

by **jirf** on April 4, 2009

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Intro: Heavy Crossbow

This is a guide helping you to make a heavy crossbow capable of killing a person.

NOTE: this is capable of killing most things except big game, so DO NOT attempt to shoot anyone or anything without thinking of killing it, and if you do, I am most definatley not responsible for the death or injury so be-friggan-ware.

Also note that the crossbow should be made over a span of 2 days, the second day can be spent assessing the crossbow, tweaking it and adding features.



step 1: Materials

Before you start you will need these tools:

- Ratchet saw (that motorized hand saw thing)
 - Note: if you do not have this you will be sore from cutting the wood out with your hands, so yeah, this tool helps.
 - Coping saw (any saw will do)
 - Chisel
 - Malet
 - Drill
 - Vice (absolutely, positively needed)
 - Pencil
 - Ruler
 - Carving tool (last picture), fairly useful, if you can get one.
 - Drill pieces
 - Sandpaper
- Note: I have gone into detail, just in case some idiot complains about it.

Deadly Resources required:

- Wood (1 metre length and 15 cm width, which is about 3 feet length and 6" width, I think).
- wooden blinds
- String (strong, the thicker the better)
- Screws

Note: Wooden blinds can be substituted for bamboo, I will go into more detail in step 3.



step 2: Marking and chopping wood.

The chunk on the third and first picture has to be kept.

Chop the wood with the Ratchet, make sure that the wood is in the vice or you will be missing a few fingers after this step.

The chunk taken out of the body should be kept unless you have scrap wood lying around.

The chunk of wood that has been chopped off you should now put into your vice look at picture 6 to see where the screws go, drill them in slightly so they're in there but not completely through the wood, now remove it from the vice and clamp the base there, then fully screw in the chunk as shown in picture 5. This is the stock.





step 3: The Bow

The bow really does vary, any material that is bendy but not in the mood to snap will do, but here are some rules.

1. If it is too bendy, add more of that and increase distance of shooting slide (cock).
2. Add 3 or four of the blinds shown (Best option).
3. Bamboo is the worst option for this crossbow but still efficient, I did manage to make a crossbow that didn't snap with a bamboo 2 metre pole, but the blinds are the best option, although I don't know where to buy them from.

If you're using the blinds drill a small hole on the ends of the blinds (pic 3+4) tie a knot at the end of the string after threaded through, then thread through the next hole on the other side (make sure string is on the right side of the wood and not twisted or knotted) wrap the string around numerous times then tie a normal knot, then double it, maybe triple. Pull the bow back to the end of the cock, if it feels too tight it's about to snap, loosen the string, if it's too weak, tighten it.

E-mail me if you're using something else.



step 4: Inserting Bow and Making the Cock.

The bow will go up in shown area of that chunk missing, so stick it in there and get either scrap wood or cut the chunk kept to size and hammer it in with the mallet, if the bow is moving too much get a different piece of wood and try that with the mallet, make sure it doesn't move.

The groove in the cock is made with the carver so rule 2 straight lines parallel to each other same width of the carver and carve in a chisel like fashion along the length of the cock (pic 2).



step 5: Trigger, Sanding and Firing.

You'll notice a fair few rough edges, eliminate them with sandpaper.

The trigger is really simple and capable of holding a massive amount of power, look at picture 1, now the way to do it, saw a 1 cm slit at the end of the cock grab the chisel and mallet, chisel either an angled cut or horizontal depending on where you want the trigger to be.

To fire, flick your thumb up below the string when loaded with an arrow or bolt, it should fire, if not look at the crossbow have a think on where it went wrong.

And if you're really impatient and want a less accurate and easy thing to shoot, get some large bullet-head nails.



step 6: Regards...

If you have any questions relating to your crossbow, it doesn't even have to be my one here, e-mail me at sutherite@hotmail.com, set your subject to crossbow otherwise I will most likely delete it.

And for safety, do not shoot this at anyone or thing otherwise you will trigger a slight neurological disorder called DEATH, and if you're wondering how or what to shoot and you don't have professional bolts or arrows I will be making a guide for those some time soon.

And also If you're crossbow can shoot over 100 metres (over 270 feet, I presume) e-mail me on what you used, because you are successful, if it doesnt shoot far e-mail me anyway and tell me what you used so I can help.

Related Instructables



how to choose the right pistol crossbow by uniFREAK134



My Knex Crossbow History (slideshow) by Wicky



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KNEX CROSSBOW by hobo lord



The FreeKiller Repeating Crossbow by kNeXFreek



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T.U.K.W.C- The Ultimate Knex War Crossbow. by Hiyadudez



Popsicle Stick Crossbow by pmac93

Comments

39 comments

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Evil is the name says:
U mean jig saw

Feb 3, 2010. 9:45 AM [REPLY](#)



kosukeueki1018 says:
bamboo is great but you just need to do it right ill make an instructible soon on how to make a bamboo bow

Jan 17, 2010. 5:26 AM [REPLY](#)



finn spearo says:
so should i use pvc or blinds????

Jan 15, 2010. 12:45 PM [REPLY](#)



EaglesSoar09 says:
how do you know it can kill a person?

Dec 8, 2009. 6:29 PM [REPLY](#)



jirf says:
when the bolt got lodged in my fence, i pretended that was someones face, oh and pretty much anything can kill, like you could probably die by a fork so that can apply to toys with small parts as well.

Dec 10, 2009. 2:02 PM [REPLY](#)



punkhead58 says:
From what I can see, there doesn't seem to be any groove or slit cut to hold the bolt/arrow.

Oct 30, 2009. 1:51 PM [REPLY](#)



walterh9 says:
nice cross but im not much of a carpenter so wat sort of wood for d gun and bow did u use and wat size please very good design

Oct 8, 2009. 2:28 AM [REPLY](#)



jirf says:
I am honestly happy to see other people make the crossbow, but I really don't understand why so many people have failed in the distance aspect, if you find that the bow is weak try PVC pipe, otherwise I have no idea why yours shouldn't work.

May 26, 2009. 1:39 AM [REPLY](#)



MotaBoi says:
what size should the pipe be?

Aug 30, 2009. 12:51 PM [REPLY](#)



jirf says:
15mm - 25mm

Sep 6, 2009. 3:30 AM [REPLY](#)



MotaBoi says:
And around how long?

Sep 7, 2009. 9:05 AM [REPLY](#)



jirf says:
no more than a metre=3ft

Sep 8, 2009. 12:11 AM [REPLY](#)



MotaBoi says:
do you know anywhere i might be able to buy it from?

Sep 12, 2009. 12:14 PM [REPLY](#)



jirf says:
hardware store, i dont know where you are but bunnings has it, otherwise a plumbing store

Sep 12, 2009. 4:14 PM [REPLY](#)



MotaBoi says:
o ok im in canada though. ill keep looking around

Sep 13, 2009. 12:59 PM [REPLY](#)



MotaBoi says:
cool thanks :)

Sep 8, 2009. 1:28 PM [REPLY](#)



knibbles says:
What is all this talk about pvc pipe? Please explain.

Aug 2, 2009. 11:08 AM [REPLY](#)



MotaBoi says:
would faux wood blinds work? i hear their more durable?

Aug 30, 2009. 12:50 PM [REPLY](#)



MotaBoi says:
dude you should enter this in the kids craft contest... lol

Aug 23, 2009. 4:43 PM [REPLY](#)



The Jamalam says:
I have a potential idea to make this thing have a proper trigger. 1)Make 2 of the frames. Make s third one, but cut out a section where you want the trigger. Then with the remaining wood, make a small Y shaped trigger with a notch in one of the sides. 2)Glue the frames together, with the 2 half ones in the middle. Put the trigger where you want it. Drill through it and bolt it. 3) To fire, lock a bolt into the notch, then a string behind that. When you pull the trigger, It should release the bolt and the string.

Jun 28, 2009. 11:38 AM [REPLY](#)



jirf says:
thanks for the advice, it will probably work, but probably wont connect with the bolt, This is my most primitive crossbow, i have ones with metal rolling nuts which are bloody complex but easy and fast to use. And your trigger will require you to hold it and not to press it to release. Also, instead of getting three planks of wood, just get a block of wood and chisel a chunk out from top to bottom, its much easier and looks better.

Jul 8, 2009. 12:55 AM [REPLY](#)



moo of the cow says:
i doubt this could shoot 250 feet post a vid of it shooting

Jul 2, 2009. 3:34 PM [REPLY](#)



jirf says:
I tried to make a vid, but you cant see where the bolt goes, and it does shoot 100m, not sure about feet, and thats when I aim upwards.

Jul 8, 2009. 12:46 AM [REPLY](#)



HotShot24 says:
How Far Cna this thing shoot

May 31, 2009. 5:46 PM [REPLY](#)



jirf says:
It shoots about 100m, but shoots more depending on the bolt shot, if I use one of my proper bolts it goes at least 250m

Jun 1, 2009. 2:58 AM [REPLY](#)



cowscankill says:
Where can I get wood blinds? I really want some now. Like, I REALLY want some. NOW. Lol, very nice crossbow. I would prefer a more complex trigger just because, but yours is nice. I think I might use that method of installing the bow to make my crossbow better.

May 28, 2009. 7:31 AM [REPLY](#)



jirf says:
I had some spare lying around, I probably wouldnt reccomend them now, because i have lately used PVC pipe which is more reliable.

May 30, 2009. 1:35 AM [REPLY](#)



cowscankill says:
Where can I get wood blinds? I really want some now. Like, I REALLY want some. NOW.

May 27, 2009. 6:38 PM [REPLY](#)



spa04dicksona says:
i made this this morning... it says it'll take 2 days but mine took me like 4 hours :D it isn't great and i didn't follow the instructions perfect but still it is bloody grand! attached is a pic of the crossbow itself so you can all tell me whether or not it sucks :D

May 25, 2009. 11:06 AM [REPLY](#)





jirf says:

It looks good, and did you put laquer or did you use a hard wood? I personally think the bow should be more taught for it to go further.

May 27, 2009. 1:07 AM [REPLY](#)



spa04dicksona says:

its hard wood with a plywood bow (i used whatever wood i had lying around i'm just worried that after all my hard work if i pull any tighter it'll snap :S

May 27, 2009. 1:11 PM [REPLY](#)



nickweaver77 says:

it's a great crossbow but the bolts only go like 20 feet unless I did something wrong

May 24, 2009. 10:02 AM [REPLY](#)



jirf says:

Okay... But don't compare my tree with your bush. Yet another joke.

May 23, 2009. 4:05 AM [REPLY](#)



geodez says:

my large crossbow is similar to this one except no stock and a different trigger and inflexible arms.

May 20, 2009. 1:39 PM [REPLY](#)



jirf says:

Then call it a no-bow. Thats a joke. And I counted three differences, so... how is it similiar to mine? Another joke.

May 22, 2009. 5:38 AM [REPLY](#)



geodez says:

they are both crossbows and they can both kill stuff

May 22, 2009. 10:49 AM [REPLY](#)



jirf says:

No I published it, yet it wasn't posted

May 11, 2009. 4:36 AM [REPLY](#)



muffinhead says:

posted? do you mean published?

May 8, 2009. 9:25 PM [REPLY](#)



jirf says:

Its been about 5 weeks and it still hasn't been posted.

May 4, 2009. 5:31 AM [REPLY](#)