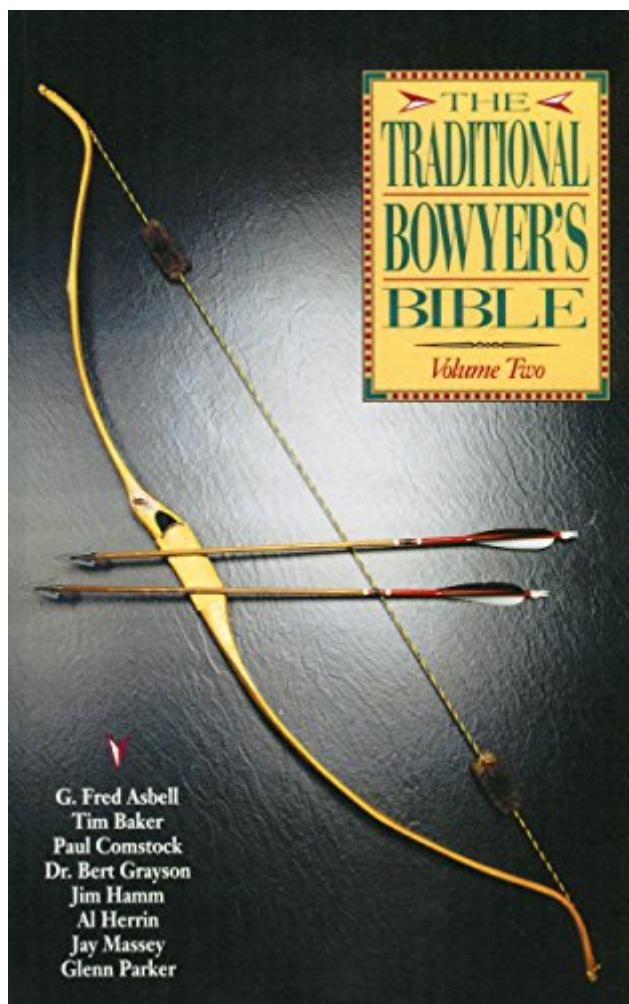


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# Traditional Bowyer's Bible, Volume 2



## **Synopsis**

Never before have such detailed instructions been available for the home craftsman, with information on how to make fine bows and arrows from natural materials.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

If, like me, you find yourself searching the internet endlessly for articles on making longbows, composite bows and everything in between, then look no further. Together, the three volumes in this set would have to be among, if not THE the most valuable texts on making archery tackle that there is. The photographs are in black and white, but they are excellent quality, and often appear within the well bound covers. Detailed illustrations also accompany the well thought out and clearly presented text. A lot of thought went into the production of these books, and I must say that the effort payed off. Living in another country and studying with no job, I had to save every bit of loose change I had for about 18 months to get these books, and they were worth every cent. I recommend these three books to all who aspire to one day loose arrows from their own hand crafted weapons of antiquity. This review does NOT refer to the paperback edition

For those interested in making traditional bows these books come highly recommended. The instructions are simple enough for beginners, and detailed enough that experienced bowyers can learn several new techniques, a rare quality in many "how to" books. Explained very well are the theory's or why's behind the instruction. This volume, # 2 explains bow construction from boards, recurve bows, composite bows, bow strings from natural and manufactured materials, bending wood, steel points, and quivers. Bows from ancient Europe, and the eastern woodlands are studied and explained in detail. Chapters written on hints, shortcuts, and shooting accuracy improvement are also very valueable. The chapter on board bows was worth the price of the book by itself, as I am unable to cut bow staves from trees.

This book is written by several experts and is essentially a compilation of individual articles, each of which is outstanding in the detail of the direction given. However, for a person seeking to make a particular bow, all 3 books of the series are needed and there is not an orderly progression. Just count on buying all three, reading them all, making decisions based on what you've learned, and then picking chapters to help you as you go along.

I've been a subscriber to Primitive Archer Magazine for many years. I read it from a historical, archaeological perspective for a long time. It's just fascinating. These books were written by a group of regular contributors to the magazine and participants at the lively message board. I bought this set when I finally decided to make the leap into creating my own wooden bows. It is fabulous. There's a wide variety of articles ranging from making bows from boards to flint-knapping. They even discuss making Asian horn bows! I recommend this set for anyone with an interest in a simpler life. One of my life goals is to harvest a deer with gear I made completely myself. Using this book, a person can take a tree, some cane, and a few pieces of rock and create an efficient, deadly weapon. If you want to learn about making wooden bows and other primitive archery gear, this is the set of books to own.

These volumes can be expensive... But you get what you pay for, I assure you. The set goes over everything you would need to know. However, you won't fully understand what this book is talking about until you start covering your work space floor with wood shavings. My advice is read the section you want are about to tackle. As you read just know that whatever you don't understand is something you probably won't understand until you get your hands dirty. After you tackle that part of the process, go back and re-read the section. You will have all sorts of little light bulbs going off.

This is used more as a reference for bowyering, not a read it once and you are good to go. You will learn something almost every time you read over this. So read it, try it, read it again. These volumes also have extensive sections on different styles of bows and arrows through different era's and cultures. Some of these bows will blow your mind, but also seeing all these different styles helps to build your confidence in making your own bow. There are so many types and styles you feel less likely to screw up, because if your bow doesn't come out the way you wanted it to, it most likely came out in a way that one culture or another used for centuries. If you are serious about wanting to be a bowyer at any level, take the plunge and get the set. You won't regret it.

I enjoy exploring traditional crafts and skills our ancestors would have needed to survive in the wilderness, so this was a real thrill to find. The book is very complete in its directions and discussions on bow-making, and the illustrations are easy to use and follow. Though I have not (yet) actually tried to make myself a bow and arrows, I am sure I not only could but will in the semi-near future (a good wintertime project). There's a Volume I called The Traditional Bowyer's Bible, Volume 1 that I am planning on purchasing in the near future, since some of the things in Volume II refer back to the first volume, and in order to be completely clear on some of the fine points of making a bow, I think I need to look at both volumes to compare. The price was right, and the copy I received was perfect in every way.

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