

Type 81

■ TYPE: ASSAULT RIFLE



Model illustrated: Type 81-1

Technical Information

Calibre

7.62 x 39 mm

Length

Fixed stock: 955 mm

Folding stock (extended): 955 mm

Folding stock (folded): 730 mm

Weight (unloaded)

Type 81: 3.40 kg

Type 81-1: 3.50 kg

Barrel length

Muzzle to bolt face: 445 mm

Feed device

30-round detachable box magazine

Sighting systems

Fore: cylindrical pillar

Rear: tangent, notch

Operating system

Gas, selective fire

Muzzle velocity

720 m/s

The Type 81 bears a superficial resemblance to Kalashnikov-pattern assault rifles. It is essentially a derivative of these weapons, specifically of the Chinese Type 56. The weapon shares several identical components with the Type 56, including the side-folding stock of the Type 56-2 and the standard 30-round magazine common to most 7.62 x 39 mm Kalashnikov-pattern weapons. See Weapon ID sheet for 'Kalashnikov AKM'.

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/manufacturer)

- Type 81, China
- Type 81-1, China

The Type 81, while superficially resembling Kalashnikov-pattern weapons, features a number of distinct design differences. As the images (see right) indicate, the barrel of the Type 81 protrudes well beyond the fore sight and the design of the cocking handle and ejection port differs considerably from Kalashnikov-pattern weapons, such as the Chinese Type 56.

BARREL/MUZZLE

Protrudes beyond sight



- ▶ Type 81
- ▶ Type 81-1

Ends at sight



- ▶ Type 56 (shown)
- ▶ Other Kalashnikov types

COCKING HANDLE/EJECTION PORT

Cylindrical handle



- ▶ Type 81
- ▶ Type 81-1

Squared handle



- ▶ Type 56 (shown)
- ▶ Other Kalashnikov types

STOCK DESIGN

Fixed



- ▶ Type 81

Folding



- ▶ Type 81-1

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 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.