

Taxonomy of small arms and light weapons

A compilation of English, French, and Spanish technical terms for researchers, authors and editors

Small arms	Fra: armes de petit calibre Esp: armas pequeñas		
Handgun	Fra: pistolet Esp: arma corta		
	Pistol	Fra: pistolet automatique Esp: pistola automática	Tokarev TT, Beretta 92
	Revolver	Fra: revolver Esp: revólver	S&W .38, Ruger Redhawk
Long gun	Fra: arme d'épaule Esp: arma larga		
	Shotgun	Fra: fusil de chasse (à canon lisse) Esp: escopeta	
	Pump-action shotgun	Fra: fusil à pompe Esp: escopeta con acción de bombeo	Franchi SPAS-12, Winchester 1897
	Sub-machine gun	Fra: pistolet mitrailleur ⁱ Esp: pistola ametralladora ⁱⁱ	Uzi, H&K MP5
	Rifle	Fra: fusil Esp: fusil	
	Bolt action rifle	Fra: fusil à verrou Esp: fusil de cerrojo	Lee Enfield Mk IV, Mauser 98k
	Semi-automatic rifle	Fra: fusil semi-automatique Esp: fusil semiautomático	L1A1 (SLR), Browning BAR
	Automatic rifle	Fra: fusil automatique Esp: fusil automático	FN FAL, G3
	Assault rifle	Fra: fusil d'assaut Esp: fusil de asalto	M16, AKM
	Carbine	Fra: carabine Esp: carabina	M4, AKS-74U
	Light support weapon ⁱⁱⁱ	Fra: fusil mitrailleur Esp: ametralladora ligera	RPK, L86A1
	Light machine gun	Fra: mitrailleuse légère Esp: ametralladora ligera	RPD, Minimi
	General-purpose machine gun	Fra: mitrailleuse d'appui général Esp: ametralladora de propósitos generales	FN MAG, PK

Light weapons	Fra: armes légères Esp: armas ligeras		
Heavy machine gun	Fra: mitrailleuse lourde Esp: ametralladora pesada		Browning M2, DShK
Grenade launcher	Fra: lance-grenades Esp: lanzagranadas		
	Under-barrel grenade launcher	Fra: lance-grenades amovible Esp: lanzagranadas amovible	M203, GP-30
	Hand-held grenade launcher	Fra: lance-grenades portatif Esp: lanzagranadas portatile	M32, MGL-MK1
	Automatic grenade launcher	Fra: lance-grenades automatique Esp: lanzagranadas automático	AGS 17, Mk 19
Rocket launcher	Fra: lance-roquettes Esp: lanzador de cohetes		
	Anti-tank rocket launcher	Fra: lance-roquettes antichar Esp: lanzacohetes antitanques	RPG-7, LAW
	recoilless rifle	Fra: fusil san recul Esp: fusile sin retroceso	Carl Gustav, M40
Mortar	Fra: mortier Esp: mortero		
Anti-tank guided weapon (ATGW)	Fra: lance-missiles antichar guidé Esp: arma guiada antitanque		Milan, 9K-11
Man-portable air defence system (MANPADS)	Fra: système portatif de défense antiaérienne Esp: sistema portátil de defensa antiaérea		SA-7, Stinger

Ammunition
 Fra: munitions
 Esp: municiones

Small arms cartridges

Cartridge	Fra: cartouche Esp: cartuchos
Cartridge case	Fra: douille de cartouche Esp: vaina de cartucho
Bullet	Fra: balle Esp: bala
Propellant	Fra: propulseur Esp: propulsor
Primer	Fra: amorce Esp: detonador

Light weapons ammunition

Missile	Fra: missile Esp: misile
Rocket	Fra: roquette Esp: cohete
Rocket-propelled grenade	Fra: grenade à tube Esp: granada propulsada por cohete
Rifle grenade	Fra: grenade à fusil Esp: granada de fusil
Warhead	Fra: ogive Esp: ojiva
Armour-piercing	Fra: perforante Esp: perforante
Fragmentation	Fra: fragmentation Esp: fragmentación
High explosive (HE)	Fra: explosif brisant (EB) Esp: alto explosive (AE)
High explosive anti-tank (HEAT)	Fra: explosif brisant antichar Esp: alto explosivo antitanque (AEA)
Mortar bomb	Fra: obus de mortier Esp: obús de mortero

Components

Externals

Magazine	Fra: chargeur Esp: cargador
Barrel	Fra: canon Esp: cañón
Stock	Fra: crosse Esp: culata
Hand guard	Fra: garde-main Esp: guardamanos
Pistol grip	Fra: poignée de pistolet Esp: pistoleta
Receiver	Fra: boîte de culasse Esp: cajón de los mecanismos
Foresight	Fra: guidon Esp: guión
Rear sight	Fra: hausse Esp: alza
Bipod	Fra: bipied Esp: bipode

Internals

Action	Fra: mécanisme Esp: mecanismo
Breach	Fra: culasse Esp: recámara
Firing pin	Fra: percuteur Esp: percutora
Extractor	Fra: extracteur Esp: extractor
Ejector	Fra: éjecteur Esp: botador
Breech block / bolt	Fra: culasse mobile Esp: cierre

ⁱ Authors should use *pistolet mitrailleur* rather than the commonly used *mitraillette*.

ⁱⁱ Authors should use *pistola ametralladora* rather than the commonly used *metralleta*.

ⁱⁱⁱ The distinction between LSWs and light machine guns is often blurred. LSW, as used here, refers only to weapons that are based on assault rifles (i.e. modified for a sustained fire role, with heavy barrel and bipod). These weapons may also be referred to as squad automatic weapons (SAW) or, more commonly, heavy barrelled rifles (HBAR)—Fra: *fusil à canon lourd*; Esp: *fusil de cañón pesado*.