

Bow Report

By Bill Krenz

2006 Whisper Creek Innovator

What's in a whisper? Often, it's the promise of something special.

Whisper Creek Archery is a relatively new bow company, founded in the fall of 2001 on the concept that bows could be made better. Specifically, compound bows could be made that were significantly more pleasant to shoot because they conveyed less shot vibration and noise while maintaining superb arrow speed.

Achieving that enviable level of performance has taken a great deal of testing, innovation and time. In a May 2004 *Inside Archery* bow report on one of Whisper Creek's first available bows—the Whisper Creek Navigator—I wrote that “the Navigator was a bow reaching for tomorrow.”

In this, the first *Inside Archery* bow report on a 2006 bow, I profile the new Whisper Creek Innovator. The racy 2006 Innovator is a bow that has grabbed tomorrow by the throat.

You would be hard-pressed to find a bow that has had this many shock-absorbing systems incorporated into its makeup. The Innovator's eccentrics, riser, limb pockets, cable guard, limb bolts and even the bow's yoke system all sport built-in vibration-dampening technology. Whisper Creek calls much of that the HybridSUSPENSION Package. Pulled all together, the 2006 Innovator's high-tech dampening combination addresses shot vibration and noise from almost every angle, and the result is an amazing new bow.

It took only a few initial shots to get an inkling of just how special the 2006 Whisper Creek Innovator really is. The combined effect of all of that patented dampening technology is simply astonishing. The 2006 Whisper Creek Innovator is one of the quietest, most vibration-free bows I have ever tested. To double-check my findings, I had others—including the local pro shop manager—shoot the new Innovator, and everyone agreed. The 2006 Whisper Creek Innovator is convincingly fast and almost unbelievably quiet and shock-free.

Quiet, vibration-free and fast. Clearly, in the case of the 2006 Whisper Creek Innovator, what's in a whisper is something extraordinary.

KEY SELLING POINTS

• PERIMETER-WEIGHTED BOWDAMP ONECAM

Most bow manufacturers create their drive cams the same way: They machine them out of solid aluminum, complete with all sorts of holes and cutouts. Whisper Creek takes a different, dampened approach. The Whisper Creek cam is made of shock-absorbing BowDAMP material sandwiched and mechanically interlocked around a rigid metal containing layer. This patented construction effectively squelches internal shot vibration as it embraces the bowstring in a cushioned track of BowDAMP composite.

Strategically located on the outside edge of the Innovator's BowDAMP OneCam are two weighted disks that further dampen shot vibration and noise. As with all bows, the mass of the bow's limbs and eccentrics leaps forward when the bow is shot, causing considerable jar. The Innovator's perimeter weights rotate backward at the shot, effectively counteracting that forward jolt.

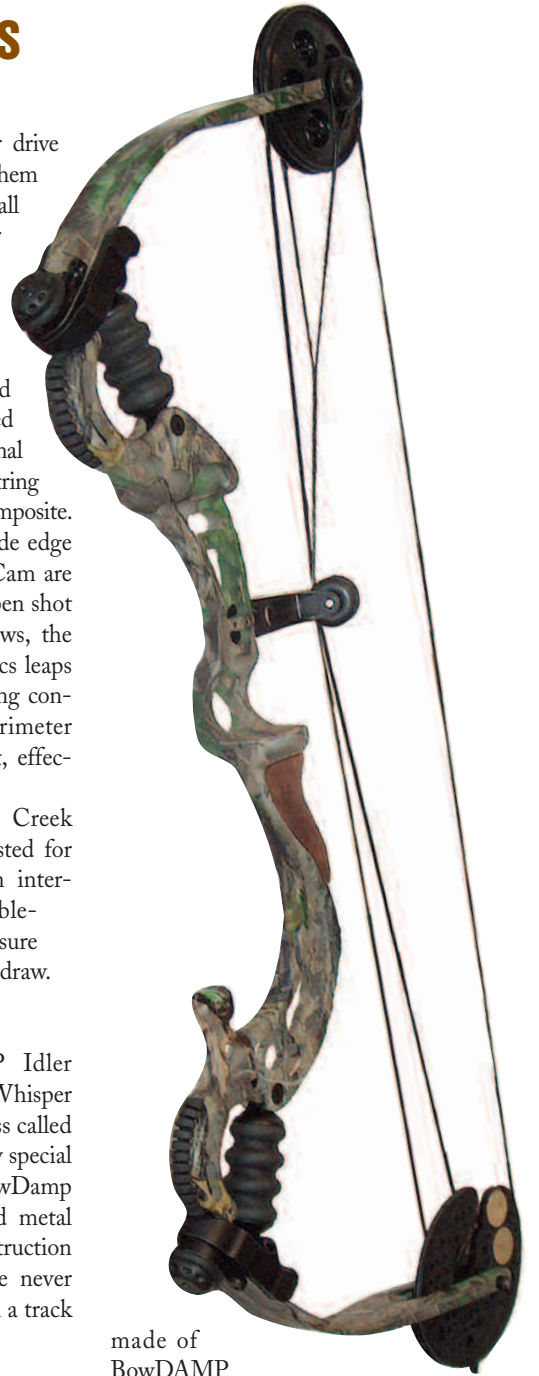
As a side note, the Whisper Creek BowDAMP OneCam is easily adjusted for draw length and letoff, utilizing an interchangeable module system. Double-sealed ball bearings within the cam ensure a silky smooth and maintenance-free draw.

• BOWDAMP IDLER WHEEL

The Whisper Creek BowDAMP Idler Wheel is unique. It's based around Whisper Creek's patented over-molding process called Constraint Layer Damping. This very special idler is made of shock-absorbing BowDamp materials sandwiched around a rigid metal containing layer. This unique construction dampens internal shot vibration like never before, as it cushions the bowstring in a track of BowDAMP composite.

• YOKE PULLEYSUSPENSION SYSTEM

In the same way that the bowstring is cushioned in BowDAMP material that is an integral part of this bow's unique idler and cam, the two ends of the Innovator's yoke system are also pillowed in outsized cable anchors



made of BowDAMP

material. As with so many of the elements in the overall Whisper Creek vibration-dampening scheme, the yoke system cushions and dampens the load between key bow components, in this case the cable ends and the upper axle.

2006 WHISPER CREEK INNOVATOR

Manufacturer Whisper Creek Archery
 Woods Cross, UT
 (801) 335-0006
 Circle #242



Model 2006 Innovator
Axle-to-Axle Length 30.5 inches
Brace Height 6.5 inches
Riser Geometry 4 inches reflex
Mass Weight 4.3 pounds
Draw Weights 50#, 60#, 70#
Draw Lengths 26 to 30 inches
Eccentrics CounterFORCE OneCam
Letoff 80 percent standard
Grip One-Piece Wood
Finish Realtree Hardwoods

• LIMB BOLT SUSPENSION SYSTEM

A cushioned limb bolt is a good thing, as limb bolts invariably act as conduits which transfer vibration from the bow's limbs and eccentrics to the bow's riser (and eventually to the archer). The 2006 Whisper Creek Innovator features a patent-pending Limb BoltSUSPENSION system that wraps the head of each limb bolt and the base of each limb pocket in a layer of BowDAMP material. The butt of each bow limb is further secured within each limb pocket with an interlocking pocket system.

• POCKET SUSPENSION SYSTEM

Below each of the Innovator's cushioned limb pockets is a unique, patented Whisper Creek device called a BowACTUATOR. Whisper Creek describes the function of its actuators as quite similar to that of the suspension system on a car. As the bow is drawn, says Whisper Creek, the actuators move toward the shooter. When the arrow is released, the Whisper Creek BowACTUATORS are designed to become a suspension system for your bow, dampening down vibration and noise.

• ROLLER SUSPENSION SYSTEM

The cable guard on the Whisper Creek Innovator is of the abbreviated, roller guard style, and I like it. The short nature of this guard means that it's never in the way. The slight tension it puts on the cables helps to dampen cable noise, and guess what the over-sized cable rollers are made of? You guessed it: BowDAMP material.

In addition to a tensioned, vibration-dampening design and materials, the roller arm is radically angled inward to decrease stress and torque on the entire eccentric system. While that angle does project the rollers somewhat into the sight window picture, I found that it did not obscure my sight pins in any way all the way out to 60 yards.

• DAMPENED WHISPER RISER

The Innovator's machined aluminum riser has a racy, high-tech look that just doesn't quit. It's all ripples and cutouts, radically reflexed with an upwing stabilizer mount and a custom hardwood grip. And in true Whisper Creek form, it's vibration-dampened at each end with an additional ribbed, dampening insert.

CLOSING THE SALE

There's a whole lot to talk about with the

Shooting Results

2006 Whisper Creek Innovator 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	68.3	262 fps
Blackhawk Carbonwood 400	100	426 gr.	6.1	68.5	269 fps
Beman Black Max 400	100	417 gr.	6.0	68.0	271 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	66.6	281 fps
PSE Radial X Weave Hunter 300	100	378 gr.	5.4	66.8	282 fps
Easton LightSpeed 400	100	365 gr.	5.2	66.3	286 fps
Carbon Tech Cheetah 400	100	348 gr.	5.0	65.9	292 fps
High Country Speed Pro Max	100	305 gr.	4.4	63.4	306 fps

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

new 2006 Whisper Creek Innovator, beginning with the fact that this bow is astonishingly free of shot noise and vibration. Let your customers shoot the Innovator just once, and they'll hear and feel that.

Then get ready to pounce with more information, as those same customers inevitably ask, "Why is this bow so much more pleasant to shoot?" Detail the dampening advantages of unique

BowDAMP cam and idler, the Yoke PulleySUSPENSION System, the Limb BoltSUSPENSION System, the PocketSUSPENSION System, the RollerSUSPENSION System and the jazzy WhisperRISER.

Whispers are supposed to be soft and quiet. In that context, the new 2006 Whisper Creek Innovator doesn't disappoint. This whisper, however, might be about ready to make a large noise in the archery industry.