

Traditional Skills

By Traditional Skills Officer -
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Crafting Arrows and Terminology



Arrows are the most important part of any Archers Kit.

I think it's vital that all Traditional Archers know how to assemble Store bought Arrow Components and the accompanying Terminology.

What does Terminology have to do with Crafting Arrows?

Knowing the correct Terms will help a new Traditional Archer who wants to Craft their first set of Wood Arrows get it right the first time.

RIFT is a Term that had fallen into disuse, often Grain is used in its place. The RIFT is the section of the Arrow Shaft that is contained within the grain of the wood. Rift is seen in a Arrow Shaft as Feathered Grain - see Figure 1. It is important to place the RIFT at the top of the Arrow Shaft with the Feathered Grain pointing forwards.

This aligns the Grain of the Shaft horizontally and in the unfortunate happenstance of a Wood Arrow breaking as the Bow is shot the Shards of the Arrow are more likely to be directed away from the Forearm.

REED, is another Term that has fallen into disuse

The REED of an Arrow Shaft is the grain of a wooden arrow that lies Horizontal to the RIFT. An Arrows Spine is measured against the REED, more on that next Newsletter

You will strike experienced Archers who ignore the placement of the Arrow shafts Rift and REED, they say they've never experienced an issue.

I have rendered First Aid to a person with a broken Wood Arrow Shaft buried in their Forearm. The Arrow was assembled without due attention to Reed and Rift and had not been checked after shooting a Tree.

Left and Right Wing Feathers

Note the verticle alignment of the Nocks String Groove, that is across the Grain. This would place the RIFT of the Arrow Shaft ON TOP

Question 1 - can you mix Left and Right-Wing Feathers?

NO! they curve in opposite directions, this will cause Arrow Flight issues.

Question 2 - does it matter if in Archer uses Left or Right Wing Feathers?

Question 3 - I'm Left-Handed should I use Left Wing Feathers or vice versa?

Answer to question 2 and 3 - Not in my experience, I am a right-handed Archer and shoot Left Ring Feathers because they are generally cheaper. Either will work just fine for you.

Useless Fact - (I'm full of 'em) Olympic level Archers who are pedantic with their Bow and Arrow Tuning have noted that when Bareshaft Tuning an Arrow Shaft will rotate one direction or the other without Feathers. They then Fletch their Arrows with the appropriate Offset / Feather.

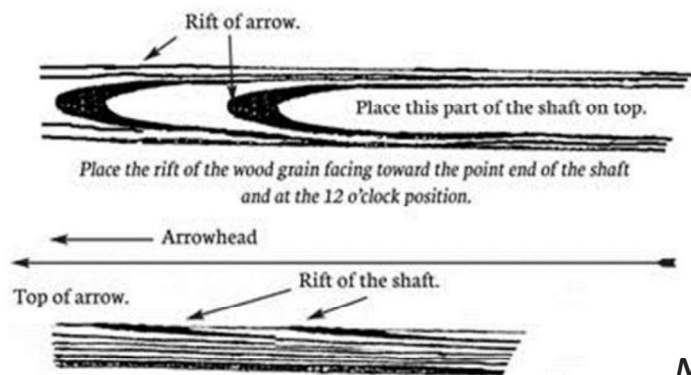


Image 1 - Rift

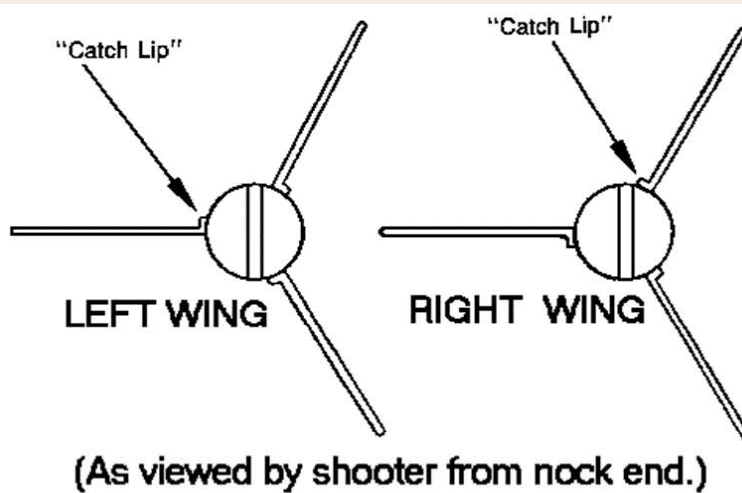


Image 2 - Left and Right Wing Feathers

Next Newsletter, more Terminology & actual Crafting of Arrows.