

County Oak Archery Club



String Care and Storage

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Aah! The humble Bowstring is where the rubber meets the road so to speak. Most of the forces of your shot are transferred through it. Modern day string material is light and incredibly strong, plus it's weatherproof. But like any component that's under stress it can break prematurely if not cared for properly. One thing for sure, if it fails it maybe game over for a session or two, or until you can replace it.

String Care

If you've read my earlier missive "Making Your String Ready to Shoot" you know part of that process is waxing the String. Surprise, waxing is not just for a new string it's for the life of the string and should be done every 4 to 6 weeks if it's being used regularly.

If you haven't read it - Get your wax and dap a small blob of wax on the strands about every 2 to 3 inches or so then using small leather pad, say 25mm by 25mm, fold it over the strands and rub vigorously up and down between the central serving and the loops (top & bottom) avoiding the served areas (parts with wrapping round). This flattens out the twists and makes it more aerodynamic, plus helps stop it from untwisting.

Note - The best time to do this is just before de stringing your bow at the end of a session.

Checking you String

Regrettably sometimes no matter how careful you are damage can occur!

The main areas to check are:

The Top Loop (Most strings seem to fail here, due to it getting moved up & down when stringing) - look for fraying, also make sure the top nock has not got anything sharp in it's make up, sometimes 400 to 1000 wet & dry can help smooth out these problems, but unfortunately if gone too far it's time to order a new string.

Central serving - this can fray if it is constantly hitting your Armguard, also known as a Bracer. The way to sort this out is get your "Form" looked at by Ross, as this shouldn't be happening regularly. The other way this happens is if the nocks of the arrows being used are far too tight for the diameter of the string! The third way is bad storage as discussed below. The good news is if it hasn't gone too far and the string material under it is ok a new central serving can be wound on.

Lastly the Bottom Loop, because it is the least mechanically stressed of the three served areas it's least likely to fray, but it does happen so it's worth a check. In the 16 plus years I've been doing this, I've only had one of my strings go this way, but when it does, as like the top loop, you will have to replace it!

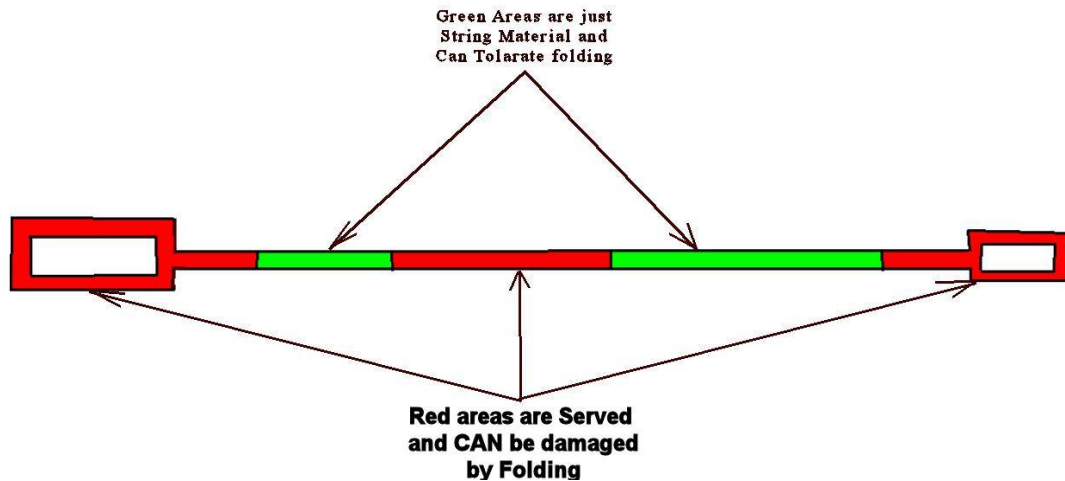
Storage

Believe it or not, storing your String incorrectly can do more damage to it than anything else, not to mention can be detrimental to your Archery abilities!

Bold statement you think, I will explain. No matter if you have "Endless loop" or a "Flemish twist", all strings have servings on them.

Servings are made up of tightly bound windings of serving cord, these windings are fine if put under tension or put round curves but should not be bent or folded into sharp angles! This can prise the

windings apart, leaving gaps & loosening the whole structure of the serving. It can be so bad that if it's one of the end loops you will have to replace it!



So how do I pack the string away without damaging it?

Method 1) if you have a one piece bow this can be done with little effort, simply drop the top loop off the top Nock (like normal de-stringing) leaving the bottom loop in place. Then find some elastic, put this around the top loop and around top nock of the limb of the bow, this stops the string from falling off the bottom of the bow.

This method has three advantages it keeps all the servings straight, doesn't allow the string to untwist so your brace height remains stationary and lastly it's fast to re string.

Method 2) if you have a takedown bow you will probably have to take the string right off the bow. First drop the top loop off as described above. Next take the bottom loop off the bottom limb keeping hold of it, then bring round to the top limb then pull the top loop off the top limb making sure that it cannot untwist, and then bring the two loops together. At this stage of the proceedings I normally hold the two loops with clip or some other method to make sure it cannot untwist! Next, I take the top of the Central Serving and make it level with the tops of the loops, then I fold the String Material in the way shown in the photos on the next page. (Ignore the pins they just stop stuff moving around).

Notice that no Servings were harmed in the folding up of this string.

Having got to this stage, don't just throw it in the bag as it can be bent and generally mauled by things moving about in it! I recommend putting it in a tube, if your string didn't come in one then 21.5mm overflow pipe works really well and you can get it from most DIY shops for a few quid. If you chop into lengths of 270mm or 10.5 inches for each string. Stick a wine cork in the ends to stop it falling out. Now you can bung it in your bag safe in the knowledge it's protected from harm.

String Life

If well maintained a string being used 3 to 4 times a week should last somewhere between a year to a year and half. After this period I normally retire them and keep them as spare in my kit.



A



B



C