

U-Finish Bow Instructions

This bow is a fully functional bow. It can be shot as is. However, to make it “your” bow it is necessary to shape the handle and arrow shelf for a more comfortable and accurate shooting experience. It is quite simple to finish the bow and make it a truly yours.

Power tools are not necessary but they can make the job easier. However, using hand tools and a little elbow grease can be a satisfying experience.

Tools Needed:

Hand saw, hacksaw or bandsaw to cut the arrow shelf.

Flat/ half round wood rasp or a belt sander to shape the handle.

5/32 round chainsaw file to widen and smooth the nock grooves.

Various grits of sandpaper to smooth and finish the bow

Step 1.

It is advisable to cut the arrow shelf before shaping the handle. The squared riser will be easier to clamp and saw.

Right handed guidelines have been drawn where the arrow shelf is intended to be cut. If you are left handed, just trace the pattern and draw it on the opposite side of the center line. Rasp or Cut inside the lines, then rasp down to the lines. Do not cut or rasp past the vertical center line of the bow.

Step 2

After the arrow shelf is cut and shaped, it is now time to shape the handle. Guide lines have been drawn at each end of the riser to help give you a general idea of the shape of the handle and grip area. A simple rounded, straight grip is easy to make and can be shaped to fit your hand.

Begin rasping the ends of the riser following the rounded guidelines. Once you have the two ends rasped to the guide lines, continue rasping the middle areas of the riser, eventually connecting the contours of the 2 ends. Use the vertical centerline as a visual aid to help keep your rounded edges symmetrical along the length of the handle.

It will also be necessary to shape the arrow shelf to the same contours of the handle to give it the same rounded and slender look as the rest of the handle.

Step 3

Once the grip or palm side of the handle have been rounded and shaped. Hold the bow in your hand and feel the sharp edges against your fingers. Simply rasp those areas smooth so that they feel more comfortable.

Caution: do not rasp or cut beyond the faded/sloped portion of the riser or into the limbs of the bow. Doing so can affect the tiller and may lead to damaging or breaking the bow.

Step 4

Once the handle and arrow shelf are shaped. You can now sand the handle using the various grits or sandpaper. Begin with 60 grit working down to 220 grit. Remove all tool marks.

Step 5

The string nocks at the tips should be smoothed as to not fray or damage the string while the bow is being used. This can be accomplished with a 5/32 round chainsaw file. Take your time, use the existing grooves and the file itself as a guide. Remember, you are widening and smoothing the grooves. Not deepening them. Check your progress by inserting the string loop into the nock and checking the fit.

Step 6

Once the handle and tips are shaped it is now time to finish sanding the bow. Using long even strokes, begin sanding the entire bow with 150 gr sand paper. Round off any sharp edges along the sides of the limbs and around the tips. Once the bow is sanded. Moisten the surfaces and let it dry for 10 to 15 minutes. The surface will feel rough. Remove the roughness with 220 gr sandpaper. Remember to use long even strokes as before.

Step 7

After the bow is sanded to your satisfaction you can now stain, paint and seal the wood. You may also apply a handle wrap or arrow rest and side plate as you wish.

Your U-finish bow is now complete!

Good luck and good shooting!