

Bow Report

By Bill Krenz

2008 Mission Journey

In spite of residing in different price ranges, there is no mistaking the fact that Mission Archery is an offshoot of high-flying Mathews Inc. While Mathews bows utilize the very latest in cutting-edge archery technology and thus carry a premium price tag, Mission bow models are aimed squarely at the archer who can't quite afford a top-end bow but still seeks outstanding performance and at least some of the lauded features found on the most expensive bows.

The Mission Archery line, now in its second year, has expanded to include four bows for 2008. Each represents a whole lot of bow for a reasonable amount of money.

The thrifty Mission X3 carries a manufacturer's suggested retail price (MSRP) of just \$379. The Mission X4 has an MSRP of \$449, and the X5 is \$559. Then there's the brand-new-for-2008 Mission Journey. Its suggested retail is \$599, and it's packed with the sort of features bowhunters want.

The new Mission Journey offers an artfully machined-aluminum riser, a state-of-the-art perimeter-weighted one-cam eccentric system, parallel-limb technology, factory-installed damping systems, an excellent Zebra

Hybrid bowstring, a walnut grip and superb performance. It's a mid-priced bow that looks like it should cost more than it does.

At the Range

The 2008 Mission Journey looks, handles and performs like a much more expensive bow.

The bow's JourneyCam draws with uncommon smoothness, and because it's a state-of-the-art one-cam eccentric system, there are no cam-synchronization issues. That contributes significantly to its easy-tuning nature. With just minor centershot adjustments to my arrow rest, I was able to quickly set the Journey up for perfect arrow flight and fine initial accuracy. Arrow speed, with a variety of arrow weights, was quite good. See the attached Shooting Results Chart.

What proved particularly pleasing was the quiet and shock-free way in which the Journey shot. The bow's parallel-limb configuration, perimeter-weighted one-cam and integrated damping systems all seem to be working in concert to deliver an especially sweet shot.

At just 31 inches from axle to axle, the Journey is a handy, relatively compact bow. Fit and finish were splendid, and that along with the bow's performance contributes to a feeling that the new Mission Journey is a bow that's worth every penny.

Features and Benefits

POPULAR LENGTH

Today's most popular hunting bows probably average between 31 and 34 inches, as measured from axle to axle. A shorter, 31-inch bow is distinctively more maneuverable and handier in tight quarters. The 31-inch Mission Journey certainly feels that way.

PERIMETER-WEIGHTED JOURNEYCAM

The power plant of any bow is its eccentric system. The Journey sports an oversized, state-of-the-art one-cam system that's



This is the lower drive cam on the Mission Journey. It's a state-of-the-art one-cam that draws smoothly and is wonderfully fast.



The carbon cable-guard rod on the Mission Journey is short, stiff, quiet and lightweight.

MISSION™
Archery

Specifications

Mission Journey

Axle-to-Axle Length	31 inches
Brace Height	7.5 inches
Riser Geometry	2.75 inches reflex
Mass Weight	4.25 pounds
Letoff	80%
Draw Lengths	25 to 30 inches
Draw Weights	40#, 50#, 60#, 70#
Finish	Advantage Max-4

Circle #220, log onto www.missionarchery.com or call Mathews at (608) 269-2719 for more information.

Shooting Results

Mission Journey 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	70.9	267 fps
Easton Full Metal Jacket 400	100	425 gr.	6.1	70.9	274 fps
Beman Black Max 400	100	417 gr.	6.0	70.6	276 fps
Carbon Tech Whitetail 65/80	100	411 gr.	5.9	70.5	278 fps
Gold Tip XT Hunter 400	100	385 gr.	5.5	70.4	287 fps
Carbon Express Maxima 350	100	380 gr.	5.4	70.4	289 fps
PSE Radial X Weave Hunter 300	100	378 gr.	5.4	70.1	289 fps
Easton LightSpeed 400	100	365 gr.	5.2	70.1	294 fps
Gold Tip Ultralight Pro 400	100	360 gr.	5.1	70.1	296 fps
Carbon Tech Cheetah 400	100	348 gr.	5.0	70.0	301 fps
High Country Speed Pro Max	100	305 gr.	4.4	68.1	317 fps

All bows weighed with an Easton Bow Force Digital Scale. All tests conducted with a Spot-Hogg Hooter Shooter Portable Shooting Machine and a Competition Electronics Pro Chronograph.



The 2008 Mission Journey is equipped with a rich, warm walnut grip laser engraved with the Mission logo.

smooth-drawing and yet delivers excellent arrow speed. The silver-colored perimeter weight located on the outside edge of the drive cam helps to reduce shot vibration. As the limbs snap outward at the shot, the perimeter weight rockets backward to counteract that snap.

PARALLEL-LIMB DESIGN

Also contributing to the Journey's sweet shot is the bow's parallel-limb design. Because the limbs are so parallel to each other, they tend to snap outward (almost up and down) at the shot rather than forward together as they do on a bow

with more upright limbs. Those equal-but-opposite outward limb actions (rather than forward together) tend to cancel each other out, effectively reducing shot vibration.

ZEBRA HYBRID BOWSTRING

For at least a decade, Zebra has been a leader in the bowstring industry, creating new and better bowstrings noted for their superb durability, lack of stretch and minimal peep rotation. Zebra's newest bowstring is the Zebra Hybrid. It features a blend of the latest materials, Zebra's patented Z-S Twist construction and proprietary anti-stretch technology. It's a wonderfully stable and durable bowstring, and it's found on the new Mission Journey.

MISSION DAMPING SYSTEM

Located at the end of each of the Journey's limbs are Mission String Cushions. String Cushions are ultra-quiet bowstring bumpers that are very effective at dampening and dissipating bowstring noise and vibration. Working in conjunction with those innovative String Cushions are Cable-X Silencers. The String Cushions work on bowstring noise and vibration. The durable Cable-X Silencers do the same with the bow's cables.

