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Simple PVC Pipe Bows: A Do-It-Yourself Guide to Forming PVC Pipe into Effective and Compact Archery Bows

By Nicholas Tomihama



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Simple PVC Pipe Bows: A Do-It-Yourself Guide to Forming PVC Pipe into Effective and Compact Archery Bows By Nicholas Tomihama

Whether it's out fishing, in the woods, at the range or even in the backyard, the sport of archery in all its forms can be fun and rewarding for all ages. In this day of mass production, the draw of being able to make something with your hands is greater than ever.

PVC plumbing pipe, with its unique blend of qualities, offers both the experienced and beginner archer an opportunity to build their own dependable bows without any previous experience.

Simple PVC Pipe Bows shows you how build a solidly performing bow with little in the way of equipment, work space, time and material cost, whether it's one or hundreds.

Youth Recurve :

A small and light bow at home in the backyard as well as on the range. It's perfect for women and teen archers with its shorter draw and compact size.

While geared for young archers, this bow can hold its own as a short pack bow or training bow for an archer of any age.

Horse Bow :

This reflexed bow reminiscent of the short bow of the nomads of Central Asia and Eastern Europe is ideal for learning the art of mounted archery.

With a smooth draw and compact size, this bow is a sweet shooter on foot as well.

Snakey Recurve :

Designed after wooden bows which work with the natural contours of gnarled wood, the snakey recurve is an ideal bow for the hunter or fisherman looking to craft his own equipment.

Its serpentine curve brings the string in line with the center and tilts the handle making for a bow that is more accurate and comfortable to shoot.



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Editorial Review

From the Author

Dear Reader,

Archery is an amazingly rewarding sport and for many including myself, a way of life. There are many ways to get into archery, many different styles of bow and many reasons to shoot. All aspects of archery should be respected and each is rewarding.

Within these pages you will find instructions and pictures showing how I build simple bows from PVC pipe. These bows are designed to be simple, utilizing only a single PVC pipe for a single bow. Yet while simple, they offer power and performance comparable to bows that require more work and equipment to build.

While PVC is more forgiving and more easily formed into an efficient working bow than any other material, the methods explained here are not automatic or effortless. A PVC bow requires your patience and respect, just like any other bow. Rushing into it, being ill prepared or skimping on methods may result in failure.

Before I immersed myself in building bows from PVC pipe, I shaped and crafted bows from single staves of wood, multiple laminations of wood and bows of wood and fiberglass. Even after building bows for years they aren't easy. Sure it doesn't take nearly as much time and I've developed a feel for them that makes the most tedious processes go quickly, but they aren't easy to make in any way.

As a bowyer who has built hundreds of bows, I still have trouble making them all go the way I want all the time. My success rate isn't 100% and I don't think it ever will be. I work with several thousand dollars in equipment that makes building a bow in an hour possible. Yet add in the time it takes to let wood dry, glue to set, finish to cure and the constant adjustment required for each bow to reach maturity and it can take months for a bow to go from raw wood to finished product.

As a beginner with few tools and no previous experience, it can take days if not weeks of work to reduce a stave into a working bow. The process of teaching wood to bend alone can take many hours of seemingly endless toil and adjustment. It's not difficult work and is definitely worth it, but it is strenuous and tedious work. Even after all this, a beginner with no formal instruction would be lucky to have a bow that shoots faster than 100 feet per second with a matched arrow.

Even after all the work I put into them, my selfbows don't regularly exceed 150 fps and the fastest bows barely exceed 170 fps. While some of my laminated bows do reach into the 200's, they are the exception rather than the rule. My first performance PVC bow, which took a few hours of shaping and tweaking before I had any experience with it and no guide on the subject existed, still to this day exceeds 140 fps with a matched arrow.

Over the last year I have received countless testimonial from happy owners of PVC bows they built with their own hands. It isn't easy but it's doable and more accessible than virtually any other material for the beginner. With a little practice and patience, bows that rival even commercial bows in performance and speed are possible with few tools, PVC pipe and raw determination.

-Nick Tomihama

From the Inside Flap

Welcome to Simple PVC Pipe Bows! Thank you for joining me on this journey. Believe me, building bows from PVC pipe is truly a journey. This book is an introduction to a few of the many styles and performance levels of bow that can be made from PVC pipe.

About the Author

Nicholas Tomihama was born in Honolulu, where he lived until graduating high school. From there he went to Hilo on the island of Hawaii (the Big Island) to study business management at the University of Hawaii at Hilo. Even before going to college, he had a knack for making things and working with his hands, perhaps coming from his father who was a jeweler and general jack-of-all-trades. In highschool, Nicholas made hand-turned wooden pens, collected coins, fossils, and toyed around with his father's hunting bow. In Hilo, Nicholas was exposed to the party life and turned away from it, instead passing his time exploring the island and getting to his Hawaiian heritage. He began researching and studying native hawaiian crafts, carving bone hooks, crafting woven slings, and other hawaiian arts. After becoming more interested with craft than education, Nicholas returned to Oahu without a degree and married his highschool sweetheart, who had kept up with him in a long-distance relationship for the duration of his stay in Hilo. Nicholas now lives on Oahu with his wife and young son, Levi. He is an artist who makes hand-crafted bows and arrows and enjoys the sport of archery. He is also an avid reader and prolific writer, who recently published his first book, *The Backyard Bowyer*, which teaches how to build simple wooden bows for the complete novice.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Todd Goff:

This Simple PVC Pipe Bows: A Do-It-Yourself Guide to Forming PVC Pipe into Effective and Compact Archery Bows usually are reliable for you who want to become a successful person, why. The explanation of this Simple PVC Pipe Bows: A Do-It-Yourself Guide to Forming PVC Pipe into Effective and Compact Archery Bows can be one of many great books you must have is giving you more than just simple reading food but feed a person with information that maybe will shock your before knowledge. This book is handy, you can bring it almost everywhere and whenever your conditions throughout the e-book and printed people. Beside that this Simple PVC Pipe Bows: A Do-It-Yourself Guide to Forming PVC Pipe into Effective and Compact Archery Bows giving you an enormous of experience including rich vocabulary, giving you demo of critical thinking that we all know it useful in your day activity. So , let's have it and revel in reading.

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Shelly Sampson:

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