

SPG-9 (& close derivatives)

■ TYPE: RECOILLESS GUN ■ ALSO REFERRED TO AS: KOPYE



Model illustrated: SPG-9, Russia

Technical Information

Calibre
73 mm

Length
2,110 mm

Weight (unloaded)
Without tripod: 50 kg
With tripod: 62 kg
With tripod and wheels: 72 kg

Sighting systems
Optical and open sights
May be fitted with night sights

Operating system
Recoilless, rear venting

Muzzle velocity
700 m/s

The SPG-9 is primarily an anti-armour weapon that fires a 73 mm high-explosive anti-tank warhead to ranges exceeding 1,300 m. The weapon can also fire high-explosive fragmentation ammunition for use against personnel (to indirect ranges approaching 4,500 m). The weapon's distinct, bulbous breech (rear end) and conical rear vent are arguably its most distinctive identifying features.

PROBABLE GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION

Region	State forces	Non-state/illegal
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)

- SPG-9, Russia
- Arsenal ATGL, Bulgaria
- AMIG SPG-9, Iran
- RomArm AG-9, Romania

The weapon bears a superficial resemblance to the Russian B-10, but differs by having Bakelite heat shielding that completely encases the rear of the barrel and forward part of the breech. Markings above the breech, close to the locking handle, are arguably the best way to discriminate among types.

BREECH DESIGN

Conical vent



▶ SPG-9

HEAT SHIELDING

Bakelite sheathing at rear of barrel and breech



▶ SPG-9

REAR VIEW

Breech open



▶ ATGL (shown)
▶ 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.