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# BMP-3

## Russia's latest Infantry Combat Vehicle

**T**HE BMP-3 replaced Russia's earlier infantry combat vehicles, the BMP-1 and BMP-2, although the BMP-2 is still in production in Russia and some other countries, and is in wide use around the world.

India produces the BMP-2 as the Sarath, and has developed several specialised versions, and the vehicle has undergone many upgrades and much modernisation.

The BMP-3 first appeared in public in 1990, although the prototype first entered trials in 1981.

That prototype was later fitted with a new rifled 100mm gun paired with a 30mm autocannon, and capable of firing an anti-tank missile.

This replaced the external missile carried on the BMP-1 and BMP-2.

The vehicle underwent trials in 1986.

Infantry access the vehicle through two sets of rear doors. The section light machine gunners sit on either side of the driver and five riflemen sit in a compartment behind the turret.

As well as the basic BMP-3 there are several specialised versions: the command version, BMP-3K, with extra radio equipment; the Fox (BRM-3 Rys) reconnaissance vehicle which has



This BMP-3 has been fitted with reactive armour. The side boxes have to be large to incorporate added buoyancy in the water.

a different turret and hull, 30mm cannon, an extendable radar mast and sensors; BREM-L Beglianka armoured recovery vehicle; two tank destroyer versions, Kornet and Krizantema (neither currently in use) with a twin-round launcher which can be retracted into the hull for reloading; and Vena, a 120mm self-propelled mortar.

After a slow start, Russia has 700 BMP-3, but probably far fewer in service.

It has been exported to: Azerbaijan, Cyprus, Kuwait, South Korea, Ukraine and United Arab Emirates.

Export versions are equipped with the French ATHOS periscopic thermal imager on the left turret rear.

There is also now a version for Marines, the BMP-3F, with better handling in the sea.

## SPECIFICATIONS

**Designation:** BMP3 Infantry Combat Vehicle

**Length:** 7.2m

**Height:** 2.3m

**Width:** 3.15m

**Ground clearance:** 0.5m

**Ground pressure:** 0.6kg/cm<sup>2</sup>

**Combat weight:** 18.7mt

**Crew:** 3 (turret crew 2)

**Infantry section:** 7

**Engine:** UTD-29MV-10 diesel engine.

**Gearbox:** Hydromechanic with 4 forward and 2 reverse gears

**Road range:** 600km

**Max road speed:** 70km/h

**Water propulsion:** hydrojet

**Max water speed:** 10km/h

**Armament:**

100mm 2A70 auto-loading rifled low pressure gun also capable of firing 9M117 laser-beam riding anti-tank missile (NATO designation AT-10 STABBER) which has a range of 4km

**Rate of fire:** 10 rounds/minute

**Secondary weapon:** 30mm 2A72 autocannon.

**Auxiliary weapons:**

Co-axial and two forward hull PKT 7.62mm machine guns

**Ammunition:** Main gun 40 (32 HE and 8 missiles); autocannon 400 (305 HE and 195 AP); machine guns 6,000

**Smoke mortars:** Tucha type 902V

**Protection:** Laminate/steel armour.

Turret 26mm, hull armour 19mm.

Export examples have been shown fitted with reactive armour and the Arena Active Defence System to defeat anti-tank missiles.

## PRODUCTION

**1987**

Soviet Army accepted modified Obiekt 688 for service as the BMP-3

**1990**

First BMP-3s entered service

**1992**

First export deliveries to United Arab Emirates

**1998**

BMP-3M produced with improved fire control system and uprated engine.



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