

# DShK (& close derivatives)

■ TYPE: HEAVY MACHINE GUN ■ OFTEN REFERRED TO AS: 'DUSHKA'



Model illustrated: Type 54, China

## Technical Information

### Calibre

12.7 x 107 mm

### Length

1,588 mm

### Weight (unloaded)

35.7 kg

### Barrel length

1,070 mm

### Sighting systems

Fore: cylindrical post

Rear: vertical leaf, U backsight

### Operating system

Gas, automatic

### Feed

Metallic link belt

### Muzzle velocity

860 m/s

Russia introduced the Degtyaryova-Shpagina Krupnokaliberny (DShK) in 1938 and the weapon served as the Soviet Union's primary heavy machine gun during the Second World War. It remains one of the most widely used machine guns in the world. The DShK has been employed in a variety of roles, including as an anti-aircraft weapon (alone or in triple configuration), mounted on armoured vehicles, and as an infantry support weapon—in the latter case, the weapon is sometimes mounted on a small, two-wheeled carriage for ease of mobility. The weapon's recognizable characteristics include its barrel, which features vertical fins along its length, and a large oval muzzle brake. The distinction between the original DShK-38 and the DShK-38/46 results from design changes made in 1946. Almost all DShK weapons in circulation are of the later type.

## 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)

- DShK-38, Russia
- DShK-38/46, Russia
- Type 54, China
- MGD-12.7, Iran
- Type 54 anti-aircraft, Pakistan
- 12.7 mm HMG, Romania

DShK variants are visually very similar. The best means of identification is by consulting manufacturer markings. Relevant markings can be found on the top cover (above the receiver). Iranian, Pakistani, and Romanian models are generally marked in Western script, as are later Chinese export models. Early Chinese models are usually marked with Chinese characters. Russian variants feature Cyrillic script. There is no standard form of deployment and DShK weapons can be encountered mounted on various types of tripod or wheeled carriage, or fitted to vehicles—including locally adapted 4x4 pick-up trucks in many parts of the world.

### DEPLOYMENT

Anti-aircraft configuration



► DShK (all variants)

### BARREL

Fins along length of barrel



► DShK (all variants)

### MUZZLE BRAKE

Side profile



► DShK (all variants)

Front profile



► DShK (all variants)

### 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.