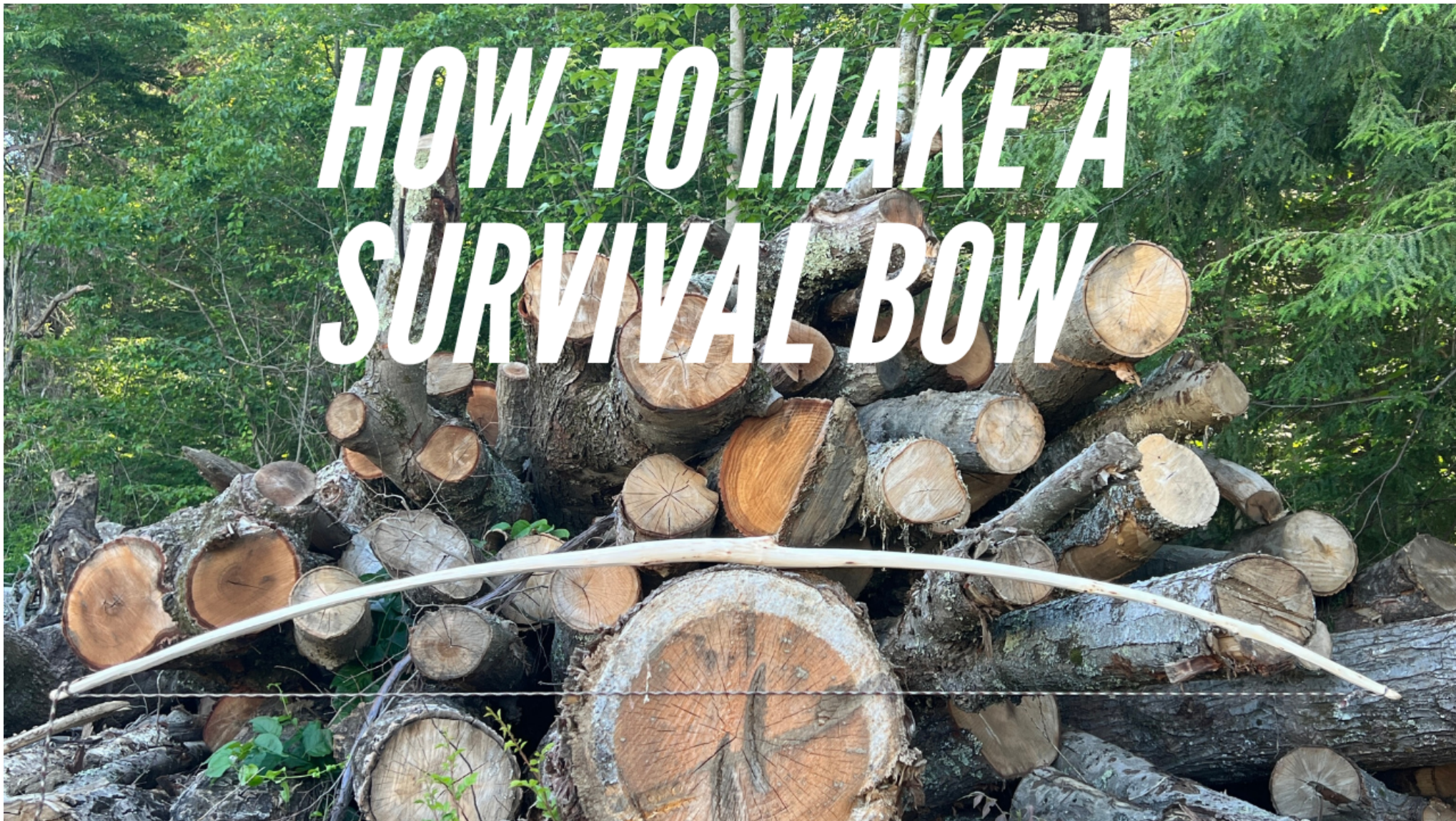


HOW TO MAKE A SURVIVAL BOW

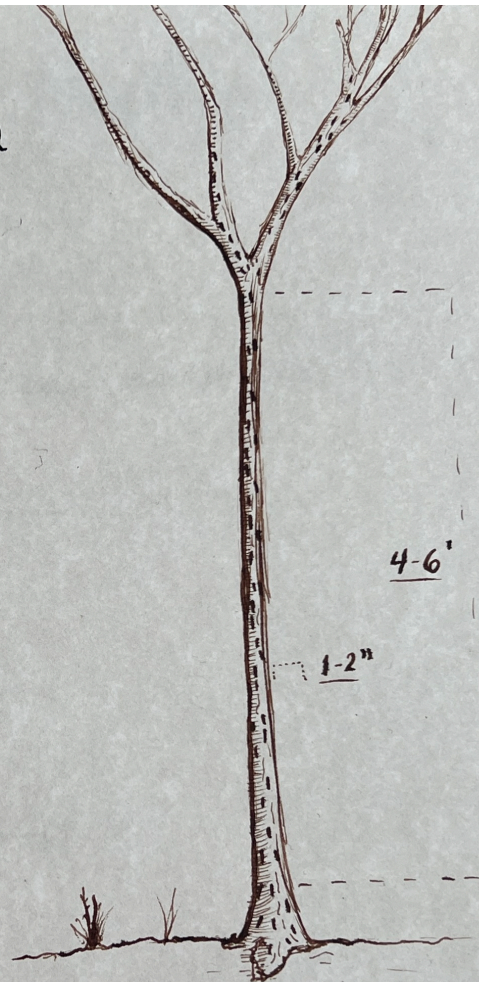


Part 1

Wood Selection

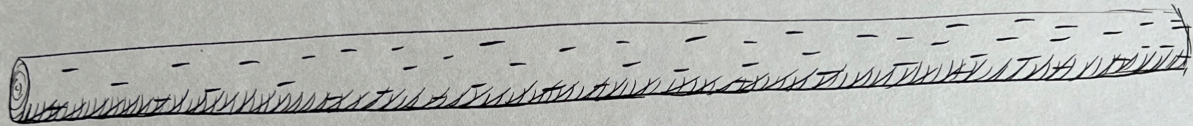
Hickory
Maple
Elm
Ash
Hazel
Yew
Osage
Juniper
Plum
Apple
Oak
Rowan
Dogwood
Laburnum
Hackberry
Mulberry
etc.
Try
anything

- Straight, knot-free sapling
- Choose a dense, flexible species
- 4-6 ft long
- 1-2+ inch diameter
- Good bow woods store more energy,
but you can make a bow with
any species.



Part 2

Cutting and Debarking



* Remove bark, but don't damage the back of the bow.

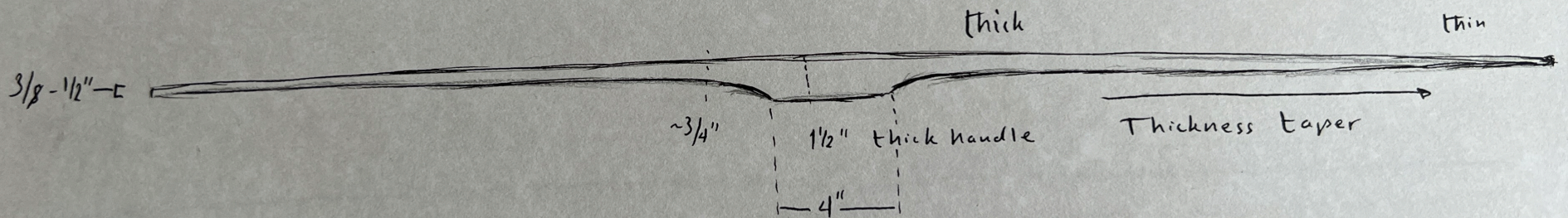
Spring / Summer: Peel bark

Fall / Winter: Remove outer bark with a knife.
Scrape away inner bark.

- For some species like plum, hazel, it may be ok to leave on the bark.

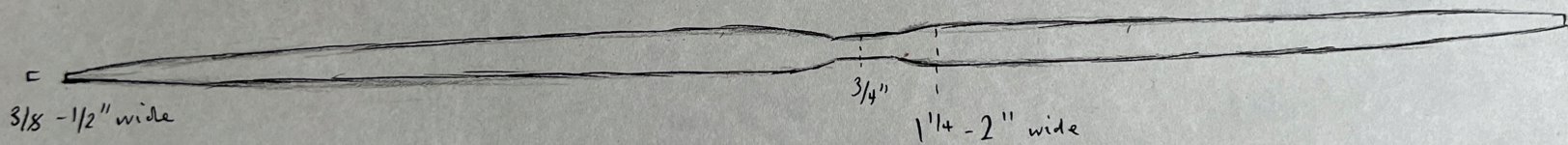
Part 3

Roughing Out the Side Profile



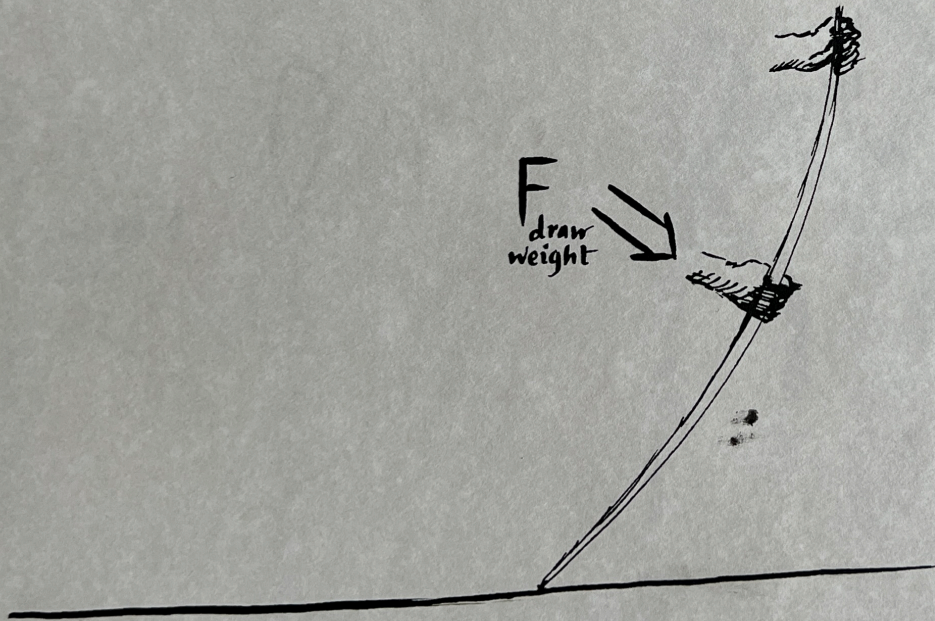
Part 4

Roughing Out the Front Profile



Part 5

Floor Tiltering

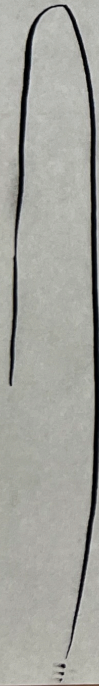


- Remove wood from stiff areas
- Tiller to about $\frac{1}{3}$ draw length

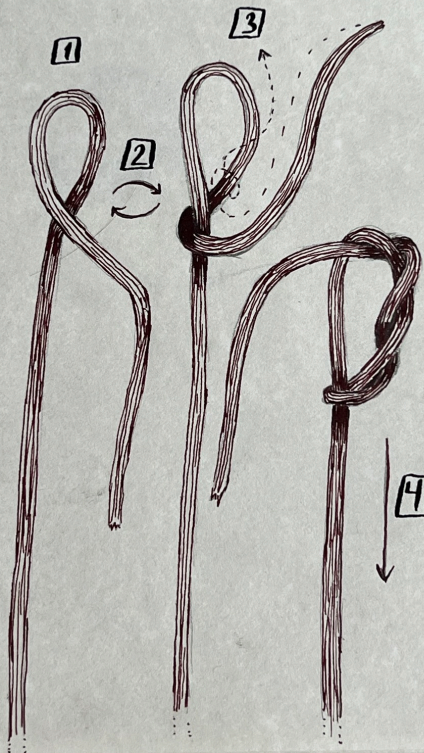
Part 6

the String

Overhand Loop
(fixed)



Overhand knot



Timber hitch
aka
Bouyer's knot
(adjustable)

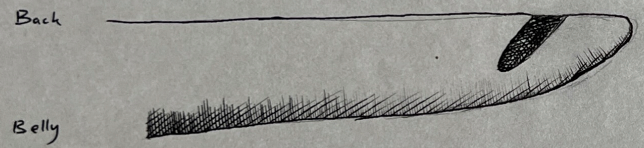
Timber Hitch

1. Make a loop
2. Twist the loop
3. Pass the end under & through the loop
4. Fit to nock. Pull to tighten

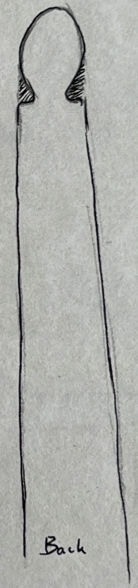
Part 7

Nocks

Side Profile



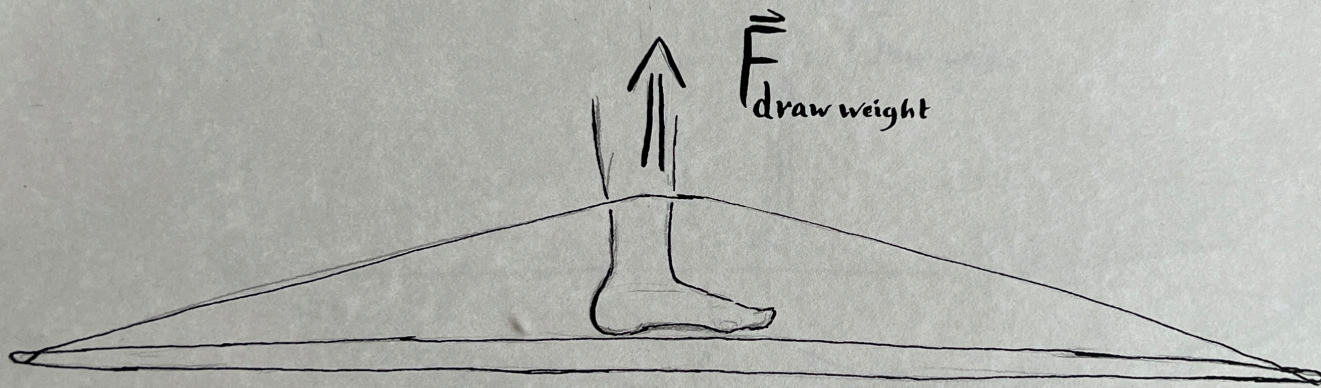
Front Profile





Part 8

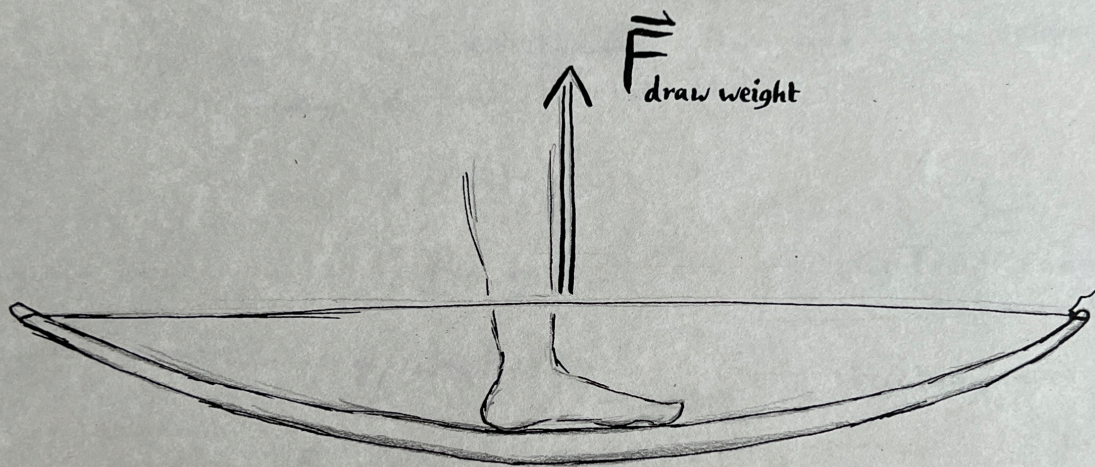
Longstring Tillering



- Step with both feet and pull with both hands.
- Don't pull harder than the target draw weight.
- Only remove wood from stiff areas.
- Tiller to about $\frac{2}{3}$ draw length

Part 9

Short String Tiltering



- Shorten the string and brace the bow.
- Tiller to $\frac{2}{3}$ draw length.
- Continue scraping and shaving wood from stiff spots.

Shoot and enjoy!

**** Retiller as the bow dries out ****

Survival style bows are somewhat disposable. Here are some resources to get started making faster, more durable designs.

YouTube

- Jan Santana Bows - me
- Swiftwood Bows - Weylin Olive
- Clay Hayes
- Hunt Primitive - Ryan Gil
- Mick Greweck
- Dreamcraft Bows
- Bowtell Bows
- Rowan Bows
- Backyard Bowyer
- Richard Head Longbows
- Del Cat
- etc.

reddit

r/Bowyer

r/Archery

For help, post on r/Bowyer.

Quick start guide -

See my Board bow tutorial and quick drying video. Buy the Bowyer's Bible volumes I and II if you seek advanced knowledge.

Books

the Traditional Bowyer's Bible
Volumes I - IV

Hunting the Osage Bow
- Dean Torges

the Bent Stick

- Paul Comstock

Wooden Bows,
what I Wish I'd known
when I started

- Jim Hamm

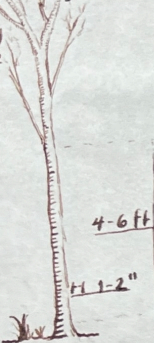
the Secrets and Science of
Primitive Archery

- Ryan Gil

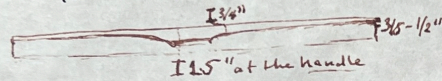
How to Make a Survival Bow

[1] Wood Selection

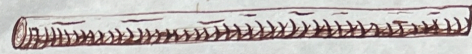
Hickory
Maple
Elm
Ash
Hazel
Yew
Osage
Juniper
Plum
Apple
Rowan
Oak
etc.



[3] Rough Out Side Profile (thickness taper)

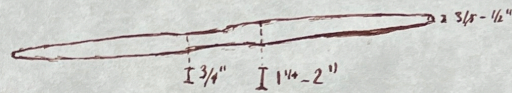


[2] Cut and Debark

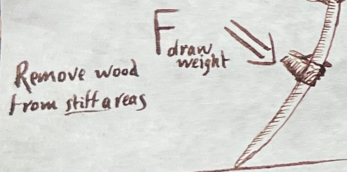


Don't damage the back of the Bow

[4] Rough Out Front Profile (width taper)

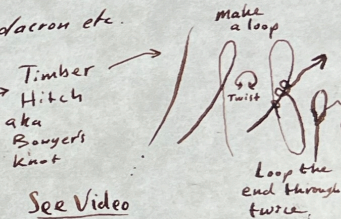
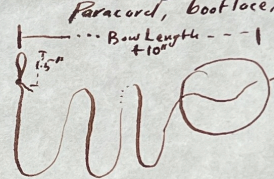
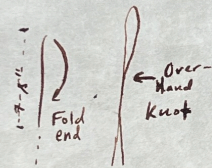


[5] Floor Tiller



[6] the String

Paracord, boot lace, dacron etc.



See Video

[7] Cut Nocks



[8] Long string Tiltering



[9] Short String Tiltering

Shorten string and brace the bow.



[10] Shoot. Retiller as the bow dries out.

Full Video: [YouTube.com/DanSantanaBows](https://www.youtube.com/DanSantanaBows)

Santana