

7.5×54mm French

7.5×54mm MAS mod. 1929			
			
Type	Rifle		
Place of origin	 France		
Service history			
In service	1929–1980		
Used by	France, Germany, Vietnam		
Wars	World War II, First Indochina War, Algerian War, Suez Crisis, Vietnam War		
Production history			
Designer	MAS		
Designed	1924		
Variants	Balle "C", Balle "D"		
Specifications			
Parent case	7.5×57mm MAS mod. 1924		
Case type	Rimless, bottleneck		
Bullet diameter	7.8 mm (0.31 in)		
Neck diameter	8.6 mm (0.34 in)		
Shoulder diameter	11.2 mm (0.44 in)		
Base diameter	12.2 mm (0.48 in)		
Rim diameter	12.2 mm (0.48 in)		
Rim thickness	1.4 mm (0.055 in)		
Case length	54 mm (2.1 in)		
Overall length	78 mm (3.1 in)		
Rifling twist	250 mm (10 inches)		
Primer type	Large rifle		
Maximum pressure	280 MPa		
Ballistic performance			
Bullet weight/type	Velocity	Energy	
9.0 g (139 gr) Balle "C" FMJ	823 m/s (2,700 ft/s)	3,038 J (2,241 ft·lbf)	
9.7 g (150 gr) SP	850 m/s (2,800 ft/s)	3,550 J (2,620 ft·lbf)	

11.7 g (181 gr) SP	790 m/s (2,600 ft/s)	3,650 J (2,690 ft·lbf)
<i>Test barrel length: 574 mm (22.6 inch)</i>		
<i>Source(s): SurplusRifle.com ^[1]/Cartridges of the World ^[1]</i>		

The **7.5×54mm French MAS** or **7.5 French** cartridge was developed by France as an update to the 7.5×57mm MAS mod. 1924 cartridge. It replaced the obsolete 8 mm Lebel round used during World War I. In terms of power it is somewhat comparable to the 7.62×51mm NATO/.308 Winchester round. The 7.5 French cartridge is somewhat similar to the slightly longer 7.5×55mm Swiss round but users should never try to interchange the two rounds.

History & General Information

By World War I the French Army realized that it needed to update its once revolutionary, but now obsolete, 8 mm Lebel ammunition. Unfortunately due to the demands of mass production of the 8mm Lebel round during World War I it was not able to do so until after the war had ended. In 1924, the 7.5×57mm MAS cartridge was introduced but was soon replaced with the slightly shorter 7.5×54mm MAS. Two main variations were manufactured for military use, the 1924C and 1924D, being light and heavy ball respectively. The French Army chose to adopt the light ball ammunition for service use in the MAS-36 and MAS-49 rifles as well as in the Mle 1924-29 machine rifle. The heavier Balle D was designed for machine gun usage. The military ordered the manufacture of armor piercing, tracers, incendiary, training, and other types of 7.5 mm MAS ammunition. The round is still classified in France as war material. While this ammunition tends to be scarce in the United States and is also corrosive and Berdan-primed, reloadable Boxer-primed cartridge cases can be produced by reforming 6.5×55mm Swedish Mauser brass. More recently, the ammunition manufacturer Prvi Partizan has brought onto the U.S. market a freshly manufactured French MAS 7.5mm ammunition that is non-corrosive.

Weapons chambered for 7.5×54mm MAS

- MAS-36 rifle
- MAS-49 and FSA MAS 49/56 rifles
- FR F1 sniper rifle
- FM 24/29 light machine gun
- Reibel machine gun
- Darne aircraft machine gun
- MAC 1931
- MAC 1934 aircraft machine gun
- FN-Browning mle 38 aircraft machine gun
- AA-52 machine gun

References

[1] Surplusrifle.com (<http://www.surplusrifle.com/mas36/ammunition.asp>)

- " 7.5 Mas Ammo -1 (http://www.gunsworld.com/75/fr_75_1_us.html)" (French)
- " 7.5 Mas Ammo -2 (http://www.gunsworld.com/75/fr_75_2_us.html)" (French)
- " 7.5×54 French MAS Cartridge - French - ALM (<http://members.nuvox.net/~on.melchar/75french/75french.html>)"
- " Le fusil de 7,5 mm modèle MAS 36 (<http://armesfrançaises.free.fr/FR MAS 36.html>)"

Article Sources and Contributors

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