

Dragunov SVD (& variants)

■ TYPE: SNIPER RIFLE



Model illustrated: SVD, Russia

Technical Information

Calibre

7.62 x 54R mm (original)
9.3 x 64 mm (SVDK)

Length

SVD and derivatives: 1,225 mm
SVDS: 1,135 mm (stock extended)
875 mm (stock folded)

Weight

(unloaded with optical sight)
4.3 kg

Barrel length

(muzzle to bolt face)
620 mm

Feed device

Ten-round detachable box magazine

Sighting systems

Fore: post
Rear: U-notch tangent
Primary: optical

Operating system

Gas, self-loading

Muzzle velocity

830 m/s

The Dragunov SVD sniper rifle first entered service in the early 1960s and is widely deployed around the world. Although the weapon bears some mechanical similarities to Kalashnikov-pattern weapons, its design differs in many respects. The weapon's primary distinguishing features are its skeletal stock and its long, narrow profile.

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)

- SVD, Russia
- SVDS, Russia
- SVDK, Russia
- SVU, Russia
- FPK (PSL), Romania
- Type 79 (NDM-86), China
- Al-Kadesih, Iraq

The Romanian FPK (PSL) closely resembles the SVD, but is based on the receiver of the RPK light machine gun. The design of the ejection port and the absence of a receiver cover lever (located at the rear, right-hand side of the receiver) are visual features that differentiate the FPK from the SVD. The SVU is a 'bullpup' version of the SVD that has been reconfigured

with the magazine behind (instead of in front of) the trigger assembly. The SVDK resembles the SVDS, but is rechambered to fire a larger 9.3 x 64 mm cartridge. The Type 79 and SVD are visually identical. The most effective means of discriminating between the two weapons is by consulting manufacturer markings. The Al-Kadesih features a palm tree embossed on the magazine.

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

CONFIGURATION

Conventional



▶ All original SVD variants

Bullpup



▶ SVU

MAGAZINE

Embossed palm tree



▶ Al-Kadesih

STOCK DESIGN

Wooden, skeletal



▶ SVD ▶ FPK
▶ Type 79 ▶ Al-Kadesih

Tubular, folding



▶ SVDS
▶ SVDK

RECEIVER TYPE

SVD-type



▶ All SVD models except SVU

RPK-type



▶ FPK

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.