The Russian RPG-7 (c. 1962) is a much improved variant of the RPG-2 (c. 1949). Whereas RPG-2 grenades were propelled solely by a gunpowder charge that was burned up within the tube (like the experimental Panzerfaust 250), the RPG-7 also has a solid fuel rocket that ignites after the grenade leaves the launcher, which greatly increases the velocity and effective range.

The grenades comprise two parts: the warhead and sustainer motor (rocket) section, and a booster section that contains the gunpowder charge which must be attached prior to firing. This feature makes them easier to transport. The most common variant is the RPG-7D that can be broken down into two parts in order to make it easier for paratroopers to transport (also desirable for guerrilla use). The RPG-7 was originally developed as an anti-armour weapon for use against armored vehicles using single-stage HEAT warheads (like the PG-7V). Tandem HEAT warheads (like the PG-7VR) were developed for use against reactive armor, while fragmentation warheads (like the OG-7V) and thermobaric warheads (like the TBG-7V) were developed for anti-personnel use.

A slightly lighter version was developed in China called the Type 69 RPG (5.6 kg), while a much lighter version called the GS-777 Lightweight Shoulder-Fired Recoiless Launcher was developed by AirTronic USA, which weighs just 3.5 kg but is not as robust or durable.

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The Chinese developed a near identical version of the PGO-7 for the Type 69 RPG with an improved reticle, but uses a different mount so it cannot be used on the RPG-7 (or AK-47). I recommend the Zenit PGO-7B3 (available from Kalinka Optics).

Moving vehicles are best engaged within 100 meters to ensure a high hit probability.