

africa's

# bowhunter

**Adam Tas: musikant en boogjagter**

Quick guide to bow hunting kudu

Interpreting animal behaviour

Make your own safe release

Hunting in Mpumalanga

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## Testing the Bowtech Invasion

# Tuning your arrows



# The way I see it



## 3D targets

Dr Adrian de Villiers, one of South Africa's most experienced bow hunters and game-farm owners, gives his views on things he sees happening in the bow-hunting industry.

**3D** targets have their uses and they should be used as an adjunct to target practice and hunting practice. I love sneaking around the bush working out shots at 3D targets, but these targets are all different and their kill zones are all different and many of them are incorrect and blatantly so. I suggest you get two or three knowledgeable hunters and a Coquis pen and change the kill zones.

I have shot a fair number of 3D shoots where the archer before me moved the target while pulling out the arrow, tilting it over just enough that the near-side kill zone was too high from my angle. If the arrow was a pass-through it would have gone through the middle of the heart on the other side, but it was scored as a miss on the side that it hit.

If the 3D animal is standing obliquely away and you shoot it in the kill zone, then the arrow would pass out of the centre of the chest, which would not be a good percentage shot.

In the hunting situation, on a quartering-away shot you should always aim at the opposite front leg and ideally you should use a two-bladed cut-on-impact broadhead. The arrow would hit well behind the 3D kill zone, but it would still be a deadly shot.

I strongly disagree with hunters who try to shoot animals in

the heart. A double-lung shot is still the best percentage shot: a little high or low or left or right and you are still in the zone.

Do not try to be too clever – you are not so good that you cannot make a mistake, trust me!

I know a world champion archer or two who have wounded game at twelve yards. I know it's not practical but to be fair it would be optimal if each 3D target was monitored by an official who could extrapolate where the arrow would pass through the target and decide on the basis of that whether the shot should be scored a kill or not. I can give you at least five examples of an arrow in the kill zone that would result in a wound as well as a wound that would result in a kill. When you are practising on a 3D target, extend the arrow with an imaginary line through the target and then judge the quality of the shot.

My personal favourite usage of the 3D target is to put it out at a hide and let the bow hunters practise from the hide while the target is moved to different positions. It is especially useful for tree stands, where hunters invariably shoot too high when they are aiming downwards. It also helps to assess the bow hunter's skill level and if I see they are dodgy I take them back to the lodge and let them practise some more. If a hunter has practised a shot from a hide at a specific spot, they can soon see if they are ready too. They could find that the hide window is too low or their stabiliser is in the way and they can't make the shot. That's the way I see it.

## Product Showcase

### A bow holster – a really handy accessory

An independent personal review by Frank Berbuir

**S**everal times while I was in a tree stand or in an elevated or ground blind, I have asked myself where to place my bow for quick and quiet access. Holding it in your hand for an extended time can be exhausting. Hanging it on the wall or laying it on the ground is an option, but when all of a sudden the game appears you could have trouble grabbing your bow and nocking an arrow, because you have to move and could make a noise. Primos' bow holster is a nice and inexpensive accessory that solves this problem.

Just place the strap through your belt and snap it to the desired length. Then secure the leg strap, drop your cam into the cup and relax your arm while standing in the blind or on the 3D range. The cam cup is padded and will not allow the cam to dig into your leg. It is also oversized to fit all cams. You can adjust the bow holster to five different lengths.

I use my holster every time I use my bow, because it keeps my arm relaxed and I can remain still. Check it out at [www.primos.com](http://www.primos.com).

