

Proper Arrow Selection

The first consideration in selecting which arrows to use is to determine the type of shooting you will do with the arrows. Are the arrows going to be hunting arrows, target arrows, or both? Target arrows are usually lighter and faster, making them a flatter shooting arrow, but don't be sucked in by speed. Target arrows won't yield as much kinetic energy as a heavier, slower hunting arrow; meaning, if your shot placement on an animal isn't great, and you hit a bone you may not get enough penetration to make a clean kill. Lighter, faster arrows also tend to be much more difficult to tune once you screw in a broadhead. On the other hand, heavier hunting arrows make yardage estimation more difficult on the 3D range. Heavier arrows may make it difficult to sight for the long target distances (80-100 yards).

The next question you have to ask is whether you want to use carbon arrows, aluminum, or aluminum/carbon composite. Aluminum arrows are usually slightly less expensive than carbon arrows, but don't tend to last as long. Carbon arrows tend to be a lot tougher than aluminum and will probably last much longer. Aluminum/carbon composites such as Easton ACCs feature the best of both worlds, but are more expensive. These are some of the factors, but only you can decide which to use, based on what you intend to do with your arrows. The trend has been toward a dual purpose carbon arrow. Many archers prefer fairly inexpensive, medium-large diameter carbon arrows, giving the durability of carbon and the weight of aluminum, all for price of aluminum hunting shafts.

Now that you have decided what you're going to do with your arrows, it's time to purchase them and get measured. Don't make the mistake that many people do and assume that since your bow is a certain draw length, then that is what your arrow length should be. Arrow length is determined by many factors, such as the rest you use, the release you use, the model bow that you shoot, your draw weight, and so on. You can't get a good measurement at your local dealer using one of those cheap fiberglass recurves and a measuring arrow. When you get measured for arrows you should have your own equipment (bow, rest, release, etc.) or an arrow that you are currently using. For example, once the author bought a new set of Easton X7 2312 Eclipse arrows and cut them one inch longer than the arrow plunger rest. They flew off the bow OK, but during tuning the author discovered that the arrows were way too stiff, and that the only reasonable means of getting a good tune was to increase the bow weight 7 pounds, which may be very difficult to draw and hold. Had the author cut the arrows at 30" instead of 28.5" they would have tuned perfectly at 50 pounds, which is what he wanted to shoot at during the indoor season. Live and learn.

Measuring the arrow length of an individual is not as difficult as many people make it out to be. The dealer or pro shop that you choose should either be using a measuring arrow or mark your arrow with a marker when you are at full draw. Either way works just as well and the results are the same; an arrow that without a doubt will fit you and your equipment. After you have been measured, it's up to your dealer to cut the arrows and glue in your inserts. Make sure your dealer is using a **HIGH SPEED ARROW CUT OFF SAW**. These saws are designed just for this purpose, and are the only way to cut arrows

accurately. I have seen dealers use anything from hacksaws to belt grinders to cut off arrows, and there is no way that they can get any kind of consistency using these methods. Don't be afraid to ask your dealer questions, after all, it's your money being spent.

Some of the best references for arrows can be found online from the manufacturers themselves. All have web sites which describe their arrows. The bottom line is this: do your homework; talk to your local archery shop pro, research what your friends and hunting pals use, take full advantage of the web, and do not forget the straightness factor. Besides shaft construction and sizing, this factor can play an important role in the frustration level as you tune your arrows! Don't be afraid to make some mistakes along the way, it's the best way to learn what works for you.