

Tips for Quieting Your Hunting Bow

Hunters need to do all they can to silence their bows and arrows. Why? Most game animals have keen hearing, and the speed of sound is roughly 1100 feet per second, and the fastest compound out there spits out arrows at less than 350 feet per second. Do the math. That arrow is a little over three times slower than sound, giving the animal almost a full second to react: more than enough time for a tense, hunter-shy buck or bull to blow smoke.

Shoot a moderately heavy to heavy hunting arrow (500 to 600 grains). A heavy hunting arrow has two distinct advantages. One, it absorbs more energy and it soaks up more of the bow's vibrations from the limbs, handle, string, etc. when the string is released. Second, a heavy arrow is more stable in hunting situations when the release is not always crisp and rehearsed. It's more forgiving of human flaws common with adrenaline-rushed shots.

Tie string silencers onto the bowstring on the upper and lower edges. The old style rubber cat whiskers work great and they're waterproof. They are a lot cheaper than Sims, although all of the Sims bow silencing products are great.

Apply adhesive moleskin around the arrow shelf to prevent noise from an arrow tapping the riser. Stick moleskin onto the bow's shelf underneath and beside your arrow rest to capture any "clang" associated with the arrow falling off of the rest.

Always use a stabilizer. Without question a bow stabilizer reduces bow vibration. It lessens noise *dramatically*. A flexible stabilizer isolates vibrations and dampens shock in any condition or situation.

Occasionally a bow sight can rattle loose and make unwanted racket. Check the hex bolts regularly to make sure they are snug and rattle-free. Use a dab a drop of Loctite to the bolts that screw the sight into the riser as well as the two other bolts that hold the quiver adapter to your sight guard.

Select your hunting quiver carefully. Besides making sure that it is tightened down sufficiently, different models make less noise than others when shot. The best quivers house broadheads underneath a roomy, foam-filled hood. Arrow shaft grippers hold the shafts tightly a hand's length above the fletching to prevent excessive tremble and noise. Also, good quivers are designed to keep feather or vane fletching from rubbing together when filled.

Last, hush your arrow rest. Felt and Teflon products should be applied in places where the arrow slides. If you fail to do so your arrow will hum a faint whistling sound when you draw that's sure to alert game that you are near. Avoid this by changing the moleskin or Teflon regularly.

Examine your bow and components and make sure everything is whisper quiet. An

accurate, dull strumming hunting bow is paramount to consistent, deliberate success on game.