

DISCLAIMER: *The following is NOT representative of an archery expert or professional. It is merely BASIC information provided for persons interested in the sport of archery within the Laguna Woods Archery Club.*

RECURVE BOW vs. COMPOUND BOW

RECURVE BOW is for casual (but more challenging) shooting at 20 yard targets and moderate LW competition; it is easier to develop the basic archery skills with a Recurve because of its simplicity and start-up cost.

COMPOUND BOW is for more serious shooting at or beyond 20 yards, hunting, and outside LW competition.

RECURVE BOW: **WEIGHS LESS** by at least 200%; **COST LESS** (\$100-\$150); **CAN BE SHARED** by others; **EASIER STORAGE** as disassembles to >60% of its length; **LOWER MAINTENANCE COSTS** as less parts; **FIXED DRAW WEIGHT** without additional limbs; **FULL DRAW WEIGHT** at full draw; **LONGER TOTAL LENGTH** that is not hunter-friendly; **DIFFICULT MULTIPLE DISTANCE SHOOTING** and **INCONSISTENT DRAW LENGTH** (when not using anchor point) that affects draw weight and arrow placement.

COMPOUND BOW: **ADJUSTABLE DRAW WEIGHT** by simply turning limb bolts; **REDUCED DRAW WEIGHT** at full draw by as much as 65% to 75% let-off; **SHORTER TOTAL LENGTH** by at least 33%; **EASIER MULTIPLE DISTANCE SHOOTING** through multiple sight pins; **FASTER ARROW SPEED** through physics of wheel & cam; **FIXED DRAW LENGTH** eliminates draw weight variation, and **MORE AVAILABLE ACCESSORIES** to enhance shooting accuracy. **WEIGHS MORE** by at least 2 to 3 times; **COST MORE** (\$150 to +\$2000); **CANNOT BE SHARED** as each bow is fitted to the archer, and **HIGHER MAINTENANCE COSTS** as there are more moving parts. (Cost example: recurve bowstring replacement is \$10 with no added labor cost whereas a compound replacement cost \$60 string + \$60 labor = \$120)

WHAT DO I NEED TO KNOW AFTER DECIDING ON THE TYPE OF BOW?

RIGHT-HANDED BOW: If you are right eye dominant.....not always because you're a right-handed persons

LEFT-HANDED BOW: If you are left eye dominant.....not always because you're a left-handed persons

(Simple check: fully extend any hand forward & line up the thumb to a fixed object with both eyes opened; then close the right eye and if the thumb moves away from the fixed object, you are right eye dominant. The thumb should not move with your left eye closed.)

RECURVE BOW LENGTH: "It is best for an archer to shoot a longer recurve bow than a recurve bow that might be too short." If you're up to 5'4" tall, USA Archery recommends a Recurve Bow size of 54". If you are up to 5'10", the recommended Recurve bow size is 62". If you are taller than 5'10", you should visit an archery retail shop for professional advice. The length of the bow affects the draw length and draw weight.

COMPOUND BOW LENGTH: Check with an archery retail shop for personal preferences, but generally universal compound bows fit archers up to 6'2". Look for a bow that can adjust to your full (maximum) draw length.

BOW DRAW WEIGHT: You should be able to comfortably pull the bowstring to **FULL** draw length (to your anchor point) without struggling and straining. Our Club recurve bows are from 17-20 pounds at a 28" draw length.

WHAT TYPE of ARROWS SHOULD I GET?

Carbon Fiber arrows are lighter than aluminum, wood, and fiberglass/plastic. The arrow Fletching/Vanes are personal preference, although plastic vanes are more durable than feathers for 20 yard targets. The standard Arrow Length is 30". The arrow should be long enough so that the tip extends at least one inch in front of the arrow rest at full draw. (To determine your full draw length without a bow, stand and extend your arms out in front and parallel

ARCHERY BUYING GUIDE by ANSON DONG

2 of 2

the ground. Place the nock of the arrow on your chest and clamp the arrow with both hands. The arrow should extend at least one inch in front of the finger tips.) Arrow Tips/Points are not always included with the arrows. The tips cost extra (from 85 cents to \$1 each). Target Points/Field Points are recommended while broad heads (sharp hunting tips) are NOT permitted at LW Archery.

WHAT IS A GOOD PRICE?

RECURVE BOW generally runs from \$100 to \$150 and varies among the retailers listed below and elsewhere, even for the same Brand and Model. Select a model that allows *limb interchangeability* so that you may increase the draw weight as your strength increases. Some may include the bowstring but the string will not have a *Nocking Point*. You will need the *Nocking Point* that the Club can attach, a plastic DIY self-adhesive *Bow Rest*, an *Arm Guard*, a *Finger Tab/Glove*, *Bowstring Wax*, *Bowstring Assist* and at least 3 arrows. (Amazon recently had a bargain at \$28.95 for 12 Histon FT-7526 standard 30" Carbon Fiber arrows with 3" vanes and Field Points. I tested them with a 45 lbs. draw weight at our range.)

TOTAL RECURVE COST (sample) = RT or LF Handed Recurve Bow (\$100) + Bowstring (\$10) + Bowstring Assist (\$10), Nocking Point (\$5) + Arrow Rest (\$5) + Arm Guard (\$10) + Finger Tab (\$5) + Bowstring Wax (\$5) + Six Arrows (\$15) = **<\$165** w/o tax. (Amazon.com sometimes sells a package deal that includes all of the above plus a bow case for around \$100 without arrows and nocking point. Please check the customer reviews before deciding.)

COMPOUND BOW runs from <\$360 (PSE Brand) to several thousand; hence, a major research into the pros and cons of each Brand and Model are advised and prudent. You will also need a *Mechanical Release* that may cost from \$25 to \$300. (Amazon sells a compound bow for \$150. Please check the customer reviews before deciding.)

WHERE CAN I BUY ARCHERY EQUIPMENT?

ORANGE COUNTY ARCHERY (6 miles) 5% discount with a LW Archery Member ID Card
25782 Obrero Dr., Mission Viejo, CA 92691 (949) 916-6855
Mon-Closed, Tues to Fri 1100-6:00, Sat and Sun 10-6:00
RANGE FEE per hour = **\$25 w/Their Gear, \$10 w/Your Gear, \$1 Target**

HI-TECH ARCHERY (26 miles)
1912 W. Commonwealth Avenue, Fullerton, CA 92833 (714) 449-9744
Mon-Closed, Tues to Fri 11:00-7:00, Sat 11:00-6:00, Sun-Closed
RANGE FEE per hour = **\$10 w/Your Gear, NO Rental Equipment Available, \$1 Target**

DICK'S SPORTING GOODS (online)
Most local stores do NOT carry archery equipment, except Huntington Beach; however, their online prices are competitive and come with FREE shipping as well. www.dickssportinggoods.com

AMAZON (online)
VERY Competitively Priced, Quick Delivery, Good Return Policy, Product Reviews by Customers, but availability of items vary from day to day. www.amazon.com

BUYER BEWARE: I do **NOT** recommend buying used archery equipment unless you know what to check in regards to hidden damages that affect the equipment's structural integrity and your safety.