

Bow Report

By Bill Krenz

2008 BowTech General

Last year, BowTech rocked the bow-design world with the introduction of Center Pivot riser technology. Debuted on the 2007 BowTech Guardian and Commander bow models, Center Pivot technology looked and performed differently. Rather than simply grabbing the bow's limbs at the butt end in the conventional manner, BowTech's Center Pivot risers featured a Y-configuration top and bottom which effectively captured the limbs at both the butt end and at a midway point. That innovative riser design accomplished several things. It stabilized limb flex, eliminated limb torque and dampened shot vibration and noise like never before. In fact, legions of archers concluded that the Guardian and Commander were the quietest, most shock-free bows they had ever shot.

How in the world would BowTech follow that innovative act?

While the rest of us simply wondered about that question, BowTech appears to have marched straight ahead with the conviction that they could continue to improve their bows. Clear evidence of that is the 2008 BowTech General. The General features Center Pivot riser technology, a brand-new Roller Guard/ShortStop string suppressor and third-generation BowTech Binary Cam Systems.

The 2008 Bow Tech General is pitched as today's most accurate, forgiving bow.

Last year, I wrote that the 2007 BowTech Guardian was the quietest, most vibration-free compound bow I had ever shot. That statement is now outdated. The 2008 BowTech General has even less hand shock! If there is such a thing as zero hand shock, this new bow surely approaches it. It's also a bow built with forgiveness and accuracy as its top priorities. The 2008 General features a generous 8.25-inch brace height, a superb accuracy-oriented grip section and a smooth-drawing CenterTrac Binary Cam System. All told, that combination delivers a wonderful shot. In my testing, the 2008 General seemed the type of bow you could use to literally split hairs. With very little set-up time or practice, I could pick a spot and confidently hit it with the

General. The new BowTech General is stable, smooth and ultra forgiving.

Features and Benefits

CENTER PIVOT RISER TECHNOLOGY

BowTech's Center Pivot riser technology represents a revolutionary departure from the norm. Compare it to a conventional compound bow riser. A conventional riser secures the bow's limbs at the butt end with a limb bolt and at the far end with an axle and cables that link the bow's eccentric system. It's a good system. Now imagine an even more advanced riser system that does all that, plus it further captures the bow limbs at a center-limb bracing point. That additional, articulating center brace on the riser further stabilizes limb flex, alleviates limb torque and seems to almost magically dampen shot noise and vibration. It's an exceptional riser system.

The other interesting thing I notice when shooting Center Pivot riser bows is that the extra mass located near the ends of the riser (thanks to the Y configuration) seems to additionally stabilize the bow. In effect, it makes the Center Pivot bows feel and act like much longer bows. By that I mean that there is less of a tendency to wobble or tip the bow right or left at full draw, and that translates directly into improved right-and-left accuracy, especially at long range.

ROLLER GUARD/SHORTSTOP STRING SUPPRESSOR

A roller cable-guard system is not new in archery, nor is a string bumper. What is innovative is BowTech combining the two popular devices into a single unit. The new BowTech General features a particularly effective Roller Guard/ShortStop String Suppressor. The roller captures and tensions the cables, minimizing cable friction, prolonging cable life and dampening cable slap. The ShortStop string suppressor catches the bowstring, centers it and absorbs residual string vibration. That provides cleaner



The General's CenterTrack Binary Cam System features interchangeable draw-length modules which are available in either Smooth Module or Speed Module configurations.



Revolutionary Center Pivot riser technology captures each bow limb at its butt and at an additional mid-limb bracing point to better stabilize the limb and dramatically reduce shot noise and vibration.



Specifications

BowTech General

Axle-to-Axle Length	31.2 inches
Brace Height	8.25 inches
Riser Geometry	1 inch reflex
Physical Weight	4.8 pounds
Letoff	Adjustable 65 to 80%
Draw Lengths	26 to 30 inches
Draw Weights	50#, 60#, 70#
Finish	6 Camo and 3 Target Options

For more information, Circle #127, log onto bowtecharchery.com or call BowTech at (888) 689-1289.

Shooting Results

BowTech General set at 29 inches (by factory), adjusted to 70 pounds and equipped with Smooth Modules

28-inch Arrows	Point Weight	Total Weight	Grains/Pound	Kinetic Energy	Arrow Speed
Easton XX78 Alloy 2512	100	448 gr.	6.4	69.9	265 fps
Easton Full Metal Jacket 400	100	425 gr.	6.1	69.8	272 fps
Beman Black Max 400	100	417 gr.	6.0	69.5	274 fps
Carbon Tech Whitetail 65/80	100	411 gr.	5.9	69.5	276 fps
Gold Tip XT Hunter 400	100	385 gr.	5.5	68.5	283 fps
Carbon Express Maxima 350	100	380 gr.	5.4	68.2	284 fps
PSE Radial X Weave Hunter 300	100	378 gr.	5.4	68.2	285 fps
Easton LightSpeed 400	100	365 gr.	5.2	68.2	290 fps
Gold Tip Ultralight Pro 400	100	360 gr.	5.1	68.2	292 fps
Carbon Tech Cheetah 400	100	348 gr.	5.0	68.2	297 fps
High Country Speed Pro Max	100	305 gr.	4.4	67.2	315 fps

Bow weighed with an Easton Bow Force Mapper, and all tests conducted with a Spot-Hogg Hooter Shooter Portable Shooting Machine and an Easton Technical Products Chronograph.



The new BowTech Roller Guard/ShortStop String Suppressor captures and tensions the bow's cables, as well as catching, centering and dampening the bow's bowstring.

nock release from the bowstring and significantly dampens the bow at the shot to the point where no string silencers are needed. The 2008 BowTech General shoots with almost no hand shock at all.

CENTERTRACK BINARY CAM SYSTEM

BowTech first introduced its fast, smooth-shooting Binary Cam System in 2005. Archers loved it, and the company has continued to evolve and perfect that system ever since. The 2008 BowTech General sports the latest-generation CenterTrack Binary Cam System. It's a balanced cam system that puts equal cable tension on both sides of the cam and the bowstring in the middle for reduced cam lean. Interchangeable draw-length modules, which are available in 1/2-inch increments, are used to conveniently adjust the General's draw length. A bow press is not needed to change these modules.

SMOOTH OR SPEED MODULES

In addition, "Smooth" or "Speed" modules

can be chosen. The Smooth Modules provide a smoother draw. The Speed Modules typically deliver 8 to 10 feet per second faster arrow speed. It's a great system that offers unprecedented bow versatility. It's so good that I'm amazed that other bow manufacturers haven't picked up on it. It's like having two bows in one.

ACCURACY-ORIENTED GRIP/LAUNCH AREA

The grip and launch area of the General's riser have been purposefully engineered to reduce both horizontal and vertical shot torque. The bow's grip is small throated and sculpted so that your bowhand rides high up into the grip. In addition, the bow's rest-mounting holes are quite low, and a trough has been machined into the bow's shelf so that your arrow and your bowhand are safely positioned as close together as possible. I find that positioning comfortable, consistent and wonderfully accurate.

FORGIVING DEFLEX GEOMETRY

BowTech is quick to point out the deflex nature of the General's riser, as measured from a line drawn between points where the bow's limbs first touch the riser's limb pockets, in this case at the mid-limb bracing point. That deflex nature greatly reduces horizontal bow torque tendencies, which in turn boosts shooting stability and improves accuracy. 

