Bear Archery Traditional Bows: A Chronological History

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To the Bear Archery traditional bow enthusiast and to the archery community at large, this book Bear Archery Traditional Bows: A Chronological History (1949-2015) represents a singular compilation of the chronological history of Bear Archery traditional bow production through the Bear Archery Company’s full timeline. This illustrated reference manual not only preserves the history and heritage of Bear Archery traditional bow production since 1949, it serves as a helpful reference to any and all archers interested in collecting and dating their vintage Bear Archery traditional bows. Each chapter covers a detailed chronology of factory production specifications for each specific bow model or group of related models. It includes photos of bow models for almost every year. The best part is this: at the end of each chapter, there is a table that allows readers to search out the characteristics of their bow by year, AMO length, riser material, medallion, limb glass colors, overlay colors, limb tip colors and where applicable, the two-digit serial number prefix.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Jorge nailed it hundred percent with this book. It’s not only an interesting arm chair read but loaded with history on Bear Archery traditional bows that were made in Canada and in Grayling, Michigan. It’s a must-have and must read for any Bear Archery enthusiast, collector, bowhunter, etc. This book is worth every penny and jam packed full of information and quality color pictures, charts of serial numbers and designs and changes that were made over many years of production.

I am a Traditional Bowhunter and vintage Archery collector. Like many other collectors I cherish vintage Bear Archery items especially recurve bows. So when I saw the new book - Bear Archery
Traditional Bows: A Chronological History by Jorge L. Coppen - I did not hesitate to order a copy. I can say without any hesitation this book is everything I was hoping it to be. It is simple a MUST-HAVE-Book for any Archery bow collector. What Wade Phillips book did for identifying Vintage Archery Broadheads - Jorge L. Coppen's book has done for identifying Bear Archery Traditional Bows. I am amazed at the effort, research ability, and knowledge the author had in writing this book. When family and friends walk into my home and say - "Wow ! How many bows do you need? - I use to say - "Why do you know someone selling some? - Now I can say - "Well, according to the book Bear Archery Traditional Bows: A Chronological History by Jorge L. Coppen, I have these models and still need this many more!! I salute you Mr. Coppen for a job well done! Douglas Macke Monroe, WA

This book is a great reference for collectors, users, and anyone wanting to know a little history of Bear bows. It is very well done and has plenty of illustrations. For anyone wanting to identify a bow, there are photos of each model and a thorough description. Associated charts of the bow models cover; production years, bow lengths, woods used, medallions, glass color, overlay colors, and serial numbers. The bow description also gives background information about the material used each model’s construction, and changes made during the bow’s production life. While there are several books about Fred Bear and Bear Archery, I believe this is the first to give the reader a complete chronological history of Bear bows. The book is more than just a listing of bow specifications though, there is plenty of background and historical information included. The author not only included photos of the various bow models, but vintage Bear Archery advertisements, and some photos from different collections. Included is a nice chapter about Al Reader, one of the best known Bear Archery collectors that passed away a few years ago. The book covers not only Bear hunting bows, but their longbows, target bows, general purpose and youth bows as well. I think this is a great book for anyone that collects Bear bows, or is a fan of Fred Bear and Bear Archery. I'm glad Mr. Coppen put it altogether and did such a great job.

This is a very complete record of Bear traditional bow production. The photos are colored clip art or advertising literature quality, so backgrounds are generally absent. The paper used in the book compromises the print quality, particularly the reproduction of photos. However, given that this is a specialized publication with a limited market, I find this book to be entirely satisfactory. If you buy this book, you are probably a bona fide archery enthusiast, which is not a bad thing.
This is a book that has been needed for a long time. Not just for the serious collector but for anyone that is interested in all of the various models of Bear bows that have been made over the years. The author is an easy to talk to person and will gladly discuss any discrepancies that may be inadvertently included in the book.

Been shooting/collecting recurves for over 40 years and I have to say that Jorge hit this one out of the park with 'Bear Archery Traditional Bows Chronological History'! If you love the recurve, you should get this book!

Great reference, and a good read as well! Nicely organized with charts at the end of each section, with the attributes of each bow model year by year. Well done Mr. Coppen. Jason Bennett, NY

Not only is this the best reference book for vintage Bear Archery bows, it is the ONLY reference book for vintage Bear Archery bows. We have waited a long time for this and its finally here. 

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