

Firenock Review by Robert Jackson , September, 2007

Firenock v1.5

My Firenocks arrived today as well. Here is my initial review.

Quality product through out. I shoot Gold Tip XT Hunters so I opted for the 1.5v Firenocks since they use actual GT nocks. I'm very picky when it comes to nock quality and have always liked original GT nocks over any others.

After a read and study of the instructions I proceeded to install the Extreme Shock Battery End Cap. Again a quality product. Installation was spot on exactly as the clear instructions described. By the way, the instructions are very clear with excellent color photos to show exactly what you are looking at and the procedures of installations. No cheesy black and white instructions on poor quality print.

After carefully studying the battery installation I put one together. First operator error. Great instructions, I just didn't pay attention and was confused on battery install. I resorted to the pictures...an oh-yeah moment and the battery was installed. After checking the operation with the actuator I installed the included battery o-ring. Another quality item not included in the competitors products. The 0-ring helps keep the assembly centered and vibration free. Great idea

I quickly installed the actuator, in the wrong place. Operator error #2. I'm using a Mathews Drop-A-Way rest. If you place the actuator on the prong arm, the Firenock will not light up when shooting. After 3 shots I decided to move the actuator to the side of my rest at berger button level and perfection. The Firenock lights up every shot and there is plenty of distance between the actuator and arrow tip.

It amazed me how bright these nocks are. I shot in my garage in mid day and it actually hurt my eyes to stare at the end of the Firenock. The down side is the clear arrow path will show you any flaw in your shooting as well. I could clearly trace the arrow and knew if I was torquing my bow hard. Hunting aside they make a great training aid.

Tomorrow I'll get to the range for some long range shooting. I can't find any flaws in design and construction so lets see how they perform at the range. To be continued...

ON THE RANGE

Shot the Firenock today at 20, 30 and 40 yards.

I first shot my normal set up to get a bench mark POI.

At 20 yards - The Firenocks POI was about the same. Maybe a touch low but it might have been me. No issues with using them at 20 yards.

At 30 yards - The Firenocks POI was about an inch lower than my normal arrows. Still in the kill zone for me. If I could consistently shoot 1" groups at 30, I'd be a pro shooter.

At 40 yards - The POI was about 3" lower. The first notice of major POI difference. I shot a few more times to verify and made a gang site adjustment to bring the 40 yard POI up. Once I was dialed in with the Firenock arrows I shot my normal set up and they were about 3-4" high as expected.

Back to 30 yards - Dead on with Firenocks.

Back to 20 yards - A touch high. Maybe .5" higher than my normal set up.

Most of the test shooting was with the practice nocks. I did shoot an actual Firenock and the POI was spot on with the practice nocks.

So they don't decrease or increase accuracy. My fears of low FOC are gone and I was happy with the performance.

The light was very visible under most situations. I did loose the Firenock when in total sunlight except when the arrow arcs at eye level. It allowed me to find and track the arrow to the target. I was shooting at a white back stop and realized this gave an advantage to the Firenock. I moved to our range tower and shot the Firenock into a dark grey backstop and could easily trace the arrow flight under all conditions. I shot the nock with the sun in my face with an arrow path into the shadows and could easily trace the arrow to the POI. It was distracting at first but after a few shots it was no issue and actually ensured a longer follow through. I concentrated on the nock until impact holding my bow arm up with out thought. An added plus I'd not expected since I do have a bad habit of dropping my bow arm too quickly at times.

What gives them a stamp of approval for me was shooting from an elevated tower at 10, 20 and 25 yards. This is my average hunting set up and the POI was dead on every time. Although most of my shots, 3 to 1, were with the practice nocks, the Firenock activated every time when shot. It was more visible from an elevated shot than at ground level as well.

I can't wait to get the final test done this season. I killed two does last year and could not honestly say were I hit them at the time. Not any longer, it will be a great piece of mind seeing the impact this season.

Team 4, Oak Tree Assassins
of Mathews Hunting Contest