

GUN TESTS VALUE GUIDE: AK & OTHER SELF-DEFENSE RIFLES

GUN NAME	ISSUE	GRADE & COMMENTS
Arsenal USA Model SSR-85B 7.62x39mm, \$550	Nov. 2003	Grade A (Our Pick): We thought it was one of the best-made AKs we've examined.
Yugoslavian SKS 7.62x39mm, about \$200	March 2003	Grade A (Our Pick): We liked the stock wood, and this version's slightly better accuracy and slightly lower price.
Springfield Armory Loaded M1A MA9226 308 Win., \$2363	May 2009	Grade B+: This rifle did the best job of handling the 308 round. Options are coming from the new custom rifle shop.
Imbel Sporter Model 444 308 Win., \$800	Sept. 2002	Grade B (Buy It): The Brazilian-made FAL gave a good showing of itself. Acceptable accuracy for a battle rifle.
Arsenal Inc. SLR 106FR 223 Rem., \$925	August 2008	Grade B: Heavy trigger, buttstock button was distracting, and we'd prefer the action lock open. But we'd still buy it.
Russian SKS 7.62x39mm, \$400	October 1999	Grade B (Buy It): The Russian SKS is simple, easy to repair, and gave good accuracy. But it for around \$400, buy it.
Albanian SKS 7.62x39mm, about \$250	March 2003	Grade B (Buy It): This Albanian version had an odd-looking magazine that held 11 shots down.
Polytech Legenc AK-47S 7.62x39mm, \$1,500	October 1999	Grade B (Buy It): The PolyTech AK-47S Legend is stout, reliable, and well made.
FNH USA FNAR Light Barreled Rifle 308 Win., \$1821	May 2009	Grade B: An excellent value. We had to downgrade it because it would not tolerate two of our test rounds.
Ruger Mini-30 7.62x39mm, \$609	October 1999	Grade B (Buy It): It was a handy and pleasant rifle with no bad habits. Could stand a trigger job.
Southern Ohio Gun Wire-Stocked Romanian 7.62x39mm, \$400	Nov. 2003	Grade C (Conditional Buy): Though we didn't care for the fixed wire stock, this Romanian AK was a decent one.
Ohio Ordnance Works VZ 2000 7.62x39mm, \$1,250	Nov. 2003	Grade C (Conditional Buy): This is a close semiauto copy of the VZ-58. This was well made, quite accurate, and costly.
Ruger K-Mini-14/5 223 Rem., \$894	August 2008	Grade C: A proven design, but in our test this was the first gun to have a function failure.
Century Arms R1A1 Sporter Rifle 308 Win., \$450	Sept. 2002	Grade C (Conditional Buy): The R1A1 looked a whole lot like the Imbel. However, it didn't perform perfectly.
DSA FAL SA58 SA58B21CM 308 Win., \$2095	May 2009	Grade C-: This gun was reliable and lots of fun to shoot. But its accuracy was frustrating. Assuming this rifle can be refined to shoot more consistently, we'd love to own one.
Fulton Armory Universal Precision Rifle 308 Win., \$1969	May 2009	Grade D: Accurate and soft recoiling, malfunctions caused us to downgrade this rifle. We're performing a retest of the same gun with more ammo selections.

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