Installing Or Replacing Your Own D-Loop

Ever wanted to install or replace a d-loop on your bow string? Ever been in the field when, for one reason or another, your d-loop lets go and to continue shooting or hunting you have to replace it quickly?

Most archers that I know make a habit of carrying replacement d-loop rope in their kits. More on the kit contents later. It's one of those things that if it fails, your day in the field s over unless you can replace it. All you need is the replacement rope and a lighter or a match (two or three matches if it's windy).

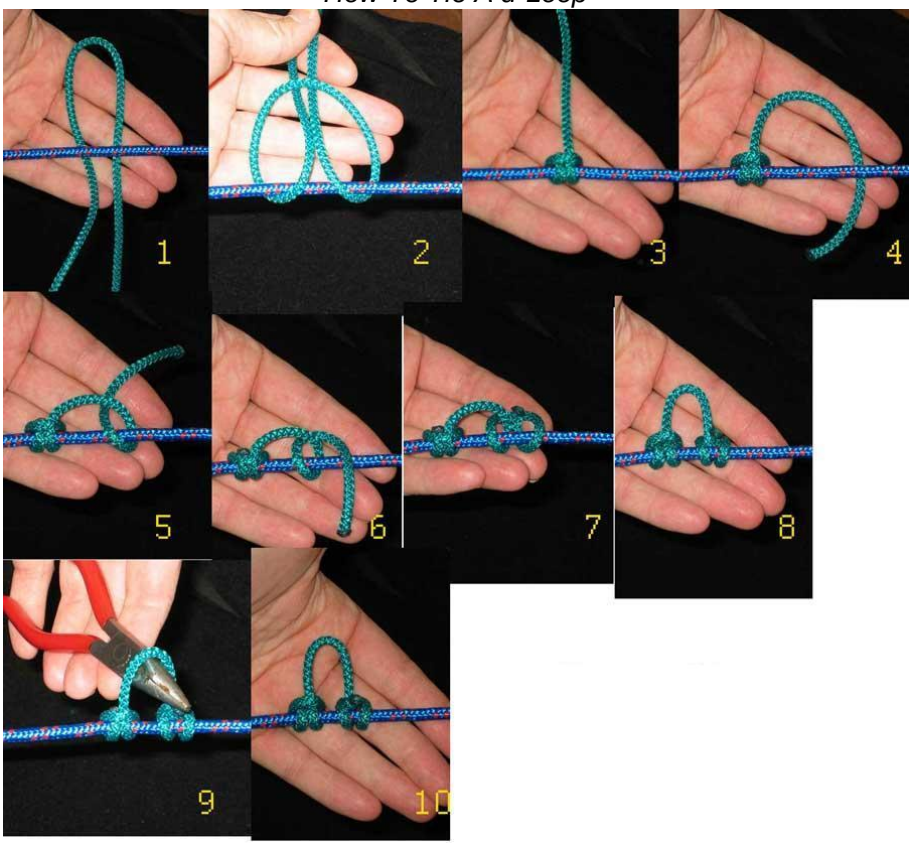
D-loop material comes in a variety of types, colors, and sizes but by far the best material is the nylon braided rope in either .080″ (2 mm) or the .070″ (1.8 mm) sizes. Braided nylon rope is the strongest. It also will "mushroom" or melt on the ends very, very well, this is done to prevent fraying and knot slippage.

The knot(s) are very easy to tie and once you've done it a few times it'll become a matter of habit for you. A properly tied d-loop has the knots facing in opposite directions, which will help in keeping bowstring torque to a minimum. Right-handed shooters have the top knot facing to the right and the bottom knot facing to the left – the opposite is true for left-handed shooters.

The knots are tied so as to tighten more on the bowstring the more the loop is pulled. With the proper "mushrooming" of the rope ends, the knot will never slip or come apart, so it is well to pay attention to the details.

Below is a collage of pictures that illustrates just how to tie the d-loop onto your bowstring, and since pictures "are worth 1,000 words" I'll let them show you the way…

How To Tie A d-Loop



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You can see the use that a pair of needle-nose pliers can be put to. They work great to stretch the d-loop and tighten the knots. D-loops should not be tied so that the loop is any larger than 1/2 to 3/4 of an inch long otherwise your draw length will be compromised and you could lose some of your power stroke.

Replacing your d-loop can be done easily in the field, should you find it necessary because of wear and tear or outright failure, while hunting, participating in a 3D tournament, or simply practicing. Be sure to always include some replacement d-loop rope in your kit.

So – your "archery kit". What do, or should you be carrying in it? Well, besides the basic first-aid stuff, here are a few suggestions based on what has happened over the years. I'll just address the necessities for a 2-day 3D shoot that has taken you to another town/city.

- spare release
- spare release rope
- extra arrows (lots – depending on how accurate you are)
- extra nocks
- spare tube of glue

- Allen key set to match the screws on your bow
- portable bow press

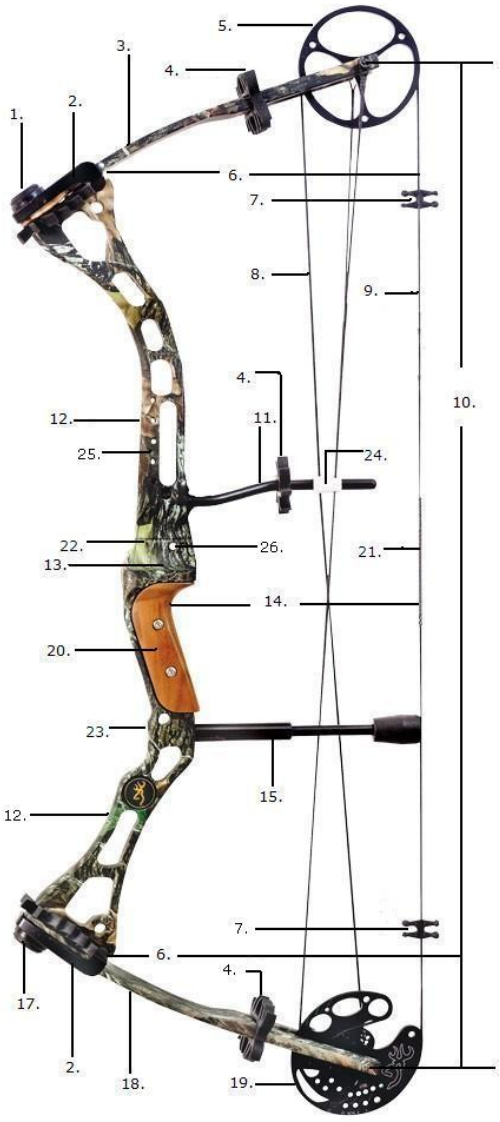
These are in addition to the obvious things like binoculars, arrow puller, arrow lube, water bottle and such like.

PRE-SEASON (and End Of Season) BOW MAINTENANCE

Early bear season is coming up pretty fast. Is your bow ready to go? Here are a few tips and thoughts on what to do and what to look for prior to the start of hunting season.

Actually, bow maintenance is something that should be done on a regular basis. At least twice per year if you only use it for the hunting season or the 3D season – more often it you shoot regularly throughout the whole year.

Firstly, here are the major parts of a compound bow, just in case you are new to the sport;



Major Parts of A Compound Bow.

1. Upper Limb Bolt
2. Limb Pockets
3. Upper Limb
4. Vibration Dampener
5. Idler Wheel (single cam bow)
6. Tiller Measurement
7. Sting vibration/oscillation Dampener
8. Cable
9. String
10. Axle-to-Axle measurement
11. Cable Guard
12. Riser
13. Shelf
14. Brace Height Measurement
15. String Stopper
16.

17. Lower Limb Bolt
18. Lower Limb
19. Cam
20. Grip
21. String Serving
22. Sight Window
23. Stabilizer Attachment Bushing
24. Cable Slide

OK, now what? Well chances are that your bow has been in storage – maybe in your bow case or maybe even under the bed as a home for “Dust Bunnies” - so now is the time to get it out and go over it to check its overall integrity. You’ll need some basic tools and equipment for this job, which are pictured at the end of this article.

Start by dusting off the bow after that long winter’s nap. Inspect the string very closely for signs of wear. Are there any obvious broken strands or threads? If the string looks OK, how does it feel? Dry or slightly tacky/sticky? If it’s dry then you need to wax it thoroughly before you even think about firing the bow. A dry string’s strands and threads will rub together creating friction that will cut the life span of your string at the very least or at the most, will cause your string to fail (as in break) just when you least expect.

Check the serving in the middle of the string and where it rides in the grovves of the cam(s) or the idler wheel. Look for signs of wear or breakage. If there are such signs – go to a pro-shop and have the serving replaced before you shoot your bow. While there, have the tech-person check the string under the serving for signs of undue wear.

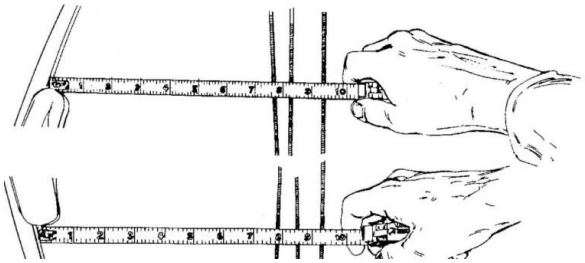
Next, inspect all the components that you have on your string, things like the peep, the vibration dampening thingys, the nocking points, the d-loop, and the speed buttons. You’re looking for signs weakness that will fail during regular useage. Your mission? seek out and replace.

Now that the string and its components are good to go the next thing to do is to inspect and check all the screws and bolts that are used to attach various things to the riser. Start with the limb bolts – any signs of rust or corrosion should be dealt with right away, which may entail pressing the bow and removing the limbs to re-grease the limb bolts.

Check all the screws that hold your sight, your quiver, your arrow rest, and any other attached pieces of equipment to the riser. Make sure that the screws are not rusty and that they are tight – but not over tight. It's far too easy to accidentally strip these screws when you're tightening them, so be careful.

Once you've done all of the above you're ready to check your sight to make sure that it hasn't been bumped out of its position relative to the center-shot alignment. Hold the bow up, at arms length, perpendicular to the horizontal plane, and check to see whether the string bisects the sight pins and the notch in the arrow rest. If all is good, then you can be fairly certain that you bow is still shooting the way it was when you last put it away. Take it out to the range and fling a few dozen arrows to get back into the rythm of shooting again. After all, you wouldn't want to just wound that big 'ole black bear and make it mad at you, now would you?

Also – just as a check to see that your string hasn't stretched and relaxed, causing your cams to go out of time - take note of your tiller measurements. They should still be at factory spec.



The Basic Archers Tuning Kit is pictured below.

BOW WALKER