Parker Bows is an above-and-beyond sort of company, a company that works tirelessly to ensure that anyone, regardless of gender, size, age or physical ability, can find a Parker bow right for them.

In 2011, Parker rewrote the book on crossbow design. The Parker Concorde sported a patented, industry-first Quick Draw System. With the Concorde, all shooters needed to remember was one simple phrase: “Push the button.” Taking easy cocking to a level no one imagined, the CO2-powered internal cocking mechanism swept back the 175-pound limbs with a simple push of a button recessed into the rear of the butt stock. It was perfect for any crossbow fanatic, but more importantly, it gave hunters who cannot pull back a compound bow or retract a crossbow with a standard rope cocker an opportunity to take to the woods. Heartwarming stories poured into Parker.

For this particular bow report, Parker could have sent any number of its hot-to-trot 2012 models. It could have sent its speedy Velocity compound bow or its all-new Gale Force crossbow. Instead, Parker sent a crossbow specifically designed for youth and female shooters. Why? Parker has taken notice of the growing female hunting crowd and wants to provide them (and youths) with a crossbow specifically engineered to fit their needs.

Tipping the scales at 5.5 pounds and fully adjustable between 125 and 150 pounds of draw weight, the Parker Challenger is impressive in every way. Its compact design is perfect for smaller-framed shooters, making it extremely easy to shoulder and shoot. Sending bolts downrange at 300 feet per second at maximum draw weight, the Challenger creates more than enough kinetic energy to cleanly harvest heavy- and light-boned game. Also pleasing is the fact that the Challenger's draw weight can be easily adjusted without the need of a bow press or additional tools. In short, this racy crossbow will place a permanent grin on the faces of youth and female shooters.

Quick, Easy Assembly
The Parker Challenger was a breeze to set up. From start to finish the process took less than 10 minutes and didn't have me pulling out my hair. The included cable slide, complete with two recessed grooves, moved effortlessly over the Challenger's buss cables. Holding the cable slide in place with my thumb and forefinger, I inserted the cable slide and cables into the cable slot located at the front end of the barrel while being sure to keep the string on top of the barrel. Now it was time to attach the riser to the stock. After aligning the silver-colored stock insert with the riser hole, the crossbow basically fell together. Then it was just a matter of inserting two button-head screws through the top of the barrel—one on each side of the flight groove—and threading the mounting bolt through the riser hole and tightening it down. Like I said, this process was ultra-quick and ultra-easy.

Included with the Challenger Crossbow is Parker's Quick Detach Quiver. After positioning the quiver mount on the bottom side and lining up the holes in the quiver mount with those in the riser, I snugged down the included hex-head screws. That's it. All that was left was to attach the quiver to the quiver mount using the lever arm.

How It Shoots
Youth and female shooters will have no problem cocking the Challenger. You simply rest the Challenger's stirrup on the ground with the butt-end of the stock facing up and place one foot in the stirrup to stabilize the crossbow. Take the rope cocking device with one hook in each hand, making certain that the hook opening is down and facing toward you. Place the rope in the groove on the stock below the trigger assembly. Now lean over the crossbow and attach the string hooks to the bow string—one on each side of the stock. Snug the bright-red rollers tightly against the barrel, grab the handles and pull back. The limbs sweep back flawlessly and the string will click as it slides into the trigger assembly. This will automatically engage the safety. You are now ready to start slinging some bolts.

This crossbow is simply a blast to shoot. It's compact and easily maneuverable, and it packs a punch. The ribbed butt-end stock felt great against my shoulder and the vented forearm provided noticeable control. Sporting a wide, curved design, the trigger felt amazing and promoted shot-to-shot accuracy.

I was pleasantly surprised by the Challenger's
Inside Archery

Parker Challenger

Quick Notes

STOCK ERGONOMICS – Shaved down to reduce weight, this light and ultra-comfortable stock promotes balance, and its ribbed butt-end is completely slip-free.

EASE OF COCKING – Thanks to Parker’s EZ Draw Pull System and Hot EZ Rope Cocker, cocking effort has been reduced by over 50 percent. Both youth and female shooters will enjoy hours of stress-free cocking even when the Challenger is set at its maximum draw weight of 150 pounds.

SAFETY – Three stellar features: The auto-engage ambidextrous safety locks automatically and is positive and reassuring. The innovative auto-engage anti-dry-fire mechanism prevents accidental dry-firing. A safety finger flange integrated into the vented forearm keeps fingers from wandering above the barrel.

TRIGGER PULL – Wide, curved and requiring roughly 4 pounds of pressure, the Challenger’s trigger allows you to squeeze off accurate shots.

SIGHTING SYSTEM – Shooters can purchase the Challenger with either the Single Red Dot Scope or the 4X Multi-Reticle Scope. Both are durable and extremely easy to sight-in.

SHOT NOISE/VIBRATION – Dual string suppressors harness unwanted noise and vibration.

ACCURACY – It’s a Parker! Accuracy will never be an issue.

Arrow Speed

20-inch Test Arrow – Carbon Express
Arrow Weight – 386 grains
Kinetic Energy – 77.7 Foot-Pounds
Arrow Speed – 301 FPS

Specifications

Length with Stirrup 31.75 inches
Width Axle-to-Axle 21.25 inches
Power Stroke 10.25 inches
Draw Weight Adjustable from 125 to 150 pounds
Mass Weight w/o Accessories 5.5 pounds
Finish Realtree Advantage Timber

For more information, call (540) 337-5426 or visit parkerbows.com.

The super-compact nature of the Challenger is perfect for spot-and-stalk, ground blind and treestand hunting.

Perfect for use out of a treestand, from a ground blind or for spot-and-stalk hunts, the Challenger is sure to boost the confidence of youth and female shooters. Its lightweight nature makes it easy to tote, meaning those long days in the field won’t end early due to tired arms and shoulders. In addition, the Challenger’s compact size (21.25 inches from axle to axle) means shooters won’t be struggling to maneuver the crossbow in a tight treestand or smaller-sized ground blind.

Warm and welcoming, the Challenger’s pistol-style grip promotes proper hand placement, increasing shot-to-shot accuracy.

silent nature. All that could be heard at the release of the bolt was a dull thud. The dual string suppressors grab the speeding bow-string and harness unnecessary bowstring oscillation. Vibration wasn’t an issue. Yes, I felt the crossbow unleash its energy, but overall vibration was very minimal. In fact, it was so minimal that I could see my arrow impact the target while looking through my 4X multi-reticle scope. The Challenger didn’t kick or buck. It didn’t suck the joy from my shooting experience. These two features alone make it a must-have item for both youth and female shooters.

Parker is known for producing extremely accurate compound and crossbows, and the Challenger is no exception. I started my shooting session at a distance of 10 yards. After shooting a three-arrow group that was low and left, I made some simple adjustments to my top (up and down) turret and side (left and right) turret. Moving back to 20 yards, I fired another three-arrow group. This time I was right on the money. I continued stepping back, graduating down and using the horizontal lines in the scope as my yardage increased. In a matter of minutes, I was standing at 50 yards and slapping bolts together.

Also impressive was how well the Challenger handled fixed-blade broadheads. A few minute scope adjustments were all it took to make the Challenger ready for the field.
The auto-engage ambidextrous safety is clearly marked, fail-proof and extremely easy to operate.

The vented forearm with safety finger flange promotes balance and keeps fingers from wandering above the flight deck.

Quashing noise and vibration while promoting a clean arrow release are Parker’s Dual String Suppressors.

Key Features and Benefits

**G2 Bull-Pup Trigger** • Masterfully designed, the G2 Bull-Pup Trigger is completely maintenance-free and ensures little to no trigger travel. The crisp, clean pull of this trigger allows shooters to squeeze off accurate shots—perfect for excited young hunters who tend to punch the trigger during the moment of truth. In addition, this trigger system is complete with an auto-engage anti-dry-fire mechanism and an auto-engage safety.

**EZ Draw Pull System** • Reducing cocking effort by over 50 percent, Parker’s new-for-2012 EZ Draw Pull System is remarkable. This system works in concert with the Red Hot EZ Roller Rope Cocker to make cocking the Challenger extremely easy.

**Vented Forearm with Safety Finger Flange** • Designed to increase overall balance and ensure a comfortable shooting experience, the vented forearm will have shooters hitting the 10-ring often. Rippled grooves located on the top and bottom of the forearm ensure a slip-free grip. At Parker, safety is always a priority, and the finger flange, which sweeps from the left and right side of the forearm, prevents fingers from wandering above the flight deck.

**Trigger Safety** • Raising the safety bar is Parker’s auto-engage ambidextrous safety. Clear marked in green print on the left side of the upper-trigger unit is the word “Safe” with an arrow pointing down. On the right side in red print is the word “Fire” with an arrow pointing up. When cocked, the lever automatically moves into the safe position.

**Ribbed Pistol Grip** • The Challenger’s ribbed pistol grip is comfortable and slip-free. Warm and welcoming, this grip promotes proper hand alignment and ensures easy access to the fully housed 4-pound trigger.

**Red Hot Strings and Cables** • Making the Challenger even sweeter are the expertly designed Red Hot Strings and Cables. The Red Hot C3 serving extends string life up to three times over standard materials. It won’t slip, and it dramatically reduces friction and wear.

**An Easy Change** • Draw weight is easily adjustable. To take the Challenger from 125 to 150 pounds, simply back off the limb bolts just enough to remove the black shims that rest between the limbs and the riser. Then retighten the limb bolts, and the Challenger is ready to fire at a 150-pound draw weight.

**The Challenger Package** • The Challenger comes with a field-ready kit that will have you ready for the woods in no time at all. This incredible kit includes the Parker Four Arrow Quiver, four Carbon Express crossbow bolts and field points, and either the Parker Single Dot Scope, the 4X Multi-Reticle Scope or the 3X Illuminated Multi-Reticle Scope.

I was thoroughly impressed with the Parker Challenger. It’s the perfect crossbow to get youth and female shooters excited about taking to the woods with a crossbow. The Challenger is proudly made in the USA, and is backed by Parker’s lifetime warranty. With a starting retail price of $375.99, the Challenger is the kind of crossbow that will be flying off your shelves this year.