

GRENADE, ROCKET, 73MM, HEAT, PG-15V w/ PIBD FUZE VP-9

1340-BG-9-02-2-10-9



Pictured above is a typical outer pack for the Bulgarian PG-15V. The box design will remain the same but there will be slight variations in color and markings. The 73MM Rocket Grenade is actually a ‘cartridge’ and should not be confused with the “RPG” type munitions. The 73MM cartridge comes in both a HEAT and a HE version and is fired from a smooth bore 73MM gun either mounted on a BMP vehicle or a more portable gun with tripod mount.



Side view of a Bulgarian PG-15V outer pack. Left side indicates the projectile model, lot number, and type of explosive filler. Right side indicates the propelling charge model and lot.

1. Box Design. Boxes encountered have are of a typical Soviet style found with most 73MM cartridges. The presence of top and bottom cleats and latches mark this as originating from a Soviet state. Normally the latches will have a ‘diaper pin’ clip and/or a lead wire seal.

2. Marking Style. In this example as with most Bulgarian boxes, all markings are in English. Marking in English is an indication that this pack was for export and not domestic use. Other boxes will be found with Cyrillic characters and Bulgar language. Bulgarian boxes follow a similar marking layout as found on most Russian boxes. On the front of the box can be found the nomenclature and complete round lot number. Under this or in the lower left corner will be the fuze type and fuze lot number. Box quantity and weight are located center or lower right.



Right side: PG-15P is the standard prop charge found with all 73MM cartridges. The lot number 31-81-B is typical Bulgarian (B indicates country the prop charge was produced – Bulgaria)



Left side: PG-9 refers to the projectile portion of the complete round (PG-15). The lot number here confirms Bulgarian origin as only Bulgaria uses the number inside a double circle.



Front: PG-15V is the complete round model number and includes the projectile, flight motor, fuze, and launch motor. The lot number below is for the complete round.

VP-9 is the standard PIBD fuze used with most 73MM HEAT cartridges. The lot indicates the fuze was manufactured in Bulgaria.

3. Box Color. Often you can determine the country of manufacture by the color of the box. While not universal, this color can be a great aide in narrowing the field of choices. The colors used in Bulgarian PG and OG boxes can be distinguished from other countries of origin with a little practice. Russia uses either a OD green in a slightly greener or with more of a blue shade than those commonly found with Bulgarian packs which are more

'olive' in color. In the five photos below you can see typical PG-9 boxes from various countries of origin. From top to bottom; Poland, Russia, Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, and Romania. Color plays an important role in identification

In addition to color, the actual box design can offer important clues when markings are missing or faded beyond recognition. The physical dimensions are all basically similar but placement of latches and latch design, corner brackets and number of screws, cleat size and position all offer important clues.

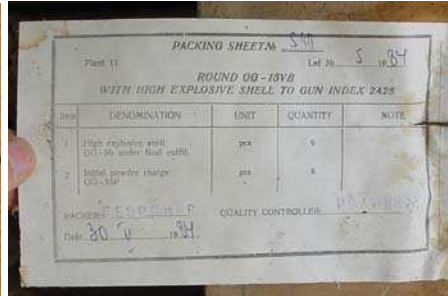




4. Inner Pack. PGs and OGs are all packed alike with six cartridges in individual sealed plastic bags. Six propelling charge assemblies are separately packed in the same box but either in two fiber tubes or two plastic tubes. Bulgarian packs usually use the plastic tubes and if found with fiber containers it may be an indication they have been repacked. There are subtle differences between the boxes above but these are not significant enough to provide a reliable means of identifying the country of origin.



5. Markings and Labels. Markings on inner pack items or labels affixed to the box top bottom can provide valuable clues. Typically, boxes of Soviet origin regardless of country will use a small paper label with product and QC stamps. Often these labels will be in the original language. The information, format, stamps, and language are all key elements that should not be overlooked.



The three photos above show some of the labels found on PG-9 and OG-9 boxes of different countries. Left to right; Czechoslovakia, Poland, and Bulgaria.

6. Paint Color. As with the paint scheme of the boxes, the color of the round can often be an indicator or country of origin. The color differences are markedly different when compared side by side but these differences can be noted and used as an aid.



Top to bottom; Czech PG-15V, Polish PG-15W, Bulgarian PG-15V, and Russian PG-9.

7. Key Words. Sometimes key words are unique to a particular country. This is most often found in the way different countries mark the ‘quantity’ on their packages and labels. In Soviet Russian pack the marking are usually in Cyrillic and so the abbrev. used for quantity will be in Cyrillic – ШТ. The marking looks like the English WT but is the abbv. Штыка (pronounced Shtuka). If in Cyrillic but in the Bulgarian language the abbv. might be “БП “. The table below lists some of the other abbv. for quantity found on outer packs.

PCS	Bulgaria, Romania	ШТ	Russia (cyr), Bulgaria (cyr)
KS	Czechoslovakia	БП	Bulgaria (cyr)
SZT	Poland		



Photos top and bottom show marking detail of the Bulgarian PG-15V 73MM cartridge. Note that this round is marked in Cyrillic rather than English. Both variants can be found.



VP-9 PIBD fuze without shipping cap.