

FN FAL (& close derivatives)

■ TYPE: RIFLE ■ ALSO REFERRED TO AS: FAL, FN, SLR



Model illustrated: FN 50-00, Belgium

Technical Information

Calibre

7.62 x 51 mm NATO

Length

1090 mm

Weight (unloaded)

4.45 kg

Barrel length

533 mm

Feed device

20-round detachable box magazine

Sighting systems

Fore: Post
Rear: Aperture, sliding

Operating system

Gas, selective fire

Rate of fire

600-700 rds/min

Muzzle velocity

840 m/s

Accessories

Bayonet

The Fabrique Nationale FAL was developed in the late 1940s. The slim, elongated profile of the weapon is its most distinctive feature, in particular the thinness of the stock where it meets the receiver and the long barrel/flash eliminator forward of the hand guards.

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)

- FN FAL FN 50-00 / 50-64 / 50-41; Belgium, Argentina, Mexico
- FN FAL 50-63; Belgium
- FN FAL; Israel
- L1A1 (SLR); Australia, United Kingdom
- Imbel SAR / Para-SAR / MD series; Brazil
- C1A1; Canada
- 1A1; India
- R1; South Africa
- SA58; United States

BOLT CARRIER AND CARRY HANDLE

Oblique cuts on the bolt carrier (top of picture) and a broad carry handle with finger grips on one side:



- ▶ L1A1
- ▶ 1A1

Smooth bolt carrier and relatively narrow carry handle with continuous grips:



- ▶ All other models

STOCK DESIGN

Fixed



- ▶ FN FAL
- ▶ FN 50-00
- ▶ FN 50-41
- ▶ L1A1
- ▶ 1A1
- ▶ Imbel SAR
- ▶ R1

Folding



- ▶ FN 50-63 / 50-64
- ▶ Imbel Para-SAR

COCKING HANDLE

Flush-folding



- ▶ L1A1
- ▶ 1A1

Non-folding



- ▶ All other models

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 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.