

GUESSTIMATING DISTANCES in Barebow Archery

The distances you will be shooting and the target sizes

20 cm 10 15 meters
40cm 15 20 25
60cm 20 25 30 35
80cm 35 40 45 50 55

Skip the 20cm face for now.

What the game plan is this: using your ring sight or box sight aperture, whatever you decide to use, you will learn to figure out how much paper is in your ring at any distance.

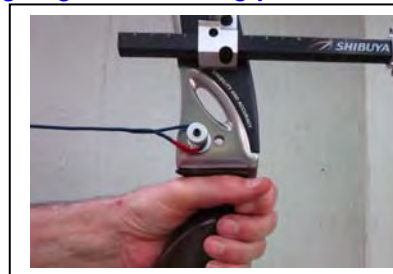
Compound bow- skip this section.

Here is the first exercise, take an old bow string or just a loop of string. Take a cut-off carbon arrow or anything thin, about six inches long. I used the center-serving of an old string.



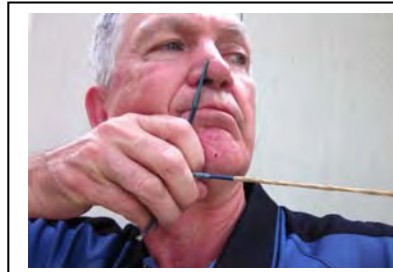
A section on barebow is in the works, stay tuned.

Attach the loop to the bow, usually right over the plunger. Now, at full draw, have someone measure the cord to the plunger. What you are trying to do is practice guesstimating distances without having to draw the bow for long periods of time. You are basically going to be holding your handle and sight at pseudo full draw. The "stick" (or center-servicing in my case) will simulate the string going up/down your face. You will be faking a full draw so that the sight will be out in front of you as if you were actually aiming/shooting. I have actually added my stabilizers or just dead weight to the handle to simulate the weight of the stabilizers but it isn't necessary.



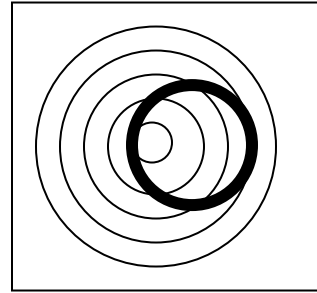
Compounds may join back in.

What you will start to do is figure out how much paper is in your sight at 15 meters on the 40 cm face. Note: do not put the yellow center in the middle of your sight ring. It makes no sense trying to gauge how much paper you see. Use half of the target, for instance, put the center of the yellow ring at the edge of your sight and see how many rings you can see. Use a circle template to find the correct size circle that closely matches the view you see in you sight ring. If using a square aperture, then find a square template.



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You will make a chart of all the target faces and every five-meter increment and how many rings you see. I have included an Excel file to help you get started. Make several copies before you get started and make sure you have a blank master copy in case you need to make more copies.



You will find a pattern emerging after you chart all the distance on all the faces. . (See the excel spread sheet for examples).

For example you will notice:

On the 40cm face at 20 meters, there is three rings in the sight aperture.

On the 60cm face at 30 meters, there are three rings in the sight aperture.

On the 80cm face at 40 meters, there are three rings in the sight aperture.

Okay, now you have all those memorized. You are ready to shoot at a target. Hopefully your bow is well tuned. You walk up to the target and the first thing you have to do is identify the size of the face. 40cm is easy. But, is it a 60cm face or an 80cm face? This can get a little tricky. Be careful, if someone uses a smaller target matt on a 60cm butt, it could trick you thinking it is an 80cm shot, especially at shorter distance. If the tournament director knows what they are doing, they will cut off the corners of the target face. Not because you can read the print with a pair of binoculars but because in proportion, printing on a 60cm face will appear larger in contrast to the printing on an 80cm face. Make sense?

You come up to a target; you claim it is an 80cm face. Is it short (around 35 meters), is it long (55 meters) or is it medium range (45 meters)?

You guess it is 40 meters. So, you expect to see x-amount of inches of paper or x-amount of rings in your sight at 40 meters. You set your sight for 40 meters, raise the bow and without even drawing, you determine if there is more rings than you expect or is there less rings than you expect. If there are MORE rings, then it is further away than you expected. You set the bow down w/o even drawing it and adjust your sight because you saw more rings. Hmm, must be 45 or 50 meters.

You can raise the bow and set it back down as long as you don't pose as a statue. If you linger too long, you can be put on a clock. You have four minutes from the time you approach the target to shoot three arrows.

Most people do not practice where a missed guess lands on the target. You think it is 40 meters, you set your sight and shoot but the arrow goes high or low. How high and low determines how much you are off and you need to know this so your next shot is a better shot, like a five or six.

So, stand at 40 meters for example and set your sight at 35 meters and take a shot. How low did it go? Set the sight at 45 meters, take a shot and figure out how high it went. This is important because if you miss-guess a distance, you need to know how much you missed it by so you can adjust.

The rules say you can carry a rule book with you and the book has the different distances for each face if you don't want to memorize them but I would get familiar with

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the chart. READ the rules – you can have sight markings on a chart but you cannot take notes or refer to any memorabilia that will aid in guessing distances.