



My experiences with the ONE that all others are modeled after.

I have to say at one time I was somewhat indifferent to the SKS carbine.

I think I may have been tainted by an experience with a Norinco AK 47 repro that I cut my hand on and the wood kept on chipping away every time it came in contact with any harder surface. Which was pretty much about ANYTHING on the planet. I ended up trading it for an M1 Carbine and never looked back.

Later a friend of mine introduced me to the fun of shooting the SKS. Ever since, I have been hooked.

I now own at least one or more of each of the following SKS carbines:

1. Albanian SKS
2. Romanian SKS
3. Yugoslavian 59/66 SKS
4. Chinese SKS
5. Russian SKS

I now even have a Norinco SKS and much to my surprise and pleasure, it is a MUCH higher quality firearm than the AK that I described above.

The Russian SKS is the most recent SKS that I have added to my ever growing collection. I went to a friend's store and low and behold he had two of the Russian beauties on display.

One was a presentation grade SKS that most likely was intended for or was used by a Soviet Block color guard. It was without a doubt the most pretty SKS I have ever seen. It had a laminate stock that was finished and polished to a perfection. The bolt was black? Yes, I said black. It had some sort of coating or finish on it that made it look very different and dignified. The sling hardware on the carbine as well as the metal parts of the sling had a gold finish (*kind of reminded me of something Saddam*

would have in his bunkers). To say the least this was a very showy carbine. As I said before it was probably a color guard's SKS (*or I suppose it could have been owned by a pimp from a 70's TV show*).

The other SKS carbine (*and the one I chose*) was the atypical Soviet SKS. He was manufactured in 1954. His stock has the ugly and sloppily painted on dark, red (*non-opaque*) stain/finish. I think he may have been arsenal refurbished, which to me is not really a problem because I just wanted a nice looking shooter that I could take out every once and awhile to admire and fondle (*scary but true*). All metal parts are milled and not stamped. The metal's finish overall the entire carbine is a strong 100% and appears to be unissued (*although probably is not, but one can always live a lie*). The bayonet has either had some sort of finish applied over its surface or has just yellowed with age.

He is FATHER, the SKS that all the others in my collection were designed and manufactured after.

He is simple, elegant, utilitarian, and deserving of my respect.



A safe SKS during a "cease fire" period at the range. Note the open, unloaded magazine and the bolt is pulled back and locked open for inspection. Although this picture does not show it, I would recommend you also place the safety in the "On" position. I am so embarrassed! Please do as I say and not as I don't!

I took the same surplus non-corrosive (*sure, I believe that!*) ammo to the range with me that I have used in all of the other SKS articles on Surplusrifle.com. Kind of hard to pass up for only \$79 per 1000 rounds. I use a little Windex during cleanup just in case it is not as non-corrosive as they say. Kind of better to be sure.

All the serial numbers match and he came with all of the accoutrements (oil bottle, tools, stripper clips, sling, cleaning kit, and ammo pouch) just like the Yugo 59/66 SKS carbines I have purchased.

I don't really trust it when import ex-Soviet weapons have matching serial numbers. I have heard that this is most likely forced matches.

But hey, who cares? I didn't buy Father for his collectable value. I just wanted him.



Soviet markings stamped into the receiver cover. Also, the year 1954 is stamped below star.

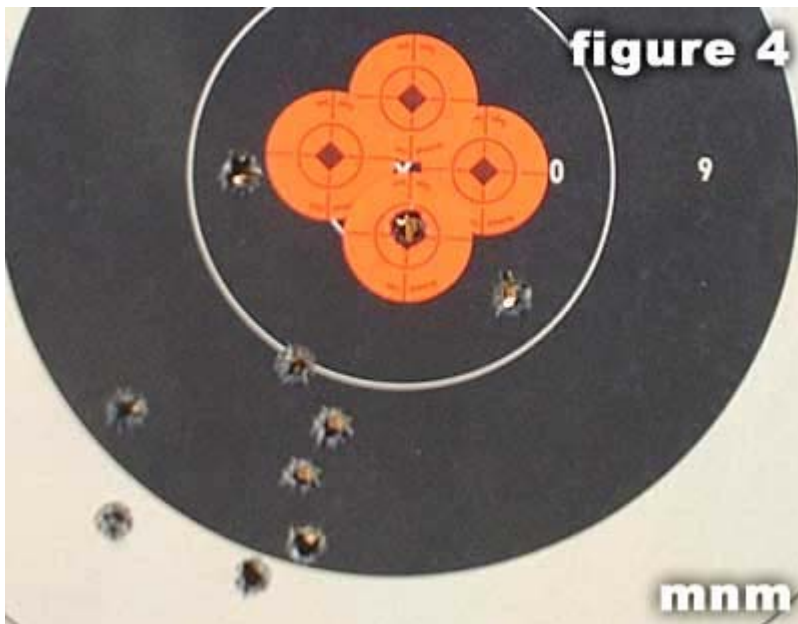
Everything about Father works smooth like melting butter. Stripper clips are easily pushed down into the magazine and stripped. I did not have to joggle the bolt to load properly.

The trigger on Father is somewhere on the high end (good) for an SKS. Smooth, consistent, and I would not change a thing about it would be a pretty good description.



Loaded magazine at the ready.

Accuracy was as good or better than any SKS I own. At 100 yards as show in **figure 4** below I shot a fairly nice 10 shot group. 100 yard grouping ranged from around 5 to 8 inches very consistently.



Ten shot group at 100 yards.

My 50 yard groups were excellent. As shown in **figure 5** below I was able to consistently bring in 3 to 4 inch groups. My eyes are not what they once were and I cannot bring in the fabled 1 to 3 inch MOA groups with an SKS. Actually I have not seen this ever happen - but do not doubt its existence. I guess some things you just have to have a little faith.



Five shot group at 50 yards.

Father is not something you want to purchase any aftermarket sights, scope mount, or a 30 round magazine for.

I will never touch the blueing or the finish of the metal on Father.

Father should be left the way he is.....he is supposed to be that way and as long as Father lives in my house he will be as he is today - Father.

jlh;)

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