

COLT COWBOY

Price.....\$599



Our recommendation: The Colt Cowboy offers lots of gun at an affordable price.

SPECIFICATIONS

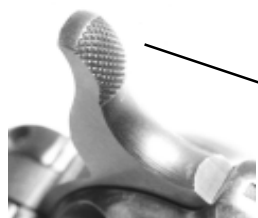
Warranty: One Year

FINISH	Blue/Case Colored	SIGHT RADIUS	6.5 in.
WEIGHT	37 oz.	CAPACITY	6
OVERALL LENGTH	10.9 in.	GRIP MATERIAL	BLACK PLASTIC
OVERALL HEIGHT	5.1 in.	ACTION TYPE	Single
MAXIMUM WIDTH	1.7 in.	TRIGGER PULL	6.0 lbs.
BARREL LENGTH	5.5 in.	TRIGGER REACH	3.1 in.

The Colt Cowboy with a 5.5-inch barrel is a relatively new offering by Colt's aimed at the Cowboy Action market. Based on our testing, it ought to fill a lot of holsters.

Can you tell which is the Colt Cowboy and which is the 2nd Generation SA? The Cowboy is at the top. Note the position of the trigger within the guard, one of the potential problems with this gun's acceptance.

With the hammers cocked, the Cowboy (left) shows the cutout for the transfer bar system. The old Colt hammer style (right) has the firing pin affixed to it, so you can't safely load six rounds.



A nicely checkered hammer lets the shootist cock the Colt Cowboy easily. The rear sight notch is a square milled slot in the top of the frame. This gun shot where it looked.

cocked, and the timing was near-perfect. If you cocked it very slowly with drag on the cylinder, it was just possible to prevent the bolt from dropping into place. Though many make a big deal out of this, in practice it isn't a problem. The mass of the loaded cylinder spins the cylinder into lock when the gun is handled normally. What is important is that the cylinder be held immobile while the hammer falls, and the Cowboy was extremely good in this respect.

One odd thing we found on our sample was that every single screw on the Colt Cowboy, right out of the box, was slightly loose. The only other potential problem we could see is that with the hammer in the loading/unloading position, the trigger is held farther forward than the ordinary Colt SA trigger. If you're in a hurry to get reloaded, or if you have thick fingers, that might slow you up a trifle. Otherwise, the checkering on the hammer made it very easy to cock.

Comparing the Cowboy's cosmetics to a 2nd Generation Colt's, we found a slight difference in the hammer shape, and that's about all. As you cock the hammers, you hear a big difference. You get only three clicks as you cock the Cowboy's hammer, but that's because you don't get—or need—the safety position, which is the first click of the original SA Colt. The transfer bar permits you to carry all six chambers loaded. If you drop the gun on a rock, or vice versa, the gun can't fire.

The cylinder outlets of the Colt Cowboy measured 0.458 to 0.461 inch. The Cowboy's groove diameter measured 0.452 inch. This combination of loose cylinder outlets and tight bore made us think the gun wouldn't shoot worth a darn. We were proved wrong, at least with two of the test loads. The Colt hated the Remington load that the other two guns thrived on, but put the Black Hills and our hand-load into groups than rivaled those of the super-tight, ultra-precise

