

# **Optimized Arrow Vanes for Broadhead Flight**

Iron Will Outfitters

Results

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#### **Background and Objective**

- An arrow's vanes cause a moment during flight, creating lift when the arrow is at an angle to the airflow, rotating it back on track
- A broadhead is an arrow tip attachment used in hunting, it includes large and sharpened blades to increase target penetration
- These broadheads significantly alter airflow and an arrow's flight when compared to target field points
- Design, iterate, and test a new vane design to improve flight characteristics of broadhead-tipped arrows, marketed towards the hunting community



# **Requirements and Constraints**

- Improve flight characteristics including accuracy, stability, drag, spin-up, and resistance to cross winds in that order over industry competitors
- ✓ Be validated at a range of 40 yards or more
- ✓ Meet the geometric and material dimensions that are industry standard
- ✓ Ensure large scale manufacturability



## Testing Methodology

- 1. Creation of Safety and Test Procedure
- 2. Verify and validate the consistency of the shooting machine
- 3. Benchmark leading industry vane designs
- 4. Used **10** leading profiles and **21** trailing edge designs in a matrix to assess the performance of each alone and combined
- 5. Create initial prototypes and narrow down designs through iterative empirical testing and CFD
- 6. Final Optimization stage to incorporate small design iterations



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#### **Utilizing Computer Simulation (CFD)**

- Utilized SimScale software to refine vane design, integrated findings with experimental data for optimal vane selection
- Confirmed which design attributes have discernible impacts on diverse client specifications
- Optimized the simulation setup and analyzed CFD data for Velocity, Drag, Restoring Torque, and Spin-Up





## Manufacturing

- All vanes were exported from their CAD models used for CFD simulations and laser cut to their exact dimensions
- A Bitzenburger jig was used to attach the vanes onto the bare shafts, ensuring a constant fletching angle and spacing between the vanes





#### Lessons Learned and Challenges

- Logistical challenges to satisfy testing requirements can often be as difficult as technical challenges
- Borrowed equipment may be broken or unavailable, including the highspeed camera we planned on using and the bow itself
- Ensuring the repeatability of your equipment and setup for accurate testing can take multiple testing sessions to properly validate