



### The Real Sword Type 56

Real Sword appeared only last year onto the international airsoft market as a company from Hong Kong that not only broke the stereotype of lower quality Chinese airsoft products, but brought an entirely unique set of products to market focusing on high quality and –accurate- representations of actual Chinese rifles. The result was a series of faithful replicas at an excellent price point, and a commitment to continuing to bring new and well built products to the market in the future.

The rifle pictured above in the hands of a freedom fighter is the Real Sword Type 56-0, a replica of the fixed stock model Chinese assault rifle based off the venerable Kalashnikov design. I have owned a

number of AK-variants in the past and directly compared the Real Sword offering to Tokyo Marui, VFC, and Inokatsu offerings which all cost more to build (with the exception of a stock plastic TM) and offer less in terms of realism and durability than the Real Sword .

The Real Sword comes packed in its box securely with a solid steel midcap magazine (150 Rounds), full instruction manual in English, full color poster featuring disassembly instructions, oil bottle, cleaning and loading rods, a tool kit in its own small container that fits in the stock, the rubberized bayonet, a pack of several screw-in nozzles including threaded ends for attaching silencers and muzzle brakes, and a special wrench for removing and returning the rear sight. Everything, from the accessories to the replica itself is good quality and the disassembly instructions help walk the owner through the process of taking the rifle down to parts, a process that most directly resembles the disassembly of an actual Kalashnikov rifle. Until you get inside to remove the gearbox there are no grub screws and tiny hex keys to get to and lose like on other company's offerings. Everything is pinned solidly and fitted together well.

The attention to detail in its manufacture only leads to a player wanting to treat this fine replica just like an AK and I can say with confidence that you can. During my test skirmishes the rifle has been tossed, dropped, used as a brace, and scraped against the ground and dirt. It takes its bruises well and every little ding and scratch simply adds to the character of the wood. The blued steel finish of the metal parts does not scratch easily and have really not shown much wear after rough play. After years of skirmishing and seeing airsoft weapons basically snap in half like toys, among other things, when treated roughly by the adults that play with them, having a gun that is built like a tank can be refreshing!

Perhaps the most incredible thing to note is the accuracy of dimensions. While most Airsoft Kalashnikov replicas are built with a slightly long receiver (off by about half a centimeter) to accommodate a Marui style gearbox, Real sword actually shortened the length of their gearbox without reducing performance in order to make their receiver to the correct dimensions. The stock is also built to the correct size and heft with the same plywood based material you would find on a real steel AK. This extra degree of authenticity not only gives the Type 56 the correct feel and balance when being shouldered, but allows for the easy attachment of aftermarket and custom parts.



My type 56 pictured here has been outfitted with a top cover from a real steel AKM, and a metal heat shield for the front which gives it a unique and aggressive appearance. Both parts, purchased from gun parts supply stores, were fitted without any modifications and dropped in solidly.

The spike bayonet is a nice cosmetic feature and lends the Type 56 part of its unique appearance. It is only a soft plastic so it can be deployed at a game without fear of grave injury, but unfortunately this makes the bayonet susceptible to being easily bent and gouged. Real Sword sells an aluminum replica bayonet for serious collectors though they do not recommend it is deployed during a skirmish game! Even folded, the plastic bayonet looks good and [provides an intimidating bit of beef to the front of the rifle](#), and it can be deployed simply by unlocking it and giving the weapon a quick flip, snapping the solid metal lug into place.

The selector lever moves solidly into place and stays put with a click. The bolt slides back to reveal the hop up adjustment lever, only coming back about three-quarters of the way similar to the way a TM AK bolt works. Under the top cover is a space for a stick battery that runs all the way through the front grip, allowing for long 12v stick batteries to be used. The replica is also wired to the back and includes an electrical cap that plugs into the mini-connector there to prevent a short. To install a mini or LiPo battery in the stock simply remove the cap and put it onto the connector under the top cover and you are in business. With 2200 Mah stock batteries cheap and available I always used a long 8.4v of that size and never had a problem with the battery dying during a game day. [Performance is on par with a stock TM and chronoed consistently with .20 Excel BB's around 282 FPS with about a two point](#)

[deviation up or down](#). The hop up performs well and shots are consistent thanks to the solid construction and good fitting parts both inside and out.

The included magazine seats solidly and feeds well down to the last round and also works well in TM and VFC replicas. The reverse is not true for the Tokyo Marui brand standard magazines I tested in the Real Sword Type 56. Those did not feed at all. Granted, my collection of Tokyo Marui AK standards could not be more beaten up; they do feed well in my TM replicas. The Real Sword does not seat them as well, probably due to a slight difference in the magwell proportions. I recommend the RS brand magazines for the Type 56 as a result. Each one holds twice as much ammunition (150 rounds) Than the TM standard (68) and is better built and finished with the same blued steel of the Type 56.

My overall impression is that Real Sword's first offerings, the Type 56-0 and Type 56-1 (the underfolding stock model) are both impressive replicas that not only show a commitment to engineering and quality control, but also to refining designs that have been on the airsoft market for years, copied by a dozen manufacturers but only barely refined. Their product is realistic, solidly built for skirmishing, and well supported by documentation and provided tools. The Type 56 is:

- Realistic
- Solidly Built and durable
- Highly skirmishable and upgradable
- Offered at an excellent price point
- Well supported by the manufacturer (With both online help and inside the box instructions in English)

I cannot wait to see what Real Sword will come out with next.

For more images and technical Data Real Sword can be visited at their web page:

<http://www.realsword.com.hk/>

Reviewed by Robert Howden

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