

The Liberty 1

ADVERTISED AVERAGE ARROW SPEED ~ 309 FEET PER SECOND IBO!
Over a year ago 30 Liberty bows were sent to various dealers for testing.
All the problems discovered were corrected. This bow is ready!

Sitting around the camp fire at most bowhunting camps and archery competitions these days the question will always come up of "How much shorter can they make 'em'.... 32 inch, 30inch 29 inch who would know, well....**LIBERTY ARCHERY** has blown everyone away with their **Liberty 1 bow**, a high speed, high let off bow that measures around 20.5 inches axle to axle, in fact the bow sent for testing only measured 19 3/4 inches or 500mm from axle to axle, that's right, a tiny 50cm!

Now, at first glance many would consider this bow a "gimmick" but believe you me this bow has all the capability including speed (Advertised at 309 FPS) for taking out any Australian game!

Some might ask, Why such a short bow? Well..... I've had several times creeping through lantana choked gullies in search of stags where a 20 inch bow would have been far, far more practical than carting around a 40 inch bow that weighed more than twice as much as the Liberty bow, or sitting in a natural ground blind where a bare minimum of shooting space is cleared to remain undetected is another advantage to such a small bow. The original intent however was for Liberty archery to make a very small, light weight, complete hunting package that could be hooked onto a back pack without adding excessive weight and to make a small bow kit that could fit into the corner of just about any cars boot, I've even strapped it onto my day pack and together they easily fitted into a motorcycle gear sack, even the arrows for this bow I managed to cut down to 25 1/2 inches, a full 2 inches short of my usual hunting shafts, this was made possible by the unique riser/rest design incorporating the Whisker Biscuit arrow rest that works basically the same as an overdraw but retaining a fairly forgiving brace height of 7 inches!

During the research phase of the Liberty 1 design a physiology consultant was employed to calculate the energy expended while shooting the Liberty 1 as compared to a lower let off bow. His result was that shooting a 70 lb Liberty 1 bow

consumed the same energy as shooting a 60.56 lb competitors bow. Assumptions were based on a 2 second draw & 5 second holding time.

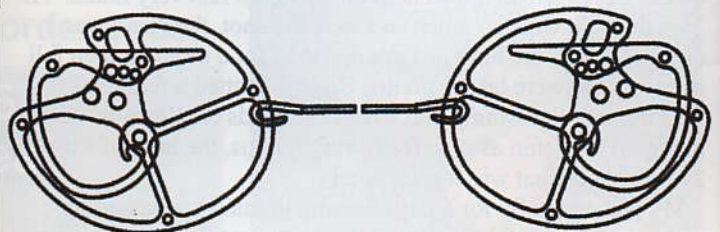
The benefits here for the hunter are obvious, if you draw on a game animal when his view of you is obstructed and wait until he has cleared the cover while waiting for the best shot opportunity to be presented, then an 85% let off bow will give you the extra time at full draw necessary to make that perfect shot!

To eliminate excessive weight Liberty incorporated a shoot through design for the riser which is made from A357-T6 Aluminium that is very strong and reduced the riser to near on 1/2 a pound and with the "A" frame structure that the separated limbs make you have a 3 point architecture for both sets of limbs that make the entire bow very stable. Apparently, this limb configuration also twists the Gordon composite core laminated limbs during draw adding what Liberty calls "Rotational Stored Energy"

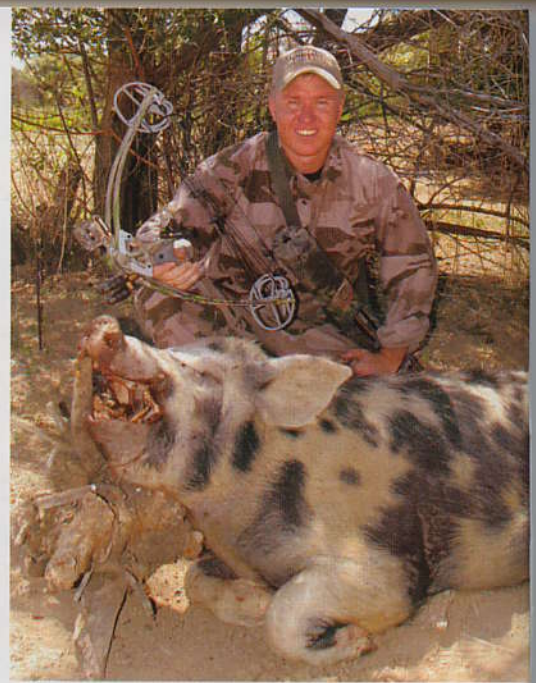
By now most hunters using release aids have realized the advantages of using a string loop instead of hooking up directly to the string, the most important reason being the reduced adverse effect on arrow flight that can come about from hooking up directly to the string. Liberty Archery suggest that a sting loop is a must for the Liberty 1 and they'll get no argument from me, using a string loop does of coarse require a half inch or so reduction in draw length slightly reducing the bows maximum draw weight with the shorter draw but for most this would be a minor compromise.

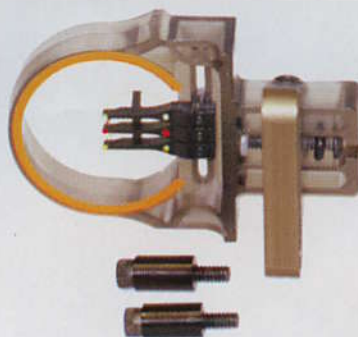
The sting used on the Liberty 1 is a pre stretched Winners Choice bow string that is easily replaced or adjusted for inserting peep sights or kisser buttons using the supplied "Field" bow press, being an unfamiliar process I found the string changer slightly daunting to use at first but after several uses to adjust peep placement the process was found to be extremely simple.

At full draw, the string changer is firmly hooked onto the cams as pictured below to allow for easy string removal, replacement or adjustments making fitting kisser buttons or peep sight insertion and adjustments very simple!



RISER - A357-T6 aluminium riser
BOW LENGTH - approx 20.5" axle to axle (20.5" is not a misprint!)
MASS WEIGHT - 2.3 lbs, 2.55 lbs loaded
DRAW LENGTHS - 26 3/8 - 32 " (Left hand bows are available)
Draw Length adjustable by only +/- 1/8 inch.
No modules, unique cam per draw length.
DRAW WEIGHTS - 40-50lb up to 72-82lb (order by peak weight)
STABILIZER MOUNT - Center Front, 5" long fits case.
PEEP SIGHT - String angle requires special peeps.
SIGHTS - Only the site head is used.
CAM - High speed, high let-off, split cable design.
HOLDING WEIGHT - 10.5 lbs for 70 lb bow. Approx 85%
BRACE HEIGHT - 7"
AVERAGE ARROW SPEED IBO - 309 fps AMO - 242 fps
HANDLE - Lightweight cushioned synthetic rubber angled at 29 deg.
STRING - Winners Choice (prestretched)
CAMO - RealTree Hardwoods High Definition Green-Jordan
VIBRATION & NOISE REDUCTION - Sims String Leeches & Bow Jacks cable silencers.





ABOVE ~ Bow Jacks reduce cable noise and the 3 size peep set are designed for the extreme string angle.

CARRY CASE ~ The bow received for testing came with it's own compact protective bow case with additional storage "Cut outs" for other items such as release aids broadhead boxes or rangefinders and such.

SIGHTS ~ Light and compact the VITAL bow sight is perfectly designed for the Liberty 1.

RISER ~ More of a handle than a riser the Liberty 1 Riser is made from A 357 - T6 aluminium, the same material used for jet impeller blades!

So, how does it shoot? Initially the bow felt a little awkward, no surprises there, this bow is of a fairly radical design after all, however, after a few sessions the **Liberty 1** become very comfortable to shoot and at this stage I decided some serious paper testing and bare shaft shooting was required, Liberty Archery suggest setting the stings nocking point, ie ~ the string loop, dead center between the axles providing for extremely level nock travel, the next step was to fine tune the centershot and elevation of the Whisker Biscuit rest, with a few minor adjustments to the rest during shooting sessions I had bare shafts punching bullet holes

through the paper at 5 yards, Nice!

Out at our local club I shot the morning round with a bow I'd been shooting very well this past few months coming in with a 366 out of a possible 400, then in the afternoon I'd topped the mornings round 10 points higher with the **Liberty 1**, a 376 round out of a possible 400 with a bow I was still not entirely familiar with!

Initially the bow was set up shooting 3D Viper carbon shafts weighing 330 grains and coming out of the bow set on 58 lbs at 5.68 grains per pound, a pretty good recipe for shooting the unknown distances of 3D or hunting without a rangefinder, even shooting such light weight arrows the bow was still very quiet to shoot and recoil or hand shock seemed virtually non existent!

I can't wait to get to my favorite ground blind overlooking a Red deer wallow and really put this little ripper to the test!

At the time of printing no contracts have been finalized with Australian retailers for importing the Liberty 1 bow, therefore you should contact your preferred archery pro shop for prices or to order your Liberty 1 bow.

For more information see ~ www.libertyarchery.com



ABOVE and RIGHT ~ Countless numbers of bowhunters know the advantages of hunting from natural ground blinds or hides and at only 19 and three quarter inches axle to axle the all new Liberty 1 is the perfect hunting compound for shots from ground blinds or thick scrubby hides.

From even the most awkward sitting positions this bow was easily maneuvered, quiet and proved to be accurate for deer size game beyond my usual maximum effective range!





THE LIBERTY 1 UPDATE.....



It's hot, damn hot, hot & dry, the afternoon thunderstorms continue to tease the countryside round here, sitting in a make shift blind waiting for a Fallow or two to come in for a drink I watch as another thunderstorm drenches country further to the south west probably giving Nanango a drink, at least the wind has been fairly consistent, from the east, gusting up to around 20 knots, I'm thankful for that!

It's been around an hour now since John dropped me off and I can see around 13 Fallow hinds grazing towards the water, still 150 meters out, suddenly their heads go up, looking past my position thankfully, then, I hear them! A couple of Fallow bucks clashing antlers, it's early in the season yet so I'd not expect the battle to be too severe, for a couple of minutes the clashing of antlers continues, the bucks seem to be covering a fair bit of country as they clash, every now and then I catch a glimpse of them, the dry eucalyptus scrub is thick so I don't get a good look at them, being heavily timbered country I elected to leave the bino's behind but from this distance I can see even without my

bino's that at least one of these bucks is a taker! Tantalizing glimpses of palmated antler is occasionally seen flashing through the scrub, then, as quick as they started, all was quite again, with burning feet I remain standing in the blind, every now and then I'm rewarded by movement, for over an hour now the bucks have hung back about 200 yards from the water. I look at the scrub between myself and the bucks contemplating a stalk, but I think better of it, the ground under foot is just too dry and noisy, remaining in the blind has to be my best chance at a buck. As the sun hits the horizon I constantly check the ranges. If the bucks come right up to water before dark I'll have a pretty good 30 yard shot easily within range of the 56 pound Liberty 1, at 20 inches axle to axle I still can't get over this power pack little bow and look forward to finally grassing a deer with it, looking down at the bow I'm conscious of my sweating palms, now on twilight I dare not put the bow down, too many times I hear of bowhunters not having their bow ready at this peak time and then suddenly a deer appears from nowhere!!

Sure enough, just before dark they appear, two good Bucks slowly make their way in, pausing frequently to thoroughly scan the area, the pounding in my chest becomes intense, compounding the thumping headache from a lack of water in this hot blind, as the bucks approach, now around 80 yards they are obscured by scrub, I take the opportunity to lift the bow into shooting position and study the fibre optic pins, shit! I'm running out of light, after far too slowly coming in the first Buck, still a taker, walks into range and pauses perfectly in a good shooting lane, once at full draw I struggle to see any of the pins and cannot detect the peep sight aperture. It's too late.....the second Buck now moves in and begins to drink..... I'm sure if I shut my eyes tight for a few seconds in complete darkness then when I open them up again I'll be able to see the top pin through the peep.....

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When I open my eyes I still see nothing, nothing but the light colored Bucks now faintly only 25 yds away seemingly silhouetted against the darkness of the night.

I watch now around two minutes later as they disappear into the darkness until ultimately I see and hear nothing but the night, 15 minutes later I quietly make my way out of the area and hike a few hundred yards back to my ute, a feed of pre cooked stew, a rum and finally hit the swag.....

At 3.45 am I crawl out of my swag after a restless night sleep, have a quick feed and gear up ready for another stint in the blind, I quietly arrive at the blind at 4.15, a good hour before sun up only to see three deer already at the water, even in the darkness their light colored silhouette is slightly enhanced by the moonlight and it's obvious that their on to me! Seconds later, in the scrub around 50 or so yards to my left, a deer lets out a warning bark and their off! Dammit! Not a good start.....

In the blind now it's bloody hot and approaching 11 am, not another deer is seen and the stew is fast catching up on me, I sneak out of the blind and head back to the ute to "Cut a chunk off" and get some caffeine into the system.

While enjoying a long overdue cup of coffee I switch on the ABC to get the afternoon forecast.....Great, much the same as yesterday, storms brewing with winds expected to reach 20 knots from the South East.

Back at the blind at 12.30 pm I settle into the afternoon, plenty of fruit and a couple of cans of energy drink should keep me sharp, periodically I look up from reading the Wild Deer magazine to scan the surrounding bush, then, finally at 3.30 pm three great looking Bucks approach, they walk 15 yds behind me looking suspiciously at the blind possibly getting a smell of me and then move off into the scrub, sadly the blind was only designed to shoot in one direction so I never even looked like getting a shot, but less than an hour later the Bucks were back, again they walk past the blind and into the scrub without presenting me with a shot, now however I knew the bucks were getting thirsty and would soon return.

Sure enough at around 5.30 they were back, the two smaller bucks seemed to stick together with the bigger wider raked Buck hanging back, yesterday morning John, the property owner, suggested I take the first buck that presented me with a shot and even though the bigger Buck looked great, I would still be very happy with either of the other two Bucks, as they approached I noticed one Buck had a fork on the end of his Trez tynes, wow! he'd look great on the wall, even the other Buck would also make a great trophy, so it would be first in best dressed! For me anyway.

All afternoon I'd estimated the ranges to different landmarks, 25 to the waters edge, 30 to that rock on the left, 45 to the big eucalypt on the bend in the game trail..... then they were finally within bow range, on

Mt Marcella is situated around 30 minutes from Goomeri in South East Queensland and is a working rural property running commercial Fallow deer and Beef cattle.

Free range Fallow deer hunts can be arranged by booking with John Ollenburg at ~

All Australian Hunting and Guiding
On 07 4168 6184 (see advertisement page 65)

Book early as numbers of free range Queensland Fallow bucks are limited!



high alert the two Bucks cautiously made their way down and had a drink, never giving me an opportunity to take a shot.

I was ready to draw back the bow when the Bucks finally gave me a chance, relaxing now out at 30 yds I drew the little fifty six pound Liberty 1 compound bow and settled in, with an 85% let off the bow held firm with the 30 yd pin fixed on the lungs, It seemed like an eternity until the Buck finally entered a shooting lane giving me a clear shot, I don't recall seeing the arrow in flight but the impact point was obvious, the buck jumped the string slightly and caught the arrow a little higher than I'd have liked, still though, with a high double lung shot the Buck went down within seconds only 20 yds away, I was elated!

After finally settling down and spending a few minutes admiring this great Buck I was on the UHF to John to assist in the carry out.

It was a little after midnight when I finally hit the sack after caping, skinning and dressing out the Buck, He'll make a fine shoulder mount and be great eating too.....

The Liberty 1 is a fantastic little bow ideally suited to pit or ground blind hunting or still hunting, while it may look like a gimmick I can assure you it is the real deal! To my knowledge at the time of printing the LIBERTY 1 compound bow is only available through Eagle Archery Supplies in Brisbane. Drop in sometime to see the bow for yourself or call Eagle Archery on 07 38084111 For more info on the Liberty 1 visit www.libertyarchery.com

