



ARCUS ~S7~

ARCUS

"I have my Arcus gold bow now for 3 days and I have just played my first concert with it: What a pleasure! It allows me to switch from pianissimo to fortissimo without any difficulties, pulls a rich or light sound, provides a perfect contact to the strings and an unmatched security which I have experienced neither in my F.N. Voirin nor in any other bow.

I am sure that over the next days I will discover more new facets in this bow. Bravo for your work."

Orlando Faneite, section leader 2. violins, Orchestre de Chambre Français Albéric Magnard.



"We have just played the Symphony No. 8 from Anton Bruckner, and I was still completely relaxed and fresh afterwards!

With my new ~S8~ it looks like I have finally found the perfect bow, after which I have searched for so many years. My violin sounds so full and brilliant like never before and I am completely enthusiastic about its feel and play: It does what I want, with ultimate promptness and perfect reliability.

Many thanks for this wonderful bow, and for the many years of research and development that opened these fantastic new possibilities."

Jonas Erni, Asst. Principal at the Orchestre de la Suisse Romande, Konzertmeister of the Camerata Switzerland.

"Since discovering Arcus Bows in 2003, we use them in all our concerts and recordings exclusively on the Foghorn Classics label. Our eight bows, a combination of the Concerto and Cadenza models, are well traveled and much loved. We have shared unforgettable moments on five continents with these lovely hand-crafted and high-tech companions."

The Alexander String Quartett
www.asq4.com



"In the sound there is not such a big difference between my Peccatte and my new Arcus S7. Maybe the Peccatte has a more smooth and round sound while the Arcus S7 is more concentrated with stronger high resonances. I find this sound has a fantastic ability to project in large modern concert halls.

What I most appreciate in my Arcus is the speed, the ease of playing and its excellent stability on strings. All this is joined with a beautiful sound and big volume."

Gianluca Apostoli, I Musici di Roma

From world renowned soloists to advancing students - today Arcus bows are in the hands of thousands of musicians around the world. Musicians who wouldn't want to be without their Arcus bow ever again, because it makes playing so much more enjoyable.

For many players discovering the possibilities of these unique bows was quite an adventure. For some it was initially hard to overcome some of their long held prejudices, but almost all of them have retired their wooden bows for good.

Musicians and instruments are quite individual. To be able to offer the ideal bow for every player, we have developed a wide range of bows with significant differences in their handling and in their sound.

Finding the right Arcus bow for you will make you play like never before. Ask your preferred dealer, our international distributors, or us, it will be our greatest pleasure to welcome you into the club of happy Arcus players.

Bernd Müsing



ROUND OR OCTAGONAL

In contrast with the solid sticks of wooden bows, the round and octagonal shapes of Arcus sticks give them specific characteristics. The complex cross section of the octagonal sticks is a result of their round inside. This makes them play in a more agile and lively way. The round sticks have a very regular cross section, which gives them a very even and steady feel. Every player should try both versions to find the best match for their own style of playing.



PURE CARBON SHAFT

We have found a unique way to produce bow shafts that contain the absolute minimum of epoxy but the maximum amount of carbon fiber. This provides a pure carbon surface that is warm and soft to the touch and gives a perfectly secure grip. It is also scratch proof, and playing "col legno" does no harm to the stick.

HOLLOW STICK

Our bows are hollow with a thin wall (just like instruments), and so vibrate much more freely than any with a solid core. It is probably the most difficult way of making a bow, but it provides an unmatched clarity of sound, response and projection.

HAND MADE IN GERMANY

All Arcus bows are entirely made in Germany, with all the love and skills we have developed over more than a decade now. The engraving is made using a small computer controlled machine. Everything else is made completely by hand, from the lamination of the stick to the cutting of the wedges which fix the hairs in place.

TRADITIONAL REHAIR

One thing Arcus bows have in common with historical bowmaking is the hair we use for our bows. We haven't found a material that is better suited to holding the rosin and grabbing the strings than natural horse hair. We also use traditional wooden wedges to mount the hair, so that every repair shop can easily rehair an Arcus bow.



Features



HIGH END CARBON FIBER COMPOSITE

We use carbon fiber materials that are made to our specifications. They come from a leading maker in Europe who provides similar qualities to the designers of space crafts, America Cup yachts, Formula One race cars and many others where quality is more important than price.

LONG LIFE BEARINGS

On traditional bows the screw is only supported by the wood of the shaft, which will wear out with normal use. We use bearings made from a special aluminum-silicon alloy for our bows. These are designed to last forever, and the screw will always turn smoothly and lightly.



SNAKEWOOD FROGS

This wood makes a beautiful contrast with the silvery-grey shade of the shaft. It is also stronger than ebony and the ideal transmitter of vibrations between the shaft and the bowhair.

TITANIUM UNDERSLIDE

All silver and gold-mounted Arcus bows come with a titanium underslide. The combination of this, together with the carbon shaft, gives the most durable fit between frog and stick.

30 YEAR WARRANTY FOR ALL ARCUS BOW STICKS

A "lifelong" warranty is not allowed to be offered in Germany. We also think that the warranty should not be limited to the original owner of a product. But because our bow sticks are virtually indestructible, we like to provide our products with the best possible legal warranty. All other parts are covered with a regular 2 year warranty. Excluded from the warranty are those parts that are subject to regular wear and tear. For example the bow hair, the screw and eyelet or the thumb leather.

Our bows also "never" lose their resiliency, but like every other bow their play and feel depends a lot on a good rehair. If your bow feels "strange" after it is rehaired, please make sure that the thickness of the hair is correct (see page 15/hair gauge).

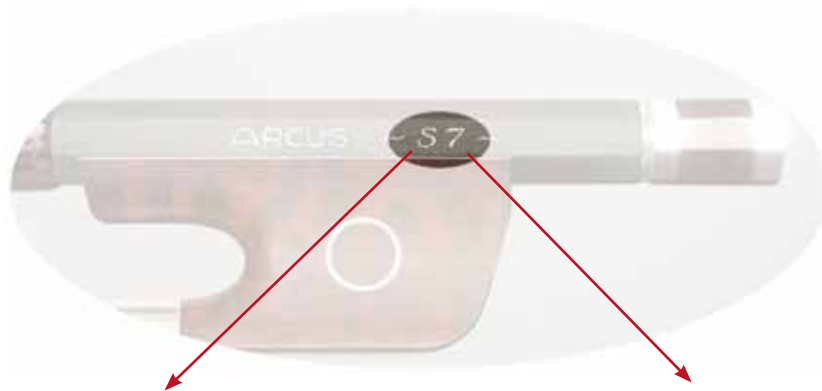
ARCUS BOWS: VERY INDIVIDUAL

THE SERIES AND THE CLASSIFICATION

We have designed specific lines of bows, like the S- and M-Series, for every type of instrument, violin, viola, cello and bass. They differ in their resiliency/stiffness, in their weight, their tuning, feel and play. By choosing different types of fibers and changing their quantity and orientation we are able to modify the properties of the sticks. This is one of the unique advantages of composites over uniform materials like wood or metal.

After molding the sticks, we first check that they do indeed meet the designated properties for weight, balance and resiliency. The next step is rather special: We classify the bow sticks by assessing their sound quality. The differences between sticks made from the same material, by the same hands and in the same process are quite amazing, but can easily be confirmed by playing the finished bows in direct comparison. There are substantial variations in their response, their sound colors, overtones, sweetness and power.

Our basic class-3 bows will already outperform pretty much every other composite bow. The class-4 bows are a match for very high quality wood bows. The finest wood bows we have ever experienced in competition with an Arcus bow could sometimes equal a class-5, but rarely a class-6 bow. The 7- to 9-category bows pull a sound sweeter and more powerful than anything else ever put to a string.



TYPE / SERIES	
S	super-light, super-strong, super-fast, brilliant sound
M	more flexible and heavy, warm, rich sound
P (violin only)	strong as the S-series, weight similar to the M-series, nicely balanced sound

CLASSIFICATION	
9	every once in a while we make a perfect stick
8	the bows of many soloists and principals
7	for all those who seek beauty of sound
6	the primary bow of professional players all round the world
5	great bows for a truly moderate price
4	compare these to some expensive wood bows
3	a significant improvement over "normal" carbon bows

Features

MY ADVANTAGE

SOLOISTS

Battling a full orchestra and entertaining a large hall can be really hard work. An Arcus bow provides you with more powerful playing than you ever thought possible, and faster playing too. The articulation leaves nothing wanting and the projection will help to convince any jaded member of the audience of your musical intentions.

PROFESSIONAL PLAYERS

After playing millions of notes, many musicians experience serious fatigue in their bow hand and arm. Some even feel pain. An Arcus bow often provides the only real relief, and makes you play a Bruckner Symphony or Mozart opera with a smile. It also takes a drop in the pit without damage or half an hour of co-legno without a scratch. Not to mention that it provides you with the sweetest pianissimo a conductor might ever ask for.

PERFECT PERFORMANCE

RELAXED AND TROUBLE-FREE PLAYING

The fundamental vibrations of traditional wood and carbon bows is about 15-20 Hertz. This very deep and inaudible resonance results in tiredness of the bow arm for almost every string player. Many even suffer pain, which is often incorrectly diagnosed. Arcus bows are *tuned* to about 50-60 Hertz, and so entirely avoid the dangerous low resonances. Arcus bows have freed many musicians from all pain and discomfort. Every musician who plays a lot will tell you about dramatically increased comfort and the total absence of fatigue.

STRONG PLAYING

The resilience of the stick is of utmost importance for playing double-stops and fortissimo. Under normal tension a good wood violin bow can put a load of only about 200 grams on the strings before it bottoms out. An Arcus violin bow of the S-series on the other hand can do more than 300 grams.

So basically you can play more loudly with an Arcus bow if you need to, with a more beautiful sound and without ruining the bow hair.

STUDENTS / ADVANCING PROFESSIONALS

A real or copy bow model of an historically important maker will not win a competition or audition for you. A cleaner sound and more articulate playing will. Without costing a fortune, an Arcus bow can make the difference in your career.

AMATEURS

For all of those who don't have the time to study and practice as much as maybe the challenges of the music that they play demand, an Arcus bow can be a true revelation: It helps to execute the most difficult bowings so well that after a while you wonder what the trouble had actually been. Its clear sound also helps significantly with intonation in the upper registers. Expect to receive praise for your sound and playing.

NEW POSSIBILITIES

The instant response, the extraordinary resilience, the strong bounce and low mass of the bows stretch the boundaries of technique: Explore playing with no pressure at all or maximum power, extremely slow or fast strokes, incredibly rapid off-string bowings, ... try all the "impossible" and discover new possibilities.

HOW TO START

Every player needs a little time to find out how to master a "rocket" like this. We recommend playing for a minimum of 3 days in a row with an Arcus bow. During that period please do not play with a "normal" bow at all, otherwise you instantly fall back into the motion patterns that have been learned over so many years.

After this short period of learning how to best use the Arcus, most players find swapping bows very easy.



The S-Series

Ideal for solos. Radical virtuosity, perfect projection and incredible power. Their brilliant spectrum suits all well balanced instruments and makes darker sounding instruments sing like never before.



MODEL	MOUNTINGS	EYE	LAPPING
~ S9 ~	Gold 585	Gold ring	Gold
~ S8 ~	Gold 585	Pearl	Gold/black
~ S7 ~	Sterling Silver	Silver Ring	Silver
~ S6 ~	Sterling Silver	Silver Ring	Silver/black
~ S5 ~	Sterling Silver	Pearl	Silver

Round and octagonal, weight ca. 48 grams

The P-Series

This is the perfect bow for the orchestral player. Easily manoeuvrable and strong, with a very well-balanced sound. It works fantastically with most instruments and for nearly every type of player.



MODEL	MOUNTINGS	EYE	LAPPING
~ P8 ~	Gold 585	Pearl	Gold/black
~ P7 ~	Sterling Silver	Pearl	Silver
~ P6 ~	Sterling Silver	Pearl	Silver/black
~ P5 ~	Sterling Silver	Pearl	Silver
~ P4 ~	Sterling Silver	Pearl	Silver/black

Round and octagonal, weight ca. 52 grams

The M-Series

A bow to feel really comfortable with. It is so easy to handle, and makes it easy to execute the most difficult strokes with absolute precision. Its rather dark and warm sound suits all instruments and blends really well in the orchestra.



MODEL	MOUNTINGS	EYE	LAPPING
~ M7 ~	Sterling Silver	Pearl	Silver
~ M6 ~	Sterling Silver	Pearl	Silver/black
~ M5 ~	Sterling Silver	Pearl	Silver
~ M4 ~	Sterling Silver	Pearl	Silver/black
~ M3 ~	Sterling Silver	Pearl	Silver/black

Round stick, weight ca. 53 grams

Violin



THE VIOLIN BOWS

Start with an M-Series bow. With its beautiful balance and the strong but flexible stick you will probably feel instantly at home. Their feel is very similar to traditional bows and their sound is round, warm and strong, but also clear and rich in color.

Once you have played a little more, perhaps you should try a P-bow next. You will instantly recognize the higher resiliency of the stick. Try both the round and the octagonal version. With which one

does the spiccato come more natural for you, which ones feels right? The P-bows sound very nicely balanced, with a wide range of brilliant overtones.

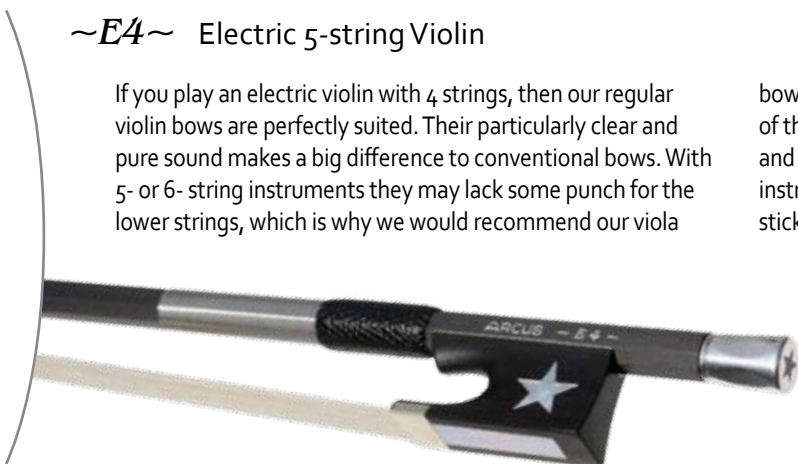
Finally try the (round or octagonal?) S-series bow. Their minimal weight makes them unbelievably fast and nimble, the sound is bright and brilliant with healthy fundamentals. Now, which ones feels best for you, which ones suits your violin?



~E4~ Electric 5-string Violin

If you play an electric violin with 4 strings, then our regular violin bows are perfectly suited. Their particularly clear and pure sound makes a big difference to conventional bows. With 5- or 6- string instruments they may lack some punch for the lower strings, which is why we would recommend our viola

bows for that purpose – or the E4. Its stick is basically that of the S-series viola bows. But with the special, modern frog and its cool design it makes a great match for many electric instruments. Make sure you try both the round and octagonal stick to find out which one suits your playing best.



MOUNTINGS: Sterling Silver
FROG: Ebony
STAR: Pearl
LAPPING: Stainless Steel
WEIGHT: ca. 54 grams



THE VIOLA BOWS

The cause of many problems with sound or playing often doesn't originate in the instrument or the player. Many violists only find this out when they play an Arcus bow for their first time. Suddenly the sound is open and full, the play powerful but elegant. Pianissimo passages in the orchestra sound really good. If you play a quartet it is now easily possible to match the other instruments.

The low weight, but especially the dramatically increased resiliency of the stick and its ability to jump naturally require some

adjustments in technique and some time to get used to. Less so with the bows of the M-Series, as they resemble more traditional bows in their playing. Their sticks are all round. The S-Series are much more dynamic.

To begin with we recommend finding out if you are the type of player who prefers the round Arcus bows or the octagonal ones. After some more playing the vast potential of these bows unfolds. This might take several days of playing, but do not be surprised that even months later you might still discover new possibilities with this bow!

The S-Series

Extremely powerful, with an open and brilliant sound, these bows fit perfectly with large and dark sounding instruments. Their agility and power make them the perfect bow for solos, chamber music and the most demanding orchestral pieces.



MODEL	MOUNTINGS	EYE	LAPPING
~ S9 ~	Gold 585	Gold ring	Gold
~ S8 ~	Gold 585	Pearl	Gold/black
~ S7 ~	Sterling Silver	Silver Ring	Silver
~ S6 ~	Sterling Silver	Silver Ring	Silver/black
~ S5 ~	Sterling Silver	Pearl	Silver

Round and octagonal, weight ca. 55 grams

The M-Series

A round, warm and rich sound is particular to these bows. They feel lively and really strong, and at the same time safe and relaxed. They are the ideal match for violas of medium and small size.



MODEL	MOUNTINGS	EYE	LAPPING
~ M7 ~	Sterling Silver	Pearl	Silver
~ M6 ~	Sterling Silver	Pearl	Silver/black
~ M5 ~	Sterling Silver	Pearl	Silver
~ M4 ~	Sterling Silver	Pearl	Silver/black
~ M3 ~	Sterling Silver	Pearl	Silver/black

Round stick, weight ca. 58 grams



THE CELLO BOWS

Too many cellists sooner or later experience discomfort or even pain in their right thumb, wrist or elbow. The strong forces and vibrations of a cello bow can lead to many different complications. By changing to an Arcus bow, the lower mass and the "missing" low frequency vibrations result in a total relief and relaxation of the bow arm. This doesn't only feel good for the musician, but is also visible and audible to a knowledgeable auditorium.

The instant response and the beautiful and strong sound affords flexible and easy playing with plenty of freedom in the interpretation.

The S-bows with round sticks are the primary choice for the majority of cellists. Their low mass enables greater agility over the strings, while at the same time they feel stable. Their sound is brilliant and full of fascinating colors. The octagonal S-bows are more agile and lively, while the M-series bows feel a little more flexible and play more evenly, pulling a darker, warmer sound.

The S-Series

With a mass of only about 68 grams, these bows are vastly more maneuverable than any "normal" cello bow. Their much stronger sticks make it possible to use the full potential of all modern strings with either steel or synthetic cores.



MODEL	MOUNTINGS	EYE	LAPPING
~ S9 ~	Gold 585	Gold ring	Gold
~ S8 ~	Gold 585	Pearl	Gold/black
~ S7 ~	Sterling Silver	Silver Ring	Silver
~ S6 ~	Sterling Silver	Silver Ring	Silver/black
~ S5 ~	Sterling Silver	Pearl	Silver

Round and octagonal, weight ca. 68 grams

The M-Series

The somewhat softer stick and higher mass make these bows play and sound effortless and well-balanced. The somewhat darker sound can be a great match for bright sounding instruments and blends beautifully in any cello section.



MODEL	MOUNTINGS	EYE	LAPPING
~ M7 ~	Sterling Silver	Pearl	Silver
~ M6 ~	Sterling Silver	Pearl	Silver/black
~ M5 ~	Sterling Silver	Pearl	Silver
~ M4 ~	Sterling Silver	Pearl	Silver/black
~ M3 ~	Sterling Silver	Pearl	Silver/black

Round stick, weight ca. 72 grams



The German Bass Bows

Like all Arcus bows, they are hollow and so have a stick which resonates easily. They measure 750 mm including the button. They are perfectly suitable for the orchestra as well as for soloists. The frogs are of medium size and made from beautiful snakewood.



MODEL	MOUNTINGS	LAPPING
~ S8 ~	Gold 585	Gold/black
~ S6 ~	Sterling Silver	Silver
~ S4 ~	Sterling Silver	Silver
~ S3 ~	Nickel Silver	Stainless Steel

Round sticks, weight ca. 128 grams

The class 6-8 bows feature white hair, the 3-5 all black hair.

The French Bass Bows

These bows are easily recognizable because of the special shape of the frogs. They help to achieve a perfect balance and a most comfortable bow hold. Their low weight affords a perfectly relaxed handling. The total length of about 720 mm provides more "breath" in legato-playing.



MODEL	MOUNTINGS	EYE	LAPPING
~ S7 ~	Sterling Silver	Pearl	Silver
~ S5 ~	Sterling Silver	Pearl	Silver
~ S3 ~	Nickel Silver	none	Stainless Steel

Round sticks, weight ca. 110 grams



THE BASS BOWS

Instant response and a sound that is clear, free of noise, rich in overtones, but also round and full. This is what most bassists have at the top of their wish list when it comes to bows.

Simply add an incredible agility and unmatched resiliency and bounce and you have the typical Arcus bass bow. We don't save on materials or workmanship, so our bass bows can never be really cheap. But then an Arcus bow saves you at least one masterclass and your bass will sound like never before.

Explore the possibilities in the sound and play of an Arcus bass

bow into the extremes! Maybe you want to fit out the entire bass section in your orchestra with them: You will find the difference in the articulation simply overwhelming. The basses begin to sing!

Their strength and nimbleness make them perfectly suited for all repertoire and every ensemble. They provide soloists with incredible possibilities and help the advanced student on their way to perfect playing.





THE HAIR GAUGE

Initially we developed this gauge for our own workshop, but now it has become an irreplaceable tool for luthiers and bowmakers all around the world.

It is precision-laser cut from strong stainless steel and gives exact readings in mm². All edges are gently rounded so that the shaft and hair are kept safe.

Arcus bows require a somewhat stronger rehair than normal bows to maintain their ideal playing properties. With this gauge it is quite easy to achieve exactly that.



THE ROSIN

This exclusive line of rosin is made in Greece by Christos Sykiotis. It provides a perfect grip and sound with a minimum of dust. He makes it directly from naturally harvested pine resin. Since we have had it in our line, we have not heard of any allergic reactions. On the contrary, many players love its characteristic, mild aroma.

The Arcus-rosin is available in three grades which can be mixed together on the bow. Therefore precisely achieving exactly the desired grip and sound and allowing for changes in climate, strings and repertoire.

The #1 - light rosin is the hardest version and preferred by most violinists and is good for hot climates. The #2 - medium provides more grip and is great for most violas. The #3 - dark is softer and has the strongest grip, which is ideal for most cellists and in cool climates.



Accessories

THE CHINREST

This new chinrest is designed to meet the ergonomics of many musicians. The shape of the bowl provides a relaxed and safe hold, but also offers plenty of freedom. It is placed right where most players need it, not too far out and not too far over the tailpiece.

Available in Ebony, Rosewood any Boxwood.



THE BRIDGES

During our many years of research into the sound of bowed instruments, we took an in depth look at their setup and adjustments. Along the way we developed a new bridge model with which one can easily optimize the sound of most violins and violas.

These bridges are exclusively made for us by Despiau in France. They are cut from selected maple with ultimate precision to meet the highest demands.



AVAILABLE SIZES

Violin: 40.5 - 41.5 - 42.5 mm

Viola: 46 - 48 - 50 mm

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