

the limb so that they meet at (B), and do this also with the upper limb, starting from (D). Working back from (B) at each end, find the point (E) where the width of the longitudinal lines equals the depth-to-be of the limbs: half an inch. Mark in the line (E) and from this point on both limbs carry a straight line to (G) and (H) which are each exactly one-quarter inch from (B). The final shape will be as shown on page 159. Repeat the design on the back of the stave and very carefully mark on each of the two sides the depth-line of half an inch from the surface of the belly. The lower limb should be slightly thicker than the upper. The cutaway at the handle at (C) and (D) is one-quarter inch on each side.

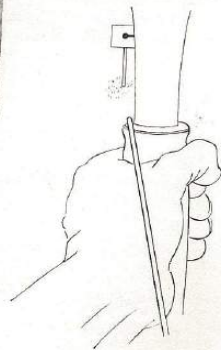
The next step is to fit the handle-riser, which should be a length of good, tough hardwood some ten and a half by one and one-eighth inches. First with a tenon saw cut each end down to a narrow wedge shape, so making easier the work of shaping down the ends into the stave when it is in place. Use a casein glue such as *Casco Grade A* and keep under clamps forty-eight hours, positioning the riser equally over (C) and (D). When the clamps are off, countersink two steel screws through the belly side of the riser so that they half penetrate the stave itself. Disguise with plastic wood. Professional bowyers never descend to this; most amateur bowyers do, even if they only confess to it under pressure and in the lurking belief, not yet discarded by the writer, that professional bowyers use a secret glue. Whatever they use, they make a magnificent job of it.

When you have cut your bow to the correct dimensions, round off the riser so that it fits comfortably into the hand and add, if you will, at the centre of the handle an arrow-rest which you can carve from a slip of wood and glue to the side. Take in the nocks with a round file at about half an inch from the tip of each limb and string the bow no more than three or four inches.

There are many ways of stringing a bow, some calling for



SHOOTING AT 50 YARDS



THE AIM

The black pin of the bowsight is aligned with the centre of the target, altered here for clarity. The pile of the arrow points well beneath.

