

2014 Wisconsin Crossbow Course



Presented by TenPoint Crossbow Technologies & Wicked Ridge Crossbows

Today's Topics

- Why Should I Choose a Crossbow?
- What is a Crossbow?
- Selection, Maintenance & Range of a Crossbow
- Parts of a Compound Crossbow
- Sighting Systems
- Cocking Aids
- Cocking the Crossbow
- Safety
- Hunting Techniques
- State Regulations at a Glance

Why Should I Choose a Crossbow?

- Crossbows are user-friendly.
- Enables youth, women and physically challenged individuals to enjoy archery hunting/shooting who, for whatever reason, cannot draw a conventional bow back.
- Great urban management tool.
- A lot of people enjoy shooting and hunting with a crossbow vs. other methods.
- Great recruitment and/or retention tool.
- They're fun to shoot!

What is a Crossbow?

■ Crossbows date back to the Stone Age. They were used in the early medieval times and were overshadowed by firearms in the 1500's.

Crossbows are definitely not a new weapon!

■ Modern crossbows use limbs – either recurve or compound, and propel an arrow just like vertical archery. The limbs are mounted horizontally on a stock, which contains a trigger assembly, arrow groove, stirrup, and sight.

■ Although crossbows resemble firearms at a glance, they are still a short-range hunting tool. The high draw-weights for hunting are necessary to compensate for the short power stroke which provides trajectory and hitting power similar to all other vertical archery equipment.

What is a Crossbow?

Advantages:

- Crossbows are easier to master and obtain consistent accuracy for hunting ranges than vertical bows.
- When a crossbow is cocked it is ready to shoot.
- In cold weather, you can wear bulky clothing.

Disadvantages:

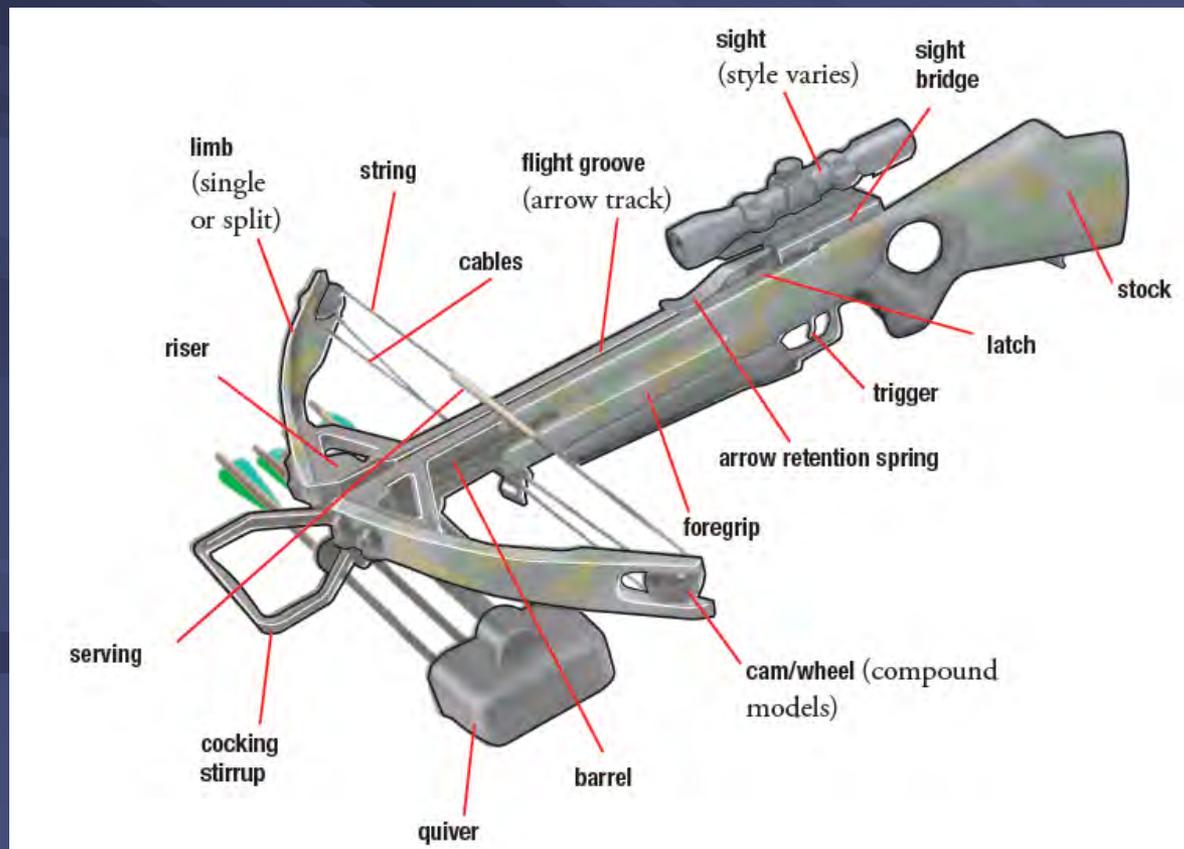
- Crossbows tend to be noisier than vertical archery equipment.
- Crossbows are heavier than vertical bows.
- With horizontal limbs you need to be more aware of objects to your left and right sides.

Selection, Maintenance & Range of a Crossbow

- Choose a crossbow that fits your physical size and strength – you do not need the biggest, strongest, or fastest when it comes to success.
- Thoroughly check all parts of the crossbow before shooting and perform recommended routine maintenance – your Dealer, the Manufacturer, or your Owner’s Manual are good sources of information regarding your crossbow.
- A crossbow is a superb hunting tool at ranges of 40-yards or less – but practicing with your hunting arrows is important!
*Remember - learn to judge distance and what happens to your arrows at different yardages.

Parts of a Crossbow

Compound Crossbow



Sighting Systems

■ Peep & Pin Sights



■ Dot-Sights



■ Telescopic Scopes



Cocking Aids

■ Rope-style cocking aids



■ Crank-style cocking aids



Cocking the Crossbow

■ Manual cocking:

- You pull 100% of the draw weight.

■ Rope-style cocking aids:

- You pull 50% of the draw weight (rope-cockers, ACUrope, ACUdraw 50, & ACU-52).

■ Crank-style cocking aids:

- You crank 5 to 6-pounds of the draw weight, the unit does the rest for you (ACUdraw, Crank Cocking Device, and various other systems).

Cocking the Crossbow

- Place the safety on “Fire”.
- Manual cocking – place ball of foot in stirrup, bend over and pull the string back (by hand or with a rope-type cocker).
- Latch string into trigger box.
- Engage safety if not automatic.
- Keep crossbow pointed in safe direction.
- Load arrow on flight deck or rail.
- Take safety off only when ready to shoot.

Safety

- SAFETY FIRST!
- Keep your thumb & fingers below flight rail when shooting.
- Do not consume drugs or alcohol before, or while using the crossbow.
- Do not store or transport your crossbow while it is cocked or loaded.
- Always point your crossbow in a safe direction.
- Do not put your finger on the trigger until you have made the decision to fire.

Safety

- Do not carry your crossbow while climbing up or down a tree.
- Always wear a fall-arrest system when hunting from a treestand.
- Make sure broadheads are protected by a quiver.
- When target shooting; set up in a safe, open area with a proper target and backstop.
- Do not use a crossbow if it is not in top working condition.
- Use arrows recommended by the Manufacturer.

Hunting Techniques

■ Ground Blinds

- Pop-up blind
- Homemade structure with branches, weeds, or deadfall.
- Small folding stool against a fence line or tree.

■ Elevated Stands

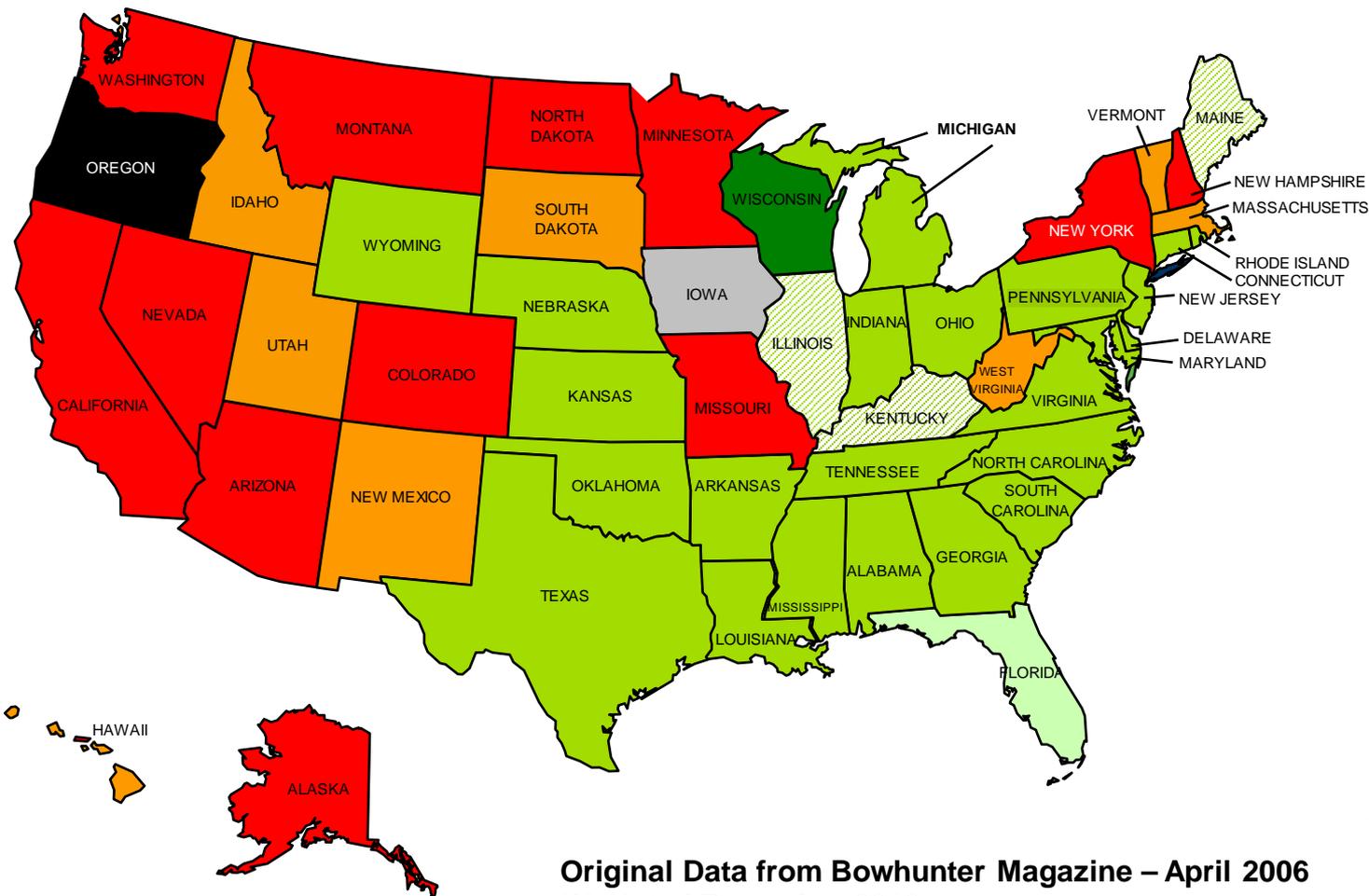
- Lock-on stand
- Ladder stand
- Climbing stand

■ Still Hunting or Stalking

State Regulations at a Glance

CROSSBOWS ARE:

- Legal for use in Archery Season. 23 States (46%)
- Legal during a portion of Archery season. 3 States (6%)(Dashed)
- Legal for use in Archery Season – private land only (FL). 1 State (2%)
- Legal for use in Archery Season beginning with 2014 season – will be reviewed again after three years. 1 State (2%)
- Legal for Hunters over a certain age: 70+ (IA). 1 State (2%)
- Legal for physically challenged hunters during Archery Season. 8 States (16%)
- Legal in Firearm Season. 12 States (24%)
- Illegal hunting equipment. 1 State (2%)



Original Data from Bowhunter Magazine – April 2006

*Updated December 2013 *Always check current regulations before hunting.



Thank You!

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CROSSBOW TECHNOLOGIES



WICKED RIDGE™

CROSSBOWS