

RPG-2 (& close derivatives)

■ TYPE: ROCKET LAUNCHER



Model illustrated: Type 56, China

Technical Information

Calibre

40 mm

Length

1,494 mm

Weight (unloaded)

2.83 kg

Barrel length

120 mm

Sighting systems

Fore: blade, retractable

Rear: U notch, retractable

Operating system

Single shot

Muzzle velocity

84 m/s

The RPG-2 is a forerunner of the well-known RPG-7 and is a far more basic weapon. Its slim profile and single pistol grip distinguish it from similar weapons, such as the RPG-7 and its derivatives. Developed shortly after the Second World War (c. late 1940s), the RPG-2 fires a fin-stabilised 40 mm high-explosive rocket. The weapon's sights consist of simple retractable posts and it has no mounting attachment for optical sights, such as those fitted to the RPG-7. The weapon is in widespread service in many parts of the world and manufactured as the Type 56 in China. The disc-shaped 'venturi' at the rear of the tube is removable and some (particularly well-used) weapons are likely to be found without it.

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)

- RPG-2, Russia
- Type 56, China

Russian and Chinese variants of the RPG-2 are virtually identical. Reference should be made to the left-hand side of the pistol grip. Russian RPG-2 weapons are marked in Cyrillic script with model numbers and manufacturers' markings. Early Chinese Type 56 weapons feature Chinese characters. Later models may be marked 'Type 56' in Western script for the export market.

GRIPS

Single pistol grip



▶ RPG-2 (all variants)

Pistol grip and secondary grip



▶ RPG-7

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

POSITION OF MARKINGS

Pistol grip, left side



▶ RPG-2
▶ Type 56 (shown)

TUBE

Straight, constant diameter



▶ RPG-2 (all variants)

Bulbous, varied diameter



▶ RPG-7

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.