



# Release your T.R.U. Potential

**Duncan Busby** takes an in-depth look at the T.R.U. Ball HT and some of its trigger alternatives

I have been shooting with a back tension for the last 12 months and have seen a real improvement in my form and consistency. Though I have explained the theory behind this technique in a previous article, I've never explained the reasons behind my choice of release aid, until now...

When I made the decision to switch to a back tension release I researched the products available and tried out as many as I could until I found the perfect one. I was looking for a release aid that felt comfortable and natural in the hand, one that had a smooth, reliable mechanism, and that was also easy to adjust; I chose the T.R.U. Ball HT. So what makes this release so special?

T.R.U. Ball is world-renowned for the high standard of its release aids. In terms of design it has become synonymous with quality and ingenuity, and its products are favoured by many international compound archers. The HT, or Hot Tension, is no exception to this and is my personal choice of back tension.

The HT is a traditional style back tension, by this I mean it uses a hinge mechanism

to activate the release instead of the alternative hook or resistance designs; this is in my opinion the most reliable form of back tension release available today.

The HT is a handheld release and comes in a two, three or four finger options and in two different sizes, medium or large, so whatever your preference you should find the perfect fit. For those of you who are looking for a smaller release the HT also comes in a 'Baby' option; this is the same release but with a slightly smaller handle, which is perfect for juniors or more petite archers.

The HT handle is tapered near the ring and little fingers for an ergonomic feel and a more comfortable fit, and it also features a knurled finish to its handle to ensure that you can keep a firm hold of your release, so even under pressure you won't lose grip.

The thumb peg or safety pin, which prevents the release from firing prematurely, can be fitted into one of two locations for further customisation; this is also textured to ensure that you maintain full control over your release.



The HT Pro is a weighty option - made from solid brass, the weight gives you a smoother feel on the shot

# Equipment



The HT has an ergonomic grip and customisable safety pin

The standard HT is made from super tough aluminium which means that it will last you for many years to come, and is available in black or pink, depending on your style. For those archers who prefer a little more weight in their hand, the gold-coloured HT Pro is made from solid brass and comes in a three or four finger option, in medium or large sizes. The increased weight of this release makes it feel even smoother and gives you a feeling of greater control and confidence in your shot; as a result it has attracted many top archers and is used consistently at major international events.

The true innovation of the HT range is in its release mechanism; in the past I have found the sensitivity of a hinge release hard to fine tune. The half-moon sear, which adjusts the firing speed, is traditionally held in place by a grub screw on the underside of the release, but once loosened it can move too freely, making any fine adjustment very tricky, and then when re-tightened again it can shift out of position, but T.R.U. Ball has solved this problem with the HT micro adjustment mechanism.

Rather than the usual grub screw, the half-moon sear is held in place with a threaded bar (the micro-adjust screw) which is in turn locked into place by a separate locking screw. Adjustments are made by loosening the locking screw and, using an allen key, turning the micro-adjust screw clockwise to speed up the release or anti-clockwise to slow it down. Once this has been set, the locking screw is tightened back down. Simple! The indicator dial on the side of the release



The Absolute 360 features 'Head Centric' technology, which helps eliminate torque

shows its current sensitivity setting, as well the adjustments you are making, so it's quick and easy to do; it is this unique feature which gives this release its name – the Hot Tension.

For those archers who like a clicker on their back tension release, both the HT and the HT Pro come with this option. The click will indicate when the release is close to

firing, so you'll have more control over your release timing. The click can be quickly and easily added or removed by simply turning the half moon sear around.

## The Alternatives

Though I believe the HT is the ultimate in back tension release aids, I understand that this style of shooting is not for everyone, so what trigger releases does T.R.U. Ball have to offer?

## Wrist Releases

T.R.U. Ball offers two target specific wrist releases; the Short N Sweet and the Center X, these are of the same high standard as the HT and are available in a range of customisable options.

The Short N Sweet comes in two different models; the S1 and S2. The S1's trigger is located closer to the bowstring, so shooters can increase their draw length to gain more arrow speed, while the S2 has a swept-back trigger to allow for a relaxed feel and a more natural shot. Both the S1 and S2 have a non-collapsing trigger to limit any movement, which is crucial for an unanticipated shot, and an easy-to-adjust trigger sensitivity so you can customise the feel of your release. The wrist strap is also available in two options; camo-coloured Velcro or a leather buckle strap, depending on your preference.

The Center X also comes in several



The Center X has a 'remarkable' amount of fine adjustment available in the trigger mechanism



The Short N Sweet has a non-collapsing trigger for an unanticipated shot

different models; the G1, G2, S1 and S2. The G and S series differ in their style of wrist strap connector; the G models use a tubular style 'Globo-Swivel' to attach the release to the strap, this swivelling head allows the release to be more rigid without creating any torque, while the S models feature the more traditional fabric web connection, which makes the release far more flexible. Like the Short N Sweet, both the G and S ranges come with the option of either swept back or straight trigger designs, but what makes the Center X even more remarkable is the amount of fine adjustability in the trigger mechanism; T.R.U Ball has incorporated the fine sensitivity and travel adjustments from its ever-popular hand-held trigger range into the Center X, making it one of the most technologically advanced wrist releases available.

### Handheld Releases

T.R.U Ball offers a choice of three target-specific hand held trigger releases; the Absolute Three Sixty, The Boss X and the Incredible. Every one of these models features a 360-degree swivelling head, which allows you to set the angle of your release. This prevents torque or twist in your D-loop and helps to make your shot more consistent and accurate.

The Boss X is simplicity itself, the only release in the range to have a caliper-style head, it's quickly and easily attached to your D-loop and its no-travel trigger gives you consistent trigger pressure from one shot to the next. Available in either a three or four finger tapered handle, both with multi-adjustable thumb trigger positioning, the Boss X is extremely comfortable in the hand and is available in titanium or black colours.

The Absolute Three Sixty is one of the most versatile hand held releases on the market. It comes in either a three- or four-finger tapered handle and has the same multi-adjustable trigger as the Boss X,

the four finger model also comes with the option of a little finger trigger, making it extremely comfortable and versatile. It features Head Centric technology, which allows the head of the release to rock backwards and forwards during the shot.

This helps you to further eliminate torque, maintain a consistent peep height and keep a consistent draw length whatever distance you are shooting. Added to T.R.U Ball's super-crisp internal mechanism and micro-adjust trigger sensitivity this release is truly formidable.

Finally, the Incredible is the latest trigger release from T.R.U Ball and is its flagship handheld model. It incorporates both the 360-degree head swivel and the Head Centric technologies from the other hand held releases along with a few other refinements of its own. The cocking lever on the Incredible has been moved from the bottom of the release to just above the trigger, which prevents interference during your shot and makes re-cocking much quicker and easier. It is available in a two-, three- or four-finger option and its interchangeable handle section allows you to effortlessly switch between them all, so you can completely alter the feel of your release without having to buy a new one each time. Its release mechanism has been enhanced to make it the crispest zero travel release available today, and its unique adjustable position trigger makes this the most customisable hand-held trigger release you can get.

The models I have covered here are just a few in the incredible range that T.R.U Ball has to offer, so whether you prefer shooting with a back tension, a trigger, a handheld or a wrist release, have a look at T.R.U Ball, it is certain to have a product to suit you no matter what your style or discipline. ☺



The only model in the range to have a caliper-style head, the Boss X is simple to operate, with a no-travel trigger



The latest release, the Incredible features 360-degree head swivel and Head Centric technology, along with a new position for the cocking lever



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