2006 Head-2-Head Bow Test

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Introduction

Welcome to our 4th annual Head to Head (H2H) Bow Test feature!

In 2005 voter turnout was fantastic – 2006 was even better with votes coming from online posts, e-mails, face-to-face requests and telephone calls! The top eight vote winners were the Pearson Stealth, High Country Sidewinder, Hoyt Trykon, Bowtech Tribute, Parker Frontier, Ross CR334, Mathews Switchback XT and PSE Mach X. This year we added a twist by entering our own wildcard pick into the contest – the Fred Bear Instinct.

Other than Fred Bear Archery (already had it on hand for another evaluation), each company was contacted at the beginning of February and told of their inclusion and the scope of the H2H Test. Bows started to show up at Silks Outdoors by the end of that same month however it took until the first week of May to get them all in.

On May 7th between 20 and 30 people were invited for the festivities which included a cookout, small target range shooting, prize drawings, some great story telling and of course, the test.

The first evaluator pulled in around 11:45 AM and the last of them left a little after 9:00 PM. The actual testing went non-stop from 1 PM to 9 PM – it was brutal on everyone!

This year's test was conducted in much the same way as in 2005. The sound level meter (SLM), however, was much more technologically advanced and delivered frequency readouts in addition to the decibel level. The results are quite interesting!

We hope you enjoy the 2006 H2H Bow Test!

Jon E. Silks
Hunt Hard and Be Safe!

Foreward

The 2006 Head to Head (H2H) bow test was my favorite to date – not because of the results but because of the set-up, camaraderie and the introduction of a sophisticated sound level meter.

In case you are new to the H2H I will give an explanation of how the bows are chosen to be included in the test. Basically we ask interested archers throughout the country and the world over to vote for the bow that they would like to see thrown into the H2H ring. Most of the votes can be found right here on the Bowsite

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under several different main and state based threads. Other votes came from folks across the country calling in, sending e-mails, via private Bowsite messages and even a few were turned in during face-to-face conversations! The number of votes received in 2006 tripled that of the first two years and the total was 25% higher than last year! Only one vote per archer was accepted (as far as we know anyway) and only one bow per company was permitted entry into the test (The Bowtech Tribute beat out the Bowtech Allegiance by less than five votes to be included in the test!).

And the top 2006 vote getters are:

- PSE Archery Mach X
- Ross CR334
- Bowtech Tribute
- High Country Sidewinder Carbon
- Parker Frontier
- Hoyt Trykon
- Pearson Stealth
- Mathews Switchback XT

Shortly before the H2H test was conducted I had in my possession a bow that was quite impressive but not included in the test. What impressed me most was its performance to price value – it will cost an archer almost 50% less to purchase this bow than many of the other rigs in the H2H. To see how it would stack up I decided to enter it as a wildcard. The surprise entry for 2006 (I think I will make this a yearly tradition) is the Fred Bear Instinct!

The whole idea behind the H2H is to, as best we know how, evaluate the SUBJECTIVE qualities of eight bows (now 9) "mano a mano" – one on one – head to head. After all, many of us select a bow based on these very subjective traits. If we pick up a bow that fits our hands well, has a silky smooth draw and releases an arrow without biting us we are likely to buy it over a rig with a blocky handle, shoulder busting draw cycle and enough kick to rival 100-proof fire water. These are the real-life deal makers and deal breakers when deciding which bow to spend our hard earned money on.

The validity of the H2H results lies with the method of testing – blindfolded archers evaluating bows without regard to brand or looks. This year we were even stricter in keeping the identity of the bows hidden. In years past we would let the evaluators see and handle the bows before the testing began, however, in 2006 not one evaluator was permitted to even see any of the bows until the test was completed. And it works! One evaluator in particular was disgusted with himself when his blindfold was removed after the last test and he saw how he ranked the bows. He couldn't believe he didn't vote his own brand as number one!

This is also a good place to address the several requests that we get each year to include an accuracy test. I am unconvinced that there is a fair way to evaluate that aspect of a bow's performance and until one is found we will avoid it. Sorry!

This is the first year we have had what can be considered a "blow out" where one bow significantly outdistanced all others. It wasn't until the results were tallied that I even realized it had happened. Where other bows would shine in a couple of categories and then suffer low scores in others this one bow consistently came in near the top. The bow that beat the rest was the…. yeah right – like I'm going to tell you already!!!

So, sit back, relax and enjoy the 2006 H2H Blindfold Bow Test. Remember, this is an unscientific test (mostly) aimed at the "average Joe" and not intended to be laden with technical lingo that the majority of us do not relate to. This is a good tool for someone looking to make a purchase and would like to get a general idea of each bow's performance. Although I will include my personal opinion about the bows in their individual write-ups the official results are based solely on the eight evaluators and their selections in each category. Approach the results with an open mind – you will find them more interesting that way!!

Individual Categories

Noise Level:
One of the most sought after hunting bow characteristics is a low level of noise generated at the release. It has become a market obsession and the manufacturers have responded with parallel limbs, vibration dampening accessories of every sort and various machining features. Hunting rigs today are far quieter right out of the box than those just five years ago fully loaded.

For this portion of the evaluation each tester was asked to sit in a different location and orientation related to the shooter's position. Their backs were turned to hide the identity of the bows.

Kick/Vibration:
A special challenge exists with this category in that the evaluator has to concentrate extremely hard to separate the noise heard in their ears with the sensation felt in their hands. Many times when a bow produces a significant level of noise we mentally transfer that sound to our perception of the shock and vibration. The two do not always go hand in hand however. To help reduce the effects of this phenomenon the evaluators were asked to wear earplugs during the test.

Draw Cycle:
The draw cycle of a bow plays a major role in our perceived enjoyment of shooting. It also keeps us going back to the practice range more often if we like shooting a particular bow.

Balance/Feel:
The manner in which the grip of a bow naturally positions your hand and wrist is an important factor in attaining accuracy. Also, the feel of a bow in your hands can seriously affect your decision to buy a certain rig. A bow that meets your needs in some areas but feels like a block in your hand will likely be left on the shelf.

Setup and Standards

All bows were set-up with a 29" draw length; 65 lb draw weight, string loop and Carolina Archery Whisker Biscuit QS Deluxe arrow rest. The Whisker Biscuit aided greatly in speeding up the test and assuring safety. Other than the rest and loop nothing else was added to or taken away from the bows. They were tested just as you would buy them – no modifications.

It should be noted that speed was tested using the New Archery Products QuikTune 3000 arrow rests. The Carolina rests were for carbon only and could not be setup for the larger aluminum shaft that was used for a second speed reference.

Chronograph
Oehler Model 35 Proof
Competition Electronics Pro-Chrono (used to confirm the Oehler numbers)

Arrows
Easton XX78 2315 Super Slam – 540 grain.
Xtreme 3060 Carbon – 350 grain.

Sound Level Meter
CEL-490 Sound Level Meter and CEL-284/2 Acoustical Calibrator

2006 Test Procedure

In 2006 we continued with the method used in 2005 and put in an incredible amount of time and effort to get a true 1 thru 9 rating. Each evaluator spent a significant amount of time working through the evaluation, choosing each place through a process of elimination – no shortcuts!

The poll conducted here on Bowsite.Com to choose the bows that would be included in the test went back to the way it was done in 2004 – that is, voters not only chose the manufacturer as in 2005 but they also chose the model to be tested.

Once the bows were all received, the procedure was as follows:

Each evaluator worked separately through all four categories. A blindfold was used to keep brand loyalty at bay and was worn from the beginning to the end of each session (noise, kick, etc.). Evaluators were not permitted to see the bows until after they were done with their evaluation.

Example of the "draw cycle" category process: The evaluator is blindfolded. He is handed a bow to draw. The bow is handed back to the helper and he is given a second bow to draw. The evaluator chooses between

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the two. The one that is not chosen is set to the side. The one that is chosen is then put through the same process with the next bow in line. Each is drawn and one is chosen. Again, the one that is chosen is put up against the next bow in line. This process is continued until only one bow remains. The bow that remains is the evaluator's #1 pick for that category. That bow is taken out of the testing. The entire process is completed again for the remaining seven bows until only one remains – the evaluator's #2 overall pick for that category. This process is repeated until all 8 bows have been placed/seated.

Each evaluator's results are then scored. This was done by simply inverting the numbers of the rankings and rewarding points for each ranking. Just as an example we will rate the bows arbitrarily for draw cycle (this is just an example – not actual results):

1. PSE
2. Bowtech
3. High Country
4. Hoyt
5. Ross
6. Parker
7. Pearson
8. Mathews
9. Fred Bear

The bows would then be given the following scores for one evaluator for the draw category:

• PSE – 9 points
• Bowtech – 8 points
• High Country– 7 points
• Hoyt – 6 points
• Ross– 5 points
• Parker – 4 points
• Pearson – 3 points
• Mathews – 2 points
• Fred Bear – 1 point

The points were totaled for all evaluators in each category. The bow with the highest number of total points in that category was rated #1 and so on down the line to #9. In this way we were able to get a true ranking for each category based on the results from all evaluators.

2006 Individual Bow Specs

Pearson Stealth
MSRP: $769.00
Finish: Mossy Oak Obsession
Brace height: 7-3/8"
Axle-to-axle length: 33-3/8"
Let-off: 75%
Advertised AMO speed: N/A
Advertised IBO speed: 316 fps
Mass weight: 4.2 lbs
Available draw lengths: 25 to 30"
Available Draw weights (peak): 50, 60, 70 lbs

Fred Bear Instinct
MSRP: $399.00
Finish: Realtree Hardwoods HD Green
Brace height: 7.5"
Axle-to-axle length: 31"
Let-off: 75%
Advertised AMO speed: N/A
Advertised IBO speed: 305 fps
Mass weight: 4.1 lbs
Available draw lengths: 27 to 30"
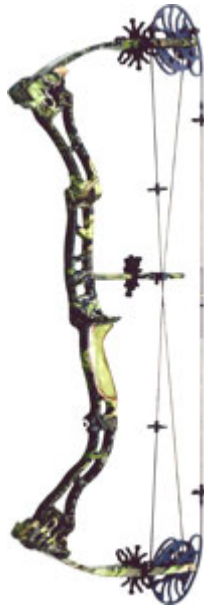Available Draw weights (peak): 60, 70 lbs

High Country Sidewinder
MSRP: $747.00
Finish: Realtree Hardwoods Green HD
Brace height: 7.25"
Axle-to-axle length: 32.5"
Let-off: 65-80%
Advertised AMO speed: N/A
Advertised IBO speed: 300 fps
Mass weight: 3.2 lbs
Available draw lengths: 26 to 31"
Available Draw weights (peak): 60, 70 lbs

Bowtech Tribute
MSRP: $749.00
Finish: Mossy Oak Obsession is standard with
other camo options available
Brace height: 7.5"
Axle-to-axle length: 31.5"
Let-off: 65 to 80%
Advertised AMO speed: N/A
Advertised IBO speed: 320 – 328 fps
Mass weight: 4.1 lbs
Available draw lengths: 26 – 30"
Available Draw weights (peak): 50, 60, 70,
and 80 lb standard with 90 and 100 lb options

Ross CR334
MSRP: $705.00
Finish: Realtree Hardwoods HD
Brace height: 7 ¾"
Axle-to-axle length: 34"
Let-off: 80 or 65%
Advertised AMO speed: N/A
Advertised IBO speed: 305 fps
Mass weight: 4 lbs
Available draw lengths: 26.5 to 31"
Available Draw weights (peak): 50, 60, 70 lbs

Hoyt Trykon
MSRP: $749.00
Finish: Realtree Hardwoods Green HD
Brace height: 7"
Axle-to-axle length: 33"
Let-off: 65 or 80%
Advertised AMO speed: N/A
Advertised IBO speed: 316 fps
Mass weight: 4 lbs 8 oz
Available draw lengths: 25 to 31"
Available Draw weights (peak): 40, 50, 60, 70
and 80 lbs

Parker Frontier
MSRP: $719.00
Finish: Mossy Oak's New Break-Up
Brace height: 6 ¾"
Axle-to-axle length: 33.5"
Let-off: 65 or 80%
Advertised AMO speed: 239 fps
Advertised IBO speed: 313 fps
Mass weight: 4.15 lbs
Available draw lengths: 26 – 31"
Available Draw weights (peak): 60, 70 lbs

PSE Archery Mach X
MSRP: $749.00
Finish: Mossy Oak's New Break-Up
Brace height: 7.25"
Axle-to-axle length: 33"
Let-off: 65 to 80%
Advertised AMO speed: N/A
Advertised IBO speed: 308 – 312 fps
Mass weight: 4.25"
Available draw lengths: 27 – 31"
Available Draw weights (peak): 60, 70 lbs

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Mathews Switchback XT
MSRP: $795.00
Finish: Realtree hardwoods HD
Brace height: 7.5"
Axle-to-axle length: 31"
Let-off: 65 or 80%
Advertised AMO speed: 238 fps
Advertised IBO speed: 315 fps
Mass weight: 4.25 lbs
Available draw lengths: 25 –30"
Available Draw weights (peak): 40, 50, 60,
and 70 lbs

Results

Scores

Kick/Vibration:

1. Mathews Switchback XT – Category Score: 67
2. A tie! Bowtech Tribute and Hoyt Trykon – Category Score: 55
3. N/A
4. Ross CR334 – Category Score: 43
5. Fred Bear Instinct - Category Score: 40
6. Pearson Stealth - Category Score: 35
7. High Country Sidewinder - Category Score: 25
8. PSE Mach X - Category Score: 21
9. Parker Frontier - Category Score: 19

Noise Level:

1. Bowtech Tribute - Category Score: 61
2. PSE Mach X - Category Score: 59
3. Mathews Switchback XT - Category Score: 58
4. Ross CR334 - Category Score: 45
5. Parker Frontier - Category Score: 39
6. Fred Bear Instinct - Category Score: 35
7. High Country Sidewinder: 27
8. Hoyt Trykon - Category Score: 23
9. Pearson Stealth - Category Score: 14

Balance/Feel (Grip):

1. Fred Bear Instinct - Category Score: 58
2. A tie! Mathews Switchback XT and Hoyt Trykon - Category Score: 50
3. N/A
4. High Country Sidewinder - Category Score: 46

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5. Bowtech Tribute - Category Score: 39
6. Ross CR334 - Category Score: 38
7. PSE Mach X - Category Score: 30
8. Pearson Stealth - Category Score: 26
9. Parker Frontier - Category Score: 23

Draw Cycle:

1. Mathews Switchback XT - Category Score: 58
2. PSE Mach X - Category Score: 50
3. A tie! Pearson Stealth and Parker Frontier - Category Score: 49
4. N/A
5. Ross CR334 - Category Score: 41
6. Fred Bear Instinct - Category Score: 40
7. Bowtech Tribute - Category Score: 27
8. High Country Sidewinder - Category Score: 25
9. Hoyt Trykon - Category Score: 21

Speed Results

(rounded up to the next whole number)
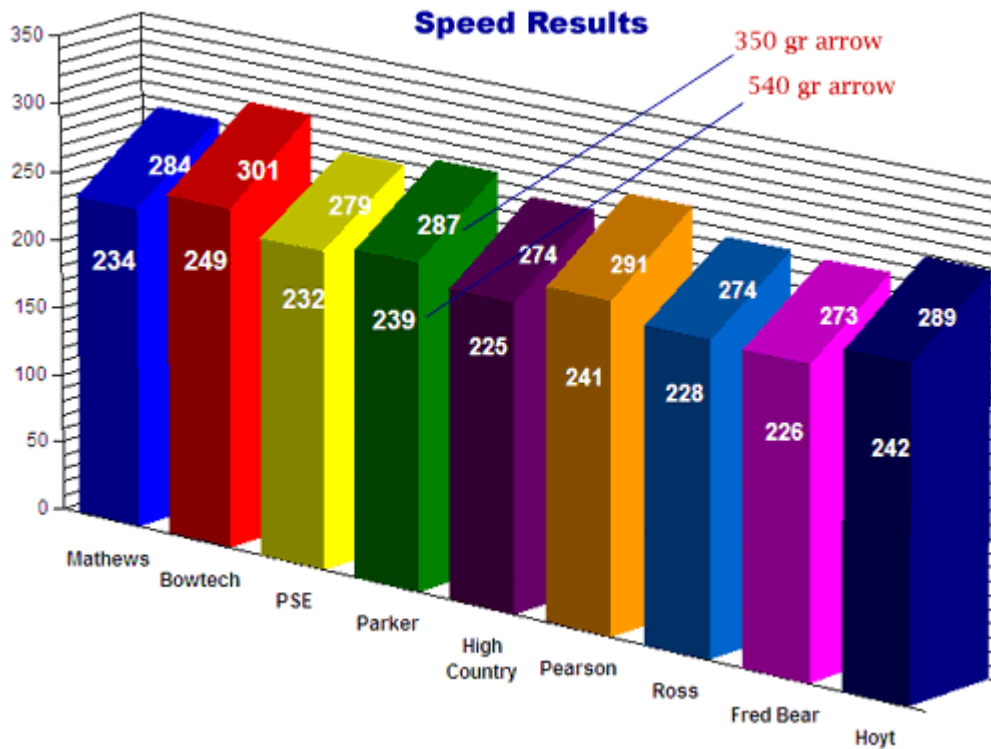
Easton XX78 – 540-grain arrow

1. Bowtech Tribute – 249 fps
2. Hoyt Trykon – 242 fps
3. Pearson Stealth – 241 fps
4. Parker Frontier – 239 fps
5. Mathews Switchback XT – 234 fps
6. PSE Mach X – 232 fps
7. Ross CR334 – 228 fps
8. Fred Bear Instinct – 226 fps
9. High Country Sidewinder – 225 fps

Xtreme 3060 Carbon – 350-grain arrow

1. Bowtech Tribute – 301 fps
2. Pearson Stealth – 291 fps
3. Hoyt Trykon – 289 fps

4. Parker Frontier – 287 fps
5. Mathews Switchback XT – 284 fps
6. PSE Mach X – 279 fps
7. A tie! Ross CR334 and High Country Sidewinder – 274 fps
8. N/A
9. Fred Bear Instinct – 273 fps

2006 Decibel Meter Results

Equipment:
- CEL-490 Sound Level Meter
- CEL 284/2 Acoustical Calibrator
- Tripod

After many requests and a successful beginning in 2005 we decided to continue the objective sound level testing with the use of a sound level meter. However, for 2006 we went for the next step up (actually about 10 steps up) in system performance and output. The CEL-490 SLM captures not only dB but also dB at two

weighted ratings and seven frequencies. After much learning and discussion around the topic of perceived sound it was apparent to me that to test for dB only would be a mistake. A sound that rates low in dB but is concentrated at a frequency we hear more keenly may actually be more offensive/startling.

An A-weighted reading is one that automatically compensates for the frequency characteristics of the human ear. Since there is no weight rating for the ears of a deer I will refrain from ranking the bows from that perspective. We will, however, rank them according to the A-weighting so they can be compared to the subjective test results. The results are quite interesting!

Ranking

SLM Meter set at 22.5" to the right of the shooter's anchor point (A-Weighting only)

1. PSE Mach X – 77 dB
2. Mathews Switchback XT – 79.4 dB
3. Ross CR334 – 80.1 dB
4. Fred Bear Instinct – 80.4 dB
5. Bowtech Tribute – 81 dB
6. High Country Sidewinder – 81.8 dB
7. Hoyt Trykon – 82.3 dB
8. Pearson Stealth – 82.8 dB
9. Parker Frontier – 83.8 dB

SLM Meter set at 164.5" from the shooter's anchor point - in front of and slightly to the right of the arrow's path (A-Weighting only)

1. PSE Mach X – 72.4 dB
2. Ross CR334 – 73.8 dB
3. Mathews Switchback XT – 74.3 dB
4. A 3-way tie! Pearson, Parker and High Country – 74.8 dB
5. N/A
6. N/A
7. Hoyt Trykon – 75.5 dB
8. Fred Bear Instinct – 76 dB
9. Bowtech Tribute – 76.2 dB

If the highest decibel level is taken from across the different frequencies not including the weighted ratings the ranking would look like this:

SLM Meter set at 22.5" to the right of the shooter's anchor point

1. PSE Mach X – 72.9 dB

2. Mathews Switchback XT – 74.2 dB
3. Bowtech Tribute – 76 dB
4. Fred Bear Instinct – 76.1 dB
5. Ross CR334 – 77.1 dB
6. High Country Sidewinder – 78.4 dB
7. Hoyt Trykon – 79.1 dB
8. Pearson Stealth – 80.4 dB
9. Parker Frontier – 82.2 dB

SLM Meter set at 164.5" from the shooter's anchor point - in front of and slightly to the right of the arrow's path

1. PSE Mach X – 66.4 dB
2. High Country Sidewinder – 67.9 dB
3. Mathews Switchback XT – 68.1 dB
4. Ross CR334 – 68.8 dB
5. Hoyt Trykon – 69.3 dB
6. Parker Frontier – 69.4 dB
7. Pearson Stealth – 69.6 dB
8. Bowtech Tribute – 70 dB
9. Fred Bear Instinct – 71.3 dB

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Overall Score for Subjective Categories

1. Mathews Switchback XT – Total Score: **233**
2. Bowtech Tribute - Total Score: **182**
3. Fred Bear Instinct – Total Score: **173**
4. Ross CR 334 - Total Score: **167**
5. PSE Archery Mach X - Total Score: **160**
6. Hoyt Trykon - Total Score: **149**
7. Parker Frontier - Total Score: **130**
8. Pearson Stealth - Total Score: **124**
9. High Country Sidewinder - **123**

Bow Evaluation Commentary

Jon Silks Personal Bow commentary

Mathews Switchback XT:
Mathews proves once again that they can back up their advertising. I was a little surprised at the margin by which the XT outdistanced the others. During the actual testing it was apparent that the Mathews was doing well, but it wasn't obvious that it was breaking away. The key to the Switchback's impressive performance was consistency. It never dropped below #3 in any test, and it hit the top in two categories – 'Kick/Vibration' and 'Draw Cycle.' Personally I rated the XT right along with the evaluators in every category. It is a truly remarkable rig that is solid across the board!

Bowtech Tribute:
The Tribute became our 2006 speed champion with the closest challenger crossing the line 10 fps slower with the 350 grain arrow, and 7 fps slower with the 540 grain arrow. In two of our subjective categories the Tribute shined. It was ranked number one in 'lack of noise' and tied for number two in the 'kick/vibration' category. Although the Bowtech placed fifth in balance/feel and seventh in draw cycle, it still held on to take the number two position overall! While many of the evaluators did not like the flattened heel of the grip, I found it to be helpful at full draw and not uncomfortable. When released, the Tribute is amazingly quiet and I was particularly impressed how fast it could launch arrows with such little kick. It should be noted that the model used for testing used speed cams rather than the smooth cams.

Fred Bear Instinct:
The surprise of the contest was our wild card entry, the Fred Bear Instinct. During a separate evaluation the Instinct impressed me with its performance and especially its price! Fred Bear may well have placed a bow on the market that will slow the pricing surge. Bow costs have been approaching the $1,000.00 dollar mark and at $399.00 MSRP the Instinct is sure to turn heads! Personally I was very impressed with the Instinct and rated it around the middle of the pack in most categories. The only thing that kept it from rating among the top two in feel/balance was its tendency to push my hand a bit too hard up under the shelf. Shock, noise far exceeded my expectations for a bow that will most likely sell for less than $375.00!!

Ross CR334:
A solid showing in all categories helped the Ross CR334 capture the number four position overall. I was most impressed with the draw cycle and balance. When drawn, the CR334 rests solidly on target, much the same way a quality target bow is designed to do. If it weren't for a slight ridge or bump where the top of the grip meets the underside of the shelf I believe the CR334 would have improved its category position by at least two, which may have also improved its overall position. Another plus for the Ross was its noise level – other than a little string vibration it was extremely quiet.

PSE Archery Mach X:
PSE makes a strong showing with their new and very unique Mach X. It is quite remarkable looking with a relatively long riser and ultra short (9"!) swept back limbs. The Mach X scored second in the noise category among the evaluators and number one on my "lack of noise" list! It does have a noticeable kick and slight vibration at release, which landed it at number eight in that category. A quality stabilizer was attached to the Mach X for a separate test and the effects were notable - eliminating the vibration and significantly reducing the "jump" in the handle. Many of the evaluators did not like the super slim B.E.S.T. grip and the result was a number seven ranking in the feel/balance category. In my opinion the overly slender feel does not come into play in the way I hold a bow at full draw. In fact, it positions my hand well for a torque free and comfortable shot. The PSE Mach X actually ranked in the top three for me in this area!

Hoyt Trykon:
The Trykon's sixth position overall was quite a surprise to me. In my testing I found the Trykon to be virtually shock free (even more so than the Tribute), well balanced and quiet other than string noise. One of the factors that came into play was that we couldn't keep the factory string silencers in place – they would come out of the string every fourth or fifth shot. After a few attempts they were just left out. Subsequently, the noise rating for the Trykon was adversely affected. The Hoyt grip is super-comfortable and does a fantastic job of positioning your hand at full draw. One of my least favorite attributes of this rig was the fact that it was nearly impossible to feel relaxed at full draw, as there was too little space between the let-off and the full force of the draw cycle. The Trykon was one of our fastest arrow launchers securing second and third place finishes.

Parker Frontier:
Parker's new Frontier placed well in our speed test with a fourth place finish with both the 350 and 540-grain arrows. Equipped with one of the least parallel of the limb systems in the test, the Frontier exhibited a significant "jump" upon release and was ranked last in that class by myself and the evaluators. The strongest showing came in the draw cycle category where it was ranked third by the evaluators. I thought it had an exceptionally smooth draw and solid balance at full draw. The relatively large heel of the grip landed the Frontier in some trouble as many thought it was too large and produced too much hand contact. Noise levels for the Frontier were low and the rig ranked above average in that area.

Pearson Stealth:
Pearson and their loyal customers will undoubtedly be unhappy with the Stealth's number eight ranking. It was a very surprising development especially after hearing so many positive remarks after the trade show. In the end, however, it was the Stealth's relatively loud shot and feel/balance rating that landed it in this position. In the draw cycle category Pearson's Stealth ranked a very impressive 3rd place and rightly so as it has a silky smooth draw. I liked the machining detail on the riser and found that the shot noise could be considerably reduced with my Stealth stabilizer.

High Country Sidewinder (Carbon):

Last place is a tough position to be for anyone, especially a company that is working so hard to satisfy their customers at every turn. The Sidewinder was NOT my least favorite rig and I believe the light mass weight alone (3.2 lbs!) is very beneficial to hunters. This was reflected in the number four ranking it received for balance/feel. I ranked the Sidewinder's draw cycle among the very best of the rigs however the evaluators did not agree and gave it a number eight position. In my opinion, one of the major factors holding back High Country is their steadfast refusal to get on board with the demand for speed. It may be wise to abandon the "special arrows" approach and focus on improving overall IBO speed ratings. As has happened in the past the bow representing High Country had a poor speed showing. Still, I like the Sidewinder as an overall package. With some accessories it can be quieted down and made more shock free. The 3.2 lb mass weight is a definite plus in my book!

2006 Evaluation Team & Special Thanks

My appreciation for the evaluation team cannot be overstated. These eight guys endured eight hours of non-stop testing to help make the 2006 H2H test a reality. Many of them left with sore shoulders and tired eyes. The small Cabelas gift certificates and prize giveaways did not nearly make up for their time and effort. To the eight evaluators, listed below, I want to once again convey my sincerest thank-you and hope that you will join us again next year when we do it all over again!

Members of the Blindfolded Bowhunters of America Club are:

- Tom Shoop – longtime friend and obsessed archer!
- Casey Yoder – accomplished bow technician
- Jeff Stine – successful Bowhunter with an impressive Pennsylvania buck on the wall!
- Brian Corcelius – good friend and weakest one of the bunch – sorry buddy, couldn't resist – perfect opportunity to give you a little ribbing in front of 60,000 people!!
- Bryan Fultz – passionate bowhunter with a keenly technical mind
- Mike Hazel – dedicated father and avid bowhunter
- Paul Kensinger – some guy that showed up with Mike – just kidding Paul. I appreciated Paul's tenacity and willingness to draw bows three, four and five times just to make sure he had it right.
- Gary Brungart – met Gary when he came to fix my furnace! We hit it off right away and the bowhunting stories started to flow! Gary is a good guy with a passion for the sport.

2006 H2H Support Team:

As with most successful endeavors there was a selflessly dedicated support team behind this year's H2H Bow Test. My wife Jennifer coordinated all of the logistics including food and general set-up – thank you dear. Two of my six children, Tyler and Michael, stood right beside me the entire eight hours shuffling bows, writing down scores, blindfolding and guiding archers and taking an occasional bite of food! I was so wrapped up in the test that I didn't even realize the magnitude of their contribution until the next morning. I

absolutely could not do this test without them – thanks guys! My daughter also got in the game a week after the subjective tests by helping out with the sound level meter and chronograph testing – thanks Rachel! Good friend Paul Dupuis volunteered his time to be the official 2006 H2H griller – Thanks Paul, the burgers were great!!

A Special Thanks

A very special thank-you is in order for these sponsors and friends!!

The experts at **Dan Pierce Outdoor Shop in Lewistown, PA** for all of their set-up assistance including Brad's help with an emergency fix the night before the test!

Carolina Archery for supplying our biggest timesaver and safety related product – the Whisker Biscuit QS Deluxe Arrow Rest. It was a big help to not have arrows falling off the rest and the safety concerns that go with that. Thanks!

American Whitetail targets for providing the huge bag target – it made it much easier for me to guide the blindfolded archer's shot and saved a lot of time!!

Field Logic for donating an original and new 4x4 Block targets for our archery range!

Rinehart Targets for sending a 3-D bear and their new 18-sided target for our fun-shoot. The easy arrow pulling foam made it enjoyable for everyone, especially the kids!

Easton for providing test-arrows – thanks!

New Archery Products for providing QuikTune 3000 Arrow Rests for speed testing!

Oehler for providing the Chronograph!

And of course, all of the manufacturers who provided the bows for testing!!!

About Bowsite.com

Celebrating our 10-Year Anniversary!!

Bowsite.com is the #1 Bowhunting website on the Internet. Over 22,000 average daily visitors (2005-2006 statistics) have come to trust Bowsite.com with their honest, no-nonsense approach to bowhunting and archery information. With over 100 sponsors, 80 message boards, 155,000 Registered Users and 3 million contributions added to our forums there is simply no other source that provides so much information for bowhunters and it's all Free!

In a recent survey, Bowsite.com was rated the most trusted information source for new equipment buyers.   Using a combination of feature articles, interactive content, and an open forum, we provide bowhunters a destination for straight answers on archery gear, outfitters, game laws, techniques and much more.

Bowsite.com is proud to produce this feature for the fourth year in a row. We hope you enjoyed this exclusive report and look forward to seeing you around our website.

BOWSITE.COM

Contact us today!
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