

HOT NEW BOWS

PART II

BY RICK COMBS



BOB LEE

THE BOB LEE ULTIMATE One of the world's premier custom recurve and longbow makers, Bob Lee Archery is credited with many innovations over the course of its 60-year history. Among them was the first recurve design featuring detachable limbs in 1961. 50 years later they have invented another revolutionary takedown recurve design element, the Stabi-Lock system. The system is featured on Bob Lee's new flagship bow, the Ultimate. As the new flagship model, the Ultimate has a tough bill to fill, considering the impressive lineup of other models in the Bob Lee stable. Among takedown models there's the gray-colored Smoke, the red-toned Blaze, and the Envy, which is of course green, all made of laminated Action Wood. Exotic models are made of fancy wood like shedua and curly maple; the Elite Series bows are made of bubinga and phenolic/micarta. The Ultimate features the dense phenolic/micarta with laminated exotic wood, resulting in an incredibly beautiful bow with a hearty, massive feel. The Stabi-Lock system consists of a wedge bolted to the inside of each limb base, which slides into a channel on each end of the riser, locking it in place with the detent ball. Bob and Rob Lee collaborated on the design and say they found it offers several advantages. They say that it imparts a performance-enhancing, or stabilizing benefit due to precision limb alignment and added mass. It makes the bow quieter and reduces vibration. I found the Ultimate to be very pleasant to shoot with performance noticeably superior to all of the 12 recurves in this issue's Field Test. Chronographing at 198, it was 10 percent faster than the fastest recurve in the Test (another Bob Lee bow!) and at 3.5, its comparative efficiency blew the other bows out of the water. The Ultimate, with its superior aesthetics and performance, is aptly named. A steal at \$1,495. —Mike Strandlund **BW**