

## **AK and Variants**

I was asked my opinion on the AK/Variant platform. My background while in the military was routine weapon familiarization with this platform while in special ops. As the civilian versions came on the market, I always kept one around for business purposes. I keep some to teach familiarization to government and select clients to include battlefield recovery, care and cleaning, zeroing, etc.

On a personal note, I do like the platform and the 7.62 x 39 round is one of my favorite close to intermediate calibers with little or no modification to the gun/bullet.

## **Zeroing**

I held the same point on all targets (see below arrow). I shot the AE ammo first and then the surplus. All guns were cold/clean with a light coat of oil in the barrel. Distance was 100 yards, with clouds, no wind and it was about 50 degrees Fahrenheit. I shot prone unsupported.



## **Folding Stock, Standard Fixed Stock or After Market**

I shot three rifles, one was what I considered zeroed and that was the Fuller. The wood stock and folding stock rifles had rough zeros, but I was more interested in group sizes for the shoot.

**Folding Stock:**

Easy to conceal, light and easy to employ. The only issues I found was head eye position on a metal stock. Any long term shooting with it would be very uncomfortable.





**Standard Wood Stock:**

Other than being a bit short on stock length, the wood stock shot just fine.





## Custom Fuller:

This rifle had both irons and optics. Due to the position of the stock/sight, I zeroed it with the red dot between the two top wings on the front sight. Trying to get your head lower was very uncomfortable. Trying to use the irons is almost impossible with the stock angle.

With the comp, it does not rise and there is little felt recoil.





### Realistic Distances

I think 200 yards is easy and 300 can be a stretch to get a consistent full caliber hit on a man sized target. Generally if zeroed properly for the ammo, you can hit a 6 x 13" kill zone at one hundred yards.





**Why the group shift/hit ratio?**



The sight radius is a bit shorter on the AK variants and not as refined as an M4 style weapon. Much to blame was my inconsistent head/eye position. This easy on the AR platforms as I use

my nose touching the charging handle. With the added recoil of the 7.62 x 39, this technique would wear you out in no time. Further, I generally do not shoot these platforms all the time.



After the fact, I put a zip tie where my cheek would touch to replicate my head eye. I used an electric match to melt the ends and round them. This would allow a consistent head eye on these weapons when shooting them in the future.

### **Ammo-Penetration/Over penetration**

I used two different brands of ammo today, both ball rounds. One was 124 grain American Eagle and the other was from a former European block country.

It is about what I expected and there is nothing to write home about. I shot a Javelin AR between strings that had a Wilson Combat heavy barrel and I was able to get a 1 ½” group at 100 using iron sights. The AK will not shoot up to that standard, so do not expect it to.

Pros to the cartridge are its hard hitting ability up close. It works wonders on cars and generally goes from one side to the other (both side doors) and does not slow down. I have seen it do a great job on pigs and will drop them in short order. Also, on humans, it will break/shatter bones without hesitation. All this with a simple and cheap ball round.

Reference home defense, they will shoot through interior walls with ease. I don't think too many bad people would want to push their way through this weapons outgoing lead stream. As always, think about over penetration and your background.

### **Discrimination Problems**

When I refer to discrimination, I am not meaning you as the shooter discriminating, but people seeing you with this type weapon discriminating you as a threat. The weapon stands out visually and many people believe that only bad guys use them.

For me, I like keeping them in the house for home defense or on the property. I would hesitate to pull one on the street during a confrontation as you “look like the bad guy.” I know, it is a stigma, but sometimes stigmas can get you killed.

### **Magazines**



Magazines are made of various materials and come in shorter sizes. I found a “tanker” mag that hold 20 rounds and they reduce the profile of the weapon when carried in a discreet bag.

### **Sights/Sight Tools**



The above tools work on the front sight. The square one is for the front sight to push your windage. The “T” handled tool screws your front sight up or down for elevation.

### **Trigger**

I have found the trigger on the platform to be smooth and simple. It is a longer pull, smooth and breaks clean.

### **Conclusion**

These are simple, hard hitting, economical and reliable guns. If you are just plinking or using it for static home defense or eradicating hogs, it should serve you well. Just know its capabilities and limitations.

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