

Jim Fuller Bulgarian AK-74 review

If you are reading this on www.rifledynamics.com you probably already know that Jim Fuller is the best thing to happen to the AK series rifles since Mikhail Kalashnikov.

I have been using one of Jim's rifles for a few months now, and recently used his AK74 to win the 2008 Combat Rifle Championship's enhanced division. Jim has asked for me to write a few words about the event, his rifle, and the gear I used.



Event:

The CRC is put on by the American Confederation of Tactical Shooters (www.actshooters.com). ACTS is a group of like minded individuals who like to get out once a month to practice their rifle and pistol skills. This IS NOT a gaming community like you might find with IDPA, IPSC, etc.

ACTS was designed by members who have done time overseas and do their best to keep this organization as practical as they can. If you mention things like tactical order or proper use of cover to IPSC guys you are sure to get some funny looks.

While I am still fairly new to ACTS myself (I've shot about 5 matches with them so far and this was my first CRC), this has quickly turned into my preferred group of guys to shoot with in the Michigan area. We have current and former military, LEO, professional firearm trainers, gunsmiths, martial arts professionals and squared away civilians who like to have a good time and do what they can to practice what they learn in training.

Jim Fuller Bulgarian AK-74 review

While I took 1st place in the Enhanced Division (1x optic), I was 2nd overall to Steve Fisher from www.michigantrainer.com. Steve is an excellent shooter, trainer, and even better of a person. Steve shot very well over the weekend and was able to top my time by about 60 seconds over 9 stages of shooting. I am honored to shoot that close to his time. Aside from some big name trainers who make their tour in or close to Michigan, we don't have a whole lot as far as training goes. MichiganTrainer.com offers some of the best progressive training by individuals who have the professional and training resumes to back it up. Check these guys out.



Rifle Dynamics:

It's almost hard to put the quality of this rifle into words. It is truly something you will not understand until you shoot one.

I've always been an AK fan, but didn't start seriously shooting the platform until about a year ago. At that time I owned a WASR-10 and wanted to expand my collection. Doing my research, I quickly realized that Jim Fuller was the answer.

Having already owned a 7.62 gun I wanted to try 5.45. Mainly for the cost of ammo, but the reduced recoil also lends itself to a lot of shooting. The recoil is similar to 223 out of a 16" AR rifle.

Speaking with Jim over email for a little while, he let me know that he could build

Jim Fuller Bulgarian AK-74 review

me a new rifle, but that he also had one of his personal guns up for sale. That rifle was a Bulgarian 74 kit build on a No-Dak receiver with his excellent black Moly Resin finish. A Fuller 74, built by the man for the man, and no wait time? SOLD!!

The rifle came in a very traditional style. Black furniture, Tapco G2 trigger and iron sights. I need to make a note on Jim's rear sight here - buy one. They are much easier to use than the stock sights.

I've added the following items to this rifle:

- Ultimak Rail
- Aimpoint CompM (Co-Witness with a Warne Q/D mount)
- Basic 2 point sling
- Replaced the original stock with a shorter Warsaw length one

We shoot out to 100 yards at ACTS and this rifle certainly holds it's own. I've never shot it off a bench but I regularly make good hits on cardboard and steel targets at these matches. The rifle will do it, so long as the shooter can.

I can't say enough about the workmanship and quality of this piece. You simply must shoot one to really appreciate Jim's work.



Gear:

I hate gear. It is bulky, uncomfortable, expensive, and none of it is ever "perfect." However, we must carry extra mags and other items, so it is necessary. I am just a civilian who likes to be prepared, and try to choose my gear based on that. I have

Jim Fuller Bulgarian AK-74 review

no use for a 15 mag loadout with smokes, grenades, radios, or any of that. I like to keep things basic but still functional. I do have use for a well equipped grab-n-go bag that I can keep ready with mags, first aid, and even some snacks and water.

Sneakybags:

I use the original "Small Sneakybag" from www.onesourcetactical.com. It is designed with room for 4 rifle mags, 3 pistol mags, a dump pouch and plenty of extra room for a basic blowout kit, spare ammo, a pistol, whatever. The inside is completely Velcro lined so the limits are really endless. The sides of the bag have MOLLE attachments to add even more gear, if the user wants to. I really like running the bag. Four of us had them at the CRC. Steve Fisher and I won our divisions and took 1st and 2nd overall, we both ran bags.

The improvements needed for the small bags are the stiffeners and a padded shoulder strap. A 2" shoulder pad from Maxpedition works great, costs little, and they offer colors to match the bags.

Raven Concealment:

Again one of those things you have to use to really appreciate. I use their Phantom holster to carry my G19 w/ TLR light attached. Comfortable, secure, fast, and the guys from Raven are simply awesome to work with. They had a booth set up at the CRC and were making custom items all weekend long for our shooters. If you have it, they can wrap it in Kydex! These guys worked extremely hard to get orders completed and I know they stayed up late at night to get stuff done. It is appreciated guys!! Check out their sales site at www.themalabarfront.com.

Overall, I'm extremely happy with this rifle. It has just under 5k rounds through it so far. That isn't a lot by any AK standard, but I'm doing my best to get that number up there. I am completely confident in Jim's work that this rifle will be a long time companion for me. Jim is more than willing to help you with a build. He can help decide what parts you do or do not need, and even offers most accessories at his shop so you have less to deal with. Let him know what you want and Jim will get it done.