

A Comprehensive Journey through the Bow Drilling Process with Paul Mackinnon, aka Uncle Paulie

(Segment 1 of 9) Pre-Preparations to Ensure Success with the Bow Drill

<https://youtu.be/EmmkBGywTwQ>

Before you end with up with an Ember, you had better taken some pre-preparations ahead of time to receive it properly, so as to turn it into a fire. Without some kind of tinder bundle, fire lay and kindling and fuel to feed it your precious ember will be a waste of hard work. Also, if you forget to place some kind of catchment bark you will not likely bring your ember to ignition either. Want a better chance of success, then heed the steps laid out in this segment!

(Segment 2 of 9) The Components Used in Bow Drill Fire Making

<https://youtu.be/Q8KD3axkvVs>

In this segment, Paul Mackinnon, aka Uncle Paulie, takes you on a tour though all the components you will need to do some proper Bow Drilling from scratch. The 'Bow Drill Set' is comprised of a hearth board, bow, spindle and the bearing block, however, there is more to drilling than the set! Here Paulie covers everything from the loppers used to harvest a bow limb to the petroleum jelly you might use to lubricate the hole in your bearing block and everything in between. Lots of helpful hints that could impact your overall success with the bow drill.

(Segment 3 of 9) Preparing a Hearth Board for Bow Drill Fire Making

<https://youtu.be/ILMXWSyuKHE>

In this segment, Uncle Paulie, explores a longer spindle combined with a brand new bearing block, as he produces a fresh pilot hole and notch in a hearth board that had some work done to it previously. Here we really get into this vital part of the process. Lots of tips to help you eventually carve out your own pilot hole and drill more productively. This rich segment provide some solid drilling tips (body positioning) too as he drills into the hearth board, to form pilot hole, after having removed some material with his knife.

(Segment 4 of 9) Finally! Going for the Ember with Bow Drill Fire #1

<https://youtu.be/G6iqQgct9Vk>

In this segment, it all comes together for the first time, as Uncle Paulie produces his first Ember of the day! Don't be misled by the relative ease at which he experiences success; you will encounter challenges, as he did in the beginning... Remember this is not Uncle Pauley's "first rodeo"! This segment has some great tips you can apply right away to aid in your success drilling. Achieving one Ember takes some considerable energy, therefore, being a little spent, the pursuit of Ember #2 (segment 6) may look more realistic, as a beginner's experience.

(Segment 5 of 9) Producing a Cedar Tinder Bundle to Cradle my Ember and Light my Fire!

<https://youtu.be/Y4GwNf0tnJc>

In this video Uncle Paulie takes the viewer through the process of breaking down cedar bark into various stages. The inner, multifaceted soft cedar ball is perfect to cradle a new ember. To transport and support the ember the outer part of the cedar bundle consists of hard bark broken and woven to produce a doughnut like shape with a handle in this case. Inside of that exterior shell is bark that has been broken down but not to the degree of the soft tinder ball. Don't lose that precious dust if you can help it! Finally, once it does catch - Don't get burned!

(Segment 6 of 9) Bow Drill Fire #2 Resembles More a Beginner's Experience (Frustration and Doubt Captured!)

<https://youtu.be/XF2fexePkHQ>

In this long segment (which was cut down by several minutes), the viewer gets a real sense of the struggle and frustration that often goes hand in hand with Bow Drill Fire Making. As this is Fire #2, Uncle Paulie comes in confident but this soon gives way to fatigue. The viewer gets to see what happens when not enough pressure is applied, removing char from the spindle, the breaking of the Golden Rule to Bow Drilling, adjusting the bow string, opting for the skateboard wheel and perseverance (perhaps the most critical part to Bow Drill Fire Making). This segment is a tough journey but makes the success that much sweeter! Don't ever give up...adjust and keep drilling!

(Segment 7 of 9) Post Game Analysis for Bow Drill Fires #1 & #2

<https://youtu.be/MFRF1jLhYGE>

In this post bow drilling segment, Uncle Paulie takes the viewer through some helpful hints and provides some solid take-aways that should enhance your success. The Spindle is addressed here in more detail than it had been in previous segments. The insights dropped makes this short segment worth watching... Enjoy!

(Segment 8 of 9) Harvesting a Fresh Bow Limb for Bow Drilling

<https://youtu.be/thdzcAyfQ7Q>

In this segment, Uncle Paulie reviews some things to consider when sizing up a bow and then proceeds, loppers in hand, to hunt for one. This video provides some helpful tips to assist you in find the right fit for you... Happy harvesting!

(Segment 9 of 9) Stringing a New Bow for Bow Drilling

<https://youtu.be/8-8noNJKskc>

Paul Mackinnon, aka Uncle Paulie, takes a recently harvested bow limb (segment 8) and shows the viewer some prep steps he completed prior to filming; ie. drilling a hole through the handle. The remainder of the segment depicts the mounting of a string to the bow. Knots showcased include the bowline, the clove hitch and half hitches. Enjoy taking this bowed stick through the progression to a serviceable tool!