The S A M-7 SF has a side-folding stock and represents one of the best AK configurations currently available with a drop-forged receiver. The SA M-7 SF is as rigid as a fixed stock.

This is quite short by U.S. military standards. Promising a buffer to the rear of the spacer mount essentially offers the operator four red reticle patterns: T-bar, red dot over an arrow pointer, arrow pointer and red dot. A rocker arm switch is used to power the Kobra EKP-8-02: 2325, 2330, 2335, 2340.

Kokalis recommends the Kobra red dot sight here. Fearsome appendages that they are, there are bayonet lugs on both sides of the SA M-7 SF side-folder.

The SA M-7 SF side-folder is equipped with the conventional Kalashnikov-type side rail for mounting optical devices. The SA M-7 SF side-folder is the Russian Kobra. Manufactured by Mikhail Kalashnikov directly from the German World-War-II-era MP40 submachine gun, a weapon with which he was presumably familiar when he was a young boy. The SA M-7 SF side-folder has very clear-cut differences.

The models sent to SGN were an SA M-7 Classic, a reincarnation of the original Soviet AK47 of the third type; SAS M-7 A1, a side-folding type; and the SA M-7 SF side-folder of the type used by the Bulgarian army.

All of the rifles have four-groove barrels with a 1:9.45 (1:240mm) right-hand twist. The chambers and bores are chrome-lined. The barrel length is 16.34 inches (415mm). The sight, without the magazine, of the SA M-7 SF side-folder is 7.70 pounds (3.50kg). The weight, without magazine, of the SA M-7 SF side-folder is 7.80 pounds (3.50kg).

The S A M-7 Classic is a reincarnation of the original Soviet AK47 of the third type. Kalashnikov suspects that both will be the most popular versions of these AKs. The SA M-7 SF side-folder has very effective short metal butt stocks inside the bottom handguard.

Although the overall length of the SA M-7 Classic (of which only 243 were manufactured) is 34.4 inches (873mm), the pull length distance from the center of the front face of the trigger to the center of the buttplate is only 23.7 inches.

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The SA M-7 sidefolder and SA M-7 A1 clown-folder are every bit as secure a firing platform as any rigid-stock infantry rifle. Still short, though.

As the bolt travels back, it rolls the hammer over and completes the cycle. In semiautomatic fire, when the bolt rolls the hammer back, it is caught by the secondary sear. When the trigger is released, the trigger extension and primary sear move back to catch the hammer, which is released by the secondary sear.

In full-automatic fire, the bolt on the selector lever axis pin forces the secondary sear back so that it is unable to catch the hammer. The trigger mechanism's simplicity is the result of multiple, interlocking operating mechanisms that keep in mind the mechanism of their legal importation into the United States. The body was injection-molded. Synthetic materials well-known for their resistance to high temperatures, synthetics well-known for their resistance to high temperatures, synthetics were used for the body of the rifle.

The selector lever and a flapper-type magazine release button are located on the left side of the receiver to the rear of the scope rail. The selector lever and magazine release button are located on the left side of the receiver to the rear of the scope rail. The selector lever is a simple, vertical lever on the left side of the pistol grip. In the author's opinion, the very best red dot sight you can attach to the SA M-7 SF sidefolder is the Holographic Red Dot (HRD), designed and assembled with a required number of U.S.-made components. These Arsenal semiautomatic-only AK47s are surely an exception to the rule. They are as rugged, durable black fiberglass-reinforced thermoplastic. These AR-type rifles were designed specifically for this purpose and prevent marring. Remember, to move the point of impact up, you must move the rifle to the right. To lower it, move the rifle to the left.

The trigger mechanism is based upon the .30 M1 Garand's. Standard staggered-column AK magazine and then re-finished to match the body. The magazine features a body made of glass-reinforced, rust-colored column, two-position. These Arsenal semiautomatic-only AK47s are surely an exception to the rule. They are as rugged, durable black fiberglass-reinforced thermoplastic. These AR-type rifles were designed specifically for this purpose and prevent marring. Remember, to move the point of impact up, you must move the rifle to the right. To lower it, move the rifle to the left.

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Wolf Performance Ammunition specializes in the production of high-quality ammunition. The company has a wide range of products available, including .22 LR, .38 Spl, .45 Automatic Colt, 7.62x39mm, 5.45x39mm, 5.56x45mm NATO, and .30-06 Springfield. The company has a commitment to providing reliable, accurate, and cost-effective ammunition.

The ammunition used in SGN’s test and evaluation of the three Arsenal AK47s was imported by Wolf Performance Ammunition. It’s reliable, accurate, and cost-effective.

Between 1977 and 1989, the factory added the licensed production of the following military products: Makarov pistol and 9x18mm ammunition, PK, PKM and PKT (tank version) caliber 7.62x54R General Purpose Machine Guns, ZSu-23-2 23mm anti-aircraft cannon, 5.45x39mm ammunition and the AK74 series of rifles and the 122mm howitzer.

Today the company is known as the Arsenal Corporation (Dept. SGN, 58 Simeonovsko Shosse Boulevard, BL-1700, Sofia, Bulgaria). The Bulgarian defense-marketing agency, Kintex (Dept. SGN, 66 James Boucher Street, Sofia 1407, Bulgaria), offers the largest variety of AK47 and AK74 rifles and squad automatics in the world. Available calibers include 7.62x39mm, 5.45x39mm, 5.56x45mm NATO and .22 LR. The Bulgarian armed forces issue a substantial number of the variants available.

In December 1999, Arsenal, Inc. opened a facility in the U.S. (Dept. SGN, 5015 West Sahara Avenue, Suite #125, Las Vegas, Nev. 89146; phone: 1-888-539-2220; fax: 1-702-643-2088; website: www.arsenalinc.com). Many of the personnel at this facility were trained at Tula Arsenal in Russia. The quality of semiautomatic Kazanovsko-type rifles manufactured here duplicates at every level the products produced in Russia and in many instances exceeds them.

**M43 Cartridge—History and Wound Ballistics**

Attributed to designers Nikolai M. Elizarov and Boris V. Semen, Soviet historians contend that work on the M43 (model 1943) 7.62x39mm cartridge began in 1939, was temporarily suspended because of The Great Patriotic War and then re-commenced and finalized in 1943.

Others have stated that it was derived from the German 7.92x33mm Kurz Patronen (short cartridge) developed for the world’s first assault rifle produced in significant quantities, the World War II MP43/44 (StG44/45).

This latter scenario is highly unlikely, as the Soviets would have required specimens of 7.92x33mm Kurz ammunition at least a year or two prior to their adoption of the 7.62x39mm round in 1943—well before the MP43 was fielded on the Osten front (first reported use was December 1942).

Whatever the case, the Soviet M43 cartridge is a true intermediate-size assault rifle round. First prototypes featured cases 40.29mm in length (thus: 7.62x41mm). The case was trimmed to 38.0mm as the original projectile proved unsatisfactory and a new bullet was adopted that required a shorter case.

(Has it been proposed by writer J. Bartikka that the M43 cartridge was cloned from the Genschow & Co. [GECO] 7.75x39mm cartridge of 1935, but it cannot be demonstrated that this is anything other than internet chat room speculation.)

The following countries have manufactured ammunition in this caliber: Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Bulgaria, Cuba, Czechoslovakia, East Germany, Egypt, Finland, France, Hungary, Iraq, Israel, Netherlands, North Korea, Norway, Peru, Poland, Portugal, People’s Republic of China, Romania, South Africa, South Korea, Sweden, Syria, United States, USSR, West Germany, and Yugoslavia.

In addition to ball ammunition, it has been produced with hollow point, tracer, API (Armor-Piercing Incendiary), and JT (Incendiary Tracer) projectiles.

Special-purpose loads include heavy subsonic ball (for use with sound suppressors), practice blanks, short-range loads and drill rounds. Ball ammunition will be encountered in two configurations. Most prevalent is a 123-grain boat tail bullet that usually consists of a copper-washed steel jacket, lead and antimony sleeve, and a mild steel core (Soviet Type II).

Yugoslavia’s M67 ball ammunition, as well as that of several other countries, uses a flat-bottomed bullet of approximately the same weight, with a copper-alloy jacket and lead core. Muzzle velocity of both types is between 2330 and 2400 fps.

In its boat tail configuration, the 7.62x39mm bullet travels point-forward about 10 inches in soft tissue before significant yaw occurs. At that point the bullet will yaw to less than 90˚, then come back down to a point-forward position, and finally yaw 180˚ and end its travel in a base forward position.

Bi-lobed yaw cycles of this type are commonly observed with pointed, non-deforming bullets. Total penetration in living tissue is almost 29 inches.

Abdominal shots usually exhibit no greater tissue disruption than that produced by a .38 Spl. pistol bullet since, after 10 inches of travel without yawing, the bullet has generally passed through the abdominal cavity. However, of course, this round is capable of inflicting such damage at far greater ranges than a handgun.

While I was working at the Wound Ballistics Laboratory at the Letterman Army Institute of Research in San Francisco, we tested the lead-cored, flat-base Yugoslav bullet and found it to be considerably more effective.

It commences its yaw cycle after only 3 to 4 inches of penetration. Once again, the yaw cycle is generally bi-lobed. The bullet reaches its maximum penetration to 23 to 26 inches traveling base-forward, somewhat flattened and retaining almost all of its original weight (two or three small fragments are shed in the area of maximum cavitation).

Although the flat-based 7.62x39mm bullet is shorter (.93") than the more common boattail projectile (1.040 inches), it will be expected to cause more damage to the abdomen, liver, spleen or pancreas because the bullet passes through these organs at a large yaw angle.

Remember, if we have neither mushrooming nor fragmentation, yawing is all that remains to maximize tissue disruption and enhance the bullet’s performance—always provided we do not sacrifice adequate penetration.

The ammunition used in our test and evaluation of the three Arsenal AK47s was imported by Wolf Performance Ammunition (Dept. SGN, 1225 North Lance Lane, Anaheim, Calif. 92806; phone: 888-757-9653; fax: 714-632-9232; Email: info@wolfammo.com; website: www.wolfammo.com) and manufactured at Tula Cartridge Works in Russia.

Headstamped “7.62X39 WOLF,” the lacquered steel case has a red case mouth sealant and primer anulus. This ammunition is Berdan primed. Boat tail projectiles in the standard weight, 122-123 grains, are available in either Full Metal Jacket (FMJ) or Hollow Point (HP) types.

In this weight, the muzzle velocity is approximately 2400 fps. Testing of 7.62x39mm HP projectiles, designed originally to meet U.S. importation regulations, indicated that most often the bullets became frangible upon contact with the tissue simulant or else exhibited no expansion at all.

A loading with a 154-grain Soft Point (SP) bullet, designed specifically for hunting, is also available. This projectile features a muzzle velocity of approximately 2100 fps. In all calibers, Wolf ammunition has proven to be reliable, accurate and competitively priced.