

## Featured Equipment: The DShK 12.7mm HMG

Varieties of the DShK are still in use today around the world and nearly 50 years in production testifies to the basic soundness of its design. It was developed as a heavy machine gun in the early 1930s and was in demand on the Eastern Front during World War II as the DShK-38 (the number refers to year of modification). This gun used a complex rotary-feed system which was dropped after the war in favour of standard flat-feed shuttle type, and may be adapted to left- or right-hand feed. Although

the gun itself was a good piece of engineering, the intentional weight reductions over previous Soviet machine guns were somewhat lost through its excessively heavy infantry carriage, although this could also become an anti-aircraft tripod. The barrel is detachable and is fitted with a unique, distinctive muzzle brake not present on the earlier model. The DShK found its true home on armoured vehicles, especially tank turrets, and it reaches towards the Browning M2HB in performance. The

Chinese version is known as the Type 54 heavy machine gun. Both this and the Soviet version are used by guerrillas in the Middle and Far East, and Africa to defend their bases.

*"Twentieth-Century Small Arms", by Chris McNab; "Brassey's Infantry Weapons or the Warsaw Pact Armies", by J.I.H. Owen*

*For more detailed information on the Vickers, see Wikipedia: <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/DShK>*



The distinct profile of a captured DShK machine gun mounted on a South African armoured vehicle

### Specifications

Country of Origin:	USSR/Russia
Caliber:	12.7mm Soviet (.50in)
Length:	1586mm (62.5in)
Weight:	35.5kg (78.5lb)
Barrel:	1066mm (42in), 4 grooves, rh
Feed/magazine capacity:	50-round belt
Operation:	Gas, air-cooled
Cyclic rate of fire:	550rpm
Muzzle velocity:	850mps (2788fps)
Effective Range:	2000m (6600ft)

**"It reaches towards the Browning M2HB in performance."**

### The DShK 12.7mm heavy machine gun



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