Kalashnikov AK-74

**TYPE:** Assault Rifle  ■  **ALSO REFERRED TO AS:** AK, Kalashnikov

The AK-74 was designed in the early 1970s. Mechanically, it is almost identical to the AKM but is designed to fire the smaller 5.45 x 39 mm cartridge. The standard model differs visually from the AKM in having a prominent, cylindrical flash hider/compensator attached to the muzzle and a broad groove in the stock.

**Technical Information**
- **Calibre**: 5.45 x 39 mm
- **Length**: Fixed stock: 945 mm  
  Folding stock: 933 mm (extended)  
  – closed: 695 mm
- **Weight (unloaded)**: AK-74: 3.40 kg  
  AKS-74: 3.35 kg
- **Barrel length**: 477 mm
- **Feed device**: 30-round detachable box magazine
- **Sighting systems**: Fore: Post  
  Rear: U-notch tangent
- **Operating system**: Gas, selective fire
- **Rate of fire**: 650 rds/min
- **Muzzle velocity**: 900 m/s
- **Accessories**: Bayonet, grenade launcher (some models)

**variants and their distinguishing features**

**Variants** (Model/manufacturer)
- AK-74: Russia, Bulgaria (AR-M1), Romania
- AKS-74: Russia, Bulgaria (AR-M1F), Poland (Tantal), Romania (Model 86)
- AKS-74U: Russia, Bulgaria (AR-SF), Poland (Onyx)

**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

**probable geographic distribution**

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- ● Expect regular use  ■ Expect occasional use  □ Do not expect use

**MUZZLE DESIGN**
- Slanted muzzle compensator
- Flash hider/compensator
  - AKM-pattern. See Weapons ID Sheet for ‘Kalashnikov AKM’
  - AK-74 (all long-barrelled versions)
  - AK-100 series

**STOCK DESIGN – FINGER GROOVES**
- Broad
  - AK-74 derivatives
  - AK-100 series
- No groove:
  - AK-47 and AKM types

**BARREL LENGTH**
- Short barrel, cone-shape compensator:
  - AKS-74U
  - AR-SF
  - Onyx
- Medium barrel, short flash hider:
  - Model 86 (short)
  - AR-M1F
- Long barrel, cylindrical flash hider:
  - AK-74 (all remaining models)
  - AK-100 series

**STOCK DESIGN – FIXED AND FOLDING**
- Fixed (wooden orplastic)
- Side-folding
  - AK-74
  - Model 86
  - Onyx
  - Tantal