

PRODUCT REVIEW

HENRY BIG BOY X

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AUGUST 2020

LEVER ACTION RIFLE (.357 MAGNUM)



The Henry Big Boy X (c. 2019) is an improved version of the earlier Big Boy, notably the addition of loading gate on the receiver in keeping with most other lever action rifles to speed up reloading (a feature that was first used on the Winchester 1873).

A lever action rifle like the .357 Magnum chambered firearm (seven round magazine) from Henry Repeating Arms is a viable alternative to a self-loading long arm in jurisdictions where the later have been banned and you want something more robust than a revolving chamber long arm like the lighter Rossi Circuit Judge (5.3 lbs) or better suited to hunting, as it does not have a barrel/cylinder gap that revolvers do which reduce bullet velocity due to gas leakage from that area of the firearm.

They are also easier to carry one handed than the Circuit Judge and most other types of long arms as your hand can easily wrap around the receiver, so long as an optical sight is not mounted on top (the beauty of such rifles is their easy to carry nature).

Lever action rifles are very popular with horse riders as they are ideally suited to

storage in scabbards due to their flat sides, which make it easier to get them in and out of the scabbard.

It also has a threaded barrel to allow one to fit a muzzle device like a sound suppressor or flash hider.

It does not have a cross bolt safety like contemporary Marlin lever actions do, or a tang safety as do contemporary Winchester lever actions do, but that is a good thing as they are an infantilizing attempt to "lawyer proof" them, and are akin to putting a safety catch on a revolver that does little other than complicate their operation.

The Henry is superior to Marlin and Winchester rifles as the magazine can be unloaded without having to cycle rounds through the

action (which is dangerous and can damage the bullets).

The .357 Magnum round is superb for defensive use against human attackers and predators like wolves with readily obtainable 125 grain JHP loads (heavier bullets will have too much penetration).

The recoil is mild in this 7 lb rifle so there's no need to use less powerful .38 Special rounds as one would in a light handgun like the Ruger LCR.

We recommend the 125 grain JHP loads from Federal and Remington, which have the best one-shot stopping record in police service.

This round is also good for hunting medium sized game like deer when used in rifles like this with loads that use 180 grain bullets (best used within 100 yards).

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

A popular sporting arm that is a viable alternative to self-loading long arms for defensive use.

ACCESSORIES

Log Book

Firearm Usage & Maintenance Log Book.
[Blackheart International]

Field Bore Brush

Hoppe's BoreSnake.
[Hoppe's]

Cleaner/Lubricant

Slip 2000 725/Slip 2000 EWL.
[Slip 2000]

Dry Fire Rounds

A-Zoom Snap Caps.
[Lyman Products Corp.]

Ear Plugs

EarPro EP3 or EP4 Sonic Defenders.
[SureFire]

Tactical Light

TLR-7 Gun Light.
[Streamlight]



HOT TIP

Work the lever vigorously to prevent 'short stroking' and ensure reliable functioning.