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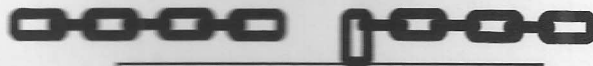
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Bernie's MISSING LINK™
BACK TENSION RELEASE AID



**INSTRUCTION
MANUAL**

072311

OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS FOR BERNIE'S MISSING LINK™

(Directions assume the shooter is right-handed. Reverse for left handed shooters)

Congratulations on your purchase of "Bernie's Missing Link™", (pat.#6,945,241 B2) the finest "draw safe" back tension release on the market today!

NOTE: For safety's sake, always test fire your new release by pulling against a piece of release rope or by test shooting 2 to 3 feet from a target and draw the bow away from your face until you are used to it.

TO LOAD:

Can be shot directly from the hook (B), using a "D loop" on your bow string. *See Figure 1.* Make sure the hook is behind the cam. *See Figure 3.* The NEW SPRING (Q) that replaces the old rubberband system will return it to this position.

Push the piston lever (C) down until it withdraws the piston (P) from the hole (O) in the link (N), and the head "free floats". (Link is disengaged.) *See Figure 4.*

With your middle finger, keep the head upright and attach to your bowstring or "D-loop" *See Figure 5.* After the release is hooked on, then return your middle finger to the handle. The handle (A) will remain disengaged until it's allowed to swivel clockwise, from the 12:00/6:00 position to the 2:00/8:00 posi-

tion (looking at the palm of the hand while the archer is at anchor.) See Figures 6 & 7.

PULL TO ANCHOR:

Use all your fingers (depending on which model) with even, relaxed pressure on all, and a STRAIGHT, relaxed wrist. Also use the adjustable thumb barrel (E) to pull with. See Figure 8. Move the thumb barrel to an angle that's comfortable for your hand.

NOTE: Some shooters may find that if they are already used to shooting a triggerless back tension release that they may be in the habit of pulling with a bent wrist and a lot of pressure on the index finger side of the release. These people may have to get used to pulling this release "straight-wristed", or they'll "link" the handle *before* anchoring.

For best results, at anchor, the release should be held at a 45° angle with the back of your hand towards your face (not against it) and the groove between the 1st and 2nd knuckles locked into the ridge of the jawbone. See Figure 9.

If you hear ANY clicks while drawing, let down and adjust the speed slower. See page 7 "Adjusting the travel".

TO LINK:

While keeping your anchor, rotate the handle with your fingers (not the elbow or shoulder) *counterclockwise* (from the archer's perspective) by keeping good pressure on the thumb and index finger side while releasing ALL pressure on the ring and pinkie fingers. See Figure 10.

Don't be afraid! You might want to think of it as moving the little finger towards the target. The little finger side will rotate about 1 1/2 inches forward. *At first, this will feel like a long way to get to the first click. Don't worry...you'll get used to it.* When the link engages, you will hear a distinctive "click" (sometimes you may hear 2 clicks) as the piston (P) springs into the hole (O) in the link. See Figure 3. Now the head is "linked" to the handle and is ready to fire.

TO FIRE:

NOTE: "Bernie's Missing Link™" comes with a "Click-Cam™" (M), (Standard equipment is a ten thousandths groove on one edge of the cam) which gives a second "click" to let you know when the release is "on the edge" and ready to fire. (Other size "Click-Cams™" are available. Some shooters prefer not to use the "Click-Cam™". If so, see directions on page 7 (Changing the Click-Cam) to find out how to reverse the cam to the smooth, no-click side.

clicker



With the Click-Cam™ (once the release is linked and you heard the first click), slowly rotate the handle with your fingers (not the elbow or shoulder) back toward your original anchor position *clockwise* by applying pressure to the little finger side and releasing some pressure on the thumb side, until you hear the second "click", which is the hook engaging the groove in the Click-Cam™. STOP PULLING... or the release will fire!!

NOTE: If you pull too quickly to the second click, you

may pull past the groove and set the release off, or you may pull well into the groove. This could cause the release to fire too quickly, because you are at the middle or the end of the .010 groove, instead of at the very beginning of it.

While keeping the same pressure on the handle as when you heard the second click, *slowly* rotate your elbow up and behind your head about 1 inch. (It should take about 3 to 4 seconds to fire the release.)

To release properly, do NOT rotate the wrist, or squeeze with the middle, ring or little fingers. (This is called “cranking” or “control punching” and is not shooting with back tension.)

NOTE: For best results, your draw length should be set so your elbow tip is held *naturally* as high (at least) as your nose. See “*The Importance of Back Tension.*”

Without the Click-Cam™ (once the release is linked and you heard the first click.)

Without “cranking” the release, (don’t move the handle by moving the wrist or fingers), rotate your elbow up and behind your head (about 1 inch). The release will fire if you have the edge of the cam positioned close enough to the bottom edge of the hook. *For safety’s sake, always test the release setting by pulling against a piece of string before you attempt to shoot an arrow.*

NOTE: This release is factory pre-set for using a “D-



loop” on your bowstring. The travel is set for using back tension and should fire the release in about 1 inch of travel of your elbow. See page 7 for how to adjust travel.

To Let Down:

If you find the need to let down, even after the click, simply rotate the handle severely counter-clockwise by applying all the pressure to the index and thumb side of the handle.

USE THREAD LOC:

Once you have discovered which cam setting is best for you, put VERY LITTLE *removable* thread loc (Loc-Tite® or other) on the travel adjustment link set screw (L). This assures the screw doesn’t back out or loosen over time, but the screw can still be turned. We do not recommend putting Thread Loc on the cam set screw, (not visible until you loosen the link screw and turn the Dial-a-Cam) but it MUST be as tight as possible. If necessary, put thread loc on both the upper axle (J) and lower axle (K). See *Figures 1 and 2.*

• Proper set-up for shooting with back tension.

Back tension is simply a means to get the string elbow (held at approximately nose level) to move up and back behind the shooter’s head in direct line with the arrow. The elbow typically only moves $\frac{3}{4}$ to 1 inch. The muscle you use is the

Contract rhomboid muscles, string side only. This moves elbow into firing alignment.



