

Bow Report

By Bill Krenz

Diamond Triumph

When you constantly test high-end, high-tech bows like I do, it's easy to forget that not everyone has \$700 or more to spend on a bow. For a lot of very good bowhunters—with families, mortgages and responsibilities—\$700 is a ridiculous amount.

Yet a good percentage of those same bowhunters want something special in a new bow. In many cases, a price tag of about \$500 represents their top end. Still, they want a bow that performs well. Arrow speed must be good and hand shock and shot noise must be minimal. Ideally, the bow draws and lets off smoothly. The bow should also be as dependable as the sunrise. It must be solidly built and able to withstand seasons of knocks and bumps.

On top of all that, the bow must instill pride. It should possess a reasonable dose of high-tech features blended in such a way that it looks every bit as good as it shoots.

All of that for no more than \$500 is a tall order.

One of the best bows we've seen in that niche this year is the new Diamond Triumph. It's a whole lot of bow for the money. It feels great and handles wonderfully, and it looks and shoots even better than its \$499 Manufacturers Suggested Retail (MSR) price might suggest.

Diamond Archery is a subsidiary of BowTech. BowTech itself is a relatively new bow company, founded in 1999, that has enjoyed a meteoric rise in popularity and status based on excellent products and sharp advertising. In 2004, BowTech added a second bow line, Diamond Archery. While the BowTech line drips of high-end and high-tech, the Diamond bow lineup is grounded on reliable, mid-priced bows aimed squarely at grass roots bowhunters. Diamond bows offer good performance, rock-solid dependability and a surprisingly advanced package of high-tech features, looks and style.

Any bowhunter who finds himself in the mid-price range would be very well served by looking closely at the Diamond Archery Triumph. It's the sort of clean, solid, stylish bow that makes for a very good deal.

KEY SELLING POINTS

• SWEEPING MACHINED RISER

The design engineers at Diamond Archery

(BowTech) have an eye for style and that certainly is evident in the Diamond Triumph. The Triumph's artfully machined-aluminum riser is best described as sweeping. It seems all curves and smooth lines, complemented by round holes, slim limb pockets and a trim grip.

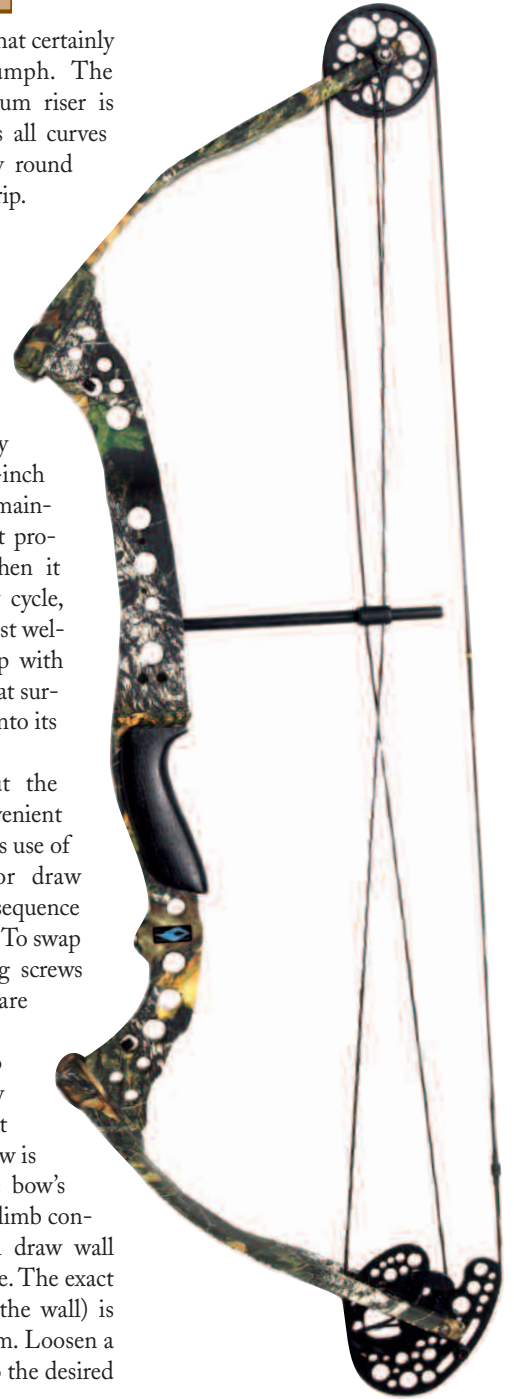
• SOLITAIRE CAM

The power plant behind the Triumph's impressive performance is Diamond's Solitaire single-cam system. The first thing I noticed about this eccentric system is how smoothly it draws. The way I had the test bow set up for my 29-inch draw length, peak draw weight was maintained well into the draw cycle. That provided extra arrow speed. Letoff, when it finally occurs quite late in the draw cycle, happens with a gradualness that is most welcome. Like most archers, I'm fed up with bows that let off with a suddenness that surprises. The Diamond Triumph eases into its letoff, and that's a very good thing.

The other thing I liked about the Diamond Solitaire Cam is its convenient adjustability. The Solitaire Cam makes use of interchangeable modules for major draw length adjustments. Each module in sequence delivers a 1/2-inch draw length change. To swap modules, two small module-retaining screws are removed and the modules are switched.

The Diamond Solitaire Cam also features an infinitely-adjustable draw stop post. That rubber-padded post rotates around with the cam as the bow is drawn to come in contact with the bow's lower limb at full draw. That post-to-limb contact creates a precise and solid full draw wall that's both reassuring and comfortable. The exact position of the post (and therefore the wall) is easily adjusted within a slot in the cam. Loosen a single post screw and slide the post to the desired position.

Adjusting the position of the post also changes the percentage of letoff. With the same module, adjusting the post to a shorter position to slightly shorten draw length will also slightly reduce letoff percentage. Using a combination of



DIAMOND TRIUMPH

modules and the post, the Solitaire's draw length, letoff and wall position can all be custom adjusted. This allows for minute adjustments. Follow the Diamond post-setting chart for exact positioning for your draw length and desired letoff.

• FORGIVING BRACE HEIGHT

The brace height on the Diamond Triumph is a comfortable 8 inches. That makes the Triumph a breeze to tune and shoot well. It also makes the Triumph a relatively forgiving bow to shoot, as the arrow's nock leaves the bowstring earlier than with a low-brace-height bow. A lower brace height delivers more speed, but a higher brace height is more forgiving, although the Triumph smokes arrows out at an advertised 302 to 310 feet per second IBO. Considering who will probably buy this bow, 8 inches seems perfect.

• INSOLATED RUBBER GRIP

I am a student of bow grips, and particularly those grips that seem to deliver better bow-hunting accuracy. Generally, grips with a thinner cross-section, the proper angle and a somewhat flat back work best for me and many other archers. The Insolated Rubber Grip on the Diamond Archery Triumph has the smallest cross section of any one-piece rubber grip I have ever seen. The angle is good, and the back is relatively flat. In other words, this is an exceptional rubber grip. It makes it easy to find consistent bow hand placement, and the semi-soft rubber nature of the grip makes it exceedingly comfortable.

• QUIET, SHOCK-FREE SHOT

One of the most noticeable benefits derived from the Diamond Triumph is a wonderfully quiet and shock-free shot. A stiff riser, limbs configured toward parallel and a good cam design help in that area tremendously. So do tight part tolerances. My test bow was also equipped with Diamond's complete Hush Kit, a rubbery dampening and silencing system that includes distinctive bowstring silencers, cable silencers, cable guard dampener and limb dampeners. A properly equipped Diamond Triumph brings all of those things together to make this bow shoot with a soft and easy whisper.

• SENSIBLE PRICE TAG

With an MSR of \$499, the Diamond Triumph is a most sensible bow. It's clearly a

Manufacturer Diamond Archery
Eugene, OR
(877) 269-2776
Circle #341



Model Triumph
Axle-to-Axle Length 31.5 inches
Brace Height 8 inches
Riser Geometry 1.75 inches reflex
Mass Weight 3.7 pounds
Draw Weights 50#, 60#, 70#
Draw Lengths 25.5 to 30.5 inches
Eccentrics Solitaire Single Cam
Letoff 65 to 80 percent
Grip Insolated Rubber One-Piece
Finish Mossy Oak New Break-Up

Real Performance

2005 Diamond Triumph 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	65.2	256 fps
Blackhawk Carbonwood 400	100	426 gr.	6.1	65.4	263 fps
Beman Black Max 400	100	417 gr.	6.0	65.0	264 fps
Carbon Tech Whitetail 65/80	100	411 gr.	5.9	65.0	267 fps
VitalHunter Gladiator	100	388 gr.	5.5	64.2	273 fps
Gold Tip XT Hunter 400	100	385 gr.	5.5	64.2	274 fps
Carbon Express Maxima 350	100	380 gr.	5.4	64.3	276 fps
PSE Radial X Weave Hunter 300	100	378 gr.	5.4	64.4	277 fps
Easton LightSpeed 400	100	365 gr.	5.2	64.0	281 fps
Carbon Tech Cheetah 400	100	348 gr.	5.0	64.1	288 fps
High Country Speed Pro Max	100	305 gr.	4.4	62.2	303 fps

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

bow that offers tremendous bang for the buck. Mid-priced bow buyers crave value, and the Diamond Triumph delivers that in spades.

CLOSING THE SALE

Certain very specific things cause mid-priced bow buyers to jump. Value, performance, reliability and a healthy dose of high-tech features lead the list.

The Diamond Archery Triumph does an

amazing job of hitting every one of those hot buttons. At around \$500 retail, the Triumph is an excellent buy. Its artfully sweeping machined-aluminum riser, highly-adjustable Solitaire Cam, forgiving brace height, outstanding rubber grip, and quiet and shock-free nature make it a definite mid-price winner.

It would be hard for you or your customers to go wrong with a Diamond Archery Triumph. **Circle #341**

