

WEAPON GUIDE

AR-15

SMALL ARMS REVIEW TEAM

SELF-LOADING SERVICE RIFLE (5.56x45MM)



DS Arms AR15
14.7" Service Series
Block 1 Carbine

Eugene Stoner's AR-15 (c. 1956) is the most prolific assault rifle in the West due to its combination of reliability, ergonomics and accuracy. It is chambered for the light recoiling 5.56x45mm round.

The AR-15 rifle (20" barrel) was adopted by the US Army in 1967 as the M16A1 Rifle. The M16A2 was adopted in 1986 while the M16A4 was adopted in 1998. The shorter and lighter M4 Carbine (14.5" barrel) was adopted by the US Army in 1994 and later became the standard service rifle.

The M4 Carbine is best for militia use as it is widely used by soldiers and police. Semi-automatic variants are readily available in the US, such as the DSA Arms variant pictured above and the FN 15 Military Collector M4 Carbine, which both use a 14.7" barrel with an A2 flash hider pinned and welded to their barrels to get

their length up to 16" so they do not need to be registered with the US government as a short barrel rifle (SBR).

Some people fit a flash hider that also functions as an adaptor for a sound suppressor, but sound suppressors add a lot of weight, make the rifle longer, are expensive, and adversely impact reliability, so are not recommended.

Avoid variants with barrels shorter than 14.5" as they are less reliable with excessive muzzle blast/flash, while their reduced bullet velocity makes them unsuited to use with scopes with a bullet drop compensator (BDC) reticule as used in Trijicon ACOGs and the Primary Arms SLX 3x MicroPrism sight (it uses a ACOG Compact type base)..

A flattop receiver is best so you can readily mount a wide variety of optical sights at the correct height so they are in

line with your eye with your cheek on the stock so you can use them efficiently.

A non-magnifying reflex sight like the Aimpoint Micro H-1 red dot sight (RDS) is ideal for close quarters battle (CQB) and is best accompanied by a white light like SureFire's M300C Compact LED Scout Light or IR Scout Light Pro.

A BCM Charging Handle is best fitted as it is stronger than the standard charging handle.

Keep it clean and use plenty of lubricant and high quality magazines (e.g., G.I. mags with a Magpul follower). Twenty round magazines are less likely to snag on clothing or cover than the 30 round variety and are more reliable.

In addition to spare parts (notably a firing pin), it is also desirable to have a spare bolt-carrier group (BCG) if your rifle's BCG is damaged and cannot be readily repaired.

PRIMARY ARMS SLX 3X MICROPRISM



The SLX 3X from Primary Arms is a superb general purpose telescopic sight for tactical use on assault rifles.

There is a variant with a bullet drop reticule (BDC) for the 5.56x45mm (.223R) and 7.62x51mm (.308W) rounds (ACSS Raptor 5.56/7.62 YP).

It is best attached to a flattop AR via a QD mount like the AD-B2 Cantilever Mini ACOG Mount from American Defense Manufacturing. They come in a variety of heights to suit the type of folding rear sight fitted to the AR (iron sights must be retained if only for backup use).

RECOMMENDED ACCESSORIES

Log Book

Firearm Usage & Maintenance Log Book. [Blackheart International]

Handbook

M16/M4 Handbook. [Blackheart International]

Cleaning Kit

PRO-PACK AR15. [Real Avid]

Firearm CLP

Beak Free CLP. [Safariland]

Field Maintenance Tool

Field Survivor 1. [Samson Mfg. Corp.]

Spare Parts Kit

AR-15 M4E1 Field Repair Kit. [Aero Precision]

Illuminated Front Sight

TFO AR-15 Style Front Sight. [TRUGLO]

Front Sight Tool

AR15 Front Sight Adjuster Tool. [Real Avid]

Dry Fire Rounds

A-Zoom 223 Rem Snap Caps. [Lyman Products Corporation]

Sling

Tactical Sling AR15/M16. [Eagle Industries]

Ear Plugs

EarPro EP3 or EP4. [SureFire]

SPECIFICATIONS

Weight: 2.92 kg (6.43 lb)

Length: 838 mm (33 in)

Barrel Length: 368 mm (14.5 in)

Action: gas operated

Magazine Capacity: 30 rounds

HOT TIP

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