

MARLIN XL7 WALNUT 30-06 SPRINGFIELD, \$506

GUN TESTS GRADE: C-

The Marlin suffered in comparison to the Savage, which outshot it handily and had a much better set of creature comforts.



SPECIFICATIONS

OVERALL LENGTH 42.5 IN.
BARREL LENGTH..... 22.0 IN., 1:10 RH TWIST
SIGHTS NONE, DRILLED AND TAPPED FOR SCOPE MOUNTS.
LOP 13.5 IN.

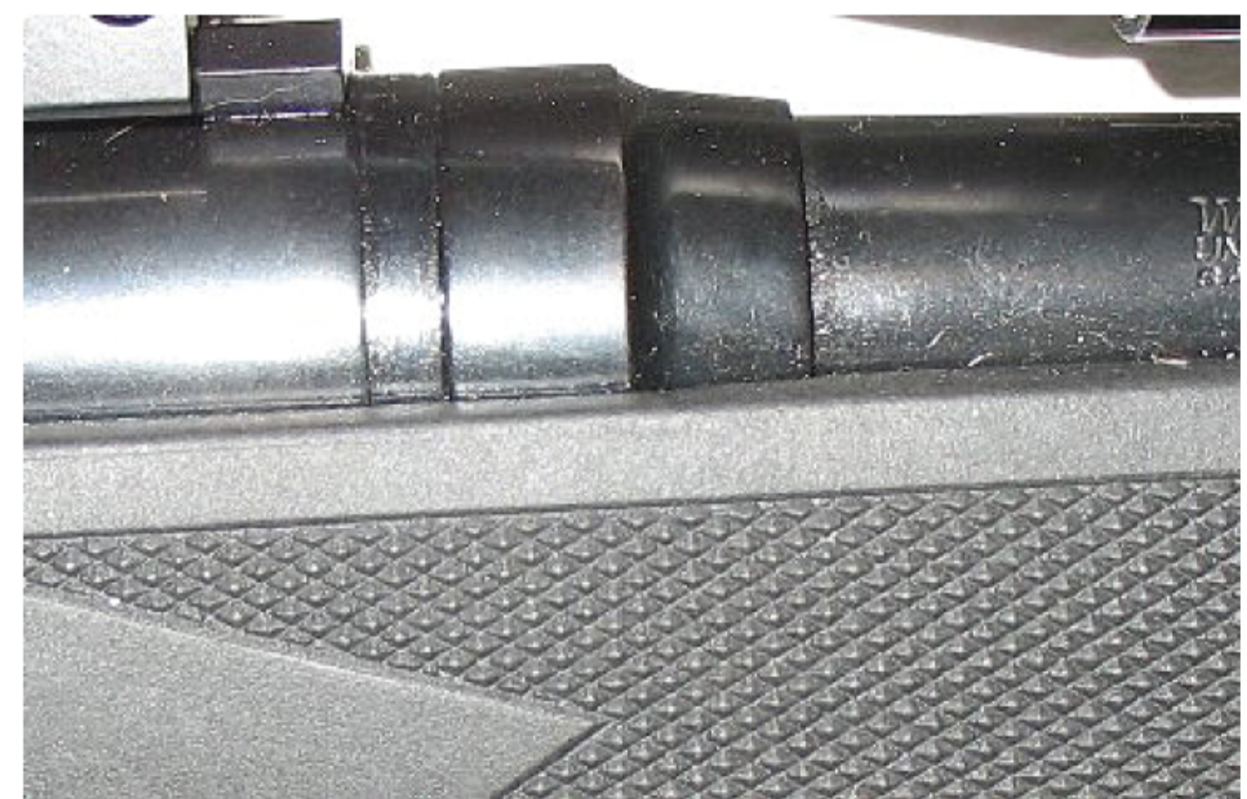
WEIGHT UNLOADED (W/O SCOPE) 6.5 LBS.
WEIGHT UNLOADED (W SCOPE) 8.9 LBS.
CAPACITY 4+1
ACTION FINISH BLUED
ACTION TYPE PUSH-FEED
BARREL FINISH BLUED

MAGAZINE TYPE INTEGRAL BOX
STOCK AMERICAN WALNUT
TRIGGER PULL WEIGHT (ADJUSTABLE) 3.5 LBS.
WARRANTY 5-YEAR LIMITED
TELEPHONE (203) 239-5621
WEBSITE WWW.MARLINFIREARMS.COM

This close-up of the Marlin, with its safety fully on, shows the bolt unlocked nevertheless. It also displays the Marlin's plastic trigger guard and smallish, dull bolt handle that appears rough and unpolished compared to the Savage. The Marlin's Pro-Fire trigger may look like an Accu-Trigger, but it works more like a Glock. It was a good hunting trigger, our team said.



Top, Marlin's version of the "barrel nut" as established by the Savage action was unsightly, with grooves and exposed "teeth." The new Savage barrel nut is easy on the eyes; it is smooth with no exposed serrations or machined grooves.



We compared the Marlin's Soft-Touch recoil pad on the left to the Savage's P.A.D. recoil pad by alternating rifles between shots using the same ammo. Though the Marlin pad is more effective than rubber buttplates and most generic pads, the Savage P.A.D recoil pad on the right was better, our shooters unanimously found.



The Marlin is pillar-bedded, but the XL7's barrel had heavy contact with the wood on the left side. The satin-finish walnut stock was fairly plain, we thought. At the range, we noticed that the Marlin XL7's ejection was weak compared to the Savage.

