



SMALL ARMS EVALUATION TEAM

FEBRUARY 2019

## DRAGUNOV: SCOPED SELF-LOADING SNIPER RIFLE (7.62x54MMR)



PSL with LPS TIP 2 sight.

Yevgeny Dragunov's SVD sniper rifle (c. 1963), officially "Snayperskaya Vintovka sistem'y Dragunova obraz'tsa 1963 goda" (SVD-63) is a self-loading sniper rifle designed in the Soviet Union.

The SVD was designed to use the full power 7.62x54mmR round used in the PKM general purpose machine gun and bolt action Mosin-Nagant M91/30 service rifle.

Although not as accurate as a dedicated sniper rifle, it is very reliable and relatively easy to maintain, if not as simple as the Romanian PSL that is essentially

an upscaled AKM and not quite as accurate as the SVD.

It is an excellent self-loading rifle for designated marksmen and markswomen due to its combination of reliability, durability, robustness, firepower, penetration, and ease of maintenance and repair.

Steel magazines are the strongest and most durable, and we would recommend against using polymer magazines as they do not have much of a track record so are best avoided.

The AK selector/safety lever is poorly located, which can be addressed by fitting a Mark VI

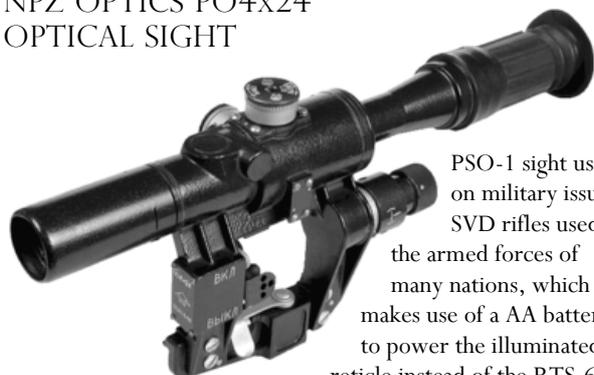
Enhanced AK Selector Safety Lever from Krebs Custom; while the Fuller rear sight mod from Rifle Dynamics will make aiming easier and faster.

A civilian version has been imported to the US by a number of companies.

The PSO-1 telescopic sight was developed for this rifle that uses a Russian battery to power the illuminated reticle.

We recommend an improved version of the PSO-1 by NPZ Optics called the POx24 Optic Sight, which uses a AA battery (ideally long life lithium) rather than an obscure Russian battery.

## NPZ OPTICS PO4x24 OPTICAL SIGHT



The PO4x24 Optical Sight from NPZ Optics is an improved version of the

drop compensating (BDC) turret for the 7.62x54R round (ideally the 7N1 or 7N14 rounds designed for sniping).

When zeroed for 100 m with the top chevron as the aiming mark the lower chevrons serve as aiming marks for 200 m, 300 m and 400 m respectively.

The Tigr mount on the PO4x24 is designed for use with the SVD type base, whereas the Saiga mount (on the PO4x24-1) is designed for the shorter AK type base found on AKM assault rifles.



## RECOMMENDED ACCESSORIES

**Handbook**

Practical Guide to the Operational Use of the SVD Dragunov Sniper Rifle. [Blackheart International]

**Log Book**

Firearm Usage & Maintenance Log Book. [Blackheart International]

**Maintenance Video**

AKS - MAK90 - AKS 47 Semi-Auto Rifles. [AGI]

**Cleaning Kit**

AK-47 Cleaning Kit. [Strike Hard Gear]

**Cleaner/Lubricant**

Slip 2000 725 / Slip 2000 EWL. [Slip 2000]

**Broken Shell Extractor**

7.62x54R Broken Shell Extractor. [C.J. Weapons Accessories]

**AK Hi-Vis Front Sight**

XS AK 24/7 Tritium Stripe. [XS Sights Systems]

**Telescopic Sight**

PO4x24 Optic Sight (SVD mount). [NPZ Optics]

**Dry Fire Rounds**

A-Zoom 7.62x54 Russian Snap Caps. [Lyman Products Corporation]

**Ear Plugs**

EarPro EP3 or EP4. [SureFire]

**Sling**

Tactical Sling (TAS-AK).

**HOT TIP**

Training magazines can suffer metal fatigue to their springs so don't use them for combat.