

## FN FAL Heavy Barrel Light Machine Gun

Source of information and writers

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/FN\\_FAL](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/FN_FAL)  
[https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=FN\\_FAL&action=history](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=FN_FAL&action=history)

Place of origin

Belgium

After the 1948 Arab–Israeli War, the Israeli Defense Forces (IDF) had to overcome several logistics problems which were a result of the wide variety of old firearms that were in service, such as the German Mauser Kar 98k and some British Lee–Enfield rifles. In 1955 the IDF adopted the IMI-produced Uzi submachine gun and the FN FAL in order to standardize their infantry armament;<sup>[30]</sup> with the FAL being designated *Rov've Mitta'enn* or *Romat* (רומ"ט),<sup>[30]</sup> abbreviation of "Self-Loading Rifle". The FAL version ordered by the IDF came in two basic variants, both regular and heavy-barrel (squad automatic rifle/ light machine gun), and were chambered in 7.62mm NATO.

*The **Israeli heavy barrel FAL (or FALO)** was designated the Makle'a Kal, or Makleon,<sup>[30]</sup> having a standard handguard improved with a perforated metal sleeve around the heavy barrel, and a wooden handguard with a heat shield.<sup>[31]</sup> The folding bipod being directly attached to the barrel.<sup>[31]</sup> The Israeli Makleon was fed by a 20-round magazine.<sup>[32]</sup>*

Paratroopers fighting on the outskirts of the town of Karameh during Operation Inferno, 21 March 1968. A paratrooper with a Makleon is in position while a rifle-grenadier is to his right.

Analysing the Israeli campaign of 1956 in the Sinai, during the Suez Crisis, Brigadier General SLA Marshall noted of the Makleon:

	<p>By Israeli training practice, when the light machine guns are used as fire base to cover the forward movement of the rest of the section, they should not operate at more than two hundred yards' [183m] maximum range from the target. To cut that distance by half is considered better. In the attack, LMGs are rated as highly expendable items and are shoved far front. When the section rushes the enemy position under cover of the LMG fire, one rifleman stays behind to protect the gunners.<sup>[33]</sup></p> <p>Marshall also notes the advantage of both rifle and LMG ammunition being interchangeable, with the squad carrying sixty 20-round magazines, with 1,200 rounds in total.<sup>[33][34]</sup></p> <p>The Israeli FALs were originally produced as selective-fire rifles, though later light-barrel rifle versions were altered to semi-automatic fire only.<sup>[30]</sup> The first rifles were Belgian-made, with Israel later licence-producing the weapons and its magazines.<sup>[30]</sup> The Israeli models are recognizable by a distinctive handguard with a forward perforated sheet metal section. Israeli-made magazines were made in the same FN standard of steel, finished with durable black enamel paint, and bearing two Hebrew characters stamped into the metal on one side.<sup>[35]</sup></p>
<b>Cartridge</b>	7.62x51mm NATO
<b>Action</b>	Short-stroke gas piston, closed tilting breechblock
<b>Rate of fire</b>	650–700 rounds/min
<b>Effective firing range</b>	600 meters
<b>Feed system</b>	20- or 30-round detachable box magazine. 50-round drum magazines are also available. <sup>[3]</sup>