

## String and Cable Maintenance

Keep a watchful eye on your string and cables all year long, and as long as they're not too worn (frayed), you don't need to replace them. Always lubricate both with a good silicone-based wax every few weeks. If you need a new string, replace it in your off-season and work it in. It takes several hundred shots for any new string to stretch itself out. Give yourself time to do just that in a non-hurried fashion.

String stretch is another problem all its own. All bowstrings will stretch to some extent, even top-dollar ones sold by private string making companies. Even after their break-in period, they'll creep from time to time. The good ones just stretch less, which is a blessing. But you still have to monitor them regularly. If not, accuracy will suffer. Measure your axle-to-axle length with a steel tape and write down the number on a notepad. Every so often double-check this. If you've been shooting regularly and your bowstring stretches even 1/16<sup>th</sup> of an inch, put the bow in a press and twist the string to get the original length back. You should also keep a check on your string's nocking point. If your bowstring stretches, this will alter, a telltale giveaway that your string needs some loving.

String serving is equally important. If shoot a string loop, after time the tension on the loop knots from constant drawing can separate the serving. Even if the serving doesn't look too bad, re-serve it during the off-season.