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No Gunsmith Required SKS Muzzle Brake and Bipod

Article by [Jamie Mangrum](#)

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I was recently skimming through rifle parts on [eBay](#) and came upon a gentleman that sold muzzle brakes and bipods for both the SKS as well as Mosin Nagant rifles. One thing in common all of the parts have is that they are all of the "no gunsmith required" persuasion. This means that you do not have to make any permanent alteration such as drilling and tapping to the firearm and as a result you are not destroying the collectible value. This is a good thing. I get a lot of emails



asking about what brakes and bipods are available for the typical SKS carbine. I asked Ron Hartmann to please let me take a look at a set and he promptly sent them out to me.

Vendor Supplied Muzzle Brake Specifications

- Fits all SKS Carbines without muzzle attachments (*All excluding Yugo 59/66 and variants*)
- Folding bayonets should be removed as they will not fully open with muzzle brake attached
- Three inches long
- All steel construction – no plastic or alloy parts
- No drilling or tapping required
- New longer front sight pin (included) replaces original short pin to secure brake
- Easy installation * – fits over front sight.

* Minor fitting may be required. On our demo carbine we had to polish a small amount of metal from inside the muzzle brake to fit over the barrel and front sight.

Price: \$18.95 + S&H

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http://search.ebay.com/_W0QQsassZronhart88

The SKS muzzle brake will work on all SKS carbines except for the Yugo 59/66 and variants that have the threaded grenade launcher. I chose a Chinese SKS as my test platform for both the muzzle brake and the bipod. The muzzle brake was a little tight when I first tried to install it. This is a good because it means that you can stone or file away just enough on the inside-rear of the brake to get a



custom fit on your SKS carbine. After I made the adjustment I was able to slide the brake over the muzzle and around the front sight.



It was still a snug fit but the brake could be easily removed if I desired and it would not leave any marks on the muzzle end of the barrel. I then drifted out the pin at the base of the SKS front sight (**figure 2**). This step could be accomplished prior to installing the brake. The brake comes with a longer replacement pin that holds both the front sight as well as the brake in place (**figure 3**). After I tapped in the replacement pin I was finished with the installation of the brake.

Vendor Supplied Bipod Specifications

- Bolt attaches bipod directly to SKS bayonet lug
- Each leg extendable from 9" to 14" in $\frac{3}{4}$ " increments
- Folds forward or under stock for easy carry and storage
- Bipod design allows insertion or removal of cleaning rod
- Quality steel construction - no plastic or alloy parts

Price: \$32.95 + S&H

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The bipod replaces the bayonet and will work on all SKS carbines, including the Yugo 59/66 and variants. I did not have a bayonet already installed on mine. If your SKS has a bayonet installed then remove it first. I slid the bipod between the lugs as shown in **figure 4**. The bipod comes with a longer replacement screw than you removed with the bayonet. This is so you can thread the screw and then there will be a small amount of the screw exposed on the left hand side that you then place a supplied nut on to lock the screw in place.



Using a wrench, I then tightened the nut.

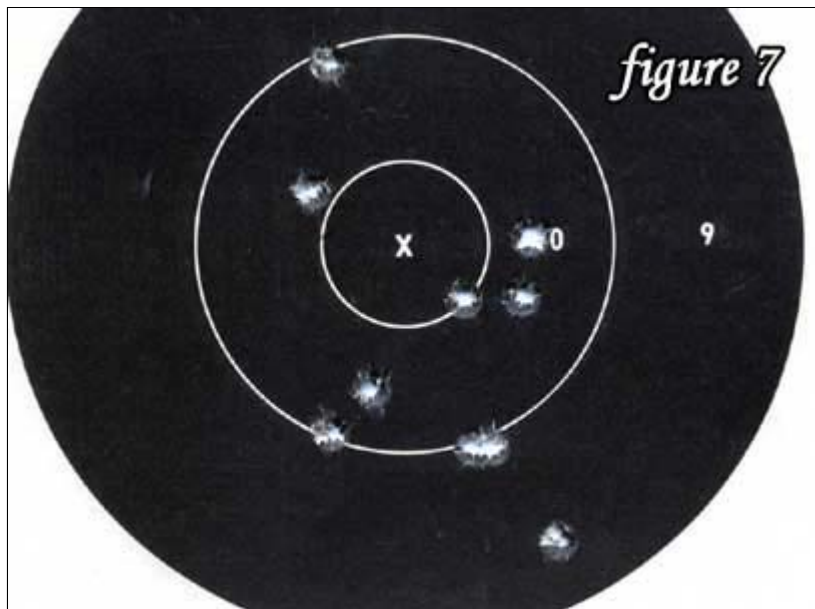


Figure 6 shows the completed installations of both the muzzle brake and the bipod. The brake looks as though it is an original component of the carbine.

The bipod is designed for use while in the prone position (*laying down*). I was lucky as the benches at my range are somewhat deep and allowed for me to shoot while sitting.

Figure 7 represents my average target at fifty yards using Russian made commercial ammo.



I test shot the SKS prior to the installation of the brake to get a feel for muzzle climb. This way I would have a baseline to compare to. After installing the brake I shot again and found that there was not as much muzzle climb. I realize this statement is somewhat subjective because I did not have video cameras set up to capture the muzzle climb before installation and after. Even so the difference to me was noticeable. It is not that the SKS is a "recoil beast" to begin with. I found after installing the brake I could take a shot and then when I was ready to take another shot I found that I my sight picture was closer to my desired point of aim and as a result I was able to reacquire my target quicker. This is what a brake is supposed to do.

The bipod is well made and very adjustable to different heights. When you don't want to use the bipod it folds up nicely under the barrel of the carbine. I have tried several bipods on the SKS and I found I really like this unit. I like the fact that it does not clip around the barrel which can easily mar the finish.

After shooting I removed the bipod because I am more prone (*pun intended*) to shoot offhand while standing or from the bench. When I have a need for the bipod I can quickly add it back on. The muzzle brake I am leaving on permanently. I really like the look of it and it does enhance the performance of the carbine.

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