

# BOW — REPORT

## Phoenix 34 *by Parker Compound Bows*

In 1996 a bow manufacturing company, Parker Compound Bows, was born in the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia. Since that time the folks at Parker have slowly but surely maneuvered their company into an impressive size, to where it now ranks, they say, as the fourth largest bow manufacturer in the world. They have achieved this status through hard work, lifetime warranties, 24-hour delivery to dealers and the option to buy their bows as a complete, ready to shoot, package. Known as their Outfitter Series, these completed rigs are set up with every accessory needed including rest, sight, quiver, wrist sling, peep sight, Sims Limb Savers, Sims Riser Dampeners, Sims String Leaches and carbon arrows. To top it off the bow is then tuned and “rough” sighted in at 20 yards. Parker’s premier line of bows is named Phoenix and includes the 32, 34, 36, E-Z-Draw and Micro models.

Parker advertises the Phoenix 34 as a fast, forgiving and deadly quiet rig that has no vibration and little shock at the shot. The Parker single cam is listed at 235 fps AMO. Emphasis is also placed on their Synprene grip, which is said to have a soft tacky feel for a cushioned and comfortable hold. We will look at the Phoenix piece by piece and also put it to the test to see how it stacks up against these claims and other top bows in the industry.

### The Basics

**Riser:** The Parker Phoenix 34 is centered on a great looking in-line reflex riser that is CNC machined from a solid block of 6061-T6 aluminum. Thirteen holes scattered along the riser’s length serve to lighten the load and give the Phoenix its overall mass weight of 3.9 lbs. Parker’s Synprene grip has a tacky, soft feel to provide the archer a com-



fortable handle. Standard AMO mounting holes are provided for any accessory you may want to add. A stainless steel insert is used for consistent and reliable stabilizer attachment. The New Mossy Oak Break-Up camo pattern is applied through a film dipping process.

*Customer Connection:* As bows in general seem to be climbing back up the ladder in terms of mass weight, the Phoenix's 3.9 lb weight in a 34" axle-to-axle length is refreshing – sell it!

Coupled with a comfortable mass weight the Synprene grip creates a bow that is enjoyable to handle.

Reflex geometry allows for a longer power stroke and in turn, faster arrows!

The Mossy Oak pattern is seamless and looks great on the Phoenix.

**Limbs/limb pockets:** The Phoenix straight limbs are machined from Gordon Power Tuff fiberglass composite material. Limbs are matched based on deflection data for consistent performance and efficiency. Gordon has a reputation matched by no other for

producing high quality fiberglass limb material used by many of today's bow manufacturers. The aluminum limb pockets are machined to tight tolerances to secure the critical interface between riser and limbs. The limbs and limb pockets are finished in the same manner and with the same pattern as the riser.

*Customer Connection:* The machined limb pockets can be used

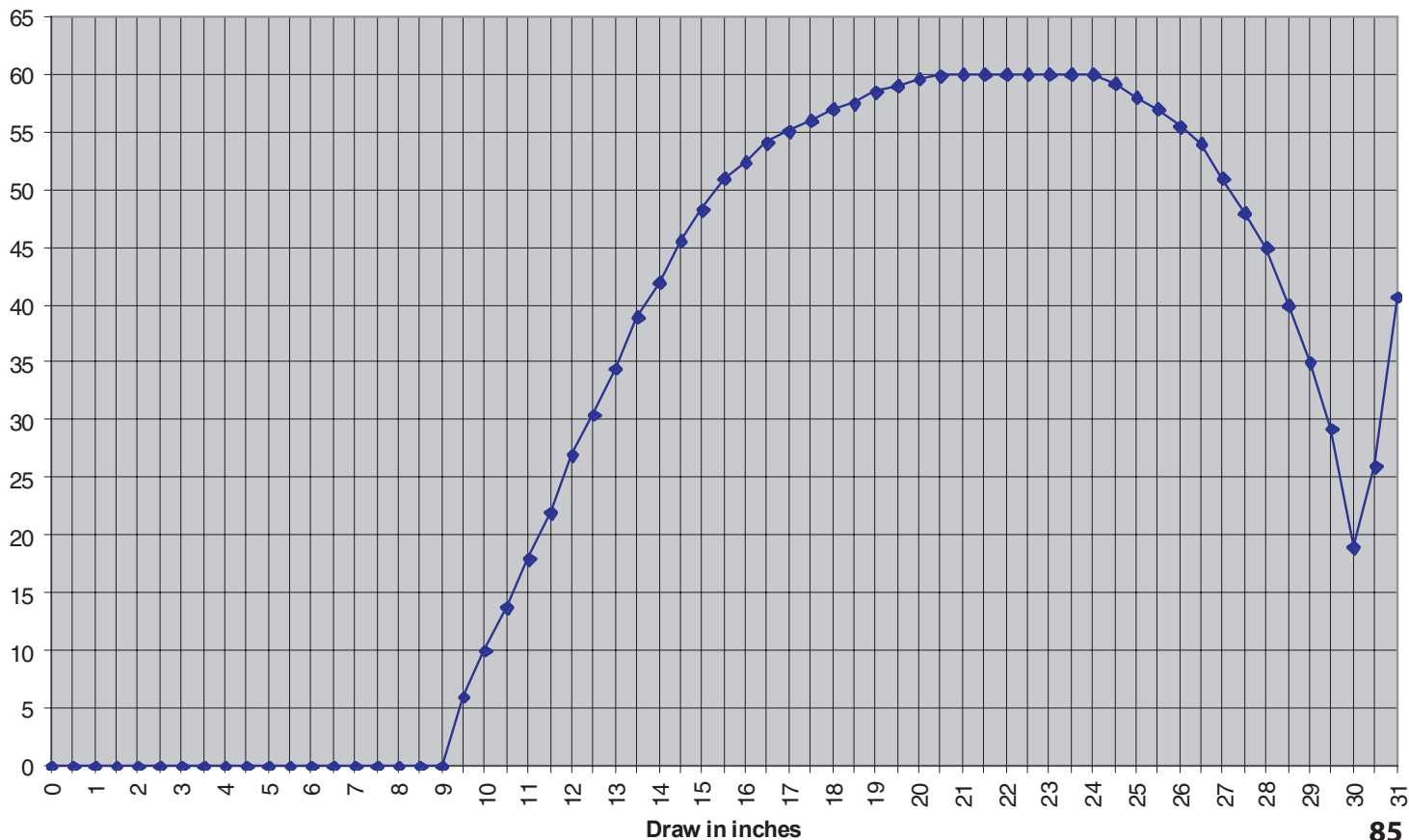
as a selling point for those who are looking for every advantage on the way to consistency and accuracy.

Gordon's fiberglass durability track record is a great selling point for customers concerned with longevity and reliability.

**Eccentrics:** The single cam system on the Phoenix is extremely flexible in that it provides 6 full inches of adjustment through a

### About The Author

Jon E. Silks has a degree in Quality Engineering and works in the area of non-destructive testing technology. His entire career has centered around the testing and evaluation of products. Now 36, he's been bowhunting since age 12. Silks started writing for magazines and websites four years ago and since then has done more than 225 product reviews. Manufacturers who appreciate his thoroughness and frankness have often asked him to review products that are still in the development stage. Silk's work has appeared on Bowhunting.net and Bowsite.com and has been published in Petersens Bowhunting, Bowhunter, Arrow Adventure, and Whitetail Fanatic, along with ArrowTrade. Jon and Jennifer Silks have six children and the family moved in 2003 from central Pennsylvania to Ohio. Silks can be reached by telephone at (937) 383-8888 or by email at silksoutdoors@core.com



# BOW REPORT

## Phoenix 34

by Parker Compound Bows

modular system. The modules can be interchanged without the use of a bow press. An additional ½" of adjustment is built in to the cam. A modular system is convenient and beneficial to the dealer in that it allows him/her to provide a much greater range of choices for a fraction of the cost involved with entire cam change outs or increased bow inventory. This also limits the labor needed.

The cam and idler both rotate on hardened and polished stainless steel axles, which fit into precision reamed bushings. This attention to detail is aimed at creating the most consistent and accurate rig possible. The eccentrics are finished in the same camo pattern as the limbs and riser.

*Customer Connection:* A modular system brings down your parts and labor costs and in turn is easier on the customer's wallet. Let them know you are saving them money!

"We want it and we want it now." That is the normal mindset for a society inundated with choices. If you can meet a customer's needs and get him out the door with exactly what he wants – you both

win. The need to stock only modules gives you that ability.

Point out the precision in the axles and bushings to the discerning archer.

**Silencing/Shock reducing features:** The Phoenix is dressed out with Sims Vibration Lab's String Leaches, Limb Savers and Dampening Modules. Parker angled their limbs to a more parallel position for 2005 in an attempt to reduce shock, vibration and noise.

*Customer Connection:* Sims is well known throughout the world of archery and bowhunting and for good reason; they make products that are unparalleled in sound/shock reducing performance. Parker went all out with Sims products and that should be sold to the customer.

**Strings/Cables:** The Phoenix is outfitted with pre-stretched, 2-color D-75 Thin material strings and cables. Both are made with 20 strands. The string measures 95.75" and the buss cable measures 35.75".

*Customer Connection:* Pre-stretched strings and cables mean less "break-in" time and the ability to use a tubeless peep sight because it will not rotate out of the archer's line of sight.

### Testing:

When the Phoenix arrived it was thoroughly inspected for finish continuity, machining quality, mechanical function and overall workmanship. The finish was seamless from top to bottom including the eccentrics. I could not find one blemish anywhere on this bow – flawless. The camo finish on the eccentrics looks great. When pressure was taken off of the eccentrics they were tracked with a Mitutoyo Digimatic Indicator and checked for freedom of movement. Both the idler and cam tracked within .003" and they moved freely on the axles. The cable slide moved smoothly and showed no signs of binding or "chirping".



*Parker has been leading the industry in the sale of "ready to shoot" bows. This Outfitter Package for the Phoenix 34 comes with Quick Shot Whisker Biscuit rest, Montana Black Gold sight, Parker Two-Piece quiver, braided sling, angled peep sight, Sims LS Mods threaded behind the riser, Sims Limb Savers on the limbs and Sims String Leaches. The package also contains Super Carbon Arrows with points. The bows are tuned and sighted in when you take them out of the box, so are truly "ready to shoot" once you make any needed draw length or draw weight changes.*

**Profitable  
Business For Sale**  
Specialty Hunting and  
Outdoor Retailer  
Specializing in Archery  
Located in  
Hunters Paradise  
Call 1-888-770-1759  
For Details



*As a distinctive added touch in finishing these bows, Parker has the eccentrics film-dipped in the same camo pattern as the limbs and risers. The company now does the same thing with the eccentrics on its crossbows. Parker would probably camouflage the grip as well, but is now using a rubbery Synprene material (photo below) that is comfortable to hold and offers good insulation from the cold.*



The Phoenix 34 was set up with my standard rigging for Arrow Trade bow testing – string nock, N.A.P. QuickTune 3000 arrow rest, 60 pound pull, and a 30 inch draw length. All shooting was done with a T.R.U. Ball Pro Diamond release aid. Also, standard to the testing set-up is a 540-grain Easton XX78 Super Slam aluminum shaft. The bow was then paper tuned.

Judging the subjective aspects of a bow is a difficult task and most times ineffective without the help of other similar rigs for comparison. Fortunately I had thirteen bows in my possession at the time of this test and there were four with specs almost identical to that of the Phoenix. Against these four the Parker was rated on noise level, smoothness of draw, feel/balance

and shock/vibration.

To test the noise level I enlisted the help of a friend who shot each bow several times while I listened from different positions. After all was said and done I rated the Parker as a tie for number three. It is definitely a quiet bow and is likely to please even the most particular bowhunters in this area. This is probably a good place to mention that both Limb Savers came off of the limbs three quarters of the way through the bow evaluation. I was unable to determine if it was a glue problem with the Sims or an application problem with Parker. Either way, they came off and a small but noticeable noise increase was noted.

Each bow was drawn over 20 times before I was able to decide where to rank them. This is an area where the Phoenix shines! It has an unbelievably smooth draw that is easy on the shoulders and back muscles. It was the smoothest drawing bow of the five I tested and a true pleasure to shoot.

The grip on the 34 is indeed comfortable and its relatively low mass weight adds to the overall “feel” and balance. I rated it in the middle of the pack. The one thing that concerns me with this type of grip is that the tackiness may actually lend itself to increased torque for an inexperienced archer. You may want to educate archers on the correct way to handle this type of grip to eliminate any problems.

In the shock and vibration category the Phoenix 34 has a unique characteristic in that it has a noticeable shock (kick) with little or no vibration. Many times these two traits go hand in hand but that is not the case with this rig. Something that I have noticed with folks who are trying to determine how much kick a bow has is that they will subconsciously translate the noise they hear into the kick and vibration they feel. In other words, if a bow is loud they will tend to rate the kick/vibration poorly even if the bow performs well in this area. To eliminate some of that tendency I like to personally wear



## PERFORMANCE

**DOESN'T  
HAVE TO  
COST A  
LOT!**



### THE QUAD

- 4 Powder Filled Chambers
- Bumper Technology
- Affordable Price

**WIDE  
SELECTION**



**1-800-356-7285  
WWW.HI-TEKSPORTS.COM**

809 HOLCOMB ST. • WATERTOWN, NY 13601

# BOW REPORT

## Phoenix 34

by Parker Compound Bows

earplugs while testing in this category and ask others to do likewise. I believe the results are more reliable that way. I rated the Phoenix at number 4 in this category but I should mention that the bows it was up against are tops in this category.

Speed was measured using an Oehler Research Inc. M35 Chronograph. Through twenty shots, the average reading taken with a 540-grain arrow was 232.3 fps. This is fairly close to the 235 fps AMO speed advertised by Parker. While these numbers do not represent great speed they are certainly indicative of good hunting speeds. Just for another reference I re-tuned the bow to shoot a 350-grain arrow and recorded an average speed of 282 fps.

Parker's Phoenix is a pleasure to shoot in every respect. I particularly

found the draw cycle to be exceptional. The bow handles well and can be accurately shot if care is taken not to induce torque. With camo covering nearly every inch of the Phoenix, it is ready to hunt. One of my personal pet peeves is bowhunting gear that incorporates unfinished and bare metal parts. We are bowhunting here – not trying to win a flashy looks contest. Thank you Parker for thinking like hunters! I do think that the Limb Saver problem needs to be looked into and corrected. Dealers don't need customers coming in to the shop and complaining about the Limb Savers coming off after only a week.

### Test Bow Tech Info

(540-grain arrow  
60 lb peak draw weight)

**Stored Energy:**  
**80.1 foot-pounds**

(When you draw the bow you supply power/energy into the limbs. The amount of energy that the limbs can hold is known as the stored energy.)

**Efficiency Rating: 80.8%**

(This is the amount of the stored energy (in percent) that can be successfully transferred into propelling the arrow upon release. The bow design, including limbs, limb pockets, cam systems, and axle types play into the bow's efficiency. An example would be a sealed ball bearing in the idler wheel verses a simple unsealed rod bearing. It takes more energy to rotate the unsealed rod bearing (more friction) verses the sealed ball bearing (less friction) so more of the bow's potential energy is used. The end result is a lower efficiency rating because less stored energy is left over to propel the arrow.)

### Kinetic Energy:

**64.72 foot-pounds**

(This is the energy that actually goes into propelling the arrow. Basically it is the energy that is left over from the stored energy after all of the bow system friction is accounted for.)

**SE/PF Ratio: 1.335**

This is the ratio of stored energy to peak force. In other words what return are you getting for the power you supply. ←

### Specifications For 2005 Parker Phoenix 34

**Draw weights:** 50, 60 or 70 lb. Max

**Draw Lengths:** 26 to 31 inches

**Axle-to-axle length:** 34 inches

**Brace Height:** 7.25 inches

**Mass Weight:** 3.9 pound

**Let-off option:** 65 or 80 percent

**Eccentrics:** Single cam. Phoenix Cam

**AMO speed:** 235 fps

**IBO speed:** 310 fps

**Available finish:** New Mossy Oak Break-Up

**Cable:** D-75 Thin, 2-color, Pre-stretched 20 strand, 35.75 inch

**String:** D-75 Thin, 2-color, Pre-stretched 20 strand, 95.75 inch

**Grip:** 1-piece black Synprene

**Riser:** CNC machined 6061-T6 aluminum - reflex

**Limb pockets:** Open, CNC machined aluminum, synthetic rocker

**Limbs:** Straight, Gordon Power Tuff fiberglass

**Cable Guard:** Carbon - Straight

**Warranty:** Lifetime

**MSRP:** \$619.95



#### A Great Hunt Begins With Goat Tuff® Glue, and NEW Goat Tuff® Carbon Arrows

- Bonds Vanes in 5 SECONDS.
- Bonds Feathers in 60 SECONDS (20 Seconds with Accelerator)
- Gives you a perfect fletching job every time with no Residue or Graying of arrow Shafts.
- Goat Tuff® Glue is the BEST for installing inserts.
- Does Aluminum, Carbon, or Wood arrows.
- Goat Tuff® Glue works on String Servings and Nock Sets, Bow Repairs.



- Take some Goat Tuff® Glue with you to hunting camp.
- Repairs virtually EVERYTHING!

**YOU CAN  
DEPEND  
ON IT!**

www.timsarcheryco.com (970) 245-9666