

The Lock-a-Draw

Safety Information

A using a compound bow can be dangerous if you do not adhere to certain safety rules. Using a draw keep (lock) can compound that danger. Drawing the bow with hands and feet may allow the bow to slip off the toes. If it did, the draw keep rod would come at you with the strength of the bow. Be sure to place the bow under the arches of your feet to prevent it from slipping. Also be similarly careful when letting down a draw.

Although the Lock-a-Draw has a spring loaded string catch and the safety is always on, anything mechanical can fail. The automatic safety is a great safety device, but it can be defeated by the following actions: 1. press down on the safety button, 2. pull the trigger, 3. hold the string catch in the released position with a finger, 4. then release the trigger and the safety. The safety button comes back out, but the string catch cannot return to the cocked position because the trigger prevents it. The string catch is stuck in the released condition. This would be easily observed as an unsafe condition to try cocking the bow, but if now the safety button is pressed again without pulling the trigger the string catch may or may not come back to the fully cocked position because the trigger is still impeding it. It may come back only partially so that the release looks cocked but is not. Drawing the bow to the string catch and releasing the string would cause the bow to dry fire. This sequence of events cannot happen when using the draw keep in the normal manner because a spring returns the string catch to the cocked position immediately after the trigger is pulled. You should try the above sequence out so that you are aware of its existence and its danger. It is suggested that you **get in the habit of testing the string catch with a finger before drawing the bow.**

It is recommended that you have an arrow in your hand while drawing the bow so you will not forget to nock an arrow before firing the bow. While shooting the movie on my lockadraw.com web site, I actually forgot to nock an arrow and dry fired the bow. This of course ruined the shoot, but it also nearly destroyed my 20 year old bow. The Ultra-Nok II hit one of the cables cutting 6 of the 12 strands of wire, the cable slide broke, and the peep sight broke and came off the string. Dry firing a bow can ruin the bow and can be dangerous for the archer as well. Don't do it!

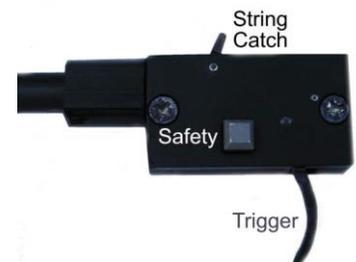
A drawn bow with arrow nocked should be treated just like a loaded gun even with the safety on. Never point it at anything you do not intend to shoot.

Lock-a-Draw Setup



The Lock-a-Draw mounts on the bow sight, not directly on the bow! If your bow sight does not have the threaded or nut backed holes to mount a quiver, you will have to purchase one that does have these holes in order to use the Lock-a-Draw. Most modern sights have these

holes because it is an industry standard, but some single pin sights use these holes for a yardage adjusting mechanism.



The steps in setting up the Lock-a-Draw are summarized below, and following are detailed instructions:

1. If you already have a quiver mounting block on your bow you need to remove it and install the one included with the Lock-a-Draw quiver.
2. If there are more than one set of threaded sight mounting holes on your bow move the bow sight to the

- position that will allow the rod of the Lock-a-Draw to run closest to the arrow vertically (so you will minimize the bending of the rod). Install the quiver mounting block using the screws provided.
3. Install the Ultra-Nok II on the bow string at the position you previously nocked an arrow. If you already have a string loop on your string that will also work.
 4. Mount the Lock-a-Draw rod in the mounting block. If you are going to raise the draw weight of the bow (tighten the limb bolts) do it before marking and cutting the rod as this operation changes the draw length.
 5. Pull the bow (hands and feet) and mark the rod at the letoff point (the point inside the Ultra-Nok that contacts the string catch when the bow is drawn). See Detailed instructions below for this step.
 6. Cut the rod 9/16" short of the mark (the string catch will be at the marked position when installed). Glue the release on the rod with 5 minute epoxy glue (available at Wall-mart, any hardware or grocery store). Install the Lock-a-Draw on your bow to do this to be sure that you have the string catch facing the right direction (string catch facing the bow string).
 7. Next you will be bending the Lock-a-Draw rod so that the string catch when holding the drawn string will be aligned with your arrow nocking point in the **vertical direction only**. Bend the rod **at the mounting plate** either toward the top or bottom of the bow so that the string catch is in line with the arrow nocking point and arrow rest vertically (the major bow direction). You may be able to sight through your arrow rest to the arrow nocking point to check whether the Ultra-Nok and string catch are in line with each other. **Do not bend the rod in the transverse direction (toward the bow string) at this time.**
 8. Pull the bow to the string catch and look down the rod. It should be bowed toward the string (this is normal) but not in the vertical direction.
 9. Paper tune the Lock-a-Draw. This involves bending the rod in the horizontal direction so that the arrows fly straight without bobbing or weaving.



Detailed Instructions



In step 5, pull the drawn bowstring and Lock-a-Draw rod together being careful not to distort the drawn string from its normal "V" shape, and mark where the inside of the Ultra-Nok comes, or if you do not use an Ultra-Nok mark where the bow side of the string comes. Be aware that if you do not use the Ultra-Nok you will not be able to use it in the future because the rod will be too short (unless you purchase a new rod). The rod length **must bring the bowstring to the letoff position**. If it is short the Lock-a-Draw may collapse with possible serious injury. The rod will not support the full draw weight of your bow. If you do not use the Ultra-Nok use a release to draw the string for measurement so the string shape will not be distorted.

In step 6 the rod is cut off 9/16" shorter than the draw length marked to compensate for the distance between the bottom of the rod receiver and string catch. Take the edge off the rod end with a

file or grinder so it will seat properly in the receiver.

In step 7 draw the string and see if the nocking point is directly above the string catch. By pushing with the toe end of your foot against the riser you can bring the string catch up toward the string and it should be even with the nocking point. If not, bend the rod in the right direction. Use an adjustable wrench to protect the mounting block from experiencing torque. Be careful to keep your mounting block in good condition because a tight fit of



the mounting plate in the block help insure good accuracy. When you mount the Lock-a-Draw on the bow be careful to have the central pin in the central hole of the mounting block and the mounting plate flat up against the mounting block so the block will not get damaged when rotating the Lock-a-Draw into the block.

Paper Tuning the Lock-a-Draw

Some customers have taken their bows and Lock-a-Draw to a bow shop to have them tuned. Do not let them use a laser system to tune the Lock-a-Draw to the bow by making the string straight from cam to cam. That system will not work with the Lock-a-Draw. It should be paper tuned as instructed.

In paper tuning you shoot through a piece of paper from about 5' away and the tear shape in the paper will tell you how to bend the rod in a transverse direction (toward or away from the bow string). Cut a hole in a cardboard box and put a piece of paper over the hole, fastening it with thumb tacks or tape. Place your box about 4' from the target.

I use a heavy unfletched aluminum arrow for paper tuning, but your regular arrows will work as well. Shoot through the paper using the Lock-a-Draw from about 5' from the paper. Rather than using your bow sights, sight down the arrow at this close distance. Identify which end of the tear in the paper is from the tip of the arrow. It will have a rounded hole as shown by the arrows in the illustration. If your tail goes off to the right with a right hand bow as in the lower example, bend the rod (not mounted on the bow) so as to move the release head closer to the bow string. Use an adjustable wrench or vice to bend the rod at the mounting plate. If the tail tear is off to the left as in the upper example bend the rod so as to move the release head away from the string. For a left hand bow the bends should be opposite those of the right hand bow. Be careful to bend the rod only a little at a time. Don't worry about vertical direction of the tears until the horizontal deviation is taken care of.

Next, check again as in step 7. If the Ultra-Nok loop is still directly over the string catch you will have to move the Ultra-Nok up or down to take out the vertical tear. If the tail is high, move the Ultra-Nok down. If the tail is low, move the Ultra-Nok up. Move only in small increments at a time. Tuning is tedious and somewhat time consuming, but fortunately you only need to do it once. Your care in tuning will pay dividends in accurate shooting.

The picture below is one taken after tuning my bow and shooting with the Lock-a-Draw and Bow Rest at 22 yards. There are two arrows here, the second arrow hit the first, splitting the nock in half and traveling up the shaft of the first arrow, splitting it. It was a once in a million shot, but it does illustrate that the two arrows were both traveling straight and not bobbing or weaving due to improper tuning.



Tips for Using the Lock-a-Draw Draw Keep

Be careful not to torque your bow while shooting. Relax your wrist so that when you aim you do not pull the release head to one side or another relative to the bow limbs. Shooting with the Lock-a-Draw is similar in this respect to regular shooting with a compound bow. Don't worry about an anchor point when shooting with the Lock-a-Draw. The string catch is the mechanical anchor point and is invariable. Just look through the peep and center your pin as usual.

When drawing the bow, cross your thumbs under the Lock-a-Draw rod as shown below so that your thumbs guide the nocking point to the string catch:



Never draw the bow to the string catch without an arrow in your hand so that you will never forget to nock an arrow. I learned this the hard way. I almost ruined my old bow (the one used in many of the web pictures) by dry firing it. Never dry fire a bow! Dry firing a bow is not only dangerous, it can void the warranty of your bow.

Shooting with the Lock-a-Draw is a little different from shooting in the traditional way, but when you get used to it you will find that your accuracy will improve because of the fixed anchor point (the string catch is invariable). When shooting the trigger head is held between the index finger and thumb, and the trigger is pulled with the middle finger.

Another suggestion for those who have trouble holding a bow steady at the end of their arm is to use shooting stick. This is nothing more than a stick that you grasp along with your bow handle. With the other end resting on the ground it supports and steadies the bow. Instructions are found at: www.crossbowalternative.com/stick.htm. When hunting from a tree stand or a ladder stand the Compound Bow Rest and Holder is the ideal companion to the Lock-a-Draw. It provides the support and steadying effect of a shooting stick and it also holds your bow out in front of you ready to shoot. The reduced movement compared to traditional bow hunting greatly increases the chances of harvesting game.

If the shininess of the stainless steel parts bothers you in hunting, you can darken them with black permanent marker. You can also paint them, but do not paint the safety button or the button will not work.

If you have any problems please call me. If you leave a message I will call back.

Warranty and Return Policy

The Lock-a-Draw, except for the quiver mounting block, is warranted to be free from defects for a period of one year. The mounting block is easily damaged if care is not taken when mounting the Lock-a-Draw. With care the block will be serviceable for more than a year, but since we have no control over how it is used we cannot guaranty it. Replacements are available on the web site for a nominal cost.

You may return the products in resalable condition within 30 days for a refund but please pack everything well so things don't bounce around causing damage. Shipping will not be refunded. I stand behind my products and would appreciate a chance to make any problem right before you return it. Please call me before returning a product.

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