

Making a Bow Stringer

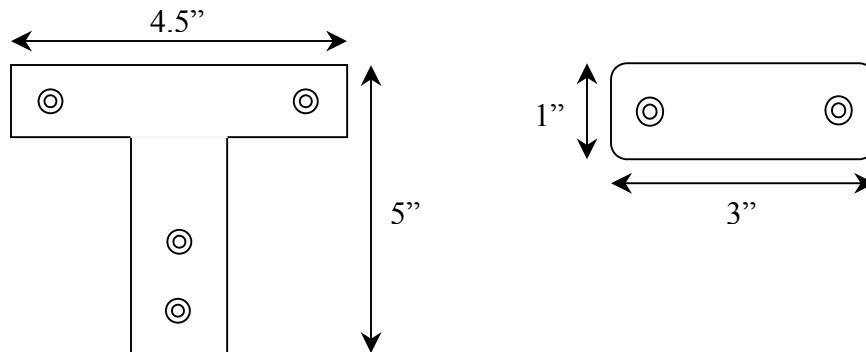
By Hlaford Wulfric Ferreter

The kindest thing an archer can do for his bow is to use a bow stringer. Aside from making it easier to string the bow, the stringer allows for applying even pressure on the limbs during stringing so there is less chance of breaking or damaging the bow. This article will explain how to make a stringer that will work on most bows. The stringer is made up of three parts, the pocket, the saddle, and the cord. The function of each part is explained at the end of the article.

To make a simple stringer you will need the following:

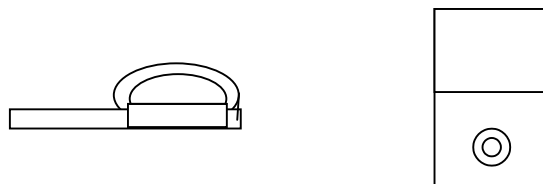
- a length of cord 7-8' long (I use 8')
- a scrap of leather (a "scrap pack" from Walmart will have enough to make several stringers).
- a hole punch
- a rivet (not a pop-rivet) or heavy waxed thread and needle

You will need to cut two shapes for the leather (see diagrams). The first piece will be used to make the pocket. This piece is shaped like a "T" and measures 4.5" for the top and 5" for the body. The second piece should be 3" long and 1" wide. I usually round the short edges. Once these are cut you are ready to begin assembly.



You will need to punch holes in the $\frac{1}{4}$ " from each of the sides of the saddle. The holes should be large enough to fit your cord through. The number holes required for the "T" depends on whether you use a rivet or thread. If using thread, you will only need one hole, large enough for the cord to pass through twice, punched $\frac{1}{4}$ " from the bottom of the "T". The diagram shows the single hole and the approximate holes for the rivet.

To make the pocket you will need to fold the top of the "T" over twice and then fold the flaps under so the overlap. You will then secure the bottom three layers; the two flaps and "T" body. You should now have a pocket with a loop above it (see diagram). You can now run your cord and complete the stringer.



Start running the cord into the “T” with the pocket on top. The cord should pass through the hole from the top; then through the loop (pictured on the left above), and then back through the hole from the bottom. Once the cord is run, secure the strand together with a knot. The saddle is strung by running the cord up through the first hole, down through the second, and securing the cord together with a knot that will not slip. You should leave some room in the loop so it will slip over the bow without too much trouble.



You now have a bow stringer, but do you know how to use it? If not read on and I will offer a quick lesson in stringing your bow. Hold the bow so the string hangs beneath it and slip the pocket of the stringer over the end that already has the string in place. Now slip the saddle over the other end and position it just behind the other loop in the bowstring. Place your foot on the stringer cord and pull up on the handle of the bow; the bow will bend into shape. While holding it in position, slip the loose loop down into position. Your bow is now strung. You should verify that both ends of the string are seated correctly before drawing the bow.