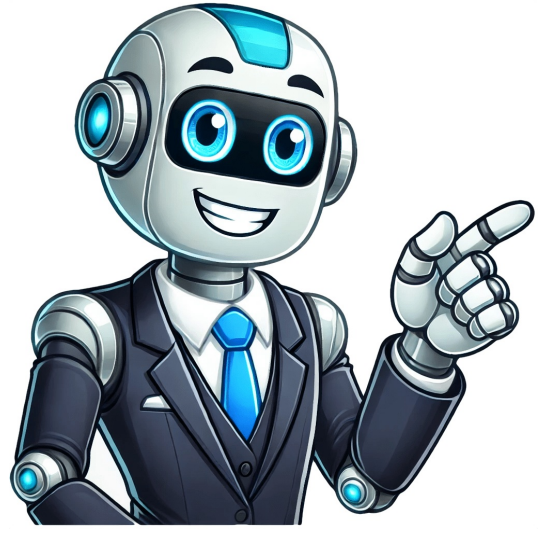


I'm not a bot





I've gone through the very expensive trial-and-error process of shooting nearly every hunting arrow. Many of them were good—and some sucked—but if I had to choose one, it would be the Easton Axis 5mm. It has the durability, tight tolerances, small diameter, and reasonable price I look for in a hunting arrow. But is it the best hunting arrow for you? Here's the info you need to make the call. Spine: 260 to 700Grains per inch: 9.5 (340 spine)Outside diameter: .267 inchesInside diameter: .204 inchesStraightness: .001 inchesNock size: X nock Easton has smartly created Axis shafts in spines and models that will work for any archer or bowhunter. Whether you're on a tight budget or want to build a Gucci setup, there's an Axis for you. And if you're a short draw or a heavy bow shooter, there's also an Axis for you. No matter which model you go with, they all share the same key features. Here are some of the features that make the Easton Axis one of the best arrows for hunting. Axis shafts don't use the insert you commonly see in 5/16 inch diameter arrows. They use Easton's Hidden Insert System. The inserts are seated a little inside the shaft using the tool provided with your arrows. This allows the use of standard field points in a small diameter arrow, without needing to use a halfcut. The main benefit of a HIT is that it aligns the point or broadhead with the inner diameter of the arrow shaft, which increases consistency and you'll have fewer problems getting broadheads to spin true. The standard Easton Axis 5mm has a .003 straightness tolerance. The more expensive Axis Pro has a .001 straightness tolerance. The least expensive in the lineup is 5mm Axis Sport in .006 straightness. I recommend the Axis Sport for short-draw archers who will cut off a large part of the shaft, since the straightness run out will worsen toward the shaft's ends. The outer diameter of an Easton Axis ranges from .245 inches in the 700 spine to .280 inches in the 260 spine. It's not the smallest diameter shaft, but it is smaller than a standard carbon arrow. For perspective, the inner diameter of a standard carbon arrow is .245 inches, so you can fit a 700 spine Axis inside one. The smaller diameter reduces wind drift and aids in creating a more durable shaft thanks to the thicker wall. Archers shooting 35 to 80 pounds will find an Axis spine that fits their bow. The lightest spine the Axis shafts are available in is 700, which will work for all but the lightest draw weight compound bows. The stiffest spine is a 260, which is sold at a 34-inch stock length. That spine will work well for long draw archers, heavy bow weights, and anyone that wants to load up the front of their arrow with a ton of weight. The Axis, of course, comes in all the spine sizes in between, like the always popular 400 and 340. The 340 spine Easton Axis weighs 9.5 grains per inch. That means a 28-inch (carbon to carbon) bare shaft will weigh 266 grains. If you build that arrow with a 100-grain point, you'll end up with a 400 to 450-grain arrow depending on your components—a good medium-weight arrow. But let's say you want to build a slightly heavier arrow. You can use a 300 spine Axis at 10.7 grains per inch to give you a starting weight of 300 grains. With a brass HIT insert and the same 100-grain point, you'll be in the 500 to 550-grain range. The author used the Ram Spine Tester to verify the Axis straightness and spine consistency. Scott Einsmann I've shot the Easton Axis and its variants for years while bowhunting and shooting 3D. They always grouped well at distance in my experience, and I've had very few flyers. Bowhunters will appreciate knowing that, as long as the broadhead wasn't the problem, I've never had an issue aligning the shaft and broadhead. Good broadhead flight and tiny groups are the result of tight tolerances. But some arrow specs are important; others, not so much. Most people won't notice a five grain difference between arrows. Yet most people can shoot the difference between a 300 and 350 spine arrow, especially when shooting broadheads. With my Ram Arrow Spine Tester, I can test the Axis shafts' straightness and spine consistency. The packaging on my Match Grade Axis claims a .001 straightness. The .001 spec is inches of deflection. When I tested the Axis shafts, many of my arrows were not at the advertised .001 spec. They were .0005, which is straighter than advertised. Well done, Easton. For spine testing, I used the ATA standard 1.94-pound weight and 28-inch span. I checked the spine of each arrow around the entire circumference of the shaft. The average spine on my 340 spine was in fact 340 with an average of .002 change around the circumference. That's a very consistent spine across a dozen shafts that cost about \$150 a dozen. If you shoot enough, you'll eventually miss. You'll appreciate a more durable arrow when you do. Most people consider reduced wind drift and increased penetration the top advantages of small diameter arrows. But to me, the advantage is you get a thicker wall than the same spine standard diameter arrow. For example, the wall on my Axis 340 is .063 inches, and an Easton AC-Carbon Bowhunter has a wall thickness of .053 inches. That thicker wall means more durability. So if you're smashing through bone or into the cambium of an oak tree, you'll stand a better chance that your arrow will survive the impact. Easton Axis arrows are durable but they do have a weak point. The area between the hidden insert and the end of the shaft is bare carbon with no added support. It's prone to cracking or mushrooming. To be clear, I've shot through a lot of deer with Axis and other Easton arrows with a HIT insert without issue. The issues I've had with breakage were mostly from hitting rocks, points left in 3D targets, and the occasional tree. Iron Will has a solution for making Axis arrows indestructible. They make a sleeve that slides over the end of the shaft to reinforce that end of the arrow. They're so durable that I shot an arrow into an iron buck target—with my recurve—and the arrow just bounced off with no damage other than a missing nock. The components of the author's preferred Easton Axis build. Scott Einsmann All my Axis builds have Iron Will impact collars. I've been hunting with the same set for two years now. They've survived shooting deer, stump shooting, 3D courses, and being dug out of a few trees. All that I've done is change nocks and refletch when necessary. I find the added cost is worth the longevity the collars give my arrows. Another addition I make to all my Easton Axis arrows are Beiter hunter nocks. The Easton X nocks that come with the shafts work fine, but years of tournament archery experience has shown me that good nocks are a worthwhile investment. Beiters all come from the same mold, so you'll get a precise and consistent nock fit from each one. They also last longer than other nocks I've tested. My current go-to fletching configuration is an AAE Hybrid 26 fletched with an Arizona E-Z Fletch Mini Max jig. The result is a quiet vane fletched with an extreme helical. In my opinion, it's the ideal close to mid-range fletching because they stabilize an arrow quickly and have plenty of correction for fixed blade broadheads. Easton has several shafts in their Axis line, and I like most of them. The only Axis shaft that I personally don't recommend is the FMJ. While I embrace the benefits of an aluminum-carbon shaft (I shoot pro competitions for target archery), I don't like arrows that can bend and come out of spec for hunting. While the FMJs are robust, I don't think their benefits outweigh the potential drawbacks, especially when all-carbon arrows are so good. I also don't prefer the Axis shafts that are smaller in diameter than the 5mm because they require Deep Six components, which use a different thread pattern than standard broadheads and field points. It's not that the Deep Six is a poor design—it's that I don't want to buy new broadheads to add to my pile of hunting gear. From left to right: Easton Axis fletched with AAE Hybrid 26, Axis with an Iron Will collar and broadhead, Axis fletched with feathers, Axis without impact collar. Scott Einsmann The Easton Axis is the perfect happy medium arrow. It'll work well for just about any application and excels at standard archery hunting distances (20 to 40 yards). You can easily build an arrow weighing 450 to 600 grains by adjusting your spine and point weight. They're also tough as nails with an Iron Will collar and they offer a lot of value for their price. If you don't want to fork over the extra \$70 a dozen for Iron Will collars, the Axis shaft is prone to splintering or mushroom at the tip. I think the best way for Easton to improve on the Axis is to offer a precision-machined collar as an optional component. It's worth noting that Easton does have a halfcut for the Axis shafts, but my previous experience with halfcuts from other companies has left me skeptical of their durability and ability to spin true. The Axis isn't the perfect arrow for shooting long ranges due to its diameter. Other arrows like the Black Eagle X-Impact (.228 outer diameter) will have less wind drift and have quality components. In the words of well-known bowhunter, Aron Snyder, "Pick an arrow that works for you, buy three dozen, and turn off Instagram." For me, it's the Easton Axis arrow. It's my top recommendation if you want an arrow shaft that will last multiple seasons and has extremely tight tolerances. OregonDanny2025-03-04T01:04:43+00:00 The Easton AXIS series represents the pinnacle of small-diameter carbon arrow technology, engineered for hunters and archers who demand the highest levels of penetration, speed, and accuracy. Built with Easton's legendary 100% carbon technology, these arrows offer unmatched durability and straightness retention. The entire AXIS lineup is designed to deliver deep penetration thanks to their micro-diameter profile, which reduces friction and wind drift, ensuring that broadheads hit the mark more consistently. The AXIS 5mm arrows at +/- .003" are the foundation of the series, balancing speed, penetration, and durability. The AXIS Match Grade arrows elevate precision to the highest level with a match-grade straightness of ±.001", making them the choice for hunters and competitive archers seeking the ultimate in performance and consistency. The AXIS Sport (SPT) version is designed for archers with shorter draw lengths or lighter-poundage bows, offering a more affordable entry into the AXIS family without sacrificing performance. They're compatible with all AXIS components, making them versatile for various setups. Each variant in the AXIS line is designed with specific features to enhance field performance, from the standard model's broad utility to the Match Grade's elite accuracy and the Sport's value-oriented design for those with specific draw and poundage needs. The AXIS series ensures that there's a high-performance, small-diameter arrow for every archer's requirements. Some of the links in this article may be affiliate links, which can provide compensation to us at no cost to you if you decide make a purchase. These are products we've personally used and stand behind. California hunting provides numerous opportunities for big game species such as elk, antelope, bighorn sheep, pronghorn, wild pig, and bear. Residents can also hunt for Tule Elk, a unique subspecies that is smaller than the more commonly-known Rocky Mountain Elk. However, nonresidents have limited options for big game hunting in California outside of deer. Tags for several big game species, including elk, pronghorn, bighorn sheep, and premium deer hunts, are issued through the big game drawing, which is available from April 15 to June 2. Hunters must have an annual hunting license and species-specific tags to hunt big game. Hunters may apply for the big game drawing through the Online License Service of the California Division of Fish and Wildlife. California is home to a diverse range of big game species, including deer, elk, antelope, and bears. Deer species can be found all throughout the state, while elk hunting permits are limited but worthwhile when obtained. Antelope is limited to northeastern California, and bears are only available to hunt during the same seasons as deer. Over-the-counter tags are available for black bears, although there are several restrictions such as not being able to hunt with dogs or bait. Track Your Applications in OnPointCalifornia uses a Modified Preference Points system. Hunters earn points for each year they apply for a hunting tag but are not drawn. Preference points in this system work as in a standard preference system. However in the Modified Preference Point System, tag quotas for each species are split into two portions: one portion awarded by preference point drawings, the other awarded in draw-by-choice drawings. For deer, hunters must apply for the premium deer tag drawing but not be drawn for their first choice premium tag to earn a preference point. They can also elect to only purchase a point. If a hunter is drawn for their first choice, their preference points for that species will be reset to zero. If a hunter is successful in the deer drawing for their second or third choice, they will not use their points and will also earn one preference point. For elk, pronghorn, and bighorn sheep, hunters earn one preference point for each species they apply for but are not drawn for the tag, or if they choose to purchase a point only. If a hunter receives a tag, they lose all accumulated preference points for that species. If a hunter is drawn for a tag of one of these species but do not purchase the tag, they do not lose their preference points for that species. Hunters lose all accumulated preference points for any species if they do not participate in the drawing for five consecutive years. SpeciesPoint TypeResidencyElkPreferenceBothPronghornPreferenceBothBighorn SheepPreferenceBothDeerPreferenceBothPoints can only be acquired through the annual draw. An Annual Hunting License is required to apply in the California Big Game Draw, including for purchasing a point only. An application fee is applied per species for elk, pronghorn, and sheep, including for points-only purchases. General License Fees ItemResident PriceNon-Resident PriceAnnual Hunting licenses\$4,00\$189.74 Species Specific Fees ItemResident PriceNon-Resident Price Elk Tag\$512,05\$1,568.05 Pronghorn Antelope Tag\$172,29\$527.50 Deer Tag - 1st\$35,3\$8317.00 Deer Tag - 2nd\$44,2\$8317.00 Application Fee per species (Elk, Pronghorn Antelope, Bighorn Sheep)\$8,13\$813.13 Bear Tag\$52,41\$334.05 Bighorn Sheep Tag\$468,7\$51,736.75 Hunters Education Hunters Education is required for all individuals, regardless of age. Alternatively, a hunter can provide a hunting license issued by another state within the past two years. These must be must be entered by a license agent. Age Restrictions To be eligible to hunt deer, elk, or antelope, hunters need to be at least 12 years old by July 1st. For bighorn sheep hunting, the minimum age requirement is 16 years old by the same date. Archery Limitations Mechanical broadheads and lighted nocks are allowed. Crossbows cannot be used during the archery seasons unless you possess a disabled archer permit In California, group applications are allowed for deer, elk, and antelope. Applicants may either join an existing group or create a new one, with the group leader receiving a unique Party Number. Deer - up to 6 members applications are allowed per group, including both residents and non-residents. Elk and Antelope - limited to 2 group applicants, residents only Sheep - Group applications are not permitted Easton 5mm Axis arrows previously called Easton ST Axis N-Fused Arrows. Easton exclusive N-Fused carbon utilizes Hybtonite carbon nanotube infusion to create a stronger, hard-hitting AXIS arrow and we cut your arrow to length for free.Carbon nanotubes are the strongest, lightest substance known to exist. The superior mechanical properties of Nanotube Hybtonite resin produce lightweight arrows with increased strength and built-in vibration control. Easton enlisted the world's leading nanotechnology experts to develop molecularly bonded carbon nanotubes combined in the first arrows ever with nano-fused construction. 5mm Axis arrows with factory installed "X" nocks with HIT insert, chamfer stone, installation tool and HIT 2 part epoxy New nano-infused or n-fused carbon 5mm Axis arrows yield higher strength to provide archers a more powerful version of the world's best bowhunting ammunition New n-fused carbon Axis arrows yield higher strength and built in vibration control to provide archers a more powerful version of the world's best bowhunting ammunition. Easton Carbon nanotubes are 18 times stronger than Kevlar. 182 times stronger than steel. N-Fused Carbon 5mm Axis Arrows featureHidden Insert Technology aligns broadheads for tighter groupsSmall profile for deeper penetrationThicker wall for more durabilityHIT alignment for broadhead accuracyStraightness: +/- .003" guaranteedWeight tolerance: +/- 2.0 grainsHigh-strength nanotube infused carbon composite fibres for exceptional durability and hoop strengthSlim Tech small diameter and unidirectional carbon fiber coreN-fused micro smooth finish reduces wear on the arrow rest and provides quiet draw and releaseInternal-fit X Nock installedHIT insert, chamfer stone, installation tool, HIT epoxy includedPoints and broadhead adapter rings sold separately Note - one size HIT insert fits all 5mm Axis shaft sizesNanotubes are 18 times stronger than KevlarNanotubes are 182 times stronger than steelPenetration Rating (PR) is a simple measure of hunting arrow performance when comparing shafts of equal spine or stiffness. PR is calculated by taking the weight of the shaft in grains per inch (gpi) divided by the frontal area of the shaft in square inches (gpi/in²). PR is an effective measure of the penetration ability of a hunting shaft, taking into account the diameter and weight relationship. Laboratory testing shows the higher the PR, the deeper the arrows penetrate into test materials. Measured for 300 spine shafts, the PR for the following shafts is - FMJ Dangerous Game 251, FMJ 194, 5mm Axis 173, Epic 162, Regular Carbon 154Black, micro-smooth finishAvailable in 600, 500, 400, 340, 300, 260, 200 shaft sizes. Please specify shaft sizeArrows can be cut to your precise shaft length at no additional charge. Please specify the length of your arrow. If you leave this field blank, your arrows will be shipped uncut at full length. If you are unsure, please include your request in Step 2 of the Checkout process when ordering and we will contact you to assist you in selecting the correct length required5mm Axis - the world's first shaft with Carbon Nanotubes - Magnum ammunition for your bow. The favourite choice for serious bowhunters looking for deep penetrating big game performance. New Axis arrows are the first ever to utilise carbon nanotubes for increased strength compared to ordinary carbon arrows. Get the new 5mm Axis n-fused micro smooth surface for a quiet draw, smooth surface for a quiet draw, and to create a stronger, hard hitting Axis.Please note that arrows usually take 2-3 days to fletch. One of the cool things about archery are the processes around it. On one hand, it's science. You are dealing with physics, aerodynamics and energy transfers. On the other hand, it's an art; a human working with machines. Your form, mental state and decision-making all factors into the equation of a perfect shot. Bowhunting and archery terms can get technical. Arrow spine is one of those terms that can seem technical on the surface, but can be easily explained. Here is what arrow spine means and how it affects the flight of your hunting arrow. Arrow SpineThe spine rating of an arrow is simply a measurement of its stiffness. The same Easton arrow comes in a variety of stiffness: the lower the number, the stiffer the arrow. For example, a 330 arrow is stiffer than a 500 spine arrow. There are two kinds of spine (stick with it, we promise not to get too technical). There's static spine, which is how an arrow reacts when an 880-gram (1.94 lbs.) weight is suspended from the center of the arrow. The arrow must be 29" in length and supported by two points, which are 28" apart. The number of inches the arrow deflects or bends X 1000 due to the weight is the spine size or measurement of an arrow. So, a 500 arrow bends .5-inches when the weight is applied.Then there is dynamic spine, which describes the way an arrow reacts from the stored energy of a bow as it is shot. Too many factors determine the way an arrow is going to react when shot out of the bow, and because of the nearly unlimited variables in determining dynamic spine, Easton hunting arrows are measured using static spine. You can manipulate the dynamic spine of an arrow and make it act stiffer or softer. When you're usually testing the materials as they are prepared for use, minimizes most of the carbon fiber bow string material or adding more strands to the string. Heavier vanes, heavier serving material and/or nocking point and shortening the length of the arrow.Ok, now that we've determined what the spine of a hunting arrow is, why is it important? If you do not have the correct arrow spine for your bow set up, you are going to get erratic arrow flight and poor shooting groups. Having the proper arrow spine is key to optimizing the grouping of your arrows and for the best possible accuracy. Shooting an arrow that is not stiff enough, or a group of arrows that vary in stiffness, will cause you to be less accurate. An under-spined arrow will veer right, while an arrow that is too stiff will favor slightly left.All this said, how do you choose the proper spine of your hunting arrow? Well we have crunched the numbers for you. On nearly every wall of archery shops around the world is the famous Easton arrow selection chart. It's the gold standard when it comes to picking the best hunting arrow. Follow the "variables" portion of the chart carefully, and most of all, provide accurate bow weight (measured!) and accurate draw length data. The main reason a hunter chooses the wrong arrow with the chart is because people often guess at these instead of measuring.The Easton PromiseEaston hunting arrows, produced with our advanced technology and manufacturing processes, deliver uniform spine between all arrow shafts of the same size, and 360 degrees around each shaft. With Easton, you know that your next arrow will fly like the last.Spine is so important to arrow accuracy, Easton goes far beyond the rest of the industry to ensure you receive both the specified spine and matched weight for every shaft produced in a given model. There are reasons Easton shafts have been used to win every Olympic podium since 1984 and set world records. Spine consistency is one of them.Other Notes On Arrow SpineUsually as an arrow weight increases, so does the stiffness. Thus, a heavier arrow will be stiffer.As the largest carbon buyers in the archery industry, Easton works directly with the companies that make the carbon fiber to obtain only select material lots which are as close as possible to the exact stiffness needed for a given design. Using only select materials from the world's premiere carbon fiber manufacturers, the materials as they are prepared for use, minimizes most of the carbon fiber bow string material or adding more strands to the string. Heavier vanes, heavier serving material and/or nocking point and shortening the length of the arrow.Ok, now that we've determined what the spine of a hunting arrow is, why is it important? If you do not have the correct arrow spine for your bow set up, you are going to get erratic arrow flight and poor shooting groups. Having the proper arrow spine is key to optimizing the grouping of your arrows and for the best possible accuracy. 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