

By Dale Karch & Todd Smith

## Bow Quivers For The Traditional Archer

We should all be able to agree on the following statement. If you're going to shoot a bow, you'll have to carry your extra arrows somewhere. You'll have to have some sort of quiver. Carrying extra arrows is a necessary element of archery.

There are many types and styles of quivers to choose from. Bow quivers, hip quivers, back quivers, Catquivers, side quivers, and more. For the record, it is our opinion that no one has yet invented the "perfect quiver". (Forget the better mousetrap. Invent the perfect quiver and you'll be set for life.) The challenge for any archer is selecting a quiver they can get along with. The challenge for dealers is to know which quivers to have available for sale. Today our main focus will be bow quivers. Specifically, bow quivers for traditional archers. We'll discuss the benefits of bow quivers as well as

describe the models we suggest you carry to best serve your traditional customers.

Fred Bear, founder of Bear Archery, held the first patents on the bow quiver. The first one was a crude hand-held affair that never really caught on. But his unrelenting persistence drove him to continually improve the idea until it was a viable product. He then pioneered its use and through his never-ending marketing and promotion, he almost single handedly caused bow quivers to become the standard



*The Great Northern bow quivers are among the finest ever produced and their "Adjustable Quiver" at right can fit nearly any bow ever made.*

*Many takedown bows utilize the standard limb bolt system. This "Quick Mount" model at left from Great Northern offers "easy on-easy off" convenience without tools or disassembling a bow.*



Brought to you by:



## 3Rivers Archery

WORLD'S LARGEST TRADITIONAL/  
PRIMITIVE ARCHERY SUPPLIER

Welcome to the profitable world of traditional/primitive archery. As your best source for traditional archery supplies, we offer thousands of top quality, in stock, ready to ship products. We will help you determine which products meet your needs and will help you succeed. Orders normally ship within 24 hours.

For your FREE dealer packet, please contact us at: 260.587.9501 or visit us on-line at: [3RiversArchery.com](http://3RiversArchery.com)



quiver of nearly every bowhunter in the country. In other words, he sold tens of thousands of bow quivers! Good thing he did too. The bow quiver has evolved into the best quiver designed so far for carrying your extra arrows. We owe a debt of gratitude to Fred Bear, for more than just bow quivers. What an incredible bowhunter, inventor, and businessman.

Why use a bow quiver? Longbows and recurves are graceful, even beautiful works of art. They're light and responsive in the hand and wonderfully balanced. Why then, would anyone want to change all that by attaching a bow quiver full of arrows to their bow? The best answer to that question may very well be, "Why not?"

Why not go with bow quivers? Everyone appreciates convenience and bowhunters are no exception. Bow quivers are the most convenient of all quiver types. They keep your arrows with your bow. With a bow

quiver, when you grab your bow your arrows are there. In effect, the bow and the arrows become a single unit. If you've got your bow, you have your arrows, which is everything you need to get into the field and hunt. They keep your arrows within arms reach. A second arrow can be removed from a bow quiver very quickly. Arrows can be put back into a bow quiver very easily too. Another convenience feature is "detachability". Most archers want a bow quiver that is "easy-on and easy-off". Many like to actually take the quiver off of the bow once they are up in their tree stand.



**The rubber Selway "Soft-Kote" quiver shown on this bow answers the need for a quality bow quiver at a lower cost. Above right, the Selway "Stick Quiver" in black or brown leather is one of the quivers that revolutionized bow quivers for traditional archers.**



PHOTO LEFT: These quality quivers from German ridge are available in a clever spring-arm version and a more conventional screw-in version. The spring arm bow quivers can fit nearly any recurve on the market by matching the proper spring-arm to the bow (see three sizes below).



They look for a bow quiver that is detachable without unstringing their bow and many of today's bow quivers offer this feature. Bow quivers as a rule are fairly lightweight too. Even though they add weight to the bow, it's not excessive. In some cases adding a bow quiver to the bow can even improve the shot experience by dampening vibration.

Arrow capacity is always an issue with bow quivers. How many arrows should the quiver hold? We carry quivers that hold anywhere from three to seven arrows at a time. By far, the most popular size is the five-arrow model. If inventory space is limited, we recommend stocking a five-arrow quiver.

From a dealer's point of view, the strongest argument for selling traditional bow quivers may simply be the fact that they out-sell all other quiver styles combined. If you're only going to offer one kind of quiver to your traditional shooters, make it bow quivers. No other quiver type will add to your bottom line like they can.

If memory serves, it was 1988 when Gordy Mickens, owner of Selway Archery, introduced the "Stick Quiver". They were a slide-on quiver that revolutionized bow quivers for traditional archers. The new quiver came in two parts. A hood section that slid down the top limb and a gripper section that slid up the bottom limb. The attachment "arms" were strong rubber that gripped the



limb, keeping the quiver parts in place. The hood was tough hand stitched rawhide-leather that offered excellent broadhead protection and had a “natural” look that has always been popular in traditional circles. The bottom rubber gripper piece did a great job holding the arrows securely. The “Stick Quiver” was an instant success and now 17 years later, it remains one of the top selling bow quivers of all time.



*Kwikee's designed for compounds will fit traditional bows with mounting holes, or your customer may okay drilling the bow.*



*The Kwikee Clamp-On Quiver has been around for decades and its low price keeps it a strong seller.*



Of course through the years additional models were developed to fill specific needs. There are now side-mount quivers, bolt-on recurve quivers and the most exciting development since the first “Stick-Quivers” were introduced, the “Detachable Stick Quiver”. The detachable quivers have the same look as the original series but utilize a threaded “cap” that screws over a split bracket holding the bracket in place. To remove the quiver, you simply un-screw the cap, spread the bracket “arms” apart and pull them off the bow. It’s a very simple and effective system. To answer the need for less expensive versions of their quivers, Selway developed the “Soft-Kote” line. The “Soft-Kote” hood is a soft, yet strong rubber. It has the attractive shape of the original but is impervious to the elements. These lower priced quivers have their place in the scheme of things, but the leather-hooded models still sell the best. Remember “Stick Quivers” when stocking your shelves with traditional bow quivers. No traditional bow

quiver offering would be complete without some of these excellent quivers from Selway Archery.

Not too long after the “Stick Quiver” hit the market, Jerry Brumm, and Rick Shepard, owners of the Great Northern Bowhunting Company, introduced an ingenious bow quiver that took the traditional market by storm. Their new quiver, “The Great Northern Longbow Quiver”, offered a beautiful hand stitched leather hood, a heavy-duty wire support (with a lifetime guarantee), a quality rubber arrow gripper, and a rubber strap attachment system that was easy to use yet held the quiver to the bow like a vise. The rubber straps allowed the quivers to be used on bows of all sizes resulting in a truly “universal”



*The Thunderhorn “BOA” at left is an excellent design, fits most bows and offers a very reasonable retail price. Another very well designed bow quiver from Thunderhorn, the “Two Point” at right fits most take-down recurves.*

<http://www.trueflightfeathers.com>

# TRUEFLIGHT FEATHERS

**Fast, Forgiving and Accurate!**

🇺🇸 Made in the USA 🇺🇸

10 sizes, solid colors and a new Phase 3 Barred that's the most realistic ever!  
(Inquire at your distributor)



**TRUEFLIGHT**

MANUFACTURING COMPANY, INC.  
P.O. Box 1000  
MANITOWISH WATERS, WI 54545  
(715) 543-8451 • CALL DAY OR NIGHT  
email@trueflightfeathers.com

World Leader in Precision Feathers for Over 50 Years

quiver. In fact, we remember one of their first ads that listed dozens of bows their quivers would fit. They too have come a long way from their first quiver and now have many models to choose from. Their adjustable model is so well designed that it will fit nearly any longbow or recurve ever made. Just try to find a bow it won't fit. (We don't think it can be done.) They also offer a screw-in model for bows with side bushings and a "Quick-Mount" model for three-piece take down longbows and recurves that use the standard limb bolt attachment system. All of their quivers allow easy attachment and easy removal, which is a great benefit to traditional bowhunters. When deciding which bow quivers to offer your customers, give the Great Northern Bowhunting Co. serious consideration. Their quivers are superbly designed, top sellers and very popular with traditional archers everywhere. A "must have" line of bow quivers.

Two fairly recent entries in the traditional bow quiver market are Thunderhorn and German Ridge. Both companies offer quality bow quivers with interesting innovations.

Thunderhorn's hood and gripper sections have a look similar to Selway quivers, but differ dramatically in attachment design. Their "BOA" utilizes an effective yet simple rubber strap attachment system. Their "Two-Point" is designed for use on three piece take down bows. The attachment brackets are placed under the limb bolts and left on the bow. The quiver components can then be removed or re-installed on the bow without disassembling the bow. By eliminating the use of leather on these two models, Thunderhorn has been able to keep them very reasonably priced as well. This lower price point has made them very popular.

German Ridge has done an excellent job of re-introducing the spring-arm quiver for recurve bows. Bear Archery made spring-arm quivers for years. Thousands were sold in the 1970's and 1980's. The German Ridge system is unique in that you "build" your quiver to fit your bow. Three lengths of spring arms are available and you select the one that fits your bow. Or, if you have bows of different lengths, you can purchase extra arms that will work for each of your bows. All German Ridge parts are interchangeable. Their hood sections are stitched leather over plastic that offers both protection and good looks. They also have a bolt-on model that fits not only longbows and recurves, but also any bow with sight bushings. If you're looking for a good modular system, German Ridge is an excellent choice.

No discussion about bow quivers would be complete without mentioning the "Kwikee Kwiver". They have been selling bow quivers for decades. One of the original models, the "Kwikee Clamp-On Kwiver" still retails for under \$15! They also have a compact "Kwik-3" (holds three arrows) and the respected standard "Kwikee

Kwiver" (holds six arrows). Both of these quivers snap into a receiving piece that is mounted to the sight bushings of the bow whether it's a recurve, longbow or compound. Sight mount bushing kits are available and can be installed on most recurves and longbows if desired. Chances are if you are running a pro-shop, the Kwikee Kwiver line is already in your inventory. If not, look them up. They are consistent sellers year round.

Traditional archers have many types of quivers to choose from but the vast majority of them end up with bow quivers. Bow quivers are compact, easy to use, and keep your arrows with your bow at all times. They are popular with all bowhunters and may very well be the best all-round choice to carry extra arrows. There are many quality manufacturers of traditional bow quivers to choose from. Consider adding a section of profitable traditional bow quivers to your store soon and start cashing in on the extra sales generated from bow quivers for the traditional bowhunter.

For more information contact: 3Rivers Archery, PO Box 517, Ashley IN 46705, 260.587.9501, info@3RiversArchery.com, or check us out on-line at 3RiversArchery.com

**ABOUT THE COLUMNISTS:** A former tool and die maker who is no stranger to precision work, Karch spent three years working full time as a bowyer before he and wife Sandie purchased 3Rivers Archery. Running the business has given him a unique perspective on the traditional side of the archery industry. Todd Smith lived in Alaska for several years and trained under master fletcher John Dodge, well known for making some of the finest cedar arrows ever offered. From 1988 to now, Todd has been the

**We Attract Them All...**

Scents for Success!

**KISHEL'S**  
QUALITY ANIMAL SCENTS & LURES  
www.kishelscents.com

**Call, write, or go online for your FREE CATALOG!**

P.O. Box 162 • East Aurora, NY 14052  
(716) 652-8953 • www.kishelscents.com