



...And Then There Were Two

by Luke L. Hartle
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“Um, hi. I’ll take a Mathews compound bow—the special, please.”

“*For here or to go?*”

“To go, please.”

“*Excellent. Would you like one cam or two?*”

“Huh?”

Yeah, I know. I had the exact same reaction when I heard the news, too. “Mathews” and “dual-cam bows” together in the same sentence—I never thought I’d see the day. But the reality is that day is here and now. And although Mathews has built a solid reputation for themselves based upon the quality and performance of its ever-expanding line of solo-cam compound bows, a move such as this must come with a fair amount of skepticism and confusion. A dual-cam bow, by definition, goes against everything Mathews was founded upon, doesn’t it?

Well, kinda. Sorta. But not really.

A Closer Look

Without going too far into the historical details, Matt McPherson created the first solo-cam bow in 1992, which revolutionized the way archers looked at their bows. This new design eliminated the need for maintaining cam synchronization, thus creating a set-up-and-go bow that required minimal maintenance while maintaining the speed and accuracy many archers were looking for. Between 1992 and 2008, Mathews continued to “tweak” the solo-cam design to create bows that got lighter, quieter, faster, more accurate and more fun to shoot—year after year. In the process, the Mathews name became synonymous with “solo-cam bows,” and many archers developed a “what will they think of next year” attitude.

But even though the solo-cam market was booming, the interest in dual-cam bows didn’t recede. There remained a strong following of archers and bowhunters that desired a dual-cam bow, and various other bow manufacturers continued to develop new technologies and designs to keep up with demand. Were there archers out there who were not shooting a Mathews simply because Mathews was not building a bow that met their needs and desires? Matt McPherson thought so.

The Monster ... Unleashed

And so the McPherson Series Monster was born. I had the rare fortune of attending a media event in Sparta, at Mathews headquarters, in mid October, and got a first-hand look at the new bow. But even before this “secret” was unleashed, I knew there was something big in the works. Why else would outdoor media representatives be asked to gather and discuss new product offerings? Companies come out with new products every year—it’s simply expected. And when Matt McPherson “unveiled” his Monster, a room of antsy archery fanatics fell absolutely silent. Dead silent.

Matt McPherson held a bow of his own creation that not only sported a dual-cam design, but also featured split limbs.

“So, who’s got questions,” Matt asked?

More silence. Everyone in the room had questions, but no one knew where to even begin.

“Now wait a minute,” came the first audible response, “I thought you said you would never make a dual-cam bow.”

Matt readily admitted making a similar statement, but also gave reason for going against his own word ... providing ample proof that he’d put as much thought into the reason for creating the Monster as he had in the actual design development.

“I felt I could make a better dual-cam bow,” Matt stated. “Not doing so simply to preserve my pride would’ve been a disservice to the archery industry.”

Simple enough, eh?

In 1989, Matt McPherson created the Eliminator under the McPherson name which, at that time, was the fastest bow available. For 2009, Mathews bought back the McPherson name—a convenient 20 years later—and decided to build a dual-cam bow under the official title of the McPherson Series Monster by Mathews ... which also holds the title as the fastest bow on the planet for 2009. So technically speaking, the Mathews name is still completely synonymous with solo-cam compound bows. The only difference is that, as a fellow archery fanatic, you now have the option of owning a dual cam bow that incorporates the same smooth, raw power and efficiency Mathews is know for. Are you thinking what I’m thinking? Yup, I’ll take two, please.

...And The Flagship Continues To Sail

As briefly mentioned above, there is an ever-growing group of archers—myself included—who wait with trembling fingers and drooling lips to see what’s new on the Mathews menu each year. And although the Monster immediately stole headlines, the 2009 Mathews Reezen is making waves of equal tide among “solo-camers.”

I thought the Outback was going to impossible to beat. And I was wrong. But then I though the same about the Switchback, Switchback XT, Drenaline and DXT. Wrong,

wrong, wrong and wrong. So when I couldn't stop smiling after launching a few arrows from the Reezen shouldn't have surprised me, but it did.

I'll be the first to admit that there are many "technical" design elements to a bow that I don't understand, and for good reason. I'm a word nerd and not an engineer. I shoot at stuff and then write about it. So upon picking up the Reezen, I couldn't help but notice how much it looked and felt like the DXT ... heck, it even smelled like the DXT. But when I shot it, I noticed the differences: quieter, smoother, faster. More smiles for plenty of Reezens ... er, I mean reasons.

...But Certainly Not Least

Mathews also introduces the Hyperlite new for 2009, which sports a Tiny Tim appearance that yields a Mighty Mouse punch. Specifically, with an axel-to-axel length of less than 30 inches and weighing less than 3.5 pounds, the Hyperlite still produces arrow speed up to 325 fps IBO. I already know what you're thinking—you'll take one of those, too.

Regardless of what you're hungry for, Mathews has something new available in 2009 to tickle your taste buds. Want the fastest, most efficient dual-cam bow on the planet? Snuggle up with a Monster. Looking for a small bow with a big punch? Grab a Hyperlite. Need the most revolutionary solocam available? Mathews has a Reezen or two for you. Give on a shot.