

Bow Report

By Bill Krenz

2008 Hoyt Katera

Speed is a good thing, which is why so many archers have eternally clamored for faster bows. Speed flattens arrow trajectory, boosts any arrow's kinetic energy and typically enhances both the confidence and accuracy of most shooters.

All of which is why, on the surface, the brand-new 2008 Hoyt Katera is so exciting. The Katera is one of the fastest bows anyone has ever brought to market.

However, what additionally makes the Hoyt Katera fascinating is what else this new bow offers. While most conventional fast bows are harsh to draw, overly noisy and full of shot vibration, the super-charged Katera is none of those things. I've now shot the Katera a lot, and it's astounding just how smoothly this fast bow draws and how quietly and dampened this bow shoots.

It would seem that the drive to develop significantly better bows is somehow stamped on the corporate DNA of Hoyt. The company certainly enjoys an enviable reputation for innovation and cutting-edge technology. Its TEC risers, Cam & ½ Systems, ¾-inch Split Limbs, Pro-Fit Custom Grips and integral damping and string-suppression systems are all legend in the bow arena. Because of all that, it should surprise no one that Hoyt is now delivering a better fast bow.

Last year, Hoyt thrilled archers with the then-new Hoyt Vectrix. The Vectrix was sleek, light, quiet and shock free. Discriminating archers loved it. Now, imagine a Vectrix on more steroids than any baseball player could ever possibly swallow, and you have the 2008 Hoyt Katera, at least from the standpoint of arrow speed. My 29-inch, 70-pound Katera measured 14 to 19 feet per second faster (depending on arrow weight) than my last year's Hoyt Vectrix of exactly the same draw length and weight. That's a lot of extra speed.

And yet, the new 2008 Katera seems to draw more smoothly, the letoff is more gradual and pleasing and this new fast bow is both sensibly quiet and shock free. How'd Hoyt do that?

To begin with, Hoyt developed a brand-new eccentric setup for the Katera. That setup is called the Z3 Cam & ½ Performance System, and it was born and bred to optimize arrow speed while maintaining a relatively smooth draw. Working in concert with the Z3 Cam & ½ Performance System is the Katera's speed-oriented geometry package. That package includes a compact 33-inch axle-to-axle length, a more reflexed (backset) riser and a lower 6-inch brace height.

The new 2008 Hoyt Katera is a better fast bow. Dazzling speed combined with an unexpectedly smooth draw makes this speed demon eminently shootable.

Features and Benefits

FAST, SMOOTH Z3 CAM & ½ PERFORMANCE SYSTEM

It's one thing to create a fast bow. It's another thing to produce a fast bow that's reasonably smooth to draw and both quiet and dampened. The Katera's new Z3 Cam & ½ Performance System does all that. I particularly like the way the new Hoyt Z3 cams draw. Draw weight builds with a reasonable gradualness, slides smoothly over the top and then eases into letoff. You also have the option, with the new Z3 system, of customizing the feel of the cam's back wall. You can simply rely on the rubber-bumper drawstop machined right into the Z3 cam system for a slightly softer back wall (and 75-percent letoff), or you can screw in a more rigid drawstop peg for a harder back wall and either 75-percent or 65-percent letoff.

Raw arrow speed is important. But speed with a smooth draw and shootability is especially wonderful. The 2008 Hoyt Katera with Z3 Cam



The 2008 Hoyt Katera is an especially fast bow. That dazzling speed comes from the Katera's new Z3 Cam & ½ System and speed-oriented geometry package, including a super-charged 6-inch brace height.



Hoyt's StealthShot String Suppression System, which projects out of the back of the Katera below the grip, momentarily captures the forward-moving bowstring in a LimbSaver Navcom bumper, instantly stopping and dampening the bowstring.



Specifications

Hoyt Katera

Axle-to-Axle Length	33 inches
Brace Height	6 inches
Riser Geometry	3 inches reflex
Mass Weight	4.5 pounds
Letoff	Adjustable 65 or 75%
Draw Lengths	24 to 30 inches
Draw Weights	40#, 50#, 60#, 70#, 80#
Finish	Realtree APG HD, Target Colors

For more information, Circle #112, log onto hoyt.com or call Hoyt at (801) 363-2990.

Shooting Results

Hoyt Katera set at 29 inches (by factory) and adjusted to 70 pounds

28-inch Arrows	Point Weight	Total Weight	Grains/Pound	Kinetic Energy	Arrow Speed
Easton XX78 Alloy 2512	100	448 gr.	6.4	81.9	287 fps
Easton Full Metal Jacket 400	100	425 gr.	6.1	81.6	294 fps
Beman Black Max 400	100	417 gr.	6.0	81.6	297 fps
Carbon Tech Whitetail 65/80	100	411 gr.	5.9	81.6	299 fps
Gold Tip XT Hunter 400	100	385 gr.	5.5	81.1	308 fps
Carbon Express Maxima 350	100	380 gr.	5.4	80.6	309 fps
PSE Radial X Weave Hunter 300	100	378 gr.	5.4	80.2	309 fps
Easton LightSpeed 400	100	365 gr.	5.2	80.4	315 fps
Gold Tip Ultralight Pro 400	100	360 gr.	5.1	80.3	317 fps
Carbon Tech Cheetah 400	100	348 gr.	5.0	79.6	321 fps
High Country Speed Pro Max	100	305 gr.	4.4	77.4	338 fps

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



The new magic in the Hoyt Katera is its fast and smooth Z3 Cam & 1/2 Performance System. This is a brand-new eccentric system that delivers both speed and shootability in one fell swoop.

& 1/2 System delivers on all of those counts.

STEALTHSHOT STRING SUPPRESSION SYSTEM

Bowstring oscillation accounts for a good bit of shot noise and vibration in any bow. The Hoyt StealthShot String Suppression System, which projects out of the back of the Katera below the grip, momentarily captures the forward-moving bowstring in a LimbSaver Navcom bumper, instantly stopping and dampening the bowstring.

RIZERSHOX AND ALPHASHOX DAMPENERS

Integrated right into the top and bottom of the Katera's TEC riser are two dual-sided

RizerShox dampeners made of soft and cushy LimbSaver Navcom material. Those unique riser dampeners effectively squelch residual riser vibration and noise. In addition, the Hoyt Katera is factory equipped with AlphaShox limb dampeners. The Navcom dampeners are located between the Katera's advanced split limbs. The cumulative effect is to work with all of the Katera's other systems to make this fast bow as quiet and shock free as possible.

PRO-FIT CUSTOM GRIP

Hoyt knows how to make a comfortable, accurate grip, and the proof of that is the Pro-Fit Custom Grip on the 2008 Hoyt Katera. It's small throated to reduce torque and flat backed to make it easier for you to seat your bowhand into the grip with perfect consistency. It's also made of rich, laminated wood to add a bit of extra class. This is a grip that I find easy to shoot well. My bowhand slips into position on the grip with habitual consistency, the grip is especially comfortable at full draw, and it provides excellent before-, during- and after-the-shot control.

FUSE CUSTOM STRINGS

Run-of-the-mill bowstrings don't cut it on a first-rate speed bow. The 2008 Hoyt Katera comes factory-equipped with FUSE Custom Strings and Cables. Each FUSE custom bowstring is assembled while under more than 700 pounds of tension. That extra step pre-stretches the strings to remove erratic peep-sight rotation, mitigate string creep and improve bow performance.

