reach the point of let-off was horrendous. Nothing surprising there, as AKs are, in general, noted for obnoxious trigger pulls (by U.S. standards).

On selective-fire AK rifles, there is also an auto-safety-sear that protrudes through a slot in the right receiver rail. In full-auto, the auto-safety-sear holds the hammer back and it must be tripped by the bolt carrier in order to free the hammer to fire another round. The auto-safety-sear has been deleted by BATFE regulations on all semiautomatic-only AKs.

The selector lever, a stamped sheet-metal bar on the right side of the receiver is manipulated by the thumb and remains, in my opinion, one of the Kalashnikov's few defects. It is noisy, stiff and difficult to operate, but its firing modes have been located in a logical manner. The top position is "safe." In this position, the trigger is blocked, but the bolt can be retracted just enough to see if the chamber contains a loaded round. The middle position provides for full-auto fire in selective-fire models.

**One of the best, or just different?**



**The Yugoslav rear sight is calibrated to a very generous 1000 meters, instead of 800. There is a flip-up night sight at the rear end of the sight's elevation gradations.**

The next position down is for semiautomatic fire. Under stress, the operator will invariably push the selector bar all the way downward into the semiautomatic position. That is exactly how the weapon should be employed in almost every instance. Thus, to obtain full-auto fire, the operator must consciously push the selector bar back up to the full-auto notch.

**M43 Cartridge - History and Wound Ballistics**

Attributed to designers Nikolai M. Elizarov and Boris V. Semin, Soviet historians contend that work on the M43 (model 1943) 7.62x39mm cartridge began in 1939, was temporarily suspended because of The Great Patriotic War and then re-commenced and finalized in 1943. Others have stated that it was derived from the German 7.92x33mm Kurz Patrone (short cartridge) developed for the world's first assault rifle produced in significant quantities, the World War II MP43/44 (StG44/45).

This latter scenario is highly unlikely, as the Soviets would have required specimens of 7.92x33mm Kurz ammunition at



**Standard on almost all AKMs, this muzzle compensator is designed to drive the muzzle down and to the left. It can be removed to install the grenade launching tube.**

## Yugoslavia's AKM



Here are the uncommon Yugoslav bayonet and even less common special forces fighting knife. The latter weapon is quite obviously patterned after the bayonet.

least a year or two prior to their adoption of the 7.62x39mm round in 1943—well before the MP43 was fielded on the Eastern front (first reported use was December 1942). Whatever the case, the Soviet M43 cartridge is a true intermediate-size assault rifle round. First prototypes featured cases 40.29mm in length (thus: 7.62x41mm). The case was trimmed to 38.6mm as the original projectile proved unsatisfactory and a new bullet was adopted that required a shorter case.

The following countries have manufactured ammunition in this caliber: Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Bulgaria, Cuba, Czechoslovakia, East Germany, Egypt, Finland, France, Hungary, Iraq, Israel, Netherlands, North Korea, Norway, Peru, Poland, Portugal, People's Republic of China, Romania, South Africa, South Korea, Sweden, Syria, United States, USSR, West Germany, and Yugoslavia. In addition to Full Metal Jacket (FMJ) ball ammunition, it has been produced with hollow point, tracer, API (Armor-Piercing Incendiary), and IT (Incendiary Tracer) projectiles.

Special purpose loads include heavy subsonic ball (for use with sound suppressors), practice blanks, short-range loads and drill rounds. Ball ammunition will be encountered in two configurations. Most prevalent is a 123-grain boattail bullet that usually consists of a copper-washed steel jacket, lead and anti-mony sleeve, and a mild steel core (Soviet Type PS).

Yugoslavia's M67 ball ammunition, as well as that of several other countries, uses a flat-based bullet of approximately the same weight, with a copper-alloy jacket and lead core. Muzzle velocity of both types is between 2330 and 2400 fps.

In its boattail configuration, the 7.62x39mm bullet travels point-forward about 10 inches in soft tissue before significant yaw occurs. At that point the bullet will yaw to less than 90°, then come back down to a point-forward position, and finally yaw 180° and end its travel in a base forward position.

Bi-lobed yaw cycles of this type are commonly observed with pointed, non-deforming bullets. Total penetration in living tissue

is almost 29 inches. Abdominal shots usually exhibit no greater tissue disruption than that produced by a .38 Spl. pistol bullet since, after 10 inches of travel without yawing, the bullet has generally passed through the abdominal cavity. However, of course, this round is capable of inflicting such damage at far greater ranges than a handgun.

While I was working at the Wound Ballistics Laboratory at the Letterman Army Institute of Research in San Francisco, we tested the lead-cored, flat-base Yugoslav bullet and found it to be considerably more effective. It commences its yaw cycle after only 3 to 4 inches of penetration. Once again, the yaw cycle is generally bi-lobed. The bullet reaches its maximum penetration of 23 to 26 inches traveling base-forward, somewhat flattened and retaining almost all of its original weight (two or three small fragments are shed in the area of maximum cavitation).

Although the flat-based 7.62x39mm bullet is shorter (.930") than the more common boattail projectile (1.040"), it will be expected to cause more damage to the abdomen, liver, spleen or pancreas because the bullet passes through these organs at a large yaw angle. Remember, if we have neither mushrooming nor fragmentation, yawing is all that remains to maximize tissue disruption and enhance the bullet's performance—always provided we do not sacrifice adequate penetration.

In a manner comparable to the U.S. military's revival of interest in the 7.62x51mm NATO cartridge, the Russian special operations community has shifted its interest back to the 7.62x39mm round. Supposedly replaced by the 5.45x39mm, which was an attempt to more or less duplicate U.S. 5.56x45mm M193 ammunition, Russian special operations personnel have pressed for a return to the 7.62x39mm round. During their disastrous experience in Afghanistan the 5.45x39mm cartridge was found to be less effective than desired.

The ammunition used in our test and evaluation of the Yugoslavian semiautomatic-only AKM was imported by Wolf Performance Ammunition (Dept. SGN, 1225 North Lance Lane, Anaheim, Calif. 92806; phone: 888-757-9653; fax: 714-632-9232; Email: info@wolfammo.com; website: www.wolfammo.com) and manufactured at Tula Cartridge Works in Russia.

Headstamped "7.62X39 WOLF," the lacquered steel case has a red case mouth sealant and primer annulus.

This ammunition is Berdan primed. Boattail projectiles in the standard weight, 122-123 grains, are available in either FMJ or hollow-point types. In this weight, muzzle velocity is approximately 2400 fps. Testing of 7.62x39mm HP projectiles, designed originally to meet U.S. importation regulations, indicated that most often the bullets became frangible upon contact with the tissue simulant or else exhibited no expansion at all. For this reason, I cannot recommend ammunition with projectiles of this type.

A loading with a 154-grain Soft Point (SP) bullet, designed specifically for hunting, is also available. This projectile features a muzzle velocity of approximately 2100 fps. In all calibers, Wolf ammunition has proven to be reliable, accurate and competitively priced. ©

## Century International Arms M70AB2 Specifications

<b>Caliber:</b>	7.62x39mm.
<b>Operation:</b>	Gas-operated without a regulator, locked-breech with a rotary bolt, fires from the closed-bolt position.
<b>Feed:</b>	30-round staggered-column, two-position-feed, detachable box magazine with a hold-open on the magazine follower.
<b>Weight, without magazine:</b>	8.3 pounds (3.76kg), empty.
<b>Length, overall:</b>	35 inches (889 mm).
<b>Barrel:</b>	Four-grooves, 1:9.45 RH twist; chrome-lined chambers and bores.
<b>Barrel length:</b>	16.34 inches (415mm).
<b>Sights:</b>	<b>Front sight:</b> round post with protective ears that is adjustable for both elevation and windage zero. <b>Rear sight:</b> sliding tangent with an open-U notch, adjustable for elevation only to 1000 meters in 100-meter increments. There is a battle sight setting (marked with an "0") just behind the 100-meter mark. In elevation, it is the equivalent of 300 meters.
<b>Finish:</b>	Phosphate ("Parkerized").
<b>Manufacturer's suggested retail price:</b>	\$599.
<b>Manufacturer:</b>	Century International Arms, Inc., Dept. SGN, 430 South Congress Avenue, Suite 1, Del Ray Beach, Fla. 33445, phone: 1-800-527-1252; fax: 561-265-4520, website: www.centuryarms.com.

**Ammunition:** Wolf Performance Ammunition, Dept. SGN, 1225 North Lance Lane, Anaheim, Calif. 92806; phone: 888-757-9653; fax: 714-632-9232; Email: info@wolfammo.com; website: www.wolfammo.com.

**T&E summary:** Very desirable variant of the Kalashnikov series at an extremely attractive price. Hold-open feature of dubious value. Complete with two magazines and a nylon and leather military-issue sling. Equipped with an integral grenade-launching sight and gas cutoff valve, which are of cosmetic value only.