



LONGBOWS DOS AND DO NOTS

A few tips from a master bowyer about how to treat your longbow.

DO:

- Keep it in a woollen or cloth bag in a cool, dry place.
- Rub it well from time to time with a soft cloth to check for any damage occurring on the surface.
- Check the string periodically on the loops and serving.
- Wax the string approximately twice a year.
- Use your longbow stringer at all times. Stringing your bow any other way may cause damage.

DO NOT:

- Store it by a radiator or in a dry atmosphere, or leave it in a car on a sunny day.
- Keep it strung after you have finished your round. It is not necessary to let it down between ends.
- Hold it at full draw for any significant period of time (i.e. as you would with a modern bow).
- Dry loose.
- Overstress the upper limb if using a stringer. Never use a recurve stringer.
- Damage the wood, particularly the backing. If damaged, seek a bowyer's advice. Damage such as lifting, bruises, chrysalis or compression fractures can often be corrected if caught early.
- Draw it beyond its tillered draw-length.