

County Oak Archery Club



Nocks, Kissers & String Silencers

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What do the above three things have in common?

Well they are all attached to the string to perform certain jobs, they also must be attached in such a way that they don't come flying out when the bow is loosed!

Nocks

There are basically two main types of these

1) "Clipped on or Crimped on"

2) "Tied on"

To deal with the first one, Clip on plastic nocks. These are for the have ago archer, who is probably on holiday and trying it for the very first time!

Advantages no need to wear a glove or a finger tab.

Disadvantages too many to list!

Next Crimped or Clamped on brass nocks. These are great for beginners, as the name implies you just crimp them on.

Advantages easy to put on can be moved or removed fairly easily.

Disadvantages heavy, hurts more than tied nock hitting your wrist, can wear your tab out quicker and finally need a special tool to fit them. (Nocking pliers)

Tied Nocks

To my knowledge there are three ways of doing these. (There may be more)

The first is I think called the "Over & Under Nock". (Fig 02 on my first missive is this type)

When you have decided where your "arrow nock" is and putting your first right next to it tie half of a reef knot (left over right) then on the other side of the string repeat the step moving away from the "arrow nock" making sure the second knot is right next to the first and so on, repeat this about four to five more times, or until you get 5 to 8mm then pull tight.

Next cut your cord about 8mm from the string then using a lighter burn it back tapping back to the newly formed nock do this for both loose ends.

If you want to belt and brace it, put a small amount of super glue on it. (Do this only when sure of its position, try shooting it first, as it could be wrong!)

Tip it pays to practise any of these tied nocks, on something like a pipe before attempting the real thing!

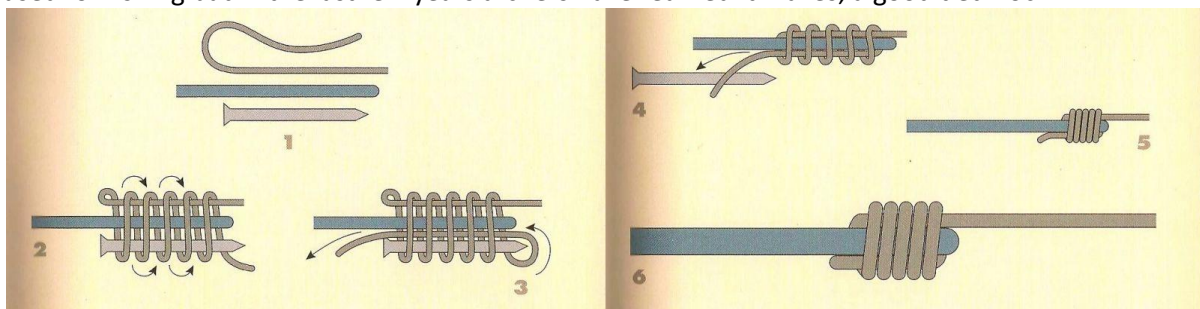
The photo on the next page is a larger than the real thing but the knots are the same, so you can see how to construct it.

Advantages: light, fairly easy to tie, can be removed (if you haven't super glued it) with a little effort.

Disadvantages: more effort than clamp on nocks can come unravelled if ends not secured correctly.



The second nock knot is the "Nail Knot". This knot has been around for quite a while being mostly used for fishing but in the last few years archers have realized it makes, a good tied nock.



Above is diagram of how to tie it. two things to note, first given the small size of serving cord used to make the knot it's better to use a fine tube (like the type found in a old ball point pen) to do steps 3 to 4. By threading it through the fine tube then pulling and removing the tube instead of the nail.

Next bearing in mind that this has to be placed accurately, so keep it loose until you have positioned where you want it to be. Then pull it tight and burn off ends like the above nock.

Advantages: it's just one knot, less likely come loose if done right, and light

Disadvantages: harder to tie, if done wrong can "ball up", and harder to remove

Lastly the "Korean" style nock or as I call it two mini servings, which is essentially what it is.

I'm not going to even try to describe how to tie this as it involves serving jigs, knowing how to

“Back Serve”, and some practice at doing it to make it work. This nock is not really for the novice archer, however for those intrepid types I will leave a link to Youtube below.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CSBi2ZHNr-w>

Advantages: if done well very unlikely to come undone, as longer than most nocking points, and supposedly smoother to shoot.

Disadvantages: probably the most difficult of all to tie and takes a bit of practice, and you need a serving jig.

List of things need for making nocks

Brass nocks (there are two sizes of these large & small) pick the one that suits your needs. If unsure which ones for you, ask a more experienced archer.

Nocking pliers

Serving cord for all tied nocks, also useful securing other string furniture. They come in many colours and types but most you can happily tie nocks with. Tip, try and pick one that stands out on the central serving. It makes things a little easier to see.

Serving jig for anyone attempting “Korean” nock

Kissers

Kissers are optional and not all archers like them or use them, and to be fair a string will work perfectly well without them.

The function of a kisser is to give you a tactile reference point similar to a step on a finger tab.

They are placed at the top of the central serving a known length from the centre of the arrow nocking point. This length varies from archer to archer.

How you measure this gap is, it's the top of the finger tab when locked under your chin to the centre of your lips (some people put it to the side of lips with the hand they pull the bow with).

This has to be done with a stringed bow!

One method to do this is to get a small cable tie and tighten on the top portion of the centre serving just enough so it can still move, pull your string to full draw then by repeating and moving the cable tie up and down. When you are happy it's touching the right bit of your lips, let the string down gently and pull the cable tie tight being careful not to move it. Next mark either side of it with a sharp. The gap between the two marks is where the kisser should be placed.

Then carefully cut the cable tie off (I use small side cutters).

Tip

Make a note of the gap between the centre of kisser and the centre of the arrow nocks because it shouldn't change no matter what bow you use, this will make it easier when setting up subsequent strings.

Picking the size and type of kisser

Before fitting a kisser, have a think what type of kisser you require, as they come in various sizes and types. Some clip on the centre serving, others work similar to brass nocks and clamp on to the string, and yet others glue together and are tied on in several ways.

The first thing to consider is the type of string & arrow you're going to be using. If you use wooden or aluminium arrows, these tend be the slower types & are generally used between 20 to 50 yards after this range the trajectory of the arrow is not very flat. So then you can use larger types of kisser and slower strings like Dacron 14 or 12 strand as it will make little difference to the speed & trajectory, infact in my experience a heavy slower string like Dacron seems to work better with heavier slower arrows and even can give a tiny bit more range.

If you're using a target Recurve and hoping in time to hit 50 yards plus, then you maybe you are shooting carbon metal hybrid arrows (ACC, ACEs, X10s to name a few) these arrows can be travelling at 140 M. P. H. +! To make this possible you will also be using a high speed string (fast flight plus, BCY and others) so when picking a kisser go for a small one to cut down on aerodynamic drag.

Fitting kissers

Kissers come in many sizes and types so I'm just giving advice and tips.

Clip on (which can be a real pig to fit, try putting them in hot water not boiling it can help a bit by making them more malleable) and glue together types can sometimes move along the serving more than you would like! To secure them in place try tying a "**Constrictor knot**" above & below it, with serving cord burn off the ends like tied nocks. Hopefully that stops it moving, but if not you may have got too large diameter kisser for the string.

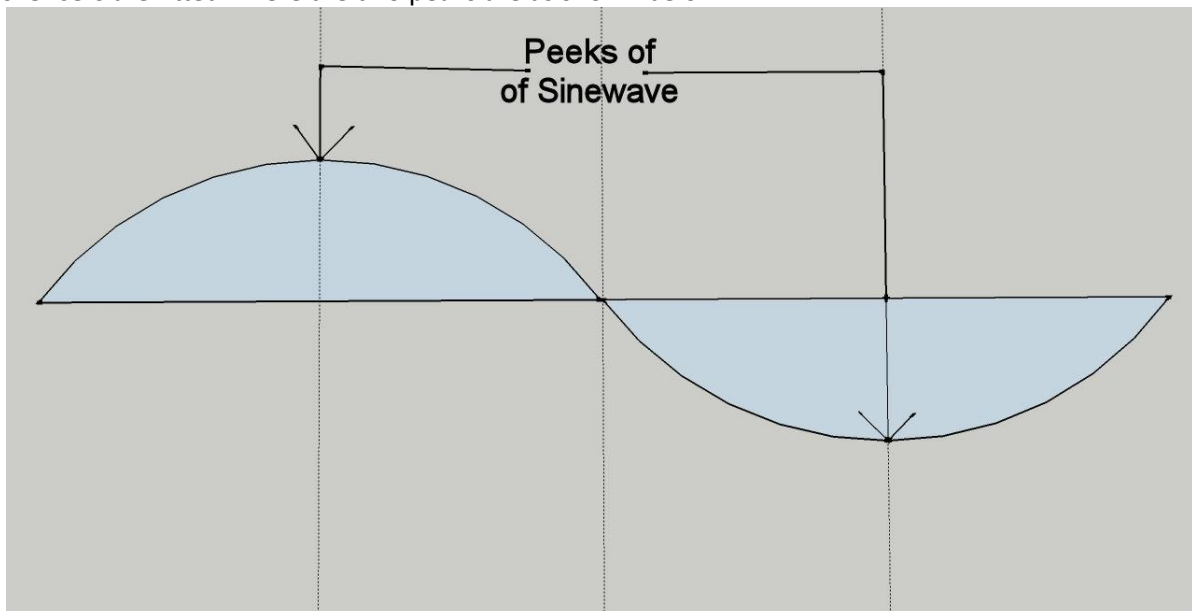
Note how to tie a "**Constrictor knot**" will be below as it is quite a useful knot

String Silencers

String silencers are even more optional than kissers. Their function is to deaden string noise and nothing else! If your bow rattles a string silencer isn't going to help much! You would be better off finding out what's loose or sorting your brace height as it's probably too low.

Placing & Fitting

String silencers should be placed a quarter of the length of the string (**not the bow length**) top & bottom. The reason you place them there is because plucking any string under tension produces a note or in physics terms a "Sine wave". This as all sine waves have two peaks, half a wavelength apart, in this case a wavelength is the same as the length of the string on the bow. Therefore silencers are fitted where the two peaks are as shown below.



In some ways similar to kisser in that there are a few different type on the market and you can even make them yourself out of wool like mini pompoms. The trick to fitting them is to, "part fit them" off the bow first. Get your unstrung string and carefully count the number strands of string material if not known. When this number is known half it, separate that number of strands, so that you have two equal hanks then poke the string silencer through it. Do this at both ends; move them approximately to where you think they are. Now string the bow and do the finale adjustments. Then

to fix them in place, do a “**Constrictor knot**” top & bottom on both. (Some will fit slightly differently; hopefully your get instructions with them.)

Place them too close to the centre and it will slow the arrow down and work less effectively!

Place them too close to ends and they have nearly no effect!

Conditions that I would not advise using String silencers

If shooting carbon metal hybrid arrows types of the sort mention earlier above!

As it will just slow them down and therefore drop the arrow shorter than expected!

