

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, the 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.

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.

Highly regarded throughout the world, Romanian AKMs are surpassed, in my opinion, only by the East German types. The semiautomatic-only Romanian AKM distributed by Century Arms International, Inc. is one of the best values available in this type of rifle. The manufacturer's suggested retail price is \$439.

AKs—How They Operate

Almost all Kalashnikov series assault rifles are gas-operated, but have no gas regulator. I have never seen a Kalashnikov malfunction as a result of fouling. Two variants, the Polish PMK-DGN-60 and Yugoslavian M70B1/AB2 have gas cutoffs to permit firing rifle grenades with ballistite (blank) cartridges. AKs are locked-breech designs with rotary bolts and fire from the closed-bolt position.

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 guide rod consisting of two telescoping steel rods on Romanian AKMs. 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



Romanian AKM, field stripped. Kalashnikov rifles are easy to disassemble and maintain—an important consideration as they are often deployed by Third World personnel.

sheet-metal receiver top cover in place. Soviet and Romanian AKM top covers have a ribbed configuration for added strength.

The trigger mechanism is based on the .30 M1 Garand's. 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 multiple-strand mainspring lasts longer and offers better performance under adverse conditions. The trigger pull weight on the semiautomatic-only Romanian AKM sent to us for test and evaluation was a somewhat spongy 4.25 pounds.

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 semiautomatic-only AKs.

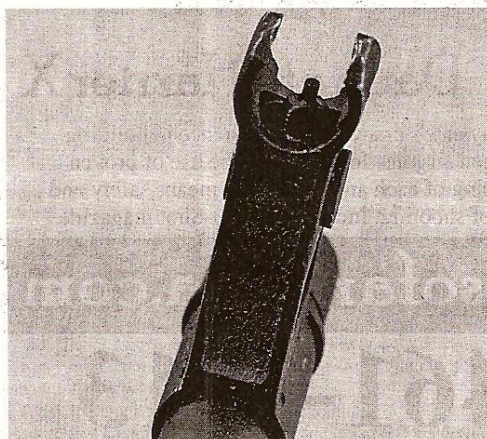
The selector lever, a stamped sheet-metal bar on the right side of the receiver, is manipulated by the thumb and remains, in my opinion, one of the Kalashnikov's few defects. It is noisy, stiff and difficult to operate, but its firing modes have been located in a logical manner.

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. 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 rifle 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. ◀SGN

Romanian AKM Specifications

Caliber:	7.62x39mm
Operation:	Gas-operated without a regulator, locked-breech with a rotary bolt, fires from the closed-bolt position
Feed:	30- and 40-round staggered-column, two-position-feed, detachable box-type magazines and 75-round RPK drum
Weight, without magazine:	6.92 pounds (3.14kg)
Length, overall:	34.5 inches (876mm)
Barrel length:	16.3 inches (414mm)
Barrel:	four-groove rifling with 1:9.45 RH twist
Sights:	Front sight: round-post-type with protective ears that is adjustable for both elevation and windage zero. Rear sight: sliding tangent-type with an open U-notch; adjustable for elevation only to 1000 meters in 100-meter increments. There is a battle sight setting (marked with a Cyrillic "P") just behind the 100-meter mark. In elevation, it is the equivalent of 300 meters.
Finish:	Black oxide
Manufacturer:	SN ROMARM SA, Dept. SGN, Calea Victoriei (Pasajul Victoriei) nr 48-50, sector 1 cod 70102, Bucharest, Romania
Importer:	Century Arms International, 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.
MSRP:	\$439.
T&E summary:	Semiautomatic-only version of a Kalashnikov-type rifle found throughout the world. Robust and reliable design, of which over 60 million have been produced. Accurate enough for government work. Priced to sell.



The Romanian AKM front sight, a round post-type, is provided with protective ears, and can be rotated up or down to adjust for elevation zero.