**BOW LENGTH**

Recurve bows range in length from 48 inches to 72 inches. Most target bows will average 66 or 68 inches in length. As a rough guide to choosing the length of a bow to suit you:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Draw Length** | **Bow Length** |
| Up to 27” | 64” |
| 24” – 29” | 66” |
| 27” – 31” | 68” |
| 29” or over | 70” |

Further complications arise in that these lengths can be made up of various combinations of riser and limb lengths, for example:

Hoyt and other manufacturers:

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Short** | **Medium** | **Long** |
| **Short Riser (23”)** | 64” | 66” | 68” |
| **Long Riser (25”)** | 66” | 68” | 70” |
| **(27”)** |  | 70” | 72” |

And just to confuse matters further, Yamaha, Sky, Martin and other manufacturers also make 24” and 26” risers.

So – what’s the difference? If I have a choice, should I go for a long riser with short limbs, or a short riser with long limbs? Opinions are mixed but to give you some rough guide:

Long handle, short limbs = Faster, more tendency to stacking, less stable.

Short handle, long limbs = Slower, more stable, less stacking.

**BRACE HEIGHT & STRING LENGTH**

Length of the string will determine the bracing height.

Bracing Height is measured from the pressure button to the bowstring at 90 degrees. Most bows will have a recommended brace height given by the manufacturer. If the brace height is not known, then a rough guide for recurves is:-

70 inch bow = 8.50 to 9.75 inches,

68 inch bow = 8.25 to 9.50 inches,

66 inch bow = 8.00 to 9.25 inches.

64 inch bow = 7.75 to 9.00 inches.

The ideal brace height for a bow is one that produces the quietest release with the least amount of vibration in the bow.

To give some guidance, on my bow a

64.5” string will give a 6.75” bracing height (too long)

63” string will give a 8.75” bracing height (Just right)

62.75” string will give a 9.25” bracing height (too short)

I have found that **4 or 5 twists can make as much as 1/8” difference in the bracing height**.

In order to increase or reduce the bracing height by small amounts, twists can be added or removed from the bowstring respectively, but a string of approximately the right length must be used in the first instance. If you have no means of establishing the correct length of string, **measure around the back of the bow from tip to tip, following the curves of the unstrung bow**, then take **90 mm** (or **3.5 inches**) from that length as an estimate of length.