

GOLD TIP'S FACTS OF ACCURACY

Time and again, Gold Tip F.A.C.T Insert System Allows Versatile Fine-Tuning

Bowhunters forever tweak their setups, trying to find the perfect balance that facilitates worry-free shooting and precise arrow flight. The folks at Gold Tip recognized this long ago. In fact, the company offers a weight system that lets archers find their ideal arrow balance and, if they go too far, undo any changes. The company's FACT (Front of Arrow Center Technology) weights let you customize your front of center to provide the best possible accuracy.

"All of this came from target archery," said Tim Gillingham, professional shooter and pro-staff manager at Gold Tip. "Those are the guys who ... want adjustability in their systems. We just wanted the ability to fine-tune your point weights for competition, whether it's for front of center or to achieve a certain weight to achieve a certain speed. Hunters are kind of in the same boat."

Front of center — that is, the percentage of arrow weight forward of the center balance point — is a critical factor for determining arrow accuracy. If an arrow has too little forward weight, the point becomes unstable and begins to plane as it's affected by conditions and when the shooter makes a marginal shot.

Using Gold Tip's FACT inserts, you can add FOC weight in increments. The system features an adjustment wrench that lets you customize the weight even after you've glued on a point or insert. Actually, you can make those adjustments in the field or at the range without removing the insert. Just pull the nock or pin bushing out, and use the weight wrench to add or subtract weight.

"The nice thing too about the FACT system is it's reversible," Gillingham said. "You can put it in, see how it makes the arrow react, see how it improves your grouping, and if you don't like it, you can take it right out."

Gillingham said the FACT System's adjustability can be especially important for bowhunters shooting fixed-blade broadheads.

"Why fixed blades don't shoot very well in the wind and why amateurs have difficult time shooting them is they don't have the expertise to keep the consistency shot to shot," he said. "That's why they use mechanicals, because they tend to shoot better than fixed blades. When a shooter makes a truly bad shot, most times it comes from excitement and being under intense pressure at the moments of truth in the woods. Even the best shooters still get jangled. What happens to most people is they get shaking, and they start to lose muscular strength. Basically, they start to collapse. The string and arrow come out of alignment, causing the arrow to push sideways and not straight down the middle. As that point starts to get sideways and present itself sideways, it starts to plane off."

An easy-to-understand example illustrates the phenomenon.

“If you’re driving down the road and stick your hand out window with nothing in it, and make it flat like a broadhead and move it sideways, the faster you go, the faster it moves left or right,” he said. “If you put weight in your hand, it resists that motion left or right just like an arrow would. It’s always a give-and-take scenario.

“Weight behind the insert really simply puts a mass weight behind the broadhead to where the broadhead doesn’t have as much ability to steer the front of the arrow around. But, on the negative side, it also creates more resistance so the arrow will bend more in the middle before it starts to get moving. The more you make an arrow bend, the more you’re going to bring out the differences from shaft to shaft to shaft. It creates a de-spining of the shaft and another set of problems that might require a stiffer shaft to be shot”

Gillingham generally recommends that bowhunters start by adding 20 grains of weight, checking arrow flight, and then, if necessary, adding 20 grains more.

“That’s usually as much as they ever need to run,” he said. “I have a dealer in Arkansas who puts 40 grains behind every insert and has never had anyone complain about broadhead flight.”

He also recommends that archers put a drop of hot glue on the threads to keep the weights from vibrating loose. Even then, the FACT weights are still reversible.

The weight-system adapters come in several varieties, including a FACT System Nock Adapter for .246 shafts (primarily used by traditional shooters), and 10-, 20- and 50-grain weights to fit everything but the smaller-diameter Kinetic and Pierce shafts. The Kinetic shafts (.204) have their own 10- and 20-grain weights, as do the even smaller Pierce shafts (.166).

All that adds up to an adjustable weight system that lets archers easily fine-tune their setup for maximum performance.

“It’s also very popular with traditional archers because it lets them fine-tune their arrows,” he said. “The traditional side of archery has liked it for quite a while and has really embraced it. “It’s just a unique system that’s very adjustable.”

For more details about F.A.C.T. components and arrows, please visit the Gold Tip website at www.goldtip.com.

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