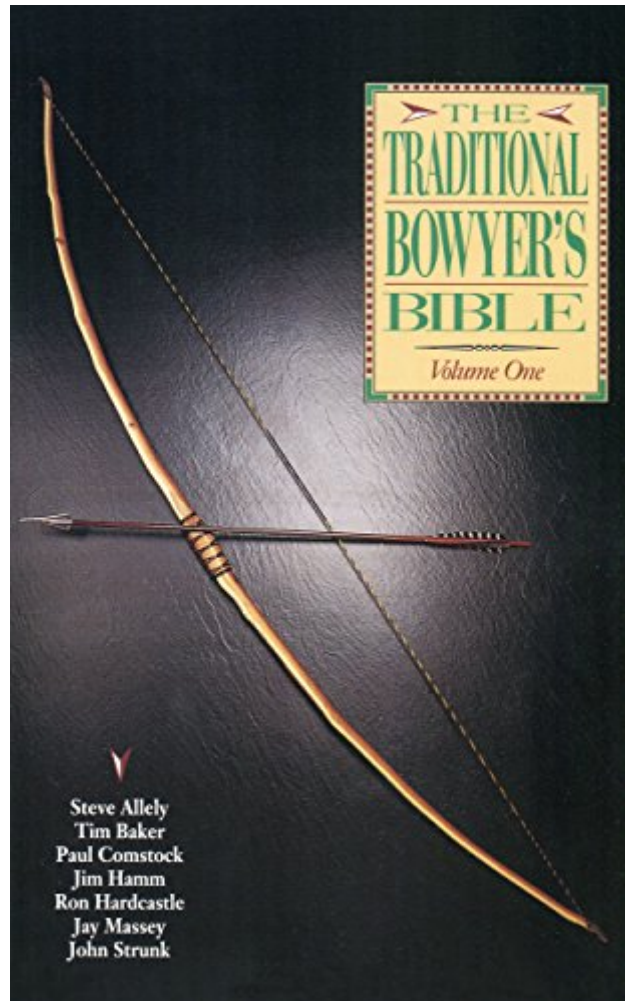


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Traditional Bowyer's Bible Volume 1



Synopsis

Many archers and bowhunters are surprised to learn that a wooden bow, whose ancestry dates back thousands of years, will shoot an arrow as effectively as most modern bows. Never before have such detailed bow-making instructions been available to the home craftsman on how to bring such history alive.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This is an awesome book that really gets to the heart of what archery really is. It takes the reader beyond the store-bought, high-tech gadgetry that looks and acts more like a rifle than a bow. The essays within, written by a group of traditional bowyers, explores the deep and profound essence of archery by making and using traditional archery gear at home. It opens up new worlds for archers, over and above just climbing a tree and ambushing a deer with space age equipment. It describes a world where archers can reconnect with archery's historical roots, creating a richer and fuller experience and returning hunting back to the realm of fun and enjoyment from the job-like drudgery where hunters are only concerned about the size of a deer's antlers. In the years that I have been

shooting traditionally, I have never met a former traditional archer switching to a compound bow; they have all switched away from the gears and pulleys to using more traditional equipment and have never looked back. I would recommend getting the entire series that covers almost every detailed aspect of making and using traditional archery gear, and also contains some historical information about what our ancestors used. It's a great way to really reconnect with nature without having to shell out thousands of dollars to get started, and a much better use of free time than watching ridiculous people on TV act stupidly.

I recommend this book for anyone interested in traditional archery. I am pretty much a beginner with bows. I used to play with my dad's bow and took an archer class in college, but that's about the extent of my knowledge. I got on a primitive weapons kick recently and started playing with slings, slingshots (Bill Hayes on youtube for anyone wanting to see an expert), and thinking about making a wooden longbow. I research heavily when I get interested in something and after watching multiple crappy and well made videos I came across one where the guy recommended this series of books. His bow wasn't that well made, but that was because it was his second one. The information he provided however, sounded excellent. I rented this from the local library first and was impressed enough to buy my own copy. It's basically 4 professional bowyers who take you from tree to bow with simple steps that explain what causes a good bow to be a good bow. It talks about selecting trees that are good for bows, what is a good size and wood for a beginner to start with, as well as what's possible when you get more advanced. There are multiple easy to read charts on how length, width, and shape affect the power of the bow and how hard it is to draw. The great thing is that none of it is dry and hard to read. It's like when you used to find a school text book that you liked to read and you'd flip ahead and see what was coming next. It's just some knowledgeable guys having a conversation about how to make bows and some of the possibilities. There are multiple methods of making a bow and the authors recognize that someone interested is going to have a hard time waiting the long period for the wood to properly air dry, so they tell you about buying staves, carving your own staves to near finished state to shorten drying to around a month, or using lumber mill lumber from a hardware store. If you're a beginner or if you have knowledge this is great for improving your foundation and taking you to the next level.

I can't believe how good this book really is. I'm just a beginner, which has me looking up archery terms while reading this book. I've skimmed the whole book, and I am about 1/3 of the way through a cover to cover read. I expected a lot from this book, I had done a lot of looking into which book to

get, and my expectations were high. I like very scientific data to claims. This book exceeded expectations. It has the folk stories, experience of experts, and good scientific data seamlessly integrated into each chapter. While I am looking forward to reading volumes 2-4, I feel that this one book gives enough to get out there and start making bows. It covers bow making, strings, arrow making, cutting and seasoning, and backing the bows. The book occasionally references the other volumes when it touches on something that is treated in greater depth in another volume. In any case, I feel this is a solid guide book that allows the interested reader to also use it as a guide to making bows or as a book to read cover to cover.

I really want to learn to make a bow. I found the right books! From trees, their size, shape, length, drying time, tools needed, assessing ring structure and when to cut them down. This more than covers it. Took me a while to learn some of the terms like set and follow, reflex/recurve... I am learning soooo fast. Can't wait to take a walk in the woods and harvest my first would-be bow!

It's a bit convoluted - you have to dig the crafting information out from among the history and trivia, but if you are willing to go back and forth between the chapters, and volumes, re-reading and looking for the vital bits, the info is all there albeit somewhat more obscured than I would have liked it to be. The bulk of the crafting info appears to be deliberately divided among volumes one and two, so if you don't get both, you'll be missing important bits.

Wonderful book.

Good read a little unclear for those folks that don't know the traditional archery lingo.

Good book.

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