

Bow Report

By Bill Krenz

Browning Archery Illusion

Compound bows have come a long way in the last few decades. But in no area is that more noticeable than in progress over the past few years in doing the impossible. Let me explain.

For decades, common sense and bow engineers have told us that no bow could be fast and smooth-drawing and quiet and shock-free. Those four things just didn't go together. Fast bows would be harsh to draw, noisy and vibrate. Smooth, quiet, shock-free-bows would be slow. And up until the last few years, that's exactly the way things were.

But recently, a few startling bows have broken through the speed-draw-noise-vibration barrier to set new and much higher performance standards for compound bows. The latest, revolutionary bow to do that is the amazing Browning Illusion.

The Browning Illusion is so new that it was not even in the first printing of the 2005 Browning Archery catalog. Detailed information is now listed on the browning-archery.com website.

Quite frankly, the new Browning Illusion surprised me. The test bow looked great with its high-tech machined-aluminum riser, parallel limbs and huge eccentrics, and I expected the bow to shoot just fine. But never for a minute did I imagine that the new Illusion would shoot as well as it does. With the very first arrow out of this revolutionary new bow, I was stunned.

The Browning Illusion does the impossible. It is convincingly fast, draws as smooth as silk and is shock-free and marvelously quiet. In fact, it is one of the quietest compound bows I have ever shot. If you haven't tried a Browning Illusion yet, you're in for a treat.

Browning Archery began shipping the Illusion in May of this year. Dealer orders and consumer demand have been outstanding, which surprises no one who fired even one arrow through this new Browning bow.

The Browning name has long carried a golden reputation with sportsman. The new Browning Archery Illusion compound bow lives up to that reputation and then some. Archers everywhere will be hard pressed to find a bow of any brand that looks as good, draws as smoothly and then shoots with as much arrow

speed and as little shock and noise as this one. For years, we suspected that a bow that could do all that was an illusion. Now we know it is reality.

KEY SELLING POINTS

• HIGH-TECH RISER

The Illusion riser looks great. It's reflexed (set back) for speed and its lines flow like molten metal. Ribs and cutouts arc and curve. A two-piece hardwood grip adds class, as does a Browning buck emblem imbedded in the riser halfway between grip and limb pocket. The limb pockets themselves are very trim. Sights can be mounted either high or low, thanks to two sets of mounting holes.

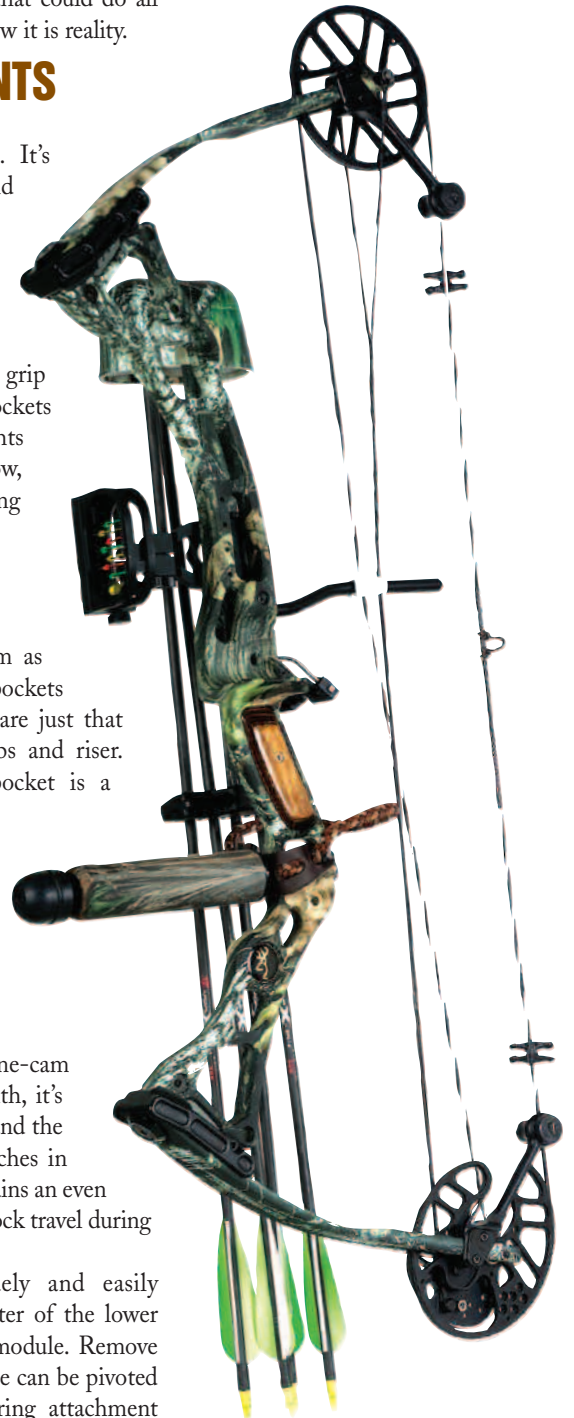
• IMPACSTOP LIMB POCKET INSERTS

Limb pockets should be as trim as possible on any bow. The limb pockets on the new Browning Illusion are just that and blend nicely with the limbs and riser. Tucked inside each Illusion pocket is a unique ImpacStop visco-elastic insert that provides a buffer between limb and pocket and effectively squelches shot noise and vibration.

• TRANCE ONE-CAM SYSTEM

The new Browning Trance one-cam system is a marvel. To begin with, it's huge. Both the lower drive cam and the upper idler measure over 4.5 inches in diameter. That titanic size maintains an even tiller in the bow and optimizes nock travel during the shot.

The Trance Cam is widely and easily adjustable. Tucked near the center of the lower cam is a pivoting draw length module. Remove two small screws and that module can be pivoted to a new setting. Three bowstring attachment posts in the lower cam can also be used to adjust draw length. In total, the Trance cam system features four inches of draw length adjustments.



BROWNING ILLUSION

In addition, the Trance Cam sports an adjustable draw stop post. That padded post comes around with the cam when the bow is drawn to contact the bow's inside cable and provide a consistent and positive draw stop. That draw stop post can be adjusted to a variety of positions on the Trance Cam to custom fit any archer's draw length and letoff preference. Both 65 percent and 80 percent draw stop positions are provided.

Most noticeable with the Browning Trance Cam is how smoothly this cam draws. In spite of its speed production, the Trance Cam is one of the smoothest drawing cams on the market today. Letoff is so smooth it is almost unnoticeable.

• QUIET PARALLEL LIMBS

The Browning Illusion's middle name is Quiet. The Browning Quiet Illusion owes its silenced shooting to a variety of superb design elements, including a stiff riser, ImpacStop limb pocket inserts, two different types of bowstring silencers and the most parallel limb configuration ever to appear on a Browning bow. Those relatively short, parallel-configured limbs tend to rebound directly away from each other (one goes up while one goes down) when an arrow is shot. That equal-but-opposite Illusion parallel limb action is very effective at canceling out shot vibration and noise.

• QUIET TOP GUN STRING RECOIL SUPPRESSORS

Mounted on the inside end of each bow limb of the Browning Illusion is a padded bumper arm called a String Recoil Suppressor (SRS). When the Illusion is shot, the bowstring falls forward to be captured by the soft and cushiony bumper of the String Recoil Suppressors. That action stops the bowstring dead and stops bowstring vibration as well.

• QUIET TOP GUN STRING CHUBS

Also standard on the new Browning Illusion are Top Gun String Chubs. String Chubs are rubbery bowstring silencers that feature dual frequency vibration-dampening geometry. That's marketing talk for silencers with two vibration-dampening arms on each side. Top Gun String Chubs are excellent bowstring silencers, very effective and particularly durable.

CLOSING THE SALE

As a longtime archer and bow nut, it is

Manufacturer Browning Archery



Tucson, AZ
(520) 884-9065
Circle #118

Model Illusion

Axle-to-Axle Length 32 inches

Brace Height 7.25 inches

Riser Geometry 2.87 inches reflex

Mass Weight 4 pounds

Draw Weights 60#, 70#

Draw Lengths 27 to 30 inches

Eccentrics Trance One-Cam

Letoff 80 or 65 percent

Grip Two-Piece Wood

Finish New Mossy Oak Break-Up

Real Performance

2005 Browning Illusion set at 29 inches and 70 pounds

28-inch Arrows	Point Weight	Total Weight	Grains/Pound	Kinetic Energy	Arrow Speed
Easton XX78 Alloy 2512	100	448 gr.	6.4	69.3	264 fps
Blackhawk Carbonwood 400	100	426 gr.	6.1	68.5	269 fps
Beman Black Max 400	100	417 gr.	6.0	68.5	272 fps
Carbon Tech Whitetail 65/80	100	411 gr.	5.9	68.5	274 fps
VitalHunter Gladiator	100	388 gr.	5.5	67.6	280 fps
Gold Tip XT Hunter 400	100	385 gr.	5.5	67.5	281 fps
Carbon Express Maxima 350	100	380 gr.	5.4	67.6	283 fps
PSE Radial X Weave Hunter 300	100	378 gr.	5.4	67.7	284 fps
Easton LightSpeed 400	100	365 gr.	5.2	66.8	287 fps
Carbon Tech Cheetah 400	100	348 gr.	5.0	66.8	294 fps
High Country Speed Pro Max	100	305 gr.	4.4	65.1	310 fps

All tests conducted with a Spot-Hogg Hooter Shooter portable shooting machine and a Competition Electronics ProChrono Plus chronograph.

unbelievably rewarding and exciting to discover a new bow like the Browning Illusion. This bow does what we long thought was impossible. The Browning Illusion is fast and smooth and vibration-free and wonderfully quiet.

It's one of the new breed of bows that you want to get into your customer's hands as soon as possible, and just let them shoot it. Once they've done that, then you

can talk about the bow's flowing high-tech riser, ImpacStop limb pocket inserts, wonderfully adjustable Trance one-cam system, parallel-configured bow limbs and Top Gun String Recoil Suppressors and String Chubs.

The Browning Illusion is a surprising bow that has quietly vaulted into the top tier of quality compound bows available anywhere today. **Circle #118.** 