

RPG-7 (& close derivatives)

■ TYPE: ROCKET LAUNCHER



Model illustrated: RPG-7, Russia

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
Removable optical sight

Operating system
Single shot

Muzzle velocity
84 m/s

Introduced in 1962, the RPG-7 is one of the most widely distributed light weapons. The weapon bears little resemblance to any other weapon, although it might sometimes be confused with its predecessor, the RPG-2, particularly without optical sights. The weapon is a front-loaded rocket launcher that accommodates an ever-growing variety of ammunition, ranging from high-explosive anti-tank to anti-personnel rockets. The latest generation of warheads for the RPG-7 include tandem rockets, which explode in two stages to defeat modern reactive armour.

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)

- RPG-7, Russia
- Type 69, China
- RPG-7V, Bulgaria
- Sakr PG-7, Egypt
- 40 mm launcher, Georgia
- RPG-7, Iran
- Al-Nassira, Iraq
- RPG-7, Pakistan
- AG-7S, Romania

RPG-7 variants are visually very similar. The best method of identification is by consulting markings. Reference should be made to the left-hand side of the pistol grip for manufacturer's markings and model designations.

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

OPTICAL SIGHTS

May not be fitted



► RPG-7 (all variants)

POSITION OF MARKINGS

Pistol grip, left side



► RPG-7 (all variants)

PROFILE

With optical sights attached



► RPG-7 (all variants)

Without optical sights



► RPG-7 (all variants)

Slimmer profile, smooth tube



► RPG-2

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.