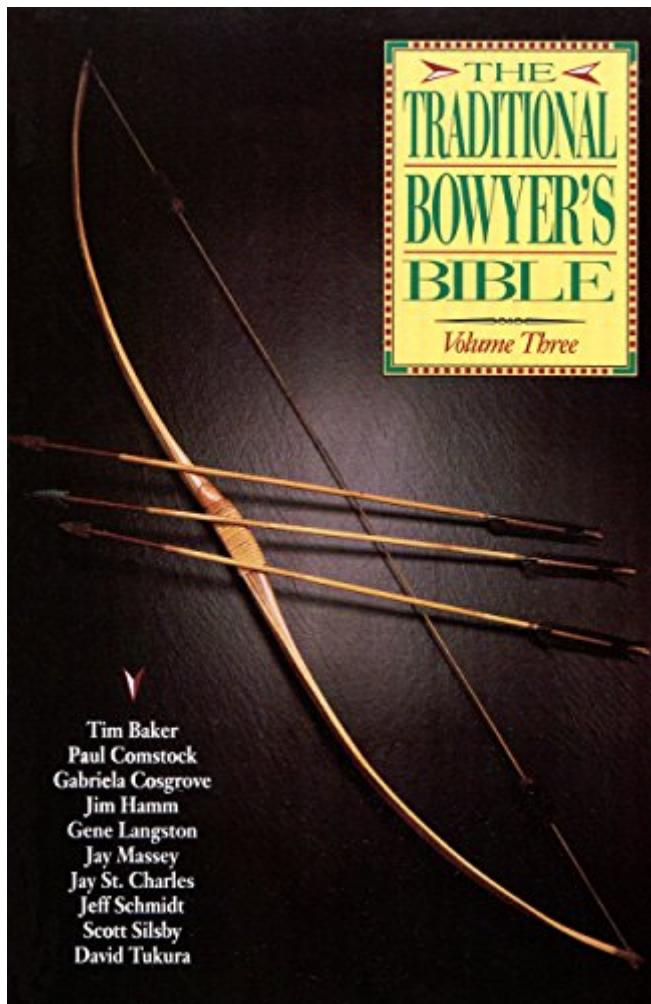


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# Traditional Bowyer's Bible, Volume 3



## **Synopsis**

With combined experience totaling over a century, the authors thoroughly explain every facet of the bowmaking process, making construction easy even for the first-time bowyer.

## **Book Information**

File Size: 20101 KB

Print Length: 352 pages

Simultaneous Device Usage: Unlimited

Publisher: Bois d'Arc Press (April 5, 2015)

Publication Date: April 5, 2015

Sold by: Digital Services LLC

Language: English

ASIN: B00VQTAXEC

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

X-Ray: Not Enabled

Word Wise: Enabled

Lending: Not Enabled

Screen Reader: Supported

Enhanced Typesetting: Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #435,358 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #61

in Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Nonfiction > Sports > Individual Sports > Archery #108

in Books > Sports & Outdoors > Individual Sports > Archery #172 in Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Crafts, Hobbies & Home > Crafts & Hobbies > Woodworking > Projects

## **Customer Reviews**

These volumes can be expensive... But you get what you pay for, I assure you. The set goes over everything you would need to know. However, you won't fully understand what this book is talking about until you start covering your work space floor with wood shavings. My advice is read the section you want are about to tackle. As you read just know that whatever you don't understand is something you probably won't understand until you get your hands dirty. After you tackle that part of the process, go back and re-read the section. You will have all sorts of little light bulbs going off.

This is used more as a reference for bowyering, not a read it once and you are good to go. You will learn something almost every time you read over this. So read it, try it, read it again. These volumes also have extensive sections on different styles of bows and arrows through different era's and

cultures. Some of these bows will blow your mind, but also seeing all these different styles helps to build your confidence in making your own bow. There are so many types and styles you feel less likely to screw up, because if your bow doesn't come out the way you wanted it to, it most likely came out in a way that one culture or another used for centuries. If you are serious about wanting to be a bowyer at any level, take the plunge and get the set. You won't regret it.

I bought volumes 1 and 2 several years ago, at a going out of business sale at a certain national book chain whose name rhymes with "hoarders." I hadn't actually been involved in archery for several decades, but these looked like interesting reading, and I think I paid less than two dollars for each. I only got around to reading them a few months ago, and since then I've not only bought volumes 3 and 4 to complete my set, I've been busy searching my basement for my old archery supplies, doing a tool inventory to see what I have in my home shop that I could use for bowmaking, and inspecting boards at the local big box home supply store, looking for hardwood boards with thick growth rings and minimal runout. I've even cut down a sapling behind my garage and whittled it into a simple neolithic bow. All the volumes in the series offer a wealth of information for anyone interested in making bows from wood; Volume 3 is of particular interest to the paleolithic archer, with its chapters on flintknapping and making a bow in the true paleolithic fashion, starting with a stone hand axe and a sapling. There's also quite a bit on Native American bows and arrows, ranging from the neolithic styles through the copper and steel tipped bows of the later 18th and 19th Centuries. There's information on Asian bows, from Japan and Korea, and a chapter on African bows as well. This is great reading for all archers, even you heathens who favor compound bows. ;-) Spend some time reading these books and you may find yourself hankering for a wood self-bow like our ancestors once depended on,.

Unlike the first two, which were somewhat convoluted but heavier on crafting information, this volume mostly covers historical trivia and decorating details about historical bows and arrows. It does not really improve the "how-to-make-it" knowledge base of people who are looking to craft their own. I only wanted to make a simple, inexpensive bow, and the history held no great interest for me; I found very little in this volume to add to the information already found in the first two volumes.

buy it to learn

This final volume ( # 3 ) of this series has very useful instructional information concerning bow making tools, take down ( two piece ) bows, stone age bows, stone points ( knapping ), and making arrows. Bow designs from many cultures around the world are examined and explained in detail. The tools mentioned range from simple hand tools, such as the wood rasp, to power tools, like the band saw. Power tools are not needed to make these bows, but can save time. Properly made arrows are a very important part of archery gear, and this volume shows how they are made correctly and safely using a variety of woods and fletchings. Other chapters explain bow designs such as the asymmetrical yumi bow from Japan, the materials for composite bows of Korea, and the hole nocks from some African bows.

My 16 year old wanted this set for Christmas, so I got it for him. He read them over the winter and then as soon as school was out he made himself a long bow -- that actually worked. He had no prior woodworking experience, so I guess the books must be pretty good.

The Bowyer's Bible was written by a group of knowledgeable and enthusiastic bowyers who clearly loved sharing their enthusiasm for building wooden, primitive bows and arrows. To build a primitive bow is to follow a path of the ancients, for archery predates art, money, the written word, the wheel, and all civilization. I recommend this well written and enjoyable book on bow building.

Its one of the best books on ancient tech. written. Knowing this knowledge is more useful than modern ways today. I recommend it in any collection.

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