

BORDER ARCHERY

Public Reviews

covert hunter



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Saturday, June 21, 2014

Border Archery Covert Hunter Review

Border Archery of Scotland has been known to push the performance limits of the recurve with incredible limb design and use of advanced materials. The result of years of R&D culminates in the latest Hex-series limb out of Scotland - the Hex-7. The Covert Hunter is a recurve utilizing the newest limb offering in a compact, smooth drawing bow. I feel quite privileged to be among the first in the upper American Midwest to own one of these recurves and will do my best to provide as objective of a review as I can.....

.....I happened to get the bow a little later than I had hoped as there was a traditional shoot at my local archery club. I received it one day before the shoot opened so I was a little worried about being able to get it tuned in time. However, the bow was relatively quick to get set up as I didn't have to worry about tiller adjustments and fiddled with the side plate setting for centre shot. Some of my fellow club members asked that I bring the bow over so they could see it in person, and I could take advantage of the longer distance of the indoor range. Once my fellow members had gotten their fill of ogling the new toy, I got to flinging some arrows. The noise issue turned out to be more from the shooting environment as I could hear less of the humming after the shot and everyone else seemed to agree the bow was pretty quiet. I confirmed that for myself when the bow got passed around and everyone got a chance to give it a try. From about 10 feet away, the bow makes a dull thump and that's it. Everyone remarked on the smoothness of the draw with "let-off" being thrown in occasionally. One of the guys there had a chronograph so I shot a few arrows past it and averaged in the high 180s. He noted I was creeping slightly before the loose and that likely cost me some FPS as I hit the mid 190s as soon as I pulled through my anchor and stopped creeping.

I got a chance to give the Covert Hunter a serious first run while at the Rapids Archery Club Annual Traditional Shoot. The shoot consisted of 3 loops of 20 animal targets with each loop having a different theme: Western, Minnesota, and African animals. Distances were not marked, but most were within 20 yards give or take with varying amounts of brush and foliage to negotiate. The day I shot the course was a bit windy with some gusts blowing through randomly. The super smooth draw definitely helped with being able to hold on target and wait out the gust before loosing the shot. I know I did not score nearly as well as I would have with a more familiar

bow, but I was happy to be able to get outside and do some shooting nonetheless. I did miss some targets, sending a few arrows over the backs of the foam animals at longer distances. I surmise that may have been due to the higher arrows speeds I was getting, which altered my point-on distance. Regardless of how I did, I had a great time at the shoot and really enjoyed shooting the Covert Hunter.

.....The Covert Hunter is an impressive blend of engineering and art. The wickedly recurved limbs look wonderful with their handsome matte carbon fiber finish and a subtle smooth transition into the curves of the riser. My bow came to me after a 3 month waiting period, which was quite reasonable considering the level of demand for this bow. Sid Sr. at Border was quite helpful when I e-mailed him inquiring about the Covert Hunter and answered my questions thoroughly. I placed my order with him confident that I would end up with one heck of a bow. I'm happy to say I was not disappointed in the least.

My photos and blog post do not do this bow justice and it is something best experienced in person. As of writing this post, I understand there are not too many of these recurves in North America yet, but that will soon change as Border continues to keep up with the demand. As I understand it, the Hex-7 is currently only available as a bolt-down limb with the ILF version in the works.

I look forward to seeing the ILF version of these limbs and the kinds of high-performance bows people will put together. Compact size, ultra-smooth draw, cutting edge performance, and truly custom workmanship will ensure that the Covert Hunter will be the bow to beat for years to come. If this review has piqued your curiosity, then why not head over to www.borderbows.com and check it out for yourself?

http://amateurarcher.blogspot.co.uk/2014_06_01_archive.html

Review

...This is one of the most difficult reviews I have had to write. The Covert hunter is so different in almost every aspect it makes for a hard time to accurately describe my thoughts and feelings about it. Yes it is that different, and make no mistake it is all good, very good. The HEX 7 limbs on the Covert Hunter are like nothing I have seen or shot before. Massive hooks are almost an understatement, to the point I was actually nervous about stringing the bow. Much to my surprise and delight this is one of the easiest bows I have ever strung. That said there is no way you will safely string this bow without a proper stringer. It is just not going to happen. I can easily string my Black Douglas HEX 5 limbs by hand, but never would I attempt the HEX 7 this way. With the supplied limb pad type stringer it strings up easier than a self bow. As for fit, finish etc, well it is typical Border quality, or should I say perfection down to the tiniest detail. We expect no less from Border, and we are never disappointed in the quality of their workmanship. Border is very well known for more than their cosmetics. They are on top when it comes to performance in today's bows. The Covert hunter is taking the performance levels and smoothness to a whole new chapter. I bet as I am writing this there are several bowyers dissecting photos, and scrutinizing borrowed bows in order to try to catch up. The Covert hunter is on the leading edge of Borders technology, Hyper-flex cores laminated with their own in house carbon lamination's and radical, yet easy to shoot design, I know is going to change how we think of a recurve in the future.....

.....The Covert Hunter has a forward riser handle that I find feels as good as it looks. I have other bows with this style of riser and am quite fond of how they point and feel. The Covert Hunter is one of those bows that just feels real nice to shoot. One of the old stand by things with a traditional bow was the stack point in the draw cycle. This was when the limbs were telling us they did not want to be pushed so far, and it was a definite felt warning of danger. A limb has it's limitations, and stack was always an early warning sign that we are smart to heed.

The Hex 7 does not stack.....

.....No doubt the Covert Hunter Hex 7 limbs is a high performing limb. But this does not mean we need to utilize the performance for speed. I prefer to take that performance and use it to launch a heavier arrow, or to be able to drop a few pounds in draw weight and still maintain the arrow speed I would get from a bow 5 or more pounds heavier and have the bow last a lot longer.....

.....The Covert Hunter and HEX 7 limb make the smallest strung package I have seen. Border does not use the AMO bow measuring system that states a bow will use a string 3" shorter than the bows marked length , so if we used the AMO method we will find this 60" bow is an AMO 61" bow because it takes a 58" string...

....The Covert Hunter was designed and built to hunt and it achieved these goals in grand style. I am impressed in every way. Every shooter should at least test shoot these HEX 7 limbs and experience smooth draw they have.

Pete Ward

<http://peteward.com/2014%20reviews/Test%20CovertHunter.html>

hawok



Border Updated Nov 2010:

The folks at Border have been busy in R&D, developing some exciting new bows and limbs. We now have the D/R "Hawk" longbow, in a Hunter and Tournament version, as well as the HexV recurve program that has been applied to the 1 piece recurves. There are ILF longbow limbs about to be introduced, A Black Douglas ILF version is now available also. I expect that in the very near future we will also see Metal Risers in ILF, coming out of the new CNC machine in the Border shop. Sid advises me they will soon have an updated website, with all the details. look for this early in the new year.

"Review"

The Border Hawk longbow is a new design for 2010. The Hawk was designed with the Bow Hunter in mind, who wants a modern R/D designed bow for hunting. The Hawk is available in shorter lengths, down to 60", has a mild reflex deflex design that is easy to string with or without a stringer. The Hawk is a very easy bow for me to like.

The 62" Hawk I am reviewing has the optional Longbow pistol grip. We can have any style grip we wish, Howard Hill style, Locator, High, Medium, low, just ask when you make your order. Custom grips are available to suit your wishes.

Border recommends the various Hawk bow length's of 60" to 66" for the draw length you have. These recommendations are made so you will have a reliable bow that does not stack at your draw length and will provide you with years of pleasant shooting....

.....The first shots from the Hawk convinced me that this is a hunting bow. I quickly became friends with the Hawk, and a set of Heritage 90 carbon shafts, with 300-grain points that flew great, and hit the mark. It is quiet with just a set of Beaver silencers, and is very dead in the hand after the shot.....

.... A feature that Sid considered when designing the Hawk was easy to string. Some D/R bows are very hard to string, and can get away from you in a heartbeat if you are not

careful. The Hawk is a very easy bow to string, just like a typical straight-limbed bow. I do not get the feeling that it wants to take off, and attack me if I am not extra careful using the push pull method. {It is still best to use a stringer with every bow we string.}.....

.....Since receiving the Hawk, it has been where it belongs, in the woods of Alberta hunting. I recently took the Hawk on a weeks hunting trip looking for the elusive Elk. The Elk did manage to stay safe, however a nice Mule Doe is now in the freezer thanks to the Hawk, and some good luck.....

....During this holiday I took the Hawk to the woods on a lot of the outings, and after many days in the bush I have come to appreciate the Hawk for what it is. A hunting bow with great looks.

Pete Ward

<http://peteward.com/2010pages/Test.borderhawk.html>

ILF Limbs

CV-W



Review

The CVW is a conventional profile limb for those that like the feel and style of this limb design. Its smoothness is comparable to other top end limbs and peaks at 21" to 22" of draw compared to other top level limbs that peak at 19" to 21".

Torsional Stability is rock solid, the highest in the industry. Brace height and vertical stability are within the norms for top end limbs also. The limb benefits from our low laminate mass and partners very well with the wood core. Compared with the best conventional profiled limbs on the market the CV series is at the top for overall performance as fast or faster, smoother and exceptional torsional stiffness and available at Border's entry level pricing...

.....Border Archery has long been known for producing cutting edge bows and limbs, as well as for their flawless workmanship. The Border ILF CV W limbs I have been shooting for the past few months are another example of the quality we expect to see from the border shops. The CV limb is not what the trend at border has been lately with their HEX series of limbs we are used to seeing. The CV-W is a step back to the more conventional style limb, but laced with their Carbon Technology...

The CV wood core limbs I have are finished with high gloss and they look stunning on the Trad Tech Black Magic riser I have been shooting them on. This combination is an eye catcher, and also makes for a sweet shooting ILF bow. The CV is also available in satin, and other finishes like camo. The Border Logo stands out without being objective, and looks classy. In a satin finish for hunting the limbs would be perfect....

.....I am used to shooting ILF bows and many different limbs, from very inexpensive wood glass limbs to some rather costly high end , expensive carbon foam models . The CV-Wood is at the lower end of the Border limb lineup, however it is not a low end limb in any way.

The CV-W series was developed for the shooter that wants a top end limb at an upper mid range budget. The CV-W seems to fit this place very

well. It has superb workmanship and cutting edge material, conventional ILF style, and very good performance, in both speed and after the shot feel. By after the shot feel I refer to them shooting very quiet with minimal silencers, no shock, and no vibrations. They are easy to like after the first time you draw and shoot the CV-W limbs.

Pete Ward

<http://peteward.com/2014%20reviews/Test.BorderCVlimb.1.html>

Black Douglas

Ultra Super CX Recurve

HEX V W CXC limbs



Review

The review of the Black Douglas 17" Super Ultra CX is going to also include some additional information on the 19" BD Super Swift CX, Riser, as well I will be showing information on the HEX V W CXC limbs, and HEX IV W limbs on each riser with draw force curves and a partial chronograph insert. For those that have been waiting so long for this review I will explain quickly what the delay was. The original limbs sent to test were the now discontinued HEX IV GLX, that had a thin Veneer over the carbon Like the Griffon GLX Longbow has. The day I received the limbs and shot them the veneer lifted and cracked. The Crack was limited to the Veneer only. I contacted Sid and he informed me he had not had any other limbs do this and he would make a new set. Almost immediately Border had a series of similar veneer failures being reported. It became a reality very quickly that the Veneers would not take the stress of the recurve limbs without lifting and Sid openly discussed the problem on the British Forum.

<http://www.archery-interchange.com/forum/border-archery/>

This was the end of the GLX program, and a new design was needed for the HEXIV. Soon after this I received a new set of Hex IV limbs, and a problem arose. The bottom limb broke within a week of receiving it. Again this was the first report of problems and again the Warranty calls came in. This was a devastating time for Border, and the approach taken was to go public and promise to rectify the problem. From all reports I have heard the customers with problem limbs have been satisfied.

The failures resulted in a stricter quality control of the whole Border process of building a bow. The carbon lay-up, Cores and veneers were scrutinized and re-evaluated and a push to introduce the new HEX V limb was underway. During this time according to Sid, Border has developed a limb that is greater in torsional stability, lighter, faster and overall better. I admire Sid and Border for not trying to hide the problem, and for not taking a patch up approach. They engineered a better limb instead, and stood behind their warranty. Well done.

The Black Douglas Super CX riser is a finely crafted heavily reinforced riser that is flawless. The glue lines are impeccable. There is not a hint of a tool mark or sanding mark to be found. The limb attachment used by Border is very different to the what we are used to. Cutting in the limbs to the riser is used by several other bowyers, to get that clean look, but I am referring to the bolt and pin set up Border uses. On the outboard end of the riser we find a normal pin, but inserted into the limb there is a slotted metal insert to accept the riser pin. The bezel that accepts the limb bolt is also different. Instead of it setting on top of the limb it projects thru the limb and acts as a pin into the riser as well as a guide for the limb bolt. This combination produces a very solid and true mounting of the limbs with no slop or movement possible....

....I would not have continued to work on this Bow Review for so long thru so many problems if it were not for the honesty and integrity shown by Sid at Border during the trying times they went thru while this review was being done. I have tortured the Hex V CXC limbs long enough with very light 300gr target arrows to feel confident with them for Hunting, shooting hunting weight arrows.....

Pete Ward

<http://peteward.com/2009pages/test.BlackDouglas.ultra.html>

Black Douglas

Super Swift Recurve

HEX IV limbs



Review

It seems odd that a country such as the Great Britain which owes so much of its history to the use of the bow that on an international stage there are so few recognisable names in the world of bowery. As somebody who spends a fair amount of time on various international forums, British based bowyers hardly ever get a mention, this seems somewhat odd when you actually visit a field archery competition in Britain as a vast majority of people are shooting British made bows, yet for some reason they do not export well, either physically or by reputation.

However there is one exception, Border bows, not only are these well known they also hold a very high reputation, up there with the very best American bows around. Perhaps this is due to a much larger operation than most other British based bowyers, which allows Border to produce not only a large number of bows, but also a larger range than most...

...This review is of a Super Swift, the riser is a little more bulky than many bows, but comfortable to hold and feels nice if not a little heavy when compared to many other traditional bows. The riser is made from Cocobolo and Shedua and it looks absolutely stunning, the finish is second to none and as good as any bow I have ever seen. This bow has the HEX IV limbs, which border claim are twice as strong as conventional bow facings and are 40% lighter in mass. The ones we reviewed were brown which if I'm honest I don't think they looked as nice as the black ones which we have pictured, but each to their own when it comes to colours and the look of the bow which is something very personal to all of us...



.....The bow felt fast, not just in terms of arrow speed, but the speed that the limbs returned to their strung position. Obviously the two are related but in this case even if you didn't look at the arrow you could tell this thing was spitting the arrows out at a fast rate.

Andy

<http://www.archers-review.com/bow-reviews/border-black-douglas-64-40-at-28>

Griffon GL

Longbow



Review

The Griffon GL longbow has been with me for many weeks now and I feel I am at the point where I can write this review. This bow has a few more features than the standard Griffon. It has the new GL option, which is a double carbon limb and wood veneers and replaces the old model Griffon and Black Griffon. This bow has Indonesian Rosewood veneers and matching riser.

The core is Black Walnut between Bamboos. This bow is one of the nicest bows I have had the pleasure to shoot. Its lightweight is a delight to carry. It is not cut past centre, making it a legal bow for true longbow shoots like N.A.L.S., the North American Longbow Safari, an event I will be shooting the Griffon at this year. If you attend this or any other 3D shoots this year and see me, just ask and you can take it for a test drive.

{The Griffon GL and any other Border longbow may be ordered cut past centre if you prefer.}

The workmanship is flawless on the Griffon. Every glue line is perfect, and you cannot find a mark anywhere. The finish is perfectly applied like it was on fine furniture. The standard grip is a lightly contoured low wrist style with a matching fine leather wrap that is cut away on the backside to show more of the riser. This is a bow with simple lines that are wonderful to look at and hold....

...During the time I have had the Griffon GL many archers at the lanes have shot it and it is always a popular choice for the other fellows there to test shoot. They are always surprised at the performance of the Griffon GL when they shoot it....

...I am very impressed with it, and really do think it is a superior bow to many other longbows.

When it comes to workmanship, design and shooting quality the Border Griffon GL is a truly wonderful bow. Since I received the Griffon to test it has been with me on every trip to the lanes. If spring would arrive I would be able to shoot it at some longer outdoor targets and 3D ranges but they are still under a foot of snow so this will have to wait. The Griffon GL certainly

meets and exceeds the high expectations I have for a bow from Border Archery. I cannot wait to shoot some 3D and target competitions with it this summer....

...To sum up my feelings I believe the Border Archery Griffon GL is an exceptional longbow. It has it all, with its fine craftsmanship, beautiful looks and excellent performance. It is a very easy bow to like, and after taking the first few shots from it I knew that this was going to be a bow I will be shooting a lot this season. Border Archery has an excellent reputation for quality bows and after my experience with the Griffon GL I understand why so many archers have such high regard for their bows. The reputation Border Archery has is well deserved.

Pete Ward

<http://peteward.com/2007%20new%20pages/test.border.griffon.html>

Videos

Covert Hunter

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=upFq7PH89dE>

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nCndp0qAyoA&list=UUdSkYAZRsifbuZ_Ju5kbHSQ

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ora2_6e9rm4&index=56&list=UUdSkYAZRsifbuZ_Ju5kbHSQ

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d3QawfdV52g&list=UUdSkYAZRsifbuZ_Ju5kbHSQ&index=39

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TC_ITtPrfGI&list=UUdSkYAZRsifbuZ_Ju5kbHSQ&index=36

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-dufiHLCxU8&index=34&list=UUdSkYAZRsifbuZ_Ju5kbHSQ

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7QGLfpSUcwg&list=UUdSkYAZRsifbuZ_Ju5kbHSQ&index=35

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=at6QLQbkYWM&list=UUdSkYAZRsifbuZ_Ju5kbHSQ&index=23

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rwlTFnlWU_o

Black Douglas

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HXLucO0s-2E>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=o3r6usLI8MQ>

Raptor Long Bow

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ow5WHwBPtvo&index=12&list=UUdSkYAZRsifbuZ_Ju5kbHSQ

ILF Limbs

Hex 6

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kJTr8Gqvb9E>

KHAN

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nF8qkoYHYO8>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JoAieNuKZso>