

3Rivers Archery

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Do's and Don'ts, Hints and tips for a successful bow building experience.

DO -Work slowly and remove small amounts of wood when tillering. Even removing small amounts of wood can make a big difference in draw weight after the fibers are stretched and have been given time to settle in.

DO - Tiller only from the belly side.

DO- Use alcohol or sprit-based dye for the bamboo if you want to add color. Bamboo does not take other wood stains very well. The same types of dye work well with any bow wood.

DO- stop tillering your bow when it is 5 pounds higher than the desired draw weight. It will loose a little more weight as you sand it smooth and as it is broken-in with the first 200 shots or so.

DO- go slow, enjoy the bowbuilding experience, be patient and you just might end up with an awesome hunting or target bow.

DO NOT- flatten Nodes on the bamboo. Clean the nodes a little bit with 150 grit sandpaper to get rid of the sharp edges but do not sand them flat because the power fibers run up and down within the nodes. Flattening the nodes is just like cutting a hole in the back of the bow.

DO NOT- remove wood from the sides making the bow narrower. Making a wood bow narrower decreases stability. The shape is already cut for you. Remove wood from the belly side only. On the bamboo-Ipe, English style bow, keep the belly side rounded for stability. On a flat bamboo-hickory bow keep the belly flat for extra performance and stability. Different woods react optimally to specific shapes and designs.

DO NOT- expose to your bow to any excessive heat source including: a hot car, a house heater, a fireplace and especially a heat gun. The glue will break down and crystallize if it is exposed to excessive heat.

DO NOT- over sand the bamboo. Use 150-grit sandpaper. Bamboo grows with a waxy substance on it. Nothing will stick to it even a good finish. The waxy substance must be removed without going through the power fibers of the bamboo. Hint: Use a cabinet scraper to scrape the waxy substance off and then carefully sand the surface with 150- grit sandpaper by hand.

DO NOT- use a belt sander to the point of creating too much heat. If you use a belt sander to smooth the belly-wood let the wood cool as you work to avoid creating too much heat.

DO NOT- use a belt sander on the bamboo at all!

DO NOT allow anyone to pull the bow past the draw length you tiller the bow for. For instance if you tiller the bow to 55@27" do not allow anyone to draw it back to 30".

DO NOT- exceed a 31" draw length.

DO NOT - use aggressive tools for tillering. Use tools such as a scraper or a medium course half round rasp.

Limited Warranty

These staves are warranted against delamination for 30 days after the purchase date. However, as soon as the staff is worked with any tool or sand paper the warranty is null and void.

(Un-worked staves are affected by heat and moisture and should be worked, finished, and sealed as soon as possible.)