

# BIG BOY X MODEL



**HENRY** COMBINES MODERN PERFORMANCE WITH A CLASSIC LEVER-ACTION PEDIGREE BY LINAS CERNAUSKAS • ANDY GROSSMAN PHOTOS

Let's hand it to the folks at Henry. They saw a void in the market and they filled it. There have been some modernized lever actions before, but none that have created the buzz that the new Big Boy X Model has. Henry has definitely pushed the boundaries of what a lever action can be. The X Models are perfect to pull double duty as hunting rifles and home/truck defense rifles.

As I am coming to find out, there are advantages to using a lever rifle as a home-defense rifle. The most obvious one is that it can easily be used in most restricted states and it won't scare off some folks new to guns. My wife has really taken to the X Model because of its simplicity. Fact is, she doesn't feel as intimidated with it as she does with AR-platform guns.

► **MEET THE NEW BIG BOY**  
The Big Boy X Model is Henry's first lever-action rifle with a synthetic stock and forend. It still holds the

familiar Henry lines and feels solid as can be. The stock features integrated mounting points for a sling, a rubber recoil pad, a short Picatinny rail on the front bottom and two M-Lok slots on the front side.

The 17.4-inch rounded barrel features another Henry first as well. The muzzle end is threaded (5/8x24 thread pitch) and capped off with a thread protector. If you have a suppressor on the Henry you can load it via the side gate instead of the typical Henry tube loading system.

The standard sights are a green



# Feeding Your HENRY BIG BOY X MODEL

fiber-optic front and fully adjustable red fiber-optic rear. They are quick to pick up and offer an excellent sight picture. Still, the rifle is drilled and tapped for those who want to add some scope base options. Henry sent me its Receiver Mount Picatinny Scope Base so that I could run the rifle with a Trijicon RMR.

The steel barrel and receiver are blued, while the synthetic stock is in black. Overall, this 7.3-pound rifle is well put together and has great aesthetics. During our first range session, photographer Andy Grossman called it a TCG—tactical cowboy gun. Fitting, indeed!

The X Model is available in .45 Colt, .357 Mag/.38 Special and .44 Mag/.44 Special. I opted for the .44 Mag variant for its power and controllability. Also, it helps that with the .44 Mag you can take down hogs and other four-legged pests with ease.

## ► SIGHT & LIGHT MODS

A Trijicon RMR Type 2 red-dot sight was mounted to the Henry. It proved to be super-quick to get on target and transi-

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### .44 MAGNUM <<<

#### FEDERAL AMERICAN EAGLE

**Weight:** 240-grain • **Bullet:** JHP

**Best For:** Target

**Notes:** Excellent round, performed very consistently ([federalpremium.com](http://federalpremium.com))



#### HORNADY LEVEREVOLUTION

**Weight:** 225-Grain • **Bullet:** FTX

**Best For:** Lever-action rifles

**Notes:** Was the most accurate round with a 1.5-inch group ([hornady.com](http://hornady.com))



#### HSM BEAR LOAD

**Weight:** 305-Grain • **Bullet:** WFN

**Best For:** Hunting

**Notes:** Was the hardest kicking round, but it wasn't unpleasant ([hsmammunition.com](http://hsmammunition.com))



#### SIG SAUER ELITE PERFORMANCE

**Weight:** 240-Grain • **Bullet:** V-Crown JHP

**Best For:** Personal-defense, hunting

**Notes:** Great round and was second for accuracy ([sigsauer.com](http://sigsauer.com))



### .44 SPECIAL <<<

#### HORNADY CRITICAL DEFENSE

**Weight:** 165-Grain • **Bullet:** FTX

**Best For:** Self-defense

**Notes:** This was the softest shooting load out of the bunch ([hornady.com](http://hornady.com))



#### HSM COWBOY ACTION

**Weight:** 240-Grain • **Bullet:** SWC

**Best For:** Cowboy Action, target

**Notes:** These were a hoot to shoot, target-to-target transitions were quick ([hsmammunition.com](http://hsmammunition.com))



#### SIG SAUER ELITE PERFORMANCE

**Weight:** 200-Grain • **Bullet:** V-Crown JHP

**Best For:** Self-defense

**Notes:** Comfortable for all-day shooting ([sigsauer.com](http://sigsauer.com))



The X Model's rail system allows the user to attach a light—in this case, a SureFire M600F LED Scout Light—to make the rifle a better tool for home-defense use.



### FOR MORE INFORMATION

Henry Repeating Rifles  
[henryusa.com](http://henryusa.com)

SureFire  
[surefire.com](http://surefire.com)

Trijicon  
[trijicon.com](http://trijicon.com)





tion from target to target. The LED RMR automatically adjusts the reticle to light conditions. If that isn't your cup of tactical tea, it also has eight adjustable brightness settings. It is powered by a CR2032 battery that will last two years of typical use.

Any defensive firearm will need a light, and for this lever I added SureFire's M600F dual-fuel LED Scout Light. I live in a rural area and at night, without any moonlight, it sure gets dark here. Target identification is a must, and this Scout Light can light up an area with 1,500 lumens with its rechargeable battery. With two 123A batteries, you get 1,200

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lumens. With both types of batteries, you get a runtime of 1.5 hours.

► **SHOOTING IMPRESSIONS**

The X Model was put through its paces and it did not disappoint. Seven loads were tried, and I found that with some magnum loads you had to download the Henry by one, otherwise it would hang up the feeding. This wasn't a concern

with any of the Special loads. It liked the Hornady LEVERevolution 225-grain FTX .44 Mag, which produced a nice 1.5-inch group at 50 yards. My wife really enjoyed shoot-

ing the light-recoiling Hornady Critical Defense 165-grain FTX .44 Special.

I found that the more I shot the Henry the better and crisper the trigger behaved. Similarly, the lever became even smoother to work. The X Model has all the attributes that I would expect from Henry. It's a reliable, accurate, and robust rifle that's getting added to our home-stead defense line-up. **PDW**

■ **SPECIFICATIONS**

**HENRY BIG BOY X MODEL**

**CALIBER:** .357 Mag/.38 Spl, .45 Colt, .44 Mag/.44 Spl / **BARREL:** 17.4 inches

**OA LENGTH:** 36.3 inches / **WEIGHT:** 7.3 pounds (empty) / **GRIP:** Black synthetic

**SIGHTS:** Front fiber-optic, rear fully adjustable fiber-optic

**ACTION:** Lever / **FINISH:** Blued steel / **CAPACITY:** 7+1 / **MSRP:** \$970

