

Stonehill Primitive: WOODEN BOW MANUAL

date 12/17

Now you have a wooden bow – a touchy and refined apparatus.

It is important to react on this material adequate. A wooden bow is not a laminated glass bow with a hard and durable surface. Belonging to wood species the surface hardness of a wooden bow is more or less different. Yew wood is so soft that even finger nails can leave marks, but it is one of the best bow woods.

Here is a listing of some rules for the handling and storage. Every bow is built for an individual draw length (see below), carefully tillered and shot in. If you do as suggested your bow will hardly break and last a long time

Never let another guy shot with your bow! I really mean NEVER!

1. Draw length

Don't draw your bow further. It is built for your individual draw length – don't let some other brace, draw or shoot your bow. If you draw further, the wood cells will get unrecoverable damaged – performance decreases or the bow breaks. Don't hold longer than 1 second at anchor point (full draw) when shooting.

Your individual save draw length is _____”

2. Unbracing

After shooting session or during longer pauses you should unbrace your bow.

3. Brace height

Be sure to have the right brace height, to low or to high can cause damage! To measure brace height go perpendicular from the string to the deepest point of the grip (belly side). The suggested brace height for your bow is_____”. The bow comes with a flemish splice string, brace height can be changed by twisting the string to the left or the right.

4. Dry fire

Shooting without an arrow – dry fire – is in most cases the death of the bow. The stored energy cannot go with the arrow and has to be compensated in the limbs by vibrations.

As said: don't let someone else shoot your bow!

5. Bracing

Always brace your bow yourself. Be sure both limbs are working parallel while bracing or unbracing.

Bracing methods:

- With bracer – best and easiest way
- Push and pull – hold bow with the right hand facing at the bows back. Press the lower tip against your shoe and pull with the right hand while pushing with the left at the upper tip and slip the string ear in the kerf at the same time.

- Step through – not for a beginner! With this method the bending is often not distributed over the whole limbs length. I have seen guys who braced their bows by bending only one limb, that's not good!

Never bend your bow backwards!!!

Brace your bow about 15 min. before shooting, pumping before shooting also helps. Let the bow acclimatize when going out from a warm room into cold winter range.

6. Storage

Store the bow always unbraced, best horizontally on two sticks. Alternative is to hang it vertically using the string. Don't put it down standing on one tip. The location should be dry, not sunny, not too hot (room temp – not cellar). Do not store in the near of an oven or other heating sources. Be careful with transport/storage in cars – the sun can produce enormous heat inside a car! If the bow is too long exposed to wet climate or environment it gains moisture, draw weight will decrease and in extreme cases it takes massive set – performance is suffering. You can easily control with a precise kitchen scale, the mass of your bow including string is _____

7. String

Please examine the string before shooting, especially the ears. Use string wax from time to time. Your bow comes with a very thin special made string. The bow can be used also with a Dacron string, but not every fast flite material is suitable!

8. Arrows

Use arrows matching to your bow (spine, length, mass). Don't shoot damaged arrows or too light weight arrows (see dry fire!). A rule of thumb is draw weight of your bow in pounds x 8 (= absolute minimum!) to x 10 results in arrow mass in grain.

9. Finish

The finish on your bow is made of natural oils and pitch, no lacquer. It is not 100% water proof. Please treat your bow at least one time a year with a suitable finish (f. e. trueoil) or after usage in wet weather. Look for the instructions of the manufacturer. Your bow will get nicer from every application, the colors will get deeper and the surface smoother.

Now have fun and good luck with your new bow!

Simon