



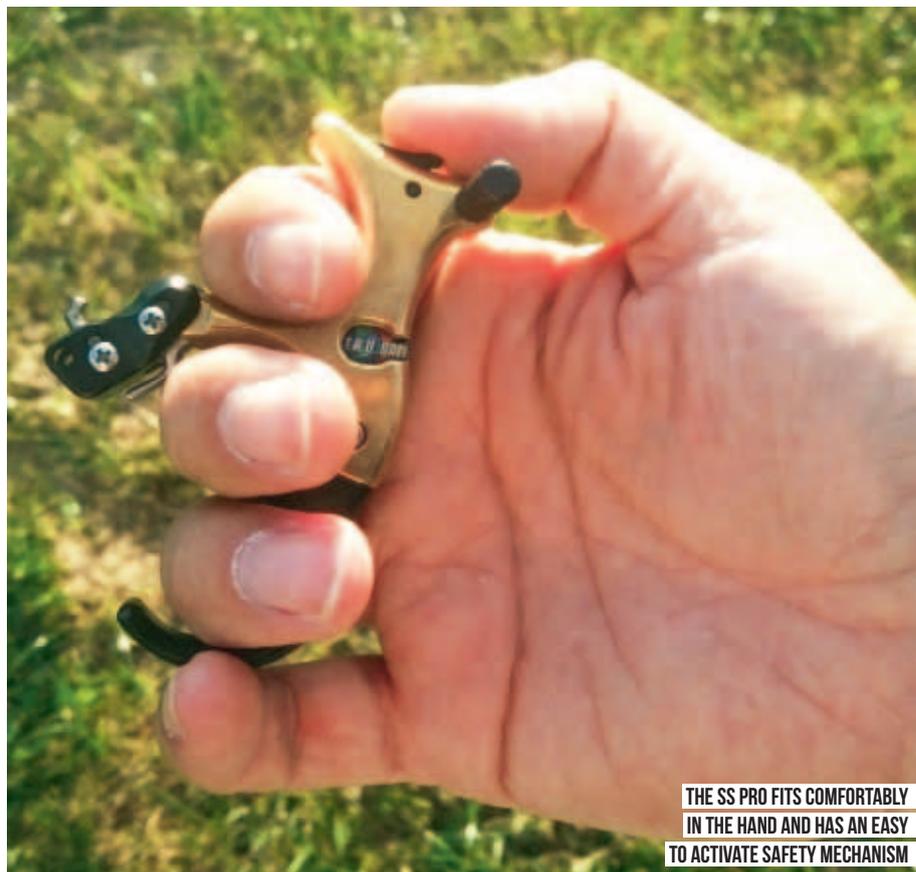
# SWEET SPOT PRO

HINGE-STYLE RELEASE AIDS HAVE BEEN AROUND FOR A LONG TIME — WHAT CAN THE NEWEST ADDITION TO THE MARKET OFFER? DUNCAN BUSBY FINDS OUT

Shooting with a hinge release is considered to be the most consistent and reliable way to learn back tension. However, starting out with this style release aid can sometimes be a bit of a learning curve; hinges are activated by rotating the handle and it's vital to maintain a consistent hand position and pressure in order to activate the release at the right time. Traditionally, hinges are viewed as rather critical to shoot – too much tension in your fingers can cause the release to activate prematurely, and not enough pressure will mean that it'll take forever to go off.

I have come across many archers over the years who have struggled to shoot one; some who cannot pull through the shot and others who have punched themselves in the face after a surprise release. But I now feel T.R.U. Ball has the answer with its new, easy to use and adaptable hinge release; the Sweet Spot Pro.

Based on the ever-popular Sweet Spot, the Pro joins T.R.U. Ball's premium range of solid brass release aids. The addition of this hinge to the line-up reflects the high quality of the release and its solid and robust build. The SS Pro is designed around a hinge mechanism, so works in the same way, but it also features an activator lever which works as a safety device. This additional benefit means that,



THE SS PRO FITS COMFORTABLY IN THE HAND AND HAS AN EASY TO ACTIVATE SAFETY MECHANISM



once activated, you can safely draw the release at any angle without the possibility of it going off unexpectedly. In addition, as the SS Pro provides precise back tension at any angle it means that no matter what pressures you put on the release, once the activator lever is disengaged, the amount of movement needed to execute the release is the same every time.

The Sweet Spot Pro has been re-defined. Not only is the body thinner, with more ergonomic finger placements, but the SS Pro now features an interchangeable handle system. By simply swapping out the handle you can change your release from a two-finger hinge, to a three- or a four-finger version. This interchangeable handle system allows you to customise the feel of your release quickly and easily, and as the handles are the same design as the popular thumb-activated T.R.U. Ball Incredible release you know they'll be a comfortable fit. The additional handle pieces are included with the release aid so there's no extra cost, making the SS Pro the perfect hinge for archers just starting out with a back tension.

Using the Sweet Spot Pro couldn't be easier. Simply push the activator lever forward to draw your bow safely; this allows the head of the release to float freely during the drawing process. Then release the activator when you reach your anchor point and are ready to pull through as you would with any other hinge release.

As I've been shooting a hinge-style back tension for some years now I was eager to try out the Sweet Spot Pro myself, and I was immediately impressed. Its solid brass construction makes it feel solid in the hand and it gave me confidence in the build quality;

something I have come to expect from T.R.U. Ball.

I switched the handle for the three-finger piece, to suit my usual shooting style. This was simple to do and required only the removal of a chunky allen screw; the new handle fitted seamlessly and locked firmly into place.

Next I adjusted the activation speed of the release. I always do this at close range for safety and so I'm not distracted by aiming. This was again very easy to do; pull the hook up with your finger and turn the travel screw, on the back of the release head, anti-clockwise until it pops open and will not hold pressure. Then, to slow down the speed of your release, back the travel screw out  $\frac{1}{4}$  of a turn, making sure that the hook will hold pressure before you draw your bow. Continue backing out the screw in  $\frac{1}{8}$  of a turn increments until you reach your desired setting. Remember to turn the screw clockwise to speed up your release, and always check the sensitivity of your release aid after making any adjustments; I'd advise you do this with a bit of D-loop rope.

After a few adjustments I had the release timed perfectly and was ready to shoot some targets. I've previously used traditional style hinges, which require the archer to hold onto a peg while drawing. But tension in my shot can encourage me to hold onto the handle too tightly, which can hinder my release, so I found the safety mechanism in the Sweet Spot Pro an extremely positive addition – it allowed me to relax my hand and the solid click it made when it was engaged was extremely reassuring. At no point was I unsure whether the activation lever was engaged or not, which gave me a lot of confidence. This is of particular benefit if you

need to draw down; simply shift the pressure onto your index finger, rotating the release towards your thumb, and re-engage the safety. No hinge shooter should ever be nervous to draw down again.

After only a few ends the SS Pro felt very natural to shoot, like I'd been using it for years. Its simplicity and build makes it a dream to shoot with. Even my results improved; my shot timing became more consistent, as the angle I could draw back my bow and the pressure I put into my release became a lot less critical. As a field shooter I'm also excited to see what this release can do around a field course, particularly on some of the extreme angles that make traditional-style hinges a little tricky to use.

T.R.U. Ball is famous for the quality of its release aids; many of the world's best compound archers trust in them when the pressure is on and the Sweet Spot Pro will no doubt become a favourite among the elite. With its ergonomic design and solid brass body it feels and looks as good as it shoots.

The ingenious adjustable design ensures that the SS Pro will suit every archer and it's the perfect hinge release for anyone looking to improve their consistency or start out using back tension. The Sweet Spot Pro is also one of the finest back tension release aids to ever hit the market and I know I'll be adding one to my collection. ☺

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