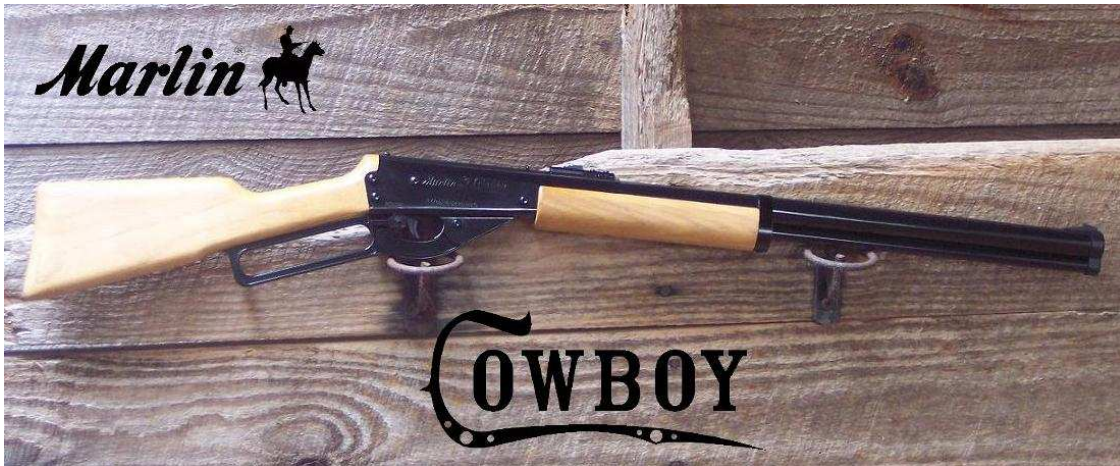


Marlin Cowboy BB Gun Review

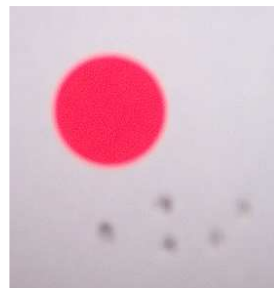
By Tim and Sue Smith



On January 16th 2010 Crosman Corporation introduced the new Marlin lever action BB spring gun in time for Marlin's 140th anniversary. The Marlin Cowboy BB gun was unveiled at the SHOT Show 2010. The retail availability date was set for March 2010. The BB gun was available in early September 2010.



The Marlin Cowboy BB gun is made in China and is made mostly of wood and metal. It weighs 2lbs 10oz empty. The overall length is 35-1/2 inches. It does come in a nice cardboard box printed in two languages. The instructions come in multiple languages



Accuracy indoors was a 1 3/8" group of five shots at fifteen feet. This test was done with my tired old eyes, so younger shooter maybe able to get a smaller grouping. This group was shot with gun at the factory settings and we had not sighted it in yet. Other than shooting a little low, it seems like a nice group for a BB gun.

The cocking lever is all metal. It is styled like an original Marlin 1897. I appreciate the fact that is all metal, the one thing that I do worry about with the Daisy Red Rider's is accidentally cocking the lever too far and snapping it since it is made out of plastic. I do find that right out of the box the cocking lever is very stiff. The metal finish is really nice. It has a deep black, even finish with no nicks, scratches or dents. The roll stamped name is not an even depth though.



The Marlin Cowboy BB gun as advertised in the Crosman 2010 catalog.



Our stock has a lighter finish than pictured on the box or in the catalog. The gun has a couple small scratches and marks on the stock. It is also finished in a satin sheen instead of the gloss shown on the box. The forearm is notched for the barrel band. The stock styled like Marlin 1897 and has a straight grip. Since the stock is sized for children, it measures only 10-1/2 inches long by 7/8 inches wide. Ben(9 yrs old) finds the shape of the butt resting against his shoulder, a little slippery. I have to agree, the lack of a butt plate and the angle of the butt does not hold to the shoulder tightly.



The trigger area opening is 3/4 inch high and wide, so an adult finger doesn't fit too well. That's not to say that an adult can not shoot the gun. I am able to fit my trigger finger on the trigger. The lever opening is very large. The feel of the gun is that it is made for an adult to cock and a child to shoot. The trigger pull is very light and smooth. Ben's opinion is that for some reason the rub on the trigger makes his finger hurt.



The only plastic parts we could find were the trigger, safety, the rear ramp for the sight, the front sight on the muzzle. The front sight is a blade type, not the fiber optic sight advertised in the catalog. However the Crosman press announcement back in January said "front blade type", so something changed along the way during the design.



The Marlin Cowboy features a stamped, all-metal receiver and a finely finished hardwood stock and forearm. The BB rifle comes with a front blade, fiber-optic sight and an adjustable, notched rear sight. The reservoir holds up to 700 BBs, allowing for more shooting and less time re-loading. The Marlin Cowboy features maximum velocities of up to 325 fps, ideal for plinking and target shooting.
MODEL LAM350

With Daisy BBs velocity was an average of 268 fps and Copperhead BBs were an average of 278 fps with the Marlin right out of the box. The BBs load in the front of the airgun. I did not however verify that the BB gun holds 700 BBs. I'll take Crosman's word on that. Ben feels the gun has lots of power.



Overall, for a BB gun that retails for \$45, it's a very nice airgun. What I like about it is that the airgun is made from wood and metal with very little plastic. The style is quite nice. And even the blonde stock is starting to grow on me with contrast of black metal and light colored wood. Ben's opinion: It feels very similar to the Red Ryder. Which is probably what Crosman was going for when designing the Marlin Cowboy BB gun.

