

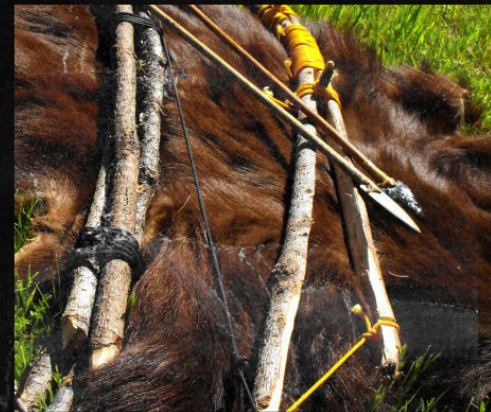
A SPECIAL REPORT

CRAFTING A SURVIVAL BOW



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Many hunters and survival enthusiasts frequent their favorite sporting goods or outdoor enthusiast stores to procure all of their favorite hunting gear. As such, many hunters have state of the art hunting bows and rifles that would double as effective survival weapons. However, what would happen if many of these hunters found themselves in a disastrous situation without any of their store bought hunting and survival resources?

This guide aims to fix that exact problem by providing the tips you need to know in order to craft a trusty survival bow. As long as the wilderness you find yourself in has woods, you can use this guide to make yourself a bow and reliable arrows that allow you to hunt effectively.

For a wilderness survival scenario, nothing can top a traditional – and some might call it primitive – bow and arrow setup. One reason a bow and arrow is so exceptional for survival scenarios is that all of the tools you need to make bows and arrows are found abundantly in nature. As such, no matter where you find yourself stranded, making a survival bow is

usually going to be one of the best ways to get prepared and survive the wilderness.

Moreover, a bow and arrow are exceedingly effective hunting tools that will prevent starvation. With other makeshift survival weapons and hunting tools – like a primitive spear – you will need to get up close and personal in order to hunt your prey. Of course, many animals will elude you and run if you get too close to them. With a bow, this problem is greatly reduced due to the increased distance between you and the prey in your line of sight. This ease of use compared to close range hunting weapons will increase your chance of catching the animal you are hunting.

Additionally, bow and arrow materials that you can find in nature are able to be crafted quickly and efficiently into a useful bow and reliable arrows. The ease with which a bow can be found and made could be the difference between surviving and surviving with a full belly. Given all of these advantages, it is essential to know how to build a survival bow and arrows. The following guide highlights the key things to keep in mind when you are looking to build these essential survival tools.

WHY A BOW IS THE IDEAL “DO IT YOURSELF” WEAPON AND WHAT YOU WILL NEED*

A bow and arrow set is the ideal do it yourself weapon because it can be crafted almost anywhere and anytime. All you need is to find a good hardwood, of which there are plenty. Maple, pine, aspen, yew or ash wood all make sturdy bows. For the arrows, a wide variety of materials will work as well. Commonly found materials such as cattails make for great arrows, but cedar wood is one of the best arrow materials if you can get your hands on some cedar. Cedar wood does not warp as easily as cattails or other natural arrow resources.

Once you have made your arrowheads, they can be chipped from stones or they can be hardened by burning it to a point in a fire. A fire might be the best tactic depending on where you find yourself since chipping arrowheads from stones is best achieved by flint. As such, if you don't have flint available, it is advisable to use the fire method for your arrowheads.

The string of your bow, similarly, can be constructed with natural resources. The inner bark of plants like milkweed will serve as an adequate bow string as can animal hides. Admittedly, before you have built a bow, it would be some stroke of luck to come across an animal whose hide would serve as your bowstring. Still, it is handy to know hides are useful for bow strings if you do have a degree of luck – though luck is a relative concept if you are trying to



survive after a disaster! – while trying to survive in the wilderness. If you have a spare pair of jeans, the cords of the blue jeans can be used for a bow string as well. In short, be flexible and use your wits and imagination when looking for a potential bow string.

Even better, bow strings can be used for things beyond the standard uses of a bow. They can be used for making fires, fishing, traps, snares and more if you know the relevant tricks. While this guide is focused on hunting, it is essential to note that a bow has far more utility than its immediately obvious uses.

So, the things to look for, as mentioned, are wood for your bow, material for your arrows and a string for your bow. Once you have these things, you will be able to use your bow to survive if you have enough skill. For now, let's look at how to find the wood for your bow.

FINDING WOOD FOR YOUR BOW

When you are stranded and trying to survive, the first thing to look for is the wood for your bow. For reference, a bow is simply a large piece of wood with a string that can be tied between both ends. Naturally, this string will be the catalyst that drives an arrow to its intended target. When looking for a great piece of wood, you will want to ensure that the limb of the bow – the section of the bow that goes from the tip to the handle – must be able to bend equally over its length. As such, you are going to be looking for wood that is flexible and can snap back into position rapidly.

While the wood you select is essential, you may not have the field knowledge to know which types of wood are in your area. If not, you can do a simple test to determine whether the wood you have found is a good choice for your survival bow. Look for a branch that is about the size of your little finger. If you are near a tree, this should not be hard to find.

Once you have found it, bend the branch and let it snap back. If it snaps back into position quickly, it is likely that you have found a great wood for your survival bow, but there are a couple more tests to perform just to be sure. Next, bend the small stick into a shape that resembles the letter C. It should be strong enough to avoid breaking. If it is, do a final test by breaking the stick. If it snaps, this is a poor quality wood that will not make an ideal bow. Ideally, it will form a fracture that resists breaking entirely, and this will let you know you



have found the right wood for a bow.

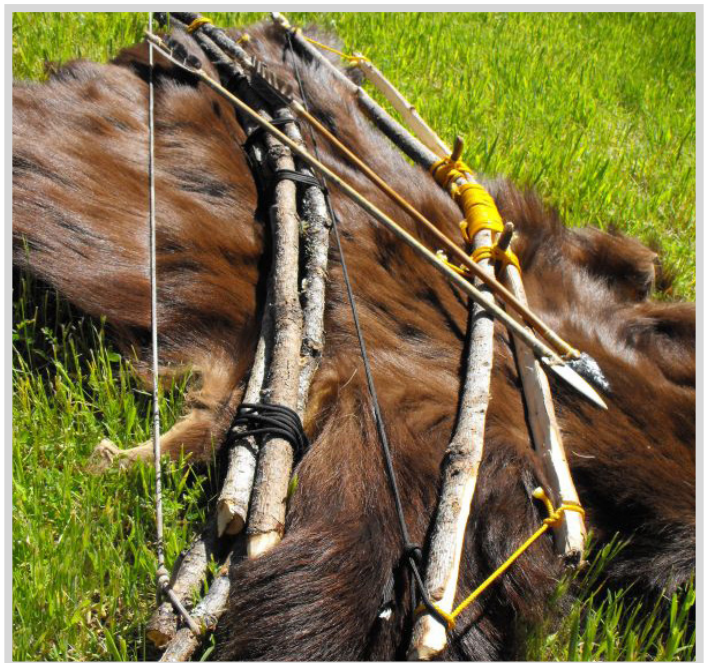
Once you know this wood will work, look for a sapling of this type of tree, if one is nearby. This is going to serve as the piece of wood you will use to create your survival bow. Ideally, it will have a gradual taper from one end to the other one, and it is best to find a sapling that lacks excessive knots and branches. Now that you have found the ideal stave – the piece of wood that your bow will be made from – it will need to be modified in order to ensure that both limbs bend equally.

To modify your bow, locate the middle of your stave and mark where your bow's handle should be. On the side of the handle, whittle wood from the bow's belly (the side of the bow that will be facing you during use). Taper the belly of the bow gradually so that you can avoid cutting into the back of the bow (the side that faces opposite of you). If you do not avoid cutting into the back of the bow, the bow is more likely to splinter

CREATING YOUR BOW'S STRING

To create your bow's string or cord, you are going to want to look for a strong material. As mentioned previously, animal hides, milkweed and even cords from blue jeans can be used with great results. Other natural materials for a bow string are dogbane, yucca and nettle. Primarily, you are looking for a cord that can be made of strong material that will last, so synthetic cord with a small diameter will work as well if you managed to keep some around in a backpack.

The less stretchy your cord material is, the better off you will be, given that this assists the transference of the bow's snap to the arrow with greater effectiveness. No matter what cord material you have available for use, the bow's cord needs to stand off the bow about five inches. This is considered the brace height, and will further assist the snap of the bow. You are going to want to use the notches that you already created to string your bow efficiently.



when it is put under tension, so it is crucial to taper the belly carefully.

Next, you will want to test how well the limbs bend. So, place one of the bow's tips on the ground, pushing into the handle with one hand and holding the other tip of the bow in your other hand. Next, flip the bow over and do the same process to test the other limb. If you did the job well, both limbs should bend equally. Now that you have a bow that is constructed well, cut two notches on either side of the bow, whichever you prefer. These notches will be cut at a 45 degree angle, ultimately pointing toward the handle. The notches should also be deep enough to accept the bow string since these notches will keep the string in place.

If you have followed these steps, you have now crafted a great survival bow. The following tips will help you effectively create your bow's cord and arrows.

MAKING THE ARROWS

While making the bow is an essential part of the process, one could very well argue that arrows are the most important part of hunting successfully. After all, a bow is only as deadly as the arrows that it shoots. In a survival setting, arrows can be made out of many materials. Wood arrows such as the cedar arrows mentioned previously are excellent, and other wood arrows that function well are maple, dogwood and willow, among others.

When looking for wood that will serve as great arrows, look for straight shoots that are clear of branches and knots. Further, it is ideal if they have a gradual end-to-end taper. The smaller end will be notched for the bow's string, so it needs to be large enough for this task without impacting the strength of the wood to either side. Balance is essential so your arrows will fly straight and true. If there is bark on the shoot that you are using, scrape it off with a stone, and then hold the shaft over a fire in order to straighten the shoot.

In order to make the shoot straight, you are going to look for crooked spots that can be heated. Once found, heat the crooked spot and bend it backwards at a point that is bent barely past being straight. Once it is cooled, the crooked spot will set up where it has been bent to. At this point, you can look down the arrow's length periodically to check that it is straight. The larger end of the arrow is the simple part. It can simply be sharpened to a point, or it can be notched to accept points of stone, steel or bone.

The small end must be notched to from the knocks



that you carved that are designed to fit nicely in the bow string. Finally, you will need to fletch the arrows. This process will serve to stabilize the arrows, and feathers are one of the best ways to fletch your new arrows. Alternatively, a bunch of pine needles can be used to fletch your arrows. If you can't find either of these in abundance, you can spit the knock end of the shaft, and then insert a single feather into that end. Next, wrap that end to keep the feather in place with plant fiber, rawhide or sinew if you can find them. These make great wraps for your bow cord. Once your arrows are fletched, you now have a fully functioning survival bow and arrows that will allow you to hunt effectively.

It is important to note that your bow will dry over time. This means that it will increase in snap, which means you can expect a more efficient bow over time, even if it will never be as great as a bow in your favorite sporting goods store. Still, you will have a real and practical advantage in hunting game thanks to this primitive survival bow, and that is a priceless advantage in a survival setting. Now, let's look at a five tips and suggestions on how to make your survival bow as effective as possible.

Primitive Bow Hunting Strategies and Tips

1. Try to be efficient by using strategy. After all, your brain is your biggest advantage while hunting prey. Know your prey. Know when they are most active and where they go to eat. For example, if you are trying to hunt rabbits, it is helpful to know where carrots are nearby. A rabbit will be there if you are patient.
2. The previous advice ties into the next step: Be patient. Hunting with a bow is a strategy that demands patience and preparation. You need to hone your mental skills to always be prepared to outlast and outsmart your prey.
3. In the meantime, be sure to practice your archery skills. In a survival setting, your livelihood depends on a good shot that will not spoil the meat, and it isn't as simple as shooting at a stationary target. Your game will be on the move, so you need to be confident in your bow arm. When training, shoot at a distance that is further than you would normally take the shot. For example, if you would prefer to shoot at 25 yards, double it when you practice. That way, you will be confident in your accuracy because it has been honed through a more difficult training regimen.
4. Stay positive! Hunting for survival is largely a mental state, and when you don't have a



lot of gear, your mind will always be your greatest asset. You need to have confidence in your ability to survive, so always stay positive and believe in yourself when you are getting ready to take your shot.

5. In addition to staying positive, don't overthink your shots. If you are a practiced archer hunting live prey, don't give yourself more than 5 seconds to acquire your target. Do the same in practice, so that the adrenaline rush of seeing live game will not cause you to overthink things and botch your shot.

While there are plenty of other hunting and bow strategies that will maximize your efficiency, this guide has shown you what it takes to create a survival bow and survival arrows that will drastically enhance your chances of surviving and thriving in the wild. Good luck, and stay safe with your new survival bow!