

Bow Report

By Bill Krenz

Parker Legend XP

There is a time for the fastest bow possible. But with an aching shoulder, I was sure that a cold November day in Illinois was not it.

The day before, I had been perched in a favorite treestand when the big buck I was hunting had come down the ridge behind me. He wasn't supposed to come through all that tangle, but he did. He paused in the brush. I drew and held. And held and held.

Eventually he turned and left, and I tried to let the bow down slowly. It had been raining lightly since dawn and a stiff November breeze was blowing. I was cold and wet, and I was twisted around in an awkward position. The bowstring eased forward just a fraction of an inch, but then jerked brutally ahead as the bow's radical cams came around. My bow was a real flame thrower, nearly 300-feet-per-second fast, but that speed came at the expense of a harsh draw and a harsher-yet letdown.

Twisted and cold in that tree, I couldn't stop it. As the bow jerked forward, I felt something tear in my left shoulder.

For the rest of that hunt, I ate Advil like popcorn to manage the pain and hoped I'd be able to draw that bow just once more, should my buck reappear. He never did, which was probably fortunate for my bow-arm shoulder.

Over the next month, as my shoulder slowly healed, I swore that I'd never again hunt out of a treestand with a bow that drew that harshly. Damn the speed. I'd use a bow that could be drawn and let down easily in any position and any weather.

In the last decade, Parker Compound Bows has carved out an enviable reputation for designing and producing especially dependable hunting bows, packed end-to-end with value and the sort of shooting characteristics that bowhunters crave. One such

characteristic is a smooth draw.

In 2003, Parker bucked the trend of harsh-drawing bows by introducing the Parker EZ-Draw 33. Parker was decidedly ahead of the curve on that, and a steady stream of EZ-Draw bows have been solid sellers for Parker ever since.

For 2007, Parker offers another new ultra-smooth wonder called the Parker Legend XP. The Legend XP features Parker's unique EZ One-Cam System and an extremely parallel limb configuration, among other notable features.

This is a bow that's compact, forgiving and, best of all, wonderfully comfortable to draw and let down. That big, roundish drive cam is so smooth that this bows feels at least ten pounds lighter in draw weight than it actually is. My 70-pound Legend XP feels like it pulled barely 60 pounds.

The next time I'm in a tree with a big buck behind me, this is the type of bow I'd like to be gripping.

Features and Benefits

SMOOTH EZ CAM DRAW SYSTEM

A silky smooth draw and letdown can be a magnificent thing. It's easy to wonder why you would settle for anything else, especially when hunting out of the cramped confines of a treestand or ground blind. The new Parker Legend XP is silky smooth, so much so that it feels genuinely lighter than it actually is. And with today's light, tough carbon arrows, arrow speed is not nearly as elusive as it once was (see the accompanying Shooting Results chart). Interchangeable modules make this cam easily draw-length adjustable, and a bow that fits better, shoots better. The new super-smooth Parker Legend XP can pinpoint the right spot on any buck, bear or bull, and drive an arrow right through him.



The limb configuration on the new Legend XP is the most parallel that Parker has ever offered. That configuration reduces both shot vibration and noise.



Designed right into the Legend XP's lower cam is an ultra-EZ-drawing nature. Machined into that cam is a reminder.



Specifications

Parker Legend XP

Axle-to-Axle Length	30.5 inches
Brace Height	8 inches
Riser Geometry	3.4 inches reflex
Mass Weight	3.5 pounds
Letoff	80%
Draw Lengths	26 to 31 inches
Draw Weights	60#, 70#
Finish	Mossy Oak Camo

Circle #130, log onto www.parkerbows.com or call Parker Compound Bows at (540) 337-5426 for more information.

Shooting Results

Parker Legend XP set at 29 inches (by factory) and adjusted to 70 pounds

28-inch Arrows	Point Weight	Total Weight	Grains/Pound	Kinetic Energy	Arrow Speed
Easton XX78 Alloy 2512	100	448 gr.	6.4	61.2	248 fps
Easton Full Metal Jacket 400	100	425 gr.	6.1	60.9	254 fps
Beman Black Max 400	100	417 gr.	6.0	60.7	256 fps
Carbon Tech Whitetail 65/80	100	411 gr.	5.9	60.7	258 fps
Gold Tip XT Hunter 400	100	385 gr.	5.5	60.5	266 fps
Carbon Express Maxima 350	100	380 gr.	5.4	60.6	268 fps
PSE Radial X Weave Hunter 300	100	378 gr.	5.4	60.3	268 fps
Easton LightSpeed 400	100	365 gr.	5.2	60.0	272 fps
Gold Tip Ultralight Pro 400	100	360 gr.	5.1	60.0	274 fps
Carbon Tech Cheetah 400	100	348 gr.	5.0	59.7	278 fps
High Country Speed Pro Max	100	305 gr.	4.4	59.4	296 fps

All bows weighed with an Easton Bow Force Mapper and all tests conducted with a Spot-Hogg Hooter Shooter Portable Shooting Machine and an Easton Technical Products Chronograph.



Rounding out the brand-new Parker Legend XP is a hardwood grip that shoots great and looks even better.

FORGIVING 8-INCH BRACE HEIGHT

That innate ability to deliver stellar accuracy is primarily the result of the Legend XP's ultra-forgiving 8-inch brace height. That higher brace height means that the arrow leaves the bowstring sooner, before it can be adversely effected by shooter error, such as grip torque.

COMPACT 30.5-INCH BOW LENGTH

Bowhunters love shorter, more compact hunting bows, and the new Parker Legend XP measures just 30.5 inches from one axle to the other. That makes the Legend XP a nifty hunting package on any ridge or mountain.

XTREME PARALLEL LIMB TECHNOLOGY

The "XP" in Legend XP stands for Xtreme Parallel Limb Technology. The limb configuration on the new Legend XP is the most parallel that Parker has ever offered. What parallel limbs do is significantly reduce shot noise and vibration. Unlike upright bow limbs, which rebound forward together to magnify bow recoil, parallel limbs act independently. At the shot, the upper parallel limb rebounds upward, while the lower parallel limb rebounds essentially downward. Those two equal but opposite reactions tend to cancel each other out. That helps mitigate shot noise and shock.

LIGHT 3.5 POUNDS

The brand-new Parker Legend XP is not only easier on your drawing and letting-down muscles, it's also easier on all those muscles you use to carry a bow. My sample Legend XP registered a trim 3 pounds 9 ounces on my digital scale. That's considerably lighter in weight than many of today's compounds bows. Walking to a far treestand or up a tall mountain, that can be a very good thing.

CLASSY HARDWOOD GRIP

Parker's top-end bows all come with a genuine hardwood grip. That grip is nicely sculpted for accurate shooting, feels warm in cold weather and adds a distinctively classy touch to the new Parker Legend XP.

