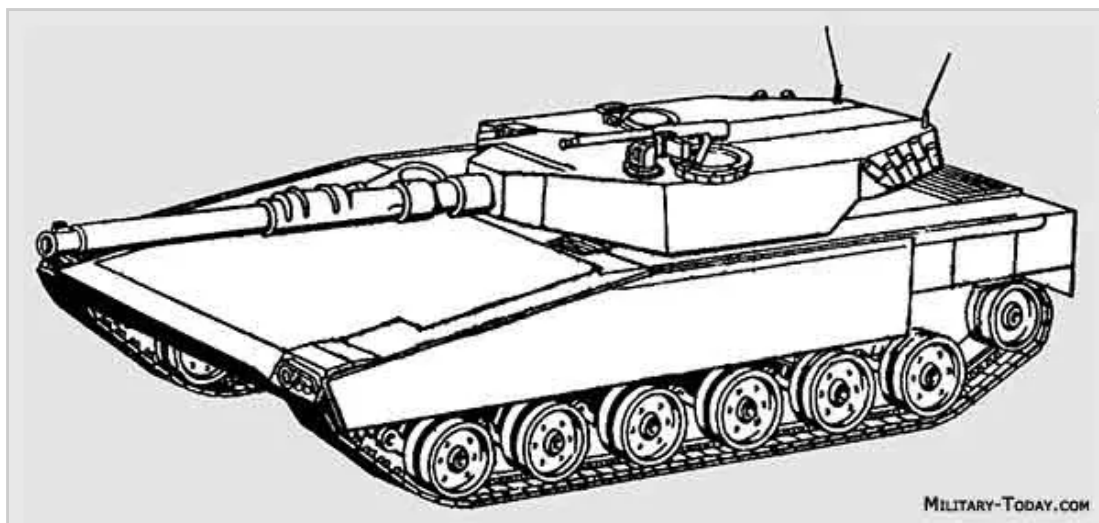


[Home](#) > [Tanks](#) > NKPz

NKPz

Prototype main battle tank




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The **NKPz** main battle tank design was scrapped in favor to inferior, but cheaper German Leopard 2

Country of origin	Switzerland
Entered service	-
Crew	3 men
Dimensions and weight	
Weight	50 t
Length (gun forward)	8.5 m
Hull length	?
Width	3.63 m
Height	2.57 m
Armament	
Main gun	120 mm smoothbore
Machine guns	2 x 7.5 mm
Elevation range	?
Traverse range	360 degrees
Ammunition load	
Main gun	44 rounds
Machine guns	5 000 x 7.5 mm rounds
Mobility	
Engine	Sauer diesel engine
Engine power	1 400 hp
Maximum road speed	60 - 70 km/h
Range	500 km
Maneuverability	
Gradient	60%
Side slope	30%
Vertical step	~ 1 m
Trench	~ 2.5 m
Fording	1.4 m

The NKPz or Neuer Kampfpanzer was developed by Contraves in the mid 1970s to meet a Swiss Army requirement for a new main battle tank. The new MBT was intended to replace an ageing fleet of 320 Centurions, used by the Swiss Army.



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The NKPz was a very advanced MBT design at that time. However in the early 1980s Swiss government decided to build German [Leopard 2](#) main battle tanks under license. These tanks were 15-30% cheaper comparing with the NKPz, but also inferior in many respects.

Layout of the NKPz was similar to Israeli [Merkava](#). This main battle tank had a wedge-shaped hull and a front-mounted engine for better protection. The rear part of the hull was intended for ammunition storage. An NBC protection system was planned to be fitted as standard.

Vehicle was armed with Rheinmetall 120 mm smoothbore gun, fitted with an autoloader. The same gun was used on the Leopard 2. The NKPz was equipped with a very advanced fire control system. The NKPz carried 44 rounds for the main gun, stored in a compartment, that was separated from the crew.

Secondary armament consisted of two 7.5 mm machine guns. One of them was coaxially mounted with the main gun, while the other was placed on top of the roof.

Vehicle had a crew of three, including commander, gunner and driver.

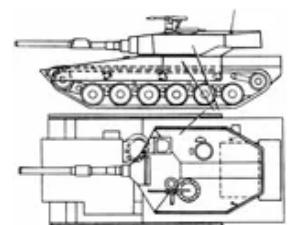
The tank was powered by an Austrian Sauer 12-cylinder diesel engine, developing 1 400 hp. It also had auxiliary power unit - a Volkswagen Golf diesel engine. This auxiliary power unit was intended to power all systems when the main engine was turned off. The NKPz had a hydropneumatic suspension with adjustable ground clearance.

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