

## BOLT VS LEVER – PART I

In this two-part series, we will compare the lever action to the bolt action rifle. There are many modern rifle actions, such as the break, bolt, lever, pump, and semi, but the two popular ones for the average big game hunter in North America are the bolt and lever. Each one has its place in the hunting world and holds its ground. It is like an SUV vs. a truck - most of us have to have both. When it comes to whether to buy a lever action or a bolt action, we must ask ourselves what, why, and where. Let's delve into the fascinating history of these two firearm actions, a journey that will connect us to the rich heritage of firearms.

### LEVER ACTION

The first introduction of the lever action was as early as 1837 when Colt introduced the lever revolving action. It was not until 1860 that Henry patented and introduced the lever action as we know it today. Soon after, Winchester introduced their first lever action in 1866, calling it the Yellow Boy. Winchester then partnered with John Moses Browning and introduced, over time, some of the most iconic lever actions like model 1886, 1894 and 1895. Marlin entered the lever action market in 1881. It was not till 1971 that Browning entered the lever action market with a much stronger and more modern design. Today, these four manufacturers still offer options over the counter and are the most popular among lever action fans.



### BOLT ACTION

Unlike the lever action that originated in North America, the European market focused more on bolt actions. The first breach-loading, self-contained cartridge, bolt action was introduced in 1836 by Johann von Dreyse. Like the lever action, there were designs in the mid-1800s, but the most iconic and memorable designs came from Paul Mauser. His first design was introduced in 1871, followed by the 1889, 1896 and 1898. The 1998 action is still one of the most popular push-feed bolt actions of all time. Many countries manufactured Mauser action rifles for WWI and WWII and many wars before and after. Today you often find a Mauser action rifle from late 1800s, sporterized and rebarrelled with original action from 100 years ago.

For more information on the historical timelines on some of these firearms, please visit:

Henry – <https://www.henryusa.com/about-us/henry-history/>

Mauser - <https://holymauser.com/f/the-mauser-a-brief-history-function-features-and-legacy>

Winchester – <https://www.winchesterguns.com/news/historical-timeline.html>

## WHATS HAPPENING

Bow hunting season is open and a good friend of mine has taken his first bull elk.

A.A.C.A. Show – Finest Little Arms Show in the West at Thorncliff Community Centre, on Saturday 21 Sep.

Restricted Firearms Course on Saturday 21st September - please visit [www.myguns.ca/bookings](http://www.myguns.ca/bookings) for more detail

I have an older Bushnell spotting scope for anyone interested - please contact me.

For those who missed previous newsletters, please visit [www.myguns.ca/downloads](http://www.myguns.ca/downloads)

Next newsletter, we will delve into the actual comparisons, like operations, cartridges and technical details between the lever action and the bolt action.

