

About Routed Channel Siloflex APDs

By Ingilborg Sigmundardottir of Caid

(With thanks to Mordrake the Obnoxious, Outlands, for providing many of these photos and diagrams for me!)





The Routed Channel Siloflex APD is intended to be used on light handbow combat archery (fiberglass) arrows, and light crossbow bolts. It is being replaced by the Asgard APD in many areas. However, the Asgard APD cannot be used if you are a left handed archer—you must use the Routed Channel Siloflex APD. The Routed Channel Siloflex APD is also an item that you can make at home, providing you have a workshop with some simple tools.

This article is not intended to cover how to make the Routed Channel APDs. If you wish to see how the Routed Channel APD is to be made, please visit Tessa the Huntress's site www.combat-archery.com.

Getting Started: Nocks

Society approval is for Arizona HT nocks, manufactured by Arizona Archery Enterprises of Prescott, Arizona. These can be bought at most archery shops or ordered online. Arizona HT nocks are approved over other nocks due to their superior breakage resistance, so do yourself a favor and use them. It is NOT easy to replace a broken nock

on a combat archery arrow without having to cut off the Routed Channel APD and start all over again. Do yourself a favor. Prevent this problem before it starts.

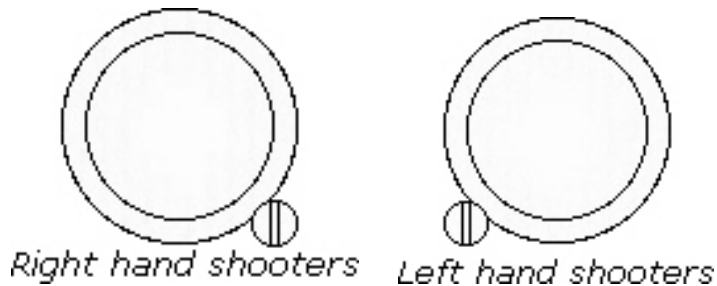
Order the 16/64 size Arizona HT nock in whatever color you like. This is an “out” nock, ie it is designed to fit over the end of a carbon arrow shaft without tapering the shaft. It will fit ¼” diameter fiberglass shafts just fine.

Use cyanoacrylic GEL glue, not Fletch Tite or others (they’ll melt the plastic and distort your nock). Sir Erika uses “Quicktite” brand gel glue, available in any home improvement store throughout the country. Remember, it doesn’t take a lot of glue to put on a nock, so save your pennies and mess and take it easy!! Wipe your fiberglass shafts clean with acetone (not nail polish remover as it is not made of acetone any more) and then sand them lightly to rough them up. Then put a SMALL amount of gel glue in your Arizona HT nock and put it on. While holding the nock in place, take a little more glue and run a bead of it around the base of the nock, so that it overlaps the nock edge and the fiberglass shaft. Then set aside the arrows to dry.

Next: Install your Routed Channel Siloflex APD.

Remember, Society rule mandates that a nock cannot protrude any further than one half inch past the end of the APD. Please check this carefully as a half inch isn’t much. You do not want all of your hard work to go to naught when the Marshal flunks your arrows as an eye penetration hazard, nor do you want an eye penetration on your conscience.

Look at the diagrams below very carefully to see how the Routed Channel Siloflex APD must be oriented to the nock. This is the major headache of the Routed Channel Siloflex APD. You MUST align the APD with the nock correctly—if you don’t the APD will simply slam against your bow when you release the arrow and the arrow will fall at your feet. Not fun. Often you must build up your bow shelf anyway—tape has a nasty tendency to stick to arrow rests, especially rubber arrow rests commonly found on fiberglass (“Irish Spring”) handbows.



All right, you're ready to begin installing your APDs.

Gluing:

Get comfortable at your table, put on some nice music. First thing you'll want to do is to (temporarily) glue your APDs in place, to make taping them easier.

The type of glue you use doesn't really matter that much, as nothing really reliably will bond to Siloflex. You can use a hot glue gun if you have one, or the same cyanoacrylic gel glue you used to put the nocks on, as part of the APD is going to go over the top of the nock.

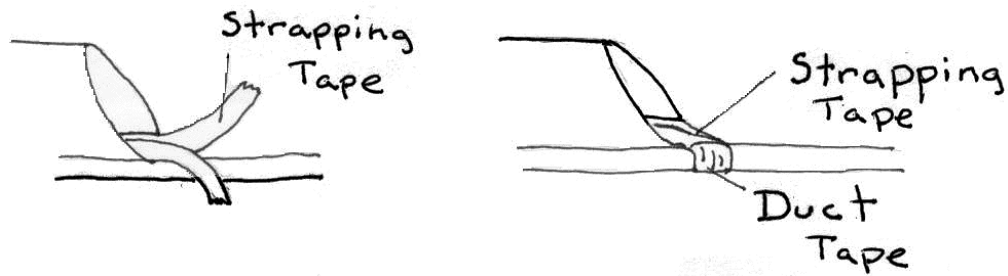
Fill the channel of the Routed Channel Siloflex APD with glue of your choice. Press it into place, making sure 1. that it's oriented correctly; and 2. that no more than a half inch of nock protrudes past it. Then run a bead of hot glue or cyanoacrylic gel glue along both sides of the outside of the channel (similar to what you did with the nock) making a glue seal along the edge of the APD and fiberglass shaft. Then I clamp the APD in place (with a clothespin or two) and let it dry before I begin taping.

Taping:

Use good quality monofilament strapping tape: Scotch 3M is recommended and I just won't use anything else. If you use cheap tape you can save a few dimes at the register but you'll very soon find yourself restrapping your APDs when the cheap adhesive in the tape fails. It's your choice. "Nuff said.

Pull some strips of your 1" tape about 6 inches long: it needs to go about 3 inches beyond the APD. Split this tape in half longitudinally to make it very long and thin. This is easy to do; just cut a notch in the tape end and pull it apart between the filaments. Each arrow needs two thin strips (one strip off the roll).

Here is a diagram of what you are trying to do to secure the APD to the arrow shaft:



It looks a little confusing but bear with me. Take one of the thin strips and poke it through the inside of the APD. Wind one end around the nock as close to the APD as you can get it. Wind the other around the shaft of the arrow, again as close to the APD as you can get it—fingernails help. Then take the OTHER thin strip and poke it through also and wind it too, but in the OPPOSITE direction as the first winding. Keep it as close to the APD as you can. The strips will actually make a little X for you as they wind around the shaft and nock.

Next, pull another whole strip of strapping tape and wrap over the top of the APD and shaft—this secures it in place. Like this. Nice job.



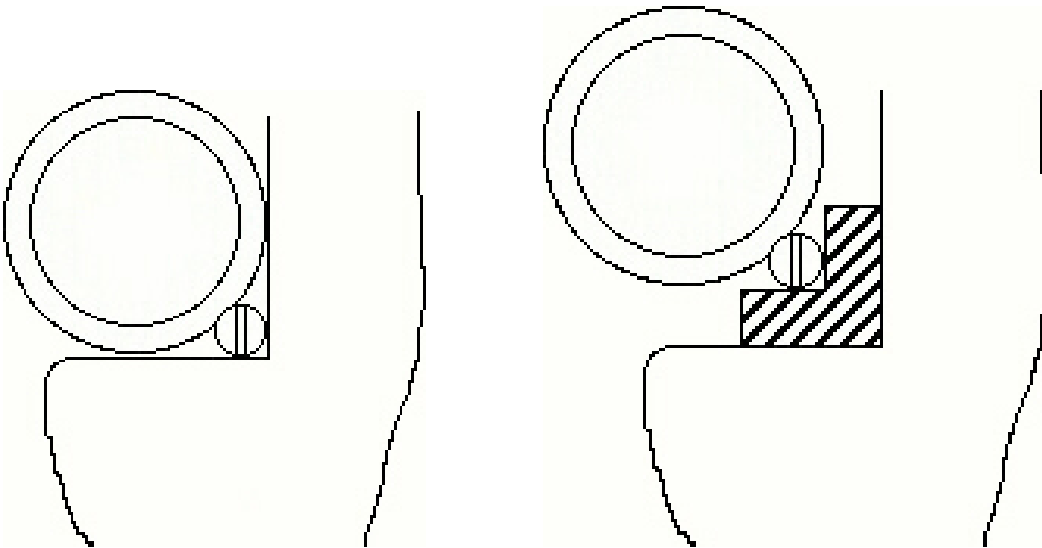
If you are fashion conscious you can cover the strapping tape with electrical or duct tape in color of your choice.

Here's a nicely completed arrow:



Shooting: It Hits the Bow and/or Sticks on the Bow Shelf.

This is a commonly encountered problem with Routed Channel Siloflex APDs. To solve it, you need to build up your bow shelf a little. Use leather or something like it that tape won't stick to. Here are some ideas:



Happy Combat Archery!!