

GUIDE 2 · ADAPTIVE RIG FOR VI ARCHERS

Build an adaptive rig for visually impaired archers

A visually impaired (VI) archer can aim by touch. They rest the back of the bow hand against one fixed point at full draw. This rig is a stand that holds that point in the same place, end after end. We built three.

What you need

- A sturdy tripod. Ours are second-hand.
- PVC pipe and fittings, to hold the contact point
- One contact point, no bigger than 2 cm: a small bead, probe or bar
- A foot locator
- A sandbag or weight for the tripod
- Tape and a marker, to mark the settings

Steps

1. Put the foot locator down first

Set the foot locator on the line where the archer will stand. Everything else is set from it, so aim and stance share one reference.

2. Set up the tripod

Place the tripod so it can reach the archer's bow hand at full draw. Spread and lock the legs, and weight the base so a light touch can't move it. Keep the legs, the weight and the foot locator out of the walking path, and guide the archer to and from the line.

3. Mount the contact point

Use PVC pipe and fittings to hold the contact point out from the tripod. Only the contact point should touch the archer.

4. Fit it to the archer

The archer draws with an arrow, pointed at the target, while a helper behind the line notes where the bow hand sits. The archer lets down, then the helper moves the contact point. Repeat until it rests on the back of the bow hand at full draw, then lock every joint.

5. Check the clearance

Have the archer draw and let down slowly a few times. The string, the arrow and the bow arm must not touch the stand.

6. Mark it and write it down

Mark each setting with tape and write it down for that archer, with the stand's distance from the foot locator. Next session, set it up the same way from your notes.

Rules to follow

- The contact point can be no bigger than 2 cm in any direction, and it touches only the back of the bow hand, between the wrist and the base of the fingers (World Archery Rulebook Book 5, 34.4.2).

- For competition, the stand and foot locators together can be no more than 80 cm wide, and the stand can't get in other archers' way.
- Archers in the VI1 class wear a blindfold. VI2 archers don't.
- A spotter sits 1 m behind the line, tells the archer where arrows land, and flags safety issues.
- Check the current rules with World Archery and your national body before any competition.

Every time you use it

- No clamps or gaps that could pinch a finger or catch the string.
- Check that every joint is locked before each end.

Build and use these at your own risk. They aren't certified equipment. A qualified coach should check every new bow and rig before anyone uses it, and supervise every session.

Built one, changed the design, or have a question? Email us at levelbowinfo@gmail.com.