

Type: Vehicle, Reconnaissance Nomenclature: **BRDM-1**
 Country: Russia Date of Introduction: 1958

Physical Data:
Weight empty 11600 lb (5266 kg)
Weight loaded 12346 lb (5605 kg)
Length (OA) 220.5 in (5600 mm)
Width (OA) 88.5 in (2250 mm)
Height (OA) 74.8 in (1900 mm)
Ground clr 12.4 in (315 mm)
Wheel base 110 in (2800 mm)
Wheel tread 65.3 in (1660 mm)
Drive 4x4 plus 4x4 aux
Armor .16 to .39 in
 (4 to 10 mm)
NBC protection Overpressure

Armament:
Main – Cal (1) 7.62mm PKT
Elev & traverse Manual
Fire control Optical
Aux wpons Crew side arms

Capacity:
Fuel Gasoline
Ammo/Qty 1250 rds 7.62mm
Crew/Pass 2/3
Cargo Vol/Wgt 800 lb (363 kg)

Engine:
Type Gasoline
HP at Rev/Min 90 hp (66.4 kW)
 @ 3400 rpm
Model GAZ
Mfr State Factory
No. of Cyls 6
Location Front
Cooling Liquid

Transmission:
Type Manual
Gear Fwd/Rev 4/1 w/2-spd transfer
Model GAZ
Mfr State Factory

Suspension System:
Type Leaf spring
Steering Front axle
Turning radius unk
No/wheels 4+4
Tire Size 12.00x18

General Data:
Elec voltage 12V
Radio As fitted by user

Night Vision: as fitted by user

Performance:
Speed/Land 50 mph (80 km/h)
Speed/Water 5.5 mph (9 km/h)
Range 310 mi (500 km)
Fording depth Amphibious
Max grade 52.4 %
Trench 48 in (1220 mm)
Step 15.8 in (400 mm)



Above: (Top) East Germany (DDR) BRDM-1 M1959 with a single pintle mount light machine gun. (Bottom) An early Soviet Army BRDM-1U M1958 Command Vehicle.

Remarks: One of the most common of the Soviet Bloc reconnaissance vehicles from 1960 to the mid-1970s, the BRDM (or Bronevaya Razvedyvatelnaya Dosornaya Maschina [Armored Reconnaissance Duty Machine]) variants of the vehicle lasted in service for over 20 years. A redesign of the BTR-40 Scout Car, the BRDM was at first designated as the BTR-40P which was gradually replaced in Soviet usage by BRDM. The -1 portion of the designator wasn't added until the introduction of the rear engine BRDM-2. Both vehicles were in-service as the -1 was gradually retired.

Over 10,000 BRDM-1 were completed with approximately 1500 being exported to Soviet Bloc and friendly nations. Variations of the BRDM-1 include: BRDM-1 M1957 (initial open top version), BRDM-1 M1958 (first series production version and fitted with armored top), BRDM-1 M1959 (armored top and single weapon mount at the front), BRDM-1 M1960 (armored top with front and side weapon mounts), BRDM-1U (C and C variant with extra radios), BRDM-1 Rkh (NBC Recce vehicle), 9P27 (BRDM-1 with Snapper ATGM also know as the 2P27), 9P32 (BRDM-1 with Swatter ATGM also known as the 2P32) and 9P110 (BRDM-1 with Sagger ATGM). Since most of the BRDM-1s were refitted during their life cycle, it can be difficult to establish just which variant is pictured.

Usage: Soviet Union, Albania, Algeria, Angola, Bulgaria, Cuba, Czechoslovakia, East Germany, Guinea, Mozambique, Poland and Romania.

Manufacturer: GAZ, Soviet State Factories, USSR.

Wheeled Fighting Vehicle Data Sheets © David R. Haugh, 2002

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