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Review of Real Sword Type 56-1 AEG

History

Known for its ability to resist corrosion and work under any conditions, the AK-47 is the most popular gun design in the world and many variants of it have been developed, including the Type 56 series. Built by Norinco firearms since 1973, these guns were standard issue for the PLA, or the People's Liberation Army, essentially the Chinese military. The Type 56 is the most widely used AK model having shown up in Asia, Africa, Eastern Europe and South America. It is estimated that there are as many as 10-15 million Type 56's in the world today, and they account for one fifth of the number of AK's produced today. Used widely in more than seventeen countries, this firearm is one of the most popular, making it only fitting that airsofters have access to this model.

Build

This is probably the best built replica I have ever held, and trust me, I've held a lot. At about seven pounds (3.4kg), this gun is quite heavy; the real steel gun weighs about 7.5 pounds (3.7kg) with an unloaded magazine, which shows you how similar they are in weight. In their exteriors they are also very similar; the front grip and pistol grip are both made of high quality wood with a great finish and the body is a high quality steel that feels very durable. A cool new feature of the gun is the exact AK dimensions. All other AEG AK replicas have slightly different dimensions than the real steel so they can fit in the gearbox, but the RS AK has a redesigned gearbox to fit in perfectly with the real steel AK dimensions. Beware: many rails and other AK airsoft accessories will not fit on this gun!

What amazed me most was that this gun had no rattle; I couldn't find a single moving part that jiggled around anywhere on this gun. It has to be by far the most solid gun that I have ever held. The gun's stock is well done, too; many other models of this gun completely fail when it comes to the stock. Either the button is so tight that it can't be pressed or the stock is so flimsy that it quickly breaks, but this gun suffers from neither of those issues. Also there is great attention to detail with a small rubber pad on the end of the stock so it fits nicely when folded. It is this kind of detail that Real Sword has gone into, and the final product is an amazing replica.

I did, however, find two problems with the build. The first is that there is a slight wobble in the magazine well. It is by no means enough to hamper the gun's ability as it is still fairly tight, but there is a noticeable wobble. The other problem I found was the gun's charging handle was a bit loose when pulled back to get to the hop-up. When I ran

around with it outside I was not able to notice it sliding around, so I'm not even sure it is a problem, but it may annoy some people.

Some people feel that the amazing build quality of this gun is somewhat of a bad thing, because it is too precious to be skirmished. I see the build as a major plus because you know this AK can be handled in combat situations and make it out just fine, and if it does have a scratch, it just looks better.

Performance :

A gun may be built amazingly, have a great price, and all the best accessories but if you can't hit anyone because it performs badly, what's the point? Well, I'm not sure but one thing I am sure of is that this gun performs quite well.

I'll start off with the specs. This gun [has a 6.08 455mm barrel](#) and a 290 fps average. I was happy to see that RS hadn't exaggerated the projected fps on their website as many companies seem to do and while chronoing, the gun, the lowest I ever got was a 278 and the highest was 307. I conducted shooting test from a few ranges, and the results were good. The range is a little short, but I wouldn't expect too much from 290 fps. The best thing is the reliability. The BBs may not always fly straight but they do repeatedly hit the same mark every time which is a big bonus.

This AEG performs just as good as, or better, than any stock gun but I wouldn't say that upgrades are unneeded. I think that a tightbore and larger spring would turn this into a great gun that can compete with the best.

Takedown

Getting to the gearbox is pretty easy even with minimal knowledge because the manual provided with the gun is great. It has quite a few pages and a detailed takedown page showing where every part of the gun needs to go. It took me about 15 minutes to reach the gearbox and nothing was too complicated.

Now for the takedown: I'll start with the hop-up unit. This thing is pretty similar to Tokyo Marui's and is well done. Some reviews complain of extreme bullet drop when the hop-up is engaged but that was certainly not the case with this gun. I'm not sure if Real Sword released an updated hop-up, which is very possible, but this one was very well made. I have yet to install a higher gauge spring in the gun, so I can't tell you how the hop-up will perform at higher fps levels.

Now to the gearbox. First off this gun's gearbox is essentially flawless. It is built just like a V3 with just a few minor tweaks. The outside has a smooth finish and the wires are quite durable. The selector plate is very well made with an electrically engaged safety so even if you manage to pull the locked trigger back, the gun still won't fire. I have to say that the selector is a lot beefier than most guns leading to better durability.

The gears are a high quality metal and I'm sure they could handle at least an M120 or M130. Also RS redesigned the anti-reversal lever so that it can be triggered from outside the gearbox, I believe that this is to coincide with the new gearbox dimensions and trigger assembly.

Lastly, there were some rumors that the gearbox design would use parts with different dimensions than standard gearboxes but there are only four RS specific parts:
Anti Reversal Latch- It has a spur to extend outside the gearbox.

Gearbox- It has different dimensions to fit inside the gun and a hole for the anti reversal latch.

Piston: It is one tooth shorter than standard.

Spur Gear: One tooth less to fit in with the piston.

Pros :

- Build Quality
- High Quality Parts
- Performance
- Instruction Manual
- Tools

Cons :

- Gearbox compatibility
- Loose Magazines
- Loose charging handle

Conclusion

This is truly a superb gun. Whether you're a collector, competitor, or anything in between you will love this AEG. A must-have for any AK enthusiast, this is by far the best built replica available. Made of real steel and wood, Real Sword is raising the bar on the quality of guns today. Paired with a reasonable price and good performance, this AEG is a must have for anyone in the market for an AK.

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