

The H&K MP5

In 1966, West German police and border guards adopted the *Maschinenpistole 5* – the fifth submachine gun to enter official service with German forces after WWII. It was the main weapon of the famous GSG9 antiterrorist unit from its inception. The MP5 first caught the public eye as the gun used by the British SAS during the Iranian embassy siege of 1980. It soon became the firearm of choice among special operators everywhere. Today, virtually all Western (and quite a few Eastern) special-ops, counterterrorist, and SWAT teams employ the MP5.



Several factors explain the MP5's popularity despite its high price tag. It's reliable and extremely versatile. Its closed-bolt action makes it probably the most accurate weapon of its type. Dozens of sub-variants exist, and there are few firearms with so many accessories offered. Finally, a certain air of professionalism surrounds it – if GSG9 and the SAS use it, it *must* be good. The MP5 has been license-made in Greece, Iran, Mexico, Norway, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Turkey, and the U.K.

H&K MP5A3, 9×19mm Parabellum (Germany, 1971-)

The original *MP5* (1966-1971) had a fixed plastic stock and a straight magazine (Wt. 6, Bulk -4). The *MP5A1* (1966-1971) had *no* stock (Acc 3, Wt. 5.3, Bulk -3).

The *MP5A2* (1971-) is slightly improved over the *MP5* (but still Wt. 6, Bulk -4). It and the *MP5A3* (in table), which has a retractable stock, are the main production models today.

The *MP5A4* (1982-) has a fixed stock like the *MP5A2*, but offers a three-round limited burst option in addition to semi- and full-automatic (RoF 9/13). The *MP5A5* (1982-) is like the *MP5A4*, but with a retractable stock.

The *MP5N* (1985-) was originally ordered by the U.S. Navy SEALs. It resembles the *MP5A3* but features a new ambidextrous grip configuration, and muzzle lugs for the quick attachment of a 1.2-lb. baffle suppressor (-2 to Hearing, -1 Bulk). A 100-round twin drum (-1 Bulk, \$313, 4.8 lbs.) became available in 2001.

The *MP5* is also available in other calibers. In 1994, the FBI adopted the *MP5/10A3* (1992-1999), in 10×25mm Auto: Dmg 3d+2 pi+, Range 280/3,100, Wt. 7.8/1.5, RoF 6/13, ST 9†, Rcl 3. The *MP5/40A3* (1992-1999), in .40 S&W, was somewhat more popular: Dmg 3d-1 pi+, Range 190/2,000, Wt. 7.6/1.3, RoF 6/13. Both normally fired single shots, two-round limited bursts, and full-automatic.

H&K MP5SD3, 9×19mm Parabellum (Germany, 1974-)

The *MP5 Schalldämpfer* has an integral sound suppressor (-3 to Hearing) that lasts for some 10,000 shots. The *MP5SD1* lacks a stock (Acc 3, Wt. 7.3, Bulk -3), the *MP5SD2* has a fixed stock (Wt. 8, Bulk -4), and the *MP5SD3* (in table) has a retractable stock. The *MP5SD4*, *MP5SD5*, and *MP5SD6* (all available from 1982) add a three-round limited-burst option (RoF 9/13) but are otherwise identical to the *MP5SD1*, *MP5SD2* and *MP5SD3*, respectively.

H&K MP5K, 9×19mm Parabellum (Germany, 1976-)

The *MP5 Kurz* is a shortened machine-pistol variant designed for concealed carry under a coat. It lacks a stock but features a foregrip for better two-handed control. If fired *one-handed*: ST 11, Rcl 3. A 15-round magazine was designed to accompany it (\$27, 0.7 lb.), but the standard 30-rounder is more common.

The *MP5KA1* (1976-) has only rudimentary sights (Acc 1, Bulk -2, +1 to Fast-Draw). The *MP5KA4* and *MP5KA5* (1982-) offer three-round limited bursts (RoF 9/13). The *MP5K-PDW* (1991-) is similar to the *MP5K*, but has the *MP5N* grip and a folding stock (Acc 3, Wt. 6.2, Bulk -4*), and accepts the *MP5N*'s suppressor.

A special attaché case (p. 31) is available that can mount any *MP5K* model *inside* (\$3,000, 14.9 lbs. with gun and spare magazine). A trigger in the carrying handle lets the carrier fire the weapon while it's still in the case. This gives -4 to Guns skill – and unless the shooter employs the proper technique, with the case braced against his midsection, Rcl rises to 3.