

Arrows

photo 1

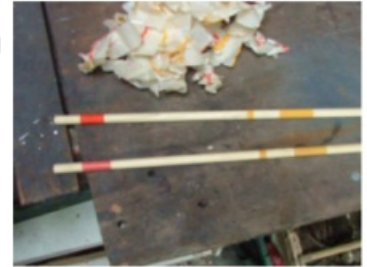


I use normal hardwood **beading** for the shafts, which are 9mm or 11/36 of an inch. These are cut to length by first scoring or sawing around the shaft then snapping (this prevents splits).

To make **straight**, I soak them in very hot water then attach to a rigid core and leave for a day (doesn't do a perfect job, but good enough for every day arrows)

Next I make nocks, paint and put on points.

photo3



For the **nocks** I use a series of needle files. Photo1 illustrates the first cut using a triangle file making a V, then use a narrow oval needle file at the base of the V to file down about 5mm. Lastly use a circular needle file at the bottom of this cut. This produce a nock that can just grip onto the string (based on a 12 nylon string with serving) as shown in photo 2.

You do not need to **paint** the shafts, but this allows easy identification and can help with positioning feather. You could use paint or expensive tape. First I taped off parts I wanted to paint or you could do it free hand - there your arrows, let your imagination fly, but the most important part to paint is near the nock.

Once dry (in about 2 hours) remove tape and smooth down whole shaft with synthetic wire wool (this will take off any sharp points with out sanding away paint, it will also compress and smooth wood, photo 3).

When ordering **points**, bare in mind the width of the shaft your using (beading from DIY stores is mostly 11/36, shafts bought from archery places can be 11/36 or 5/16).

Apart from different sizes, they also come in either taper or screw-on fits. The **tapers** are easily fitted by using a special pencil type sharpener to carve the shaft end to the proper angle. The **screw-on** points need to have the wood carved to about 7mm diameter (photo 4). The glue I use is evo-stick impact. This is not the best but t works .

Regardless of the points method of fixing or glue used, after shooting the arrow, mentally mark the spot in the target where the arrow enters, then if the point has come off, you nknow where to extract it from. Many a point has been lost by not knowing the exact entry point.

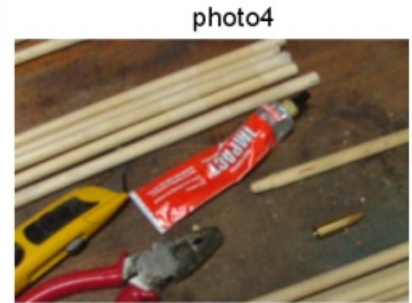


photo4



photo5

For **fletchings** or **feathers** you can either buy them or make your own (turkeys photo6 near christmas, pheasants in October, Falcons in Autumn or just from woods).

There are many to buy, but collected ones for DIY should be put into sets of three tail feathers , which all curve the same way and of similar length- photo 5 illustrates different feather that I have collected.

Photo6 shows the process of splitting feather. First lightly hammer the spine, then using a sharp knife cut down its length, taking extra care towards the narrow end. All of the feather can be used, as shown in photo 7, and it is quite possible to get upto three sets of fletchings from three feathers.

Once cut into different sets of three, each end needs to trimmed, exposing the spine for about 1cm and the glueing side needs to be sanded.

Looking from the top of the nock, One feather is attached at 90 degrees from the line of the nock and the other two are attached just off level with the nock ends on the other side.

With the bought fletchings, I normally **glue** the whole length and attach by hand, but when using real feathers I find it easier to first glue only the top and attach. Then the rest of the length. I used to attach these with just string, but it is difficult and messy, it is far easier to apply string once they are glued on. For the bottom string I use the same method to attach it as used for bow string serving - i.e after a few turns, loop the string then do upto 8-10 turns in the other direction within the loop laying the loose end towards the feathers, then using the loop, wind the string for the 8-10 turn you put in pulling the loose end to tighten it all up.

Your arrow is finished, all that is needed now is a couple coatings of varnish and then left to cure for a few days.



photo7



photo9



photo8