

Bow Report

By Bill Krenz

2006 Forge Ambusher

Value is a much sought after attribute in today's compound bows, and particularly so in the mid-priced range. Most mid-priced bow buyers define value as getting what you pay for...with maybe just a bit more.

An excellent example of that sort of value can be found with the 2006 Forge Ambusher.

The Forge Ambusher is a bow that delivers value and more. The Ambusher is a solid, well-designed and well-built bow. It's the right length (31 inches axle-to-axle) to sell well. It has a high-tech machined aluminum riser, a spiffy one-cam eccentric system, an anti-shock synthetic grip, a two-color Vapor Trail bowstring and cable system, a back-balance stabilizer that further squelches shot noise and vibration, an unusually wide sight window, and good speed, all at a great price (approximately \$479 retail).

I liberated a Forge Ambusher from its shipping box recently and was impressed with how clean and sturdy the bow appears and feels. The Ambusher is like a firm handshake. It makes a good first impression on the rack or right out of the box.

Several hundred arrows later, that initial impression was still intact. The truth is the Forge Ambusher is a whole lot of bow for the money. The Ambusher draws smoothly and shoots with authority. I would expect the Ambusher to continue to perform that way for season after season.

The Ambusher also seems to be an easy bow to shoot well. There's little that can go wrong. Everything fits well, tolerances seem tight and the resulting accuracy I experienced was excellent.

Value in mid-priced bows includes more than just metal, fiberglass and synthetic fibers. In the best mid-priced bows, it folds in dependability, performance and good looks. And all of that breeds confidence.

The 2006 Forge Ambusher is a

confident bow, a bow you and your customers can depend upon.

KEY SELLING POINTS

- **COMPACT 31-INCH LENGTH**

Shorter bows sell. Bowhunters like the compact nature and tidy proportions. The 2006 Forge Ambusher plays right to the trend. The Ambusher measures just 31 inches from axle to axle and weighs a handy 3.6 pounds.

- **SYNERGY CAM**

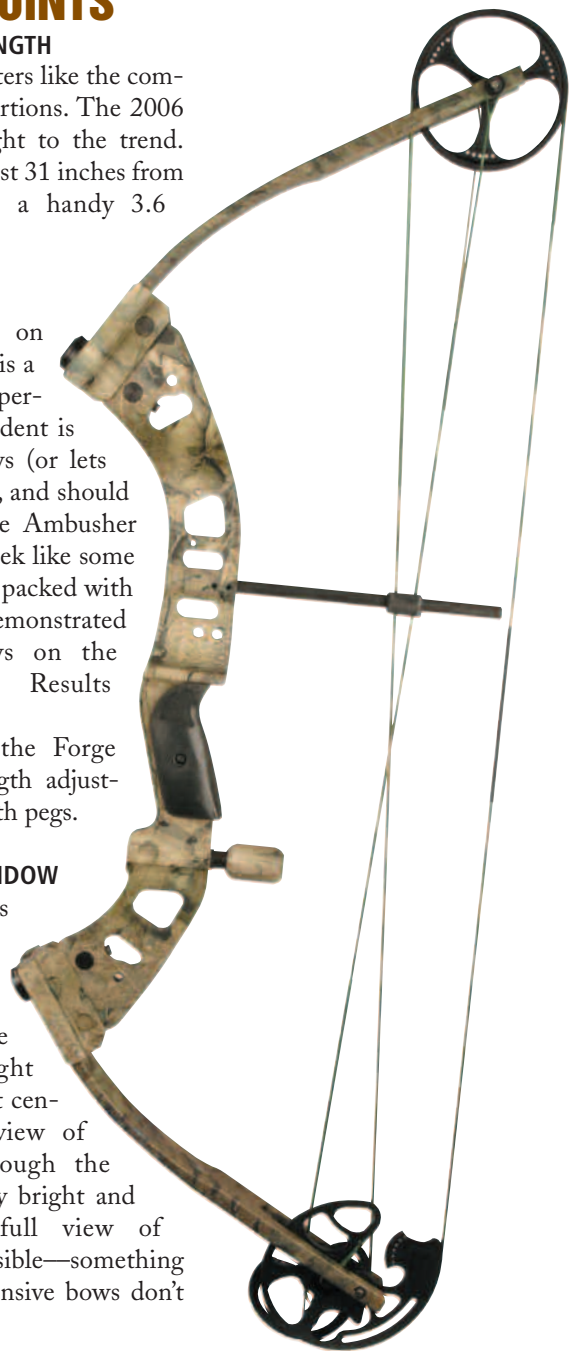
The Forge Synergy Cam on the 2006 Forge Ambusher is a blend of smoothness and performance. Immediately evident is how gently this bow draws (or lets down). Letoff is eased into, and should you need to let down, the Ambusher won't jerk you into next week like some bows. Yet the Ambusher is packed with power. Arrow speed, as demonstrated with 11 different arrows on the accompanying Shooting Results Chart, is quite good.

On top of all that, the Forge Synergy Cam is draw-length adjustable by means of draw length pegs.

- **MAX VIEW SIGHT WINDOW**

A clear view of the target is a good thing, and the view through the Ambusher's Max View Sight Window is exceptional. Basically, the Forge Max View Sight Window is cut farther past center, providing a wider view of the target. Sighting through the Ambusher seems especially bright and clear. In addition, a full view of circular pin guards is possible—something that even some more expensive bows don't afford.

- **ANTI-VIBE GRIP**



2006 FORGE AMBUSHER

Manufacturer Forge Bow Company
 New Berlin, WI
 (414) 732-7400
 Circle #425



Model Ambusher
Axle-to-Axle Length 31 inches
Brace Height 7.5 inches
Riser Geometry 2.37 inches reflex
Mass Weight 3.6 pounds
Draw Weights 40#, 50#, 60#, 70#
Draw Lengths 2.75 to 30.5 inches
Eccentrics Synergy One-Cam
Letoff 75 percent
Grip Anti-Vibe Synthetic Grip
Finish Forest Camo

The grip on the 2006 Forge Ambusher is well shaped and made of a pliable, low-durometer synthetic material. The semi-soft nature of that grip makes it particularly comfortable. I imagine that it would feel especially good on a cold fall morning.

Forge calls this grip the Anti-Vibe Grip, and there is little doubt that adding masses of special rubber almost anywhere on a bow helps to dampen shot noise and vibration.

• **BACK BALANCE STABILIZER**

As long as we're talking about vibration dampening, be sure to notice the Back Balance Stabilizer, factory-mounted on the rear of the Ambusher's riser just below the grip. That unique (and removable) stabilizer does a number of things. First, it serves to better balance the bow. Scads of today's bows are top-heavy. The Ambusher's nifty back stabilizer counteracts that tendency. Second, the Forge Back Stabilizer features a metal collar suspended around a rubber bushing. At the shot, that clever design dances to help dampen shot noise and vibration.

• **VAPOR TRAIL STRING AND CABLES**

Part of the extra value packed into the 2006 Forge Ambusher is its pre-stretched, two-color Vapor Trail premium bowstring and cable system. The green and tan color twist looks great and has proven to be extra durable on our test bow.

• **REASONABLE PRICE**

The powers at Forge Bow Company tell me that the Forge Ambusher is typically priced right around \$479 retail by most Forge dealers. Given the appearance, features and performance of this bow, that makes the 2006 Forge Ambusher an outstanding buy.

CLOSING THE SALE

Value is something that astute bow manufacturers attempt to put into bows—particularly mid— and low-priced

Shooting Results

2006 Forge Ambusher 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	67.8	261 fps
Blackhawk Carbonwood 400	100	426 gr.	6.1	68.5	269 fps
Beman ICS Hunter 340	100	417 gr.	6.0	68.0	171 fps
Carbon Tech Whitetail 65/80	100	411 gr.	5.9	67.5	272 fps
VitalHunter Gladiator	100	388 gr.	5.5	66.6	278 fps
Gold Tip XT Hunter 400	100	385 gr.	5.5	66.6	279 fps
Carbon Express Maxima 350	100	380 gr.	5.4	66.2	280 fps
PSE Radial X Weave Hunter 300	100	378 gr.	5.4	66.3	281 fps
Easton LightSpeed 400	100	365 gr.	5.2	54.4	284 fps
Carbon Tech Cheetah 400	100	348 gr.	5.0	65.0	290 fps
High Country Speed Pro Max	100	305 gr.	4.4	63.0	305 fps

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

bows. But value is also something that only buyers can bestow on particular models. In the case of the 2006 Forge Ambusher, both scenarios come together.

With the Ambusher, Forge Bow Company has packed an impressive array of value-added features into the bow. Standouts include such things as a red-hot length, a smooth-drawing and

adjustable cam system, an innovative Max View sight window, an ultra-comfortable Anti-Vibe grip, a slick Back Balance Stabilizer, and a quality Vapor Trail bowstring and cable system.

It seems to me that the Forge Ambusher is just the sort of reliable, good-looking, feature-laden, mid-priced bow that plenty of grassroots bowhunters are currently looking for.