

# SIG 500 series (& licensed models)

■ TYPE: ASSAULT RIFLE ■ ALSO REFERRED TO AS: SIG



Model illustrated: SG550

## Technical Information

### Calibre

SG540/543/550/551/552/553:  
5.56 x 45 mm  
SG542: 7.62 x 51 mm

### Length (stock extended/folded)

SG540: 950/720 mm  
SG542: 1,000/754 mm  
SG543: 805/569 mm  
SG550: 998/772 mm  
SG551: 827/601 mm  
SG552: 730/504 mm  
SG553: 730/501 mm

### Weight (unloaded)

Complete series: 3.2–4.1 kg

### Barrel length (muzzle to bolt face)

Complete series: 227–528 mm

### Feed devices

5-, 20-, or 30-round detachable box magazine

### Sighting systems

Fore: cylindrical post  
Rear: aperture

### Operating system

Gas, selective fire

### Muzzle velocity

Complete series: 725–980 m/s

The SIG 500 series of assault rifle comprises the older SG540 series and the visually similar, although more recent, SG550 series. Most models feature green-grey polymer furniture (hand guards, pistol grips, and stocks), which helps to distinguish them from rifles with a similar overall layout, such as the FN FAL. SG550 series assault rifles feature transparent magazines, which are brown in colour. The older SG540 series features opaque black magazines.

## 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)

- SG540, Switzerland
- SG543, Switzerland
- SG550, Switzerland
- SG551, Switzerland
- SG552, Switzerland
- SG553, Switzerland
- SG540/542/543, France
- SG540-1/SG542-1, Chile

540 series rifles, manufactured by the French producer Manurhin and the Chilean manufacturer FAMAE, resemble Swiss-manufactured rifles in most respects. The most effective means of discriminating between models is by consulting manufacturers' markings (name, etc.) applied to the weapon.

### MAGAZINE SHAPE

#### Squared



▶ SG542 ▶ SG542-1

#### Curved



▶ All other models

### FORWARD HAND GUARD DESIGN

Three oval vents, slender under-folding bipod



▶ SG540/542/543

Five rectangular vents, robust side-folding bipod



▶ SG550

Three rectangular vents, no bipod



▶ SG551

Circular vents, no bipod



▶ SG552/553

### 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

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](mailto:weaponsID@smallarmssurvey.org) or call: +41 22 908 5777. This identification sheet may be downloaded in printable PDF format at [www.smallarmssurvey.org/weaponsID](http://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.