

The *Ignition*- Mathews' Step-up Youth Compound

Equipment Review

For the last few years, I have recommended one of four bows to my young compound archers: Browning's MicroMidas and MicroAdrenaline and Hoyt's Rintec and Selena. Since the shop I coach in during the indoor season is a Mathews dealer, there were the inevitable questions: "What about Mathews? Do they have anything other than the Genesis?" Mathews has finally delivered, but does this new bow live up to expectations?

In October 2006, Mathews introduced its long-awaited youth bow—the *Ignition*. Billed as a “sweet-shooting youth bow” that is forgiving, yet fast, it boasts a generous 6½” brace height. With an axle-to-axle (ATA) length of 31¾” on a 15¾” fully machined *Aeroriser*, it comes in at a very light 2.9 pounds.

At first glance, it looks like a *Mustang* without all of the bells and whistles—specifically, no Harmonic Dampeners or roller guard. The *Mustang*, introduced in 2003, is a fast little bow that filled the need for those of us with short draw lengths (31¾” ATA and 51¾” brace, 19-26 inch draw lengths available). It is not a bow I usually recommend for youths. The bow retails for \$600 in target colors and the cams will set a parent back \$85 every time their child grows.

Since the *Ignition* bears such a resemblance to the *Mustang*, it seemed logical to shoot the two bows side-by-side. The 25 inch, 40 pound *Ignition* had a stock Mathews grip and was set up with an overdraw rest and nothing else. My daughter Katie's 24 inch, 45 pound *Mustang* was already set up with a Torqueless Grip, Pro-tuner rest, Super-Ball peep, Davis sight and target stabilizer. To make the test more equal, the sight and

stabilizer were removed.

The first thing we both noticed was the stiffness of the *Ignition*. Even though we both were used to shooting our bows at 45 pounds (I shoot a Conquest 2.), we found that we could not pull the 40-pound *Ignition* back very easily. After dropping the weight to 36 pounds, we were both able to draw it smoothly. This is not, necessarily, a bad thing. It could give a young archer a little more time before needing to change to stronger limbs.

The first shot told me a lot about the balance of this bow. The *Ignition* sat level in my hand during the shot with the bottom cam kicking up after release, just as expected. Surprising to both of us was the lack of hand shock. With no dampeners, we expected there to be more hand shock than in the *Mustang*. It was actually the reverse! There was even less shock with the addition of a 30” K&K stabilizer.

Accuracy is always a concern with smaller bows. Short ATA bows tend to be critical and unforgiving. While I loved shooting my *Mustang*, any slight form error was immediately evident on the target. Katie and I experimented with some of the form errors that beginning archers tend to have. We found that, while not as forgiving as a longer bow, it was not nearly as critical as the *Mustang*. We gripped the bow, punched the release, twisted and turned in any direction we could think of to test the bow. Our groups widened, but stayed within a 6” group - and this was without a sight on a bow with a draw length one inch too long!

I was curious about the missing Harmonic

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Dampeners that have been a part of every other Mathews compound bow (except the Genesis) for the past half dozen years. To find out the reason for the omission, I contacted Mike Ziebell, marketing director for Mathews. Mr. Ziebell explained, "The dampeners had to be left out to keep the price down. (The bow) was designed as a first level Mathews."

Will I recommend this bow? Absolutely! It is every bit the quality of bow I expected from Mathews, completely living up to its billing. I would even recommend this bow to women who are interested in learning to shoot. With an MSRP of US \$329, it is offered at a price most parents will find to be reasonable, yet is not any lesser quality than its more expensive cousins. Even better, the price on replacement cams is only \$20. This makes adjusting the Ignition for a growing child easy and affordable.

If you are a parent reading this article and are thinking about a compound bow for your child, I will tell you this, as a parent: if the Ignition had been available when my daughter was looking for a compound, she would have had one. Come to think of it, so would I.

Specifications

<i>IBO Rating</i>	278 fps At 26 and 50 lbs. (approx.)
<i>Cam</i>	<i>Ignition Cam</i>
<i>Draw Weight</i>	20#, 30#, 40#, 50# (approx)
<i>Draw Lengths</i>	19" to 26" with half sizes available from 22.5" to 25.5" (approx.)
<i>ATA Length</i>	31 ³ / ₈ " (approx.)
<i>Brace Height</i>	6 ¹ / ₂ " (approx.)
<i>Riser Length</i>	15 ⁷ / ₈ " (approx.)
<i>Physical Weight</i>	2.9 lbs. (approx.)
<i>Letoff</i>	65% (approx.)
<i>Cable Length</i>	84 ⁵ / ₈ " (approx.)
<i>String Length</i>	32 ³ / ₄ " (approx.)



Ava McDowell is an elementary/middle school music teacher in New Haven, Michigan. She coaches in the Royal Oak Archers JOAD program in Lake Orion, MI, in charge of the Senior Division and compound archers. Currently she is working on a Level 2 coaching certificate as well as developing a comprehensive curriculum for the program. Ava is an avid student of the sport, competing at the state level with plans to move into national competition in 2006.