

» STEAMBOW »

OWNER'S MANUAL
STEAMBOW ONYX

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IMPORTANT! Please carefully read this entire manual and contact us if you have any questions before you use your Steambow or connect a power source (such as compressed air or CO₂).

Pay particular attention to the warnings and be sure to carefully follow all rules and information contained in these warnings. Your Steambow must be treated with the same respect given to any sporting arm: it is not a toy! When shooting outside of a dedicated range with a suitable backstop, be sure to not put any people or animals at risk – a bolt fired from a crossbow can travel several hundred meters, and may also deflect and travel in a direction other than intended. For this reason, no people or animals may be behind your target or close to your target.

Safety is a top priority for us, and a key focus in developing our products was precluding all potential hazards to the greatest extent possible. Even though a crossbow is an inherently safe and proven sporting arm, careless or improper use can cause accidents and serious injuries.

Failure to follow the safety instructions and warnings in this manual can also cause damage to your Steambow or its components. Do not use your Steambow when there is any visible damage to any of the components!

Please also be sure to follow all laws in your country pertaining to the ownership and use of your Steambow. Steambows have the same key features as a conventional crossbow, so they are generally subject to the same rules as for conventional crossbows. However, local laws may limit for which purposes and where you are allowed to use your Steambow.

If you have any problems with or questions about your Steambow, please contact us or the manufacturer of the crossbow platform:

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⚠️ IMPORTANT SAFETY INFORMATION ⚠️

Read and follow all instructions and warnings

A Steambow is identical to a conventional crossbow in terms of the hazards and legal regulations. When using your Steambow, be sure to follow the general safety rules for all shooting sports and especially be sure to follow your local regulations about using crossbows.

1. Your Steambow is a sporting arm that can be dangerous if misused. Treat your Steambow with the same respect that you must apply when handling a loaded firearm.
2. Always follow the four fundamental safety rules when using your Steambow:
 - a) Always handle your Steambow as if it were loaded. A Steambow can cause injury with or without a bolt on the deck.
 - b) Always point your Steambow in a safe direction. Never point it at people, animals, or objects that you do not wish to destroy.
 - c) Know your target and what is behind and near it.
 - d) Load a bolt only when you are in your shooting position and cock the Steambow only when you are on target and ready to shoot.
3. Before cocking your Steambow, ensure that the trigger safety is in the SAFE position. Do not place the trigger safety into the FIRE position until you are ready to shoot.
4. The string of your Steambow moves at a very high speed and can cause serious damage or injury. Be sure that nothing is in the path of the string. Always keep your support hand below the crossbow deck when the Steambow is cocked.
5. The limbs move forward at a high speed when you fire the crossbow. Make sure nothing is in their path. Anything contacting the limbs during firing can damage or destroy the limbs and may cause injury.
6. When climbing over obstacles or climbing into a hunting stand, always uncock the Steambow and remove the bolt. Unlike with a conventional crossbow, do not load a bolt until you reach your shooting position and do not cock your Steambow until you are ready to shoot.
7. Uncock your Steambow using the cocking knob if you do not shoot. You can silently cock your Steambow again at any time.
8. Never modify your Steambow! Modifications, especially to the trigger, can render your Steambow unsafe. Any modification to your Steambow will void the warranty.
9. Inspect your Steambow for loose fasteners, visible damage, or worn parts (especially the string) before and after each use. Replace any worn parts before the next use.
10. Use only propellants described in this owner's manual. Never use compressed oxygen gas or liquid oxygen. Do not increase the operating pressure of your Steambow and do not under any circumstances modify the regulator on your compressed air bottle.

Please follow these safety instructions every time you use your Steambow. Failure to follow these instructions can cause damage, serious injury, or the death of people or animals. Please contact us directly if you have any questions about the safe use of your Steambow.

SAFETY INSTRUCTIONS FOR STORING AND TRANSPORTING YOUR STEAMBOW

Please follow these instructions when transporting and storing your Steambow:

1. Disconnect the power source before transporting or storing your Steambow.

Either unscrew the compressed air bottle from the air connector or disconnect the remote line if the bottle is not connected directly to your Steambow.

The air bottle has a pin valve. This valve pin is actuated when the bottle is screwed into the air connector. When a remote line is used, this pin is actuated by the screw knob on the remote line. Turn this knob counterclockwise to turn off the remote line.



Figure 1: Steambow ready for transport; limbs folded and power supply disconnected

WARNING!

After disconnecting the power source, some pressure may remain in your Steambow. To release pressure, operate the cocking knob repeatedly until the pressure is fully released. When all of the pressure has been released from your Steambow, the power unit will not operate. If there is still some pressure in the system, your Steambow will begin to cock, but the limbs will not cock fully.

WARNING!

Small particles such as grit or dust can cause slight leaks in the pin valve on the bottle. Such leaks are usually so minor that they cannot be heard or otherwise detected. If you hear clear signs of a leak, for example quiet hissing, the compressed air bottle is defective and must not be used until the seals in the regulator are replaced. Please contact the manufacturer or seller of your compressed air bottle for this.

WARNING!

Slight leaks that you cannot hear or feel can cause the bottle to empty slowly and, if connected to the Steambow, can cause pressure to build slowly in the system. If this happens, a Steambow that was not initially cocked will slowly become cocked. Always disconnect the power source before storage.

2. If there is a bolt on the deck, remove it.
3. Fold the limbs back to the mainframe to make your Steambow as compact as possible (see “Folding and Deploying the Limbs”)
4. You do not have to remove the string for transport or storage. If you leave it on, secure the string to the limbs with our string keepers so that the string cannot slip off. You can also remove the string from the limbs and store it separately. Always inspect the string for damage and never use a damaged string.



Figure 2: Steambow ready for transport; limbs folded and power supply disconnected. The string keepers secure the string to the limbs.

SAFETY INSTRUCTIONS FOR USING YOUR STEAMBOW

- Inspect your Steambow for damage before every use. Pay special attention to these parts:
 - o compressed air bottle and regulator
 - o hose connections
 - o limbs
 - o string
 - o every bolt that you intend to use

If you discover any damage, **do not use the Steambow until it has been repaired.**

- Place the trigger safety in the SAFE position before cocking your Steambow.
- Engage the cocking safety before touching the string or placing your hands or other body part in the path of the limbs or string.
- Release the pressure from the remote line before you open the quick coupling. Never disconnect a remote line (hose connection) that is under pressure!
- Before every shot, make sure that no people or animals are between you and your target, close to your target, or behind your target. The bolt may miss the target or pass through the target. Even after passing through the target, the bolt may still have enough kinetic energy to seriously injure or even kill people or animals.
- The danger zone for a bolt fired from a Steambow is much greater than typical shooting distances. A bolt fired from a Steambow can represent a risk for people, animals, or objects several hundred meters away. Never fire your Steambow at an upward angle or directly upwards because the falling bolt can seriously injure or even kill people or animals.
- Before firing, make sure there is a sufficient backstop behind the target to catch the bolt. A hill or berm or a sufficiently massive structure such as a wall are ideal for this. You can also have a sufficient backstop when you fire at your target from above, for example from a hunting stand or from a tree.
- Bolts that strike a hard surface such as a road at a shallow angle can deflect and continue at nearly undiminished speed. Deflected bolts can fly for several hundred meters and pose a serious risk of injury or damage. For this reason, always make your backstop that can also reliably stop deflected shots.
- Ensure that children and minors cannot access your Steambow. A Steambow is not a toy, but a serious sporting and hunting arm that can be dangerous if misused.

GENERAL INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR STEAMBOW

A Steambow is a combination of a conventional crossbow and a PCP air rifle. It shoots and behaves like a crossbow and uses the same limbs, string and bolts. Just like a conventional crossbow, all the energy is stored inside the limbs prior to firing. But it is cocked with a pneumatic cocking device on the push of a button. The pneumatic cocking device, our patented PowerUnit, is operated by high-pressure-air or CO₂ – just like a PCP air rifle.

If you run out of air you can manually cock the Steambow by locking the limbs in the forward position using the supplied locking blocks. In this case you can use most conventional cocking aids and your Steambow is basically just a normal crossbow. It might be necessary or convenient to install the supplied stirrup in this case. Make sure to keep your fingers away from the limb mounts when operating the Steambow pneumatically especially when the stirrup is mounted. There is a serious pinching hazard when the limbs move pneumatically.

WARNING!

Do not modify your Steambow. We configure your Steambow to ensure that all components are carefully matched. Any modification may cause malfunctions and may be dangerous. Any modification will void the warranty.

Steambow Onyx



Figure 3: Steambow ONYX

TECHNICAL DATA FOR YOUR STEAMBOW:

Bolt speed:	330 fps or 100 m/s
Draw weight:	225 lbs or 102 kg
Power stroke:	15.25 in or 38.73 cm
Total weight:	7.5 lbs or 3.4 kg
Overall length:	28.5 in or 72.4 cm

SUITABLE POWER SOURCES:

- Paintball HPA (which stands for high-pressure-air) systems (compressed air bottles) made of aluminum or carbon fiber with an output pressure of 850-950 psi or any original Steambow compressed air bottle.

WARNING!

Use only compressed air or nitrogen. The use of other gases can be very dangerous!

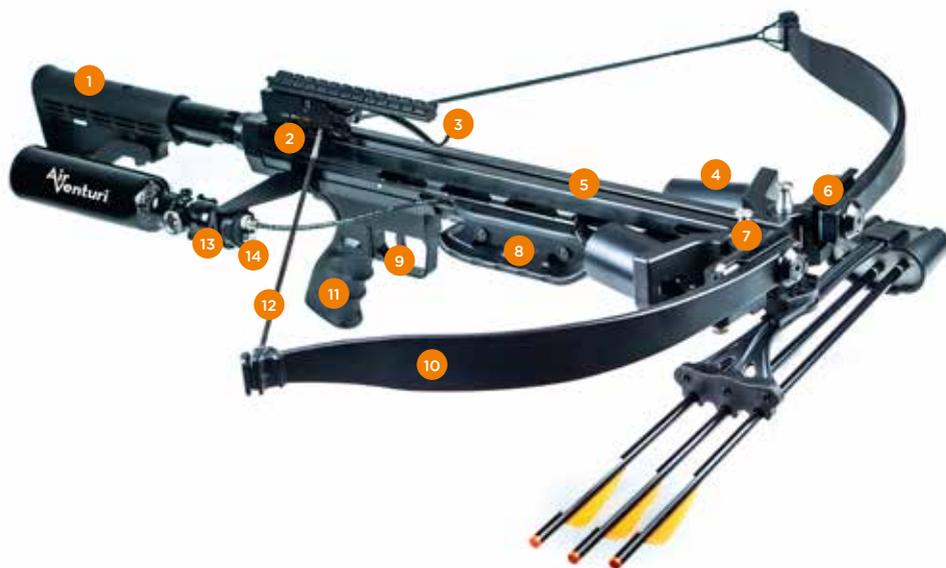
- Disposable 88 gram CO₂ capsules. We sell separate adapters for these capsules.
- Refillable CO₂ tanks of any fill weight. We do not recommend the use of such tanks, as the refilling procedure is very dangerous.

IMPORTANT!

Minimum bolt weight: 300 grains or 19,4 grams

Use of lighter bolts will place an enormous amount of stress on your crossbow and could damage it. Never fire your crossbow without a bolt.

Parts of your Steambow



- 1 Stock
 - 2 Trigger safety
 - 3 Hold-down spring
 - 4 Power unit
 - 5 Rail
 - 6 Limb bracket
 - 7 Quick-release pins
 - 8 Foregrip
 - 9 Trigger
 - 10 Limbs
 - 11 Grip
 - 12 String
 - 13 Air connector
 - 14 Overpressure safety module
-
- 15 Cocking safety
 - 16 Valve stem/ Cocking knob

Overview of operation

The following is an overview of the steps involved in operating your Steambow. They are explained in detail in later sections of this manual. Read and understand this entire manual and pay special attention to the warnings. Always be sure that you and any people, animals, and property around you are safe from injury or damage. A Steambow is not a toy, but a serious sporting and hunting arm.

Preparing to shoot:

1. Deploy and lock the limbs with the quick-release pins.
2. Attach a power source.
3. Hook the string into the latch and place the trigger safety into the SAFE position.
4. Load a suitable bolt.
5. Disengage the cocking safety and cock your Steambow using the cocking knob/Valve stem.
6. Place the trigger safety into the FIRE position. Your Steambow is now ready to fire.

After you shoot:

1. Uncock your Steambow using the cocking knob.
2. Use the cocking safety to lock the cocking knob.
3. Hook the string into the latch and place the trigger safety into the SAFE position.
4. Load another bolt.
5. Disengage the cocking safety and cock your Steambow using the cocking knob.
6. Place the trigger safety into the FIRE position. Your Steambow is now ready to fire again.

When your Steambow is ready to fire but you do not wish to fire:

1. Place the trigger safety into the SAFE position.
2. Use the cocking knob to uncock your Steambow.
3. Use the cocking safety to lock the cocking knob.
4. Remove the bolt.

WARNING! Be sure you have uncocked the Steambow before performing the following steps:

5. Depress the anti-dry-fire release lever.
6. Place the trigger safety into the FIRE position.
7. With the limbs uncocked, you can safely depress the trigger. The string will release from the latch.
8. The string will now be loose on the crossbow deck.

Transporting and storing your Steambow:

1. Make sure the string is loose and not hooked into the latch. If this is not the case, follow the steps above to uncock your Steambow.
2. Remove the power source.
3. Remove the quick-release pins that secure the limbs into place.
4. Fold the limbs back to the mainframe.
5. Secure the string to the quick-release pins with a rubber band or other device, or remove the string entirely to protect it against damage.

FOLDING AND DEPLOYING THE LIMBS

Your Steambow can be collapsed to make it more compact for transport and storage. With the limbs folded, remove the quick-release pins (see Figure 4) when you wish to transport your Steambow. Your Steambow is shipped with the limbs folded. Before you can use your Steambow, the limbs must be deployed and secured in the extended position.



Figure 4: Quick-release pin

To remove the quick-release pins:

1. Pull the pin completely out of the pivot hole. The pin has spring loaded detentions so you will feel a lot of resistance.

To deploy the limbs:

1. Extend the limbs into the forward position. The hole in the limb bracket must line up with the pivot hole. You may have to twist the limb slightly to achieve this.
2. When the hole in the limb bracket is lined up with the pivot hole (see Figure 6), slide the pin into the hole again.
3. Make sure that the pin is fully inserted into the pivot hole. Using the Steambow with only partially inserted pins will damage your Steambow. Check the position of the pins prior to every use!

NOTE

The pin can be slid into place easily as soon as the hole in the bracket is lined up properly with the pivot hole. If it is difficult to insert the pin, this usually means that the holes are not lined up. Check the alignment of the pivot hole and limb bracket. Only apply light pressure to insert the pin and never use tools.



Figure 5: Inserting the quick-release pins. The hole in the limb bracket and the pivot hole must line up so the pin can be inserted.



Figure 6: Lining up the bracket

TIP

Move the limb back and forth slightly while you apply light pressure to the pin. The pin will slide into the pivot hole as soon as the holes are lined up.

IMPORTANT!

*You can either leave the string attached to your Steambow for storage or remove it. Regardless of which option you choose, you must inspect the string for damage before each use. **WARNING! If there is noticeable wear, torn strands, or other damage, you must replace the string.** You can purchase replacement strings for your Steambow directly from us or from your dealer. Contact us (www.steambow.com) if you are not sure what string length you need.*

ATTACHING A POWER SOURCE

To power your Steambow, you must attach a compressed air bottle, a disposable CO₂ capsule, or a remote line (see Figure 7).

IMPORTANT!

Use only HPA bottles that are rated for use in paintball and that have an output pressure of 850 psi (or 58.6 bar). Some Tanks, e.g. for some high-end paintball markers or air guns have different output pressures. Using a lower than 850 PSI pressure will cause reduced arrow velocity and accuracy issues while using a too high pressure will reduce efficiency considerably. Make sure to never exceed a pressure of 1,200 PSI (or 83 bar)!

WARNING!

*Make sure that your bottle has no visible damage and that it has a valid certification. **When the date on your bottle has passed, you must have the bottle tested by a licensed inspector.** Using old or damaged bottles can cause serious accidents, damage, and serious injuries or even the death of people or animals.*



Figure 7: Connector on the Steambow and on the air bottle (marked in orange)

Using a compressed air bottle

All compressed air bottles (original Steambow bottles and paintball HPA systems with an output pressure of 850 psi) can be connected directly to the tank connector on the side of your Steambow. We offer different sizes and variants of these bottles. Small, lightweight bottles are especially suited for direct connection to your Steambow. Heavier or larger bottles can be impractical because they substantially increase the weight of your Steambow. In this case, we recommend using a remote line and carrying your compressed air bottle in your backpack or on your belt. We offer suitable pouches for this.

IMPORTANT!

The standard pressure regulators that are used in paintball have a pin valve that is actuated automatically when the bottle is screwed into and out of the air connector. Even though this type of valve offers numerous advantages including reliable and convenient handling, one disadvantage is the fact that dust or fine grit particles can easily cause leaks. This does not impair operation, but can cause the bottle to empty by itself over a period of days or weeks.

If you wish to keep your Steambow ready over a longer period of time, use disposable 88 or 90 gramm CO₂ capsules. These CO₂ capsules are not pierced until they are screwed all the way into the adapter. When they are only screwed in part way, they can be left connected to your Steambow for a practically unlimited period of time.

THE FOLLOWING BOTTLES ARE AVAILABLE AND ARE COMMONLY USED IN PAINTBALL:

48 cubic inch aluminum bottles with a storage pressure of 200 bar / 3.000 PSI

These bottles are inexpensive and widely used. They are usually fitted with cheap regulators so the bottles can be offered at a very low cost. These simpler regulators can be used with your Steambow without problems because slight pressure fluctuations do not impair its function. The most common size is 0.8 liters, so this is the most inexpensive variant. Because they are made of aluminum and are relatively large, these bottles are usually too heavy to attach to your Steambow directly. We recommend the use of a remote line with these bottles.

13 cubic inch aluminum bottle with a storage pressure of 200 bar / 3.000 PSI

These bottles are the smallest kind of HPA system that is available on the market. These bottles are small and light enough to be attached directly to the valve block. Your Steambow is still very compact and well balanced. However, because of the limited volume and low storage pressure of 200 bar / 3.000 PSI, one bottle is only enough for a few shots. We offer special refill bottles with a filling adapter that you can use to refill the small bottle in the field. These bottles are ideal for specialized applications such as crossbow hunting.

Composite bottles with a storage pressure of 300 bar / 4.500 PSI

These bottles are available in different sizes, shapes, and materials. These compressed air bottles have an airtight core made of aluminum or plastic and are wrapped in fiberglass, carbon fiber, or other synthetic fibers. This design allows these bottles to be very light but contain substantially more pressure than pure aluminum bottles. Their storage pressure is usually 300 bar / 4.500 PSI - which allows a considerably higher number of shots per fill. Depending on their weight and form and your preferences, such bottles can be connected directly to the main valve or be used in combination with a remote line.

Steel tanks with a volume of 10 or 20 liters

These tanks are used to store compressed air over a longer period of time. These tanks are available with a storage pressure of 200 bar or 300 bar. These tanks are used for many different applications and are generally fitted with scuba threads (3/4"-14 NPT). You need a fill adapter for paintball bottles to fill the small bottles from these tanks. You can buy these adapters from us or from a paintball dealer.

WARNING!

When buying or renting an air tank, make sure that it has the same storage pressure as your smaller compressed air bottle. The fill adapters do not have a regulator and therefore supply the full pressure of the tank as the output pressure. Connecting a 3,000 PSI (200 bar) aluminum tank to a 4,500 PSI (300 bar) storage air tank can cause serious injury or death.

WARNING!

Fill your air cylinder with compressed air or nitrogen gas only. The use of other gases, including oxygen, can cause a fire or explosion that may result in property damage, serious injury or death.

WARNING!

Do not overfill your air cylinder, as this can cause serious injury or death.

IMPORTANT!

You and others with you should always wear safety glasses to protect your eyes. Read all instructions before using.

WARNING!

Do not disconnect the fill hose under pressure. When filling your air cylinder from an external source, remove pressure from the line before disconnecting the hose. Disconnecting the hose under pressure could cause damage to the hose fitting and personal injury to the operator.

WARNING!

Do not introduce petroleum-based lubricants into the high-pressure air cylinder. It may cause an explosion. Failure to follow these instructions may result in serious injuries or death.

Connecting a compressed air bottle

1. Deploy the limbs (forward position, see “Folding and Deploying the Limbs”)
2. Attach the string, or if the string is already attached, make sure that it is oriented correctly, in other words that it is lying loosely on the cross-bow deck. Make sure that the loops at the ends of the string are seated correctly in the nocks on the limbs (see Figures 8 and 9).



Figure 8: The loops of the string are seated in the nocks on the limbs.



Figure 9: The string must be above the crossbow deck. There must be no obstructions in the path of the string!

3. Pull the cocking knob back towards the trigger to uncock the crossbow (see Figure 10).

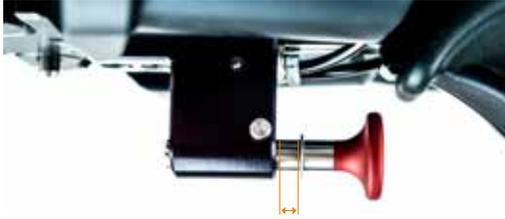


Figure 10: Cocking knob in the “uncocked” position, pulled back towards the trigger as far as possible. A gap is visible between the retaining ring on the cocking knob and the valve block.

WARNING!

Make sure that the cocking valve is in the UNCOCKED position. If the cocking knob is in the COCKED position, the Steambow will cock itself immediately when you connect the compressed air bottle.

4. Before you connect a tank, make sure that the tank connector or the tank threads are covered with some grease. Otherwise the surface coating of your tank’s threads can be scratched off. This is purely an aesthetic problem and will not cause any harm.

IMPORTANT!

A properly assembled paintball tank will have the regulator firmly glued into the tank itself and usually have paint-marks on both the tank and the regulator to show the orientation of those two parts. Sometimes however, especially when regulators and tanks are sold separately, it can happen that the tank regulator is not fixated properly to the tank. In this case a serious danger is present: The separation of the tank and the regulator!

WARNING!

When unscrewing your tank from the Steambow always make sure that you screw out the regulator with the tank from the Steambow and NOT the regulator from the tank! If the regulator becomes separated from the tank even by a fraction of an inch, immediately stop screwing!

In this case: Fully drain the tank by operating the main valve of the Steambow until all pressure is released. Now, by only applying pressure onto the regulator itself unscrew the tank from the Steambow. Bring the tank to your service partner or to the store for repairs. Unscrewing the regulator from the tank will result in a sudden and violent blow out of high pressure air and can cause serious injuries.

5. With the cocking knob in the UNCOCKED position, screw the compressed air bottle into the air connector by turning the bottle clockwise. Screw the bottle into the connector until you notice a resistance. Now screw the bottle into the connector for only half or three quarter of a rotation. With some tank types you will experience significantly reduced air flow, causing your Steambow to operate extremely slowly, when the tank is fully screwed into the connector. If you experience that, screw out your tank again for a quarter of a rotation.

Using a remote line

You can supply your Steambow with compressed air through a hose (remote line). Such hoses are common in paintball and have been proven to be very safe and reliable. However, using a hose also involves some risks. **Read the owner's manual of your hose carefully and be sure to heed all warnings.**

These hoses are also called remote lines and are sold under this designation. There are many different variants with different quality levels and features. Original Steambow remote lines are tailored to your Steambow and provide maximum convenience and safety. Many other manufacturers also offer suitable, high quality remote lines.

Make sure that the remote line you wish to use is rated for the high pressures encountered in paintball and with your Steambow. **The remote line must be rated for an operating pressure of at least 950 PSI.** This information is usually printed on the hose or can be found in the manual for your remote line. If you are not sure, please contact the manufacturer of your remote line or the dealer where you purchased your remote line. All original Steambow remote lines are rated for much higher operating pressures than are used for the Steambow and are safe.

IMPORTANT!

*Inspect your remote line for damage before every use.
Never use a remote line with visible damage.*

Make sure that there are no kinks in the remote line. A hose that has been kinked must be replaced immediately and may not be used under any circumstances, even if the damage appears to be minor. **The kinked section is irreversibly damaged** and the remote line must be replaced.

The same applies to cracks, cuts, and deep scratches. Also check for discoloring (whitening, lighter spots on a hose that is otherwise black). Discoloration can be a sign of swelling because the plastic of the high pressure hose changes in color and takes on a whitish hue when the permitted maximum pressure is exceeded. Never use such a hose, because the hose could burst and cause accidents.

Connecting the remote line

WARNING!

Keep your hands below the Steambow deck and out of the path of the string while you are connecting your Steambow to a power source. The string can move very rapidly and injure you if you have accidentally left the cocking knob in the forward position.

1. Deploy the limbs (forward position, see “Folding and Deploying the Limbs”)
2. Attach the string, or if the string is already attached, make sure that it is oriented correctly, in other words that it is lying loosely on the crossbow deck. Make sure that the loops at the ends of the string are seated correctly in the nocks on the limbs.
3. Uncock the Steambow and engage the cocking safety.
4. Screw the optional remote line adapter (see Figure 11) into the air connector on the Steambow. The remote line connector can remain attached to the Steambow permanently. If you want to connect a compressed air bottle directly, then it must be removed.



Figure 11: Example of a remote line adapter, different designs and types are available

NOTE

*A remote line that is suitable for use with your Steambow has a quick coupling (or fill nipple) that fits onto the quick coupling of the remote line adapter on one end and a bottle connector with the same threads as your Steambow on the other end. If your remote line has different threads or quick couplings, **you cannot use it with your Steambow**. Only use remote lines that are rated for paintball, or use our specially tailored original Steambow remote lines.*

5. Screw a compressed air bottle with a regulated output pressure of 850 psi (58,6 bar) into the air connector of your remote line. Most standard bottles designed for use in paintball can be used with your Steambow. Please note that other pressure ranges are also common in paintball. **Make sure that your bottle has an output pressure of 850 psi.** If you are not sure, please contact the manufacturer of your bottle or the dealer where you purchased your bottle. Original Steambow compressed air bottles can all be used with your Steambow and always provide the necessary output pressure.
6. Connect the remote line to the fill nipple. Depending on the specific type of remote line, you may have to operate a quick coupling when attaching it to your Steambow. The remote line must attach easily. If you must apply a great deal of force to attach the remote line, please check whether it has a quick coupling.



Figure 12: Examples of remote lines, different designs and types are available on the market

Depending on the design and features of your remote line, you must open all of the shut-off valves after you connect it. Many remote lines have these shut-off valves directly next to the quick coupling that is attached to your Steambow.

7. Hold the remote line in place or attach it to the Steambow to prevent it from whipping around when you open the air supply. Then turn the knob on the air connector of your remote line clockwise to open the pin valve on the bottle. Once you open the air supply, high-pressure air will enter the remote line.

Disconnecting the remote line

Original Steambow remote lines are fitted with automatically sealing quick couplings and can be connected and disconnected easily at any time. To do this, press the button on the quick coupling and then simply pull the remote line off the fill nipple on the remote line adapter. The remote line seals automatically, so no valves need to be closed. Your Steambow will be pressurized again as soon as you reconnect the remote line. This means that you can conveniently connect and disconnect the compressed air supply whenever you need to.

Many remote lines, especially older models, only have a conventional quick coupling without an automatic valve. **WARNING! These remote lines must not be disconnected when they are under pressure.** Disconnecting a pressurized remote line using a quick coupling without an automatic valve can cause the pressurized remote line to whip around and cause serious injuries or damage. **Always depressurize a remote line with a conventional quick coupling before disconnecting it.**

To disconnect a remote line with a conventional quick coupling:

1. Close the pin valve on your compressed air bottle by turning the knob counterclockwise. **WARNING The remote line is still under pressure.** Closing the bottle valve only prevents further air from entering the system. The hose of the remote line is still filled with compressed air at a pressure of around 60 bar.
2. Depressurize the system by cocking and uncocking your Steambow multiple times using the cocking knob. (see “Shooting Your Steambow”). Continue doing this for as long as there is pressure in the system. The limbs will move less and less as the pressure decreases, and operating the cocking knob will eventually have no effect. This means that your Steambow is no longer under any significant pressure.
3. Unplug the remote line at the quick coupling. A quiet hissing and the release of some residual pressure is normal and does not impair your safety or damage your Steambow.

Alternative: If your remote line has a shutoff valve.

Some remote lines have a shutoff valve such as a ball valve or a slide check valve. This valve should be right next to the quick coupling that attaches your remote line to the Steambow. If there is such a valve, follow this procedure:

1. Close the shutoff valve.
2. Uncock your Steambow by pulling the cocking knob towards the trigger.
3. Push the cocking knob away from you to attempt to recock the Steambow. The Steambow should not cock.
4. Uncock the Steambow again. This will release any residual pressure left in the system.
5. Once you are sure that your Steambow is not under pressure, disconnect the remote line from your Steambow using the quick coupling.

Overpressure safety module

Your Steambow has several built-in safety features. The power unit on your Steambow can withstand a higher pressure than the operating pressure, and your Steambow is also equipped with a high-quality, reliable overpressure safety module from the paintball industry.



WARNING!

*The overpressure safety module on your Steambow is specific to the loads to which your Steambow is subjected. **Never replace it with any other safety module.** Use only original Steambow overpressure safety modules or standard paintball overpressure modules. These all have a tripping pressure of 1,800 PSI (or 124 bar). Be careful when choosing the overpressure safety module: The same design is also used on the compressed air bottles but sometimes with a much higher tripping pressure. Make sure to use one with 1,8 k inprint!*

Under normal use, the overpressure safety module will usually last for the entire life of your Steambow. If needed, you can buy replacement parts in our web shop or from your dealer.

WARNING!

***Never modify your Steambow.** If you modify your Steambow in violation of our explicit warnings or operate your Steambow with a higher pressure than specified, this safety module can be tripped. Modifying your Steambow or operating your Steambow with an unsuitable power source will void the warranty.*

In the rare event that the overpressure safety module trips and you have not modified your Steambow or used an unsuitable power source, please contact us immediately for a replacement part and to find out the cause of the overpressure. The most common cause is a defective regulator on the compressed air tank. The tank must be inspected by a qualified dealer. **Do not replace the overpressure safety module without finding out the cause of the overpressure.**

Using CO₂

We recommend powering your Steambow with compressed air, but you can also use CO₂ to run your Steambow. CO₂ is sold in small tanks and in disposable capsules. Such disposable capsules usually have a fill weight of 88 to 90 grams and are sufficient to cock your Steambow around 3 times. You can purchase such disposable capsules and the adapter you need to attach them from us, your Steambow dealer or from a paintball or air rifle dealer.

When using CO₂, we recommend using those disposable capsules. Using CO₂ has many downsides, e.g. temperature sensitivity and a lot of dangers, thus we decided to use HPA as our main power source. Overall we recommend not to use CO₂ and to only use HPA.

Refilling the compressed air bottle

There are many different kinds of compressors for refilling air bottles and also specialized dealers that offer a refilling service. We recommend one of the following options depending on your circumstances:

High-pressure 3,000 or 4,500 PSI compressor

You can buy suitable compressors with an output of 3,000 or 4,500 PSI (200 or 300 bar) depending on what type of tanks you use. To fill a tank, you also need a filling station or fill adapter. Please contact us if you have any questions.

Miniature 3,000 or 4,500 PSI compressor

There are a lot of suitable miniature high-pressure compressor on the market that allow you to easily and conveniently fill your tanks. Those compressors usually include all the connections and adapters you need.

Storage Air tanks

You can store compressed air in such air tanks almost indefinitely. You can also rent these tanks, which means that the tank is delivered full and is replaced with a new, full tank when you empty it. You can inquire into whether such a service is available in your area. Usually dive shops offer a such a service.

Refilling by a dealer

Paintball and dive shops usually also offer an air tank filling service. This service may be offered free of charge, but a small fee usually applies. If you go to a dive shop to fill your tank, you will usually need an adapter to go between the scuba connector that is usually used for diving and the fill nipple that is generally used for paintball equipment. You can purchase these adapters from us or from a paintball dealer.

WARNING!

Read the owner's manual for your filling station or fill adapter before filling your tank. Follow all instructions and warnings. If you purchase your filling station from a dealer, have the dealer show you how to fill a tank. Improper filling of compressed air tanks can cause death or serious injury.

SHOOTING YOUR STEAMBOW

Your Steambow should be in the following configuration:

1. The limbs are deployed (see “Folding and Deploying the Limbs”).
2. The string is secured to the ends of the limbs.
3. A power source is connected and opened.
4. Your Steambow is uncocked.
5. The cocking safety is in the LOCKED position (see “Cocking Safety”).
6. The trigger safety is in the FIRE position (see “Trigger Safety”).
7. The string is loose on the crossbow deck.

Cocking safety

Your Steambow has a manual safety that protects against unintended cocking. This cocking safety is installed in the valve block and is engaged by pushing it from the left to the right (see Figure 14).



Figure 14: Cocking safety - left side: UNLOCKED / right side: SAFE or LOCKED

When this safety is engaged, the cocking knob cannot be moved. When this safety is disengaged, the red mark is visible and the cocking knob can be moved. You can only cock your Steambow when this safety is in the UNLOCKED position, and you can only engage this safety when the Steambow is uncocked.

WARNING!

Make sure that the cocking safety is LOCKED whenever you are touching the string and whenever your hands or other body parts are in the path of the limbs or string.

When the cocking safety is LOCKED, it is safe to handle your Steambow and you can load a bolt or manipulate the string without risk. Always place the cocking safety in the LOCKED position when your Steambow is uncocked. Disengage this safety only when you intend to cock your Steambow.

WARNING!

The cocking safety does not prevent the unintentional firing of the Steambow, but simply prevents the unintended cocking of the Steambow. Every Steambow is equipped with an additional trigger safety in the trigger assembly (by the trigger or above the trigger by the latch) to prevent unintentional firing when the Steambow is cocked.

Trigger safety

In addition to the cocking safety, every Steambow is equipped with a trigger safety to prevent accidental firing. This safety is located above the trigger by the latch (see Figure 15). It is usually operated with the thumb of your firing hand (the hand on the grip of the Steambow and with which you will depress the trigger).



Figure 15: Trigger Safety operation—Back side SAFE front side FIRE

The trigger safety has two positions: SAFE and FIRE. These positions are marked in color (orange/white = SAFE, red = FIRE) and can be identified by the position of the safety lever. When the safety lever is in the forward position, the trigger is set to FIRE and when the lever is in the backward position, the trigger is set to SAFE.

NOTE

*You must place the safety into the FIRE position in order to hook the string into the latch. Otherwise, the latch will not be able to capture the string. If you have trouble hooking the string into the latch, check the position of the safety lever. Place the safety lever into the SAFE position as soon as you hear the string click into the latch. **WARNING! Be sure your Steambow trigger safety is in the SAFE position before cocking it!***

Always place this safety into SAFE position as soon as you hooked the string into the latch. Only place this safety into the FIRE position immediately before you intend to fire. Learn how to operate this safety lever with the thumb of your firing hand and become accustomed to engaging this safety immediately after you hook the string into the latch.

Hooking the string into the latch

1. Put the trigger safety into the FIRE position.
2. Pull the string towards the latch with both hands. Be sure to center the string in the latch (see Figure 16). This is important to ensure that your Steambow shoots accurately. If the string is not centered in the latch, the bolt may diverge laterally from the point of aim, and the precision will suffer. It is advised to mark your string with a paint marker to achieve maximum accuracy.



Figure 16: The string should be centered in the latch

3. Lock the string into the latch. You will hear and feel the string lock into place. It is advised to equally pull on both sides of the trigger housing, by using both hands. The trigger safety will automatically engage and move into the "safe" position.
4. Make sure that the string is latched securely by trying to move the string towards the limbs. This will not be possible when the string is latched securely. You can also adjust the string to be perfectly centered by moving it sideways if necessary.
5. Test the anti-dry fire by trying to disengage the trigger safety. This should only be possible with an arrow correctly positioned on the rail.

Loading a bolt

Inspect the bolt before loading

Before every shot, inspect each bolt for damage. Especially check the nock at the back of the bolt for dents, cracks, or missing pieces. The nock can be damaged by the string during firing or by other bolts when a bolt that is in the target is struck by another bolt. Check the bolt shaft by bending it slightly. If the bolt makes noise when bent, this often indicates damage. Also check to make sure that the point of the bolt is undamaged and that it is screwed or glued firmly into place. If it is loose, tighten it before loading the bolt.

WARNING!

Never use damaged bolts. A defective arrow or bolt can cause serious injury or death.

Loading a bolt into your Steambow

WARNING!

Make sure the string is latched and the trigger safety is on SAFE before loading a bolt.

Insert the cock vane (which usually is a different color from the other vanes) into the flight groove of the crossbow deck. Two other two vanes of the bolt should now be roughly parallel to the crossbow deck and the cock vane should be pointing down. Slide the bolt on the crossbow deck back towards the latch. Make sure that you slide the bolt beneath the hold-down spring.

Slide the bolt as far back as possible. The nock of the bolt must be firmly up against the string. If there is a gap between the string and the bolt, the bolt can be damaged or may even break apart upon firing.



Figure 17: Slide the bolt back as far as possible. There must be no gap between the string and bolt!

Cocking your Steambow

Cock your Steambow only when you are ready to fire.

1. Disengage the cocking safety by sliding it to the right. Operate this safety with your support hand (the hand under the forestock of your Steambow). When the cocking safety is in the UNLOCKED position, a red mark will be visible.
2. Push the cocking knob forward (in the direction of fire) and the Steambow will cock. Your Steambow is now cocked, but protected against firing by the trigger safety.

Firing a bolt

WARNING! WHEN FIRING YOUR STEAMBOW, BE SURE THE ENVIRONMENT IS SAFE.

- *Before every shot, make sure that no people or animals are between you and your target, close to your target, or behind your target. The bolt may miss the target or pass through the target. Even after passing through the target, the bolt may still have enough kinetic energy to seriously injure or even kill people or animals.*
- *The danger zone for a bolt fired from a Steambow is much greater than typical shooting distances. A bolt fired from a Steambow can represent a risk for people, animals, or objects several hundred meters away. Never fire your Steambow at an upward angle or directly upwards because the falling bolt can seriously injure or even kill people or animals.*
- *Before firing, make sure there is a sufficient backstop behind the target to catch the bolt. A hill or berm or a sufficiently massive structure such as a wall are ideal for this. You can also have a sufficient backstop when you fire at your target from above, for example from a hunting stand or from a tree.*
- *Bolts that strike a hard surface such as a road at a shallow angle can deflect and continue at nearly undiminished speed. Deflected bolts can fly for several hundred meters and pose a serious risk of injury or damage. For this reason, always make your backstop that can also reliably stop deflected shots.*

To fire your Steambow:

1. Point your Steambow toward the target.
2. Move the trigger safety into the FIRE position.
3. Gently depress the trigger until the bolt is released. Applying excessive pressure or jerking the trigger can shift the point of aim at the moment of firing and cause you to miss your target.
5. Uncock your Steambow by pulling the cocking knob back toward the trigger.
6. Place the cocking safety in the LOCKED position.
7. If you wish to shoot again, you must hook the string into the latch and load another bolt.

NOTE

You can uncock your Steambow at any time, even if you have not fired a bolt. Pull the cocking knob towards the trigger to do this. You can also recock your Steambow immediately again by pushing the cocking knob forward.

Anti-Dry-Fire Protection

Your Steambow is equipped with an anti-dry-fire system. Dry firing means firing a cocked Steambow without loading a bolt. Doing this can damage or even destroy the limbs and string of your Steambow.



Figure 18: Anti-dry-fire system, the lever that is marked by the orange circle disengages this safety.

IMPORTANT!

The anti-dry-fire system engages automatically when the string is hooked into the latch in the correct way (by pulling on both sides of the string equally). It prevents disengaging the trigger safety if no bolt is loaded. It disengages as soon as you load a bolt.

If the anti-dry-fire system is not engaged, usually because of pulling only on the right side of the string, you can dry-fire without inserting an arrow. Never rely on the anti-dry-fire system and always make sure that you have a properly seated arrow on the rail before you fire.

You can also damage your Steambow by using bolts that are too light. In this case, the anti-dry-fire system will not protect your Steambow against damage. Use only bolts that are heavier than 300 grains or 19,4 grams. The bolt weight is the total weight of the bolt, including vanes, the shaft, the nock, and the point.

Do not consciously rely on the anti-dry-fire system, and never intentionally dry fire your Steambow!

Important: The anti-dry-fire system must be disengaged to remove the string from the latch, as the anti-dry-fire catch will otherwise prevent you from releasing the string. To disengage the anti-dry-fire system

1. Uncock the the Steambow by pulling back on the cocking knob.
2. Push the anti-dry-fire system lever downward by inserting an arrow.
3. Disengage the trigger safety
4. Remove the arrow
5. By pulling on the trigger you can now release the string from the latch
Warning: There is some tension on the string, make sure to keep your hands away from the rail when removing the string from the latch.

MAINTAINING YOUR STEAMBOW

Maintaining your Steambow is the same as maintaining a conventional crossbow in many respects. The steps described in this section are very important and will ensure that you will have years of enjoyment with your Steambow.

Make sure that your Steambow is uncocked and completely depressurized before performing any maintenance.

The following parts of your Steambow must be maintained regularly:

Maintaining the bowstring

The string on your Steambow is the same as the string on a conventional crossbow. All care products that are suitable for a conventional bowstring can also be used.

Apply a suitable string wax before every use to ensure the maximum string life. Apply this wax to the serving in the center of the string. This is the reinforced part of the string that slides along the crossbow deck. This wax reduces the friction between the string and deck and significantly extends the life of your string.

It is also good to wax your string during use, ideally at least every 50 shots. You can purchase such care products directly from us or at any archery shop.

Always also inspect your string for damage when applying these products. Make sure that no individual strands are torn or noticeably frayed. Make sure that the string serving is intact, and replace the string as soon as you see any damage.

Maintaining the crossbow deck

The crossbow deck is the part of your Steambow across which the bolt and string slide. The deck is part of the mainframe and cannot be replaced. To reduce the friction between the deck and the string, we recommend that you apply polishing wax to the deck. You can purchase suitable products from us or from any specialist dealer. You should wax your crossbow deck after every use and about every 50 shots.

Maintaining the trigger assembly

Oil the trigger mechanism regularly, especially after exposing it to humidity or rain. Use a thin oil that will not dry out such as sewing machine oil or gun oil. You can purchase suitable oils from us or from a dealer. Apply a few drops of this oil to the top of the trigger and around the safety lever. Hold the Steambow in a position that allows to oil to run into the trigger mechanism.

Regular inspection of compressed air bottles

The compressed air bottles that are suitable for your Steambow are also used in paintball. Follow the manufacturer's instructions to maintain these bottles.

Apply a suitable grease to the seals of your air bottle. Otherwise, these seals can become brittle over time and must then be replaced.

Note the expiration date of your bottle. Every suitable bottle must have a test date on which it was last inspected. Every compressed air bottle in the USA must also have valid DOT certificate or it may not be filled.

IMPORTANT!

*Follow your local regulations and manufacturer's guidelines regarding inspection frequency and expiration date. **Never use an expired bottle.***

Maintaining the piston seals



Figure 19: The piston seals

Grease the seals on the piston whenever you have disassembled them. It is not necessary to do this regularly but it is advised after extensive storage. To do this, remove the pistons as follows:

- 1.** Make sure that no power source is connected and that the Steambow is depressurized.
- 2.** Remove the curled knob screw from the actuating rod located on the bottom of the limb brackets. The limbs can stay attached to the main body with the quick release pins.
- 3.** Unscrew the complete cylinder housing from the main body.
- 4.** Slide the piston out of the cylinder housing.
- 5.** Apply a suitable, petroleum free, grease to the seals - any air-gun or paintball grease would work fine.
- 6.** Grease the two return springs in each cylinder - this reduces noise while cocking.
- 7.** Slide the piston back into the cylinder housing. Make sure that the silver ring is placed inside, ideally flush with the cylinder housing. Then screw the cylinder housing back into the main body. The protruding actuating rod must fit through the slid, it might be necessary to turn the piston in the cylinder housing. Make sure that the cylinder housing is fully screwed into the main body.

You can purchase suitable grease from any air gun or paintball dealer. Make sure that the grease you select will not damage the seals, it should be petroleum free, and can withstand high pressures. Using the wrong grease can damage your Steambow. We recommend that you only use air-gun or paintball grease.

Maintaining the main valve

Regularly clean and grease the main valve at least once a year. The intervals depend on the type of grease that you use. Whenever the valve feels sticky or needs a lot of force to operate, it is helpful to change the grease or apply a new coating. Never remove or disassemble the main valve when your Steambow is under pressure.

Proceed as follows to maintain the main valve:

1. Make sure that no power source is attached and that your Steambow is depressurized.
2. Remove the front retaining ring with snap ring pliers. You can purchase these pliers at any tool store.
3. Make sure that the cocking safety is in the UNLOCKED position (you can see red O-rings).
4. Pull the valve stem out towards the trigger.
5. Apply a thin layer of suitable, air-gun or paintball, grease to the valve stem.
6. Slide the valve stem back into the valve block.
7. **NOTICE: You must use snap ring pliers (circlip pliers) to install the retaining ring or you will damage it.** Secure the valve stem with the retaining ring.
8. Secure the valve stem with the retaining ring. Use snap ring pliers for this. You cannot install the retaining ring without damaging it unless you use correct pliers.

NOTE

Do not spread the ring more than necessary to slide it onto the valve stem. It is easy to overstretch the ring, which will damage it. An overstretched retaining ring can easily slip out of the groove and must be replaced.



Figure 20: The valve block and the valve stem

Setting the string tension

The string must be set with a certain degree of tension so that your Steambow will function properly. You can determine the string tension when your Steambow is uncocked and the string is hooked into the latch. The string should be taut in this position. The string may not be completely loose in this position.

If the string has slack in it, the following can happen:

1. The bolt can lose contact with the string during cocking.

When the string is slack, it will jerk at the beginning of cocking and can push the bolt forward. If you fire without pushing the bolt back up against the string, the nock can be damaged because the string will impact the bolt at a very high speed. This can destroy the bolt and also causes inaccuracy and a slower bolt speed.

2. Reloading is more difficult.

It is difficult to hook the string into the latch efficiently when the string is too loose, and it is very difficult to make sure that the string is centered in the latch.

IMPORTANT!

The tension is set and tested at the factory for the included string.

If you change the string or if the string has stretched after years of use, you may have to adjust the tension. This tension is also a matter of personal preference, and you will soon discover how much tension you wish to have. The general rule is to set enough tension to prevent the problems described above, but no more. This means that you should be able to hook the string into the latch with minimal effort and have it taut afterwards.

The tension can be set by shortening the string or by using a new string.

To change the length of the string:

A crossbow string generally consists of numerous strands. Twisting the individual strands more shortens the string. Untwisting the strands increases the length of the string. Make sure that you twist the string equally on both sides of the serving or the string may become asymmetrical, with one side of the string longer than the other. This will degrade accuracy. Shortening the string is a good way to fine tune the tension.

SAFETY INSTRUCTIONS FOR STORING AND TRANSPORTING YOUR STEAMBOW

Please follow these instructions when transporting and storing your Steambow:

1. Disconnect the power source before transporting or storing your Steambow.

Either unscrew the compressed air bottle from the air connector or disconnect the remote line if the bottle is not connected directly to your Steambow.

The air bottle has a pin valve. This valve pin is actuated when the bottle is screwed into the air connector. When a remote line is used, this pin is actuated by the screw knob on the remote line. Turn this knob counterclockwise to turn off the remote line.

WARNING!

After disconnecting the power source, some pressure may remain in your Steambow. To release pressure, operate the cocking knob repeatedly until the pressure is fully released. When all of the pressure has been released from your Steambow, the power unit will not operate. If there is still some pressure in the system, your Steambow will begin to cock, but the limbs will not cock fully.

WARNING!

Small particles such as grit or dust can cause slight leaks in the pin valve on the bottle. Such leaks are usually so minor that they cannot be heard or otherwise detected. If you hear clear signs of a leak, for example quiet hissing, the compressed air bottle is defective and must not be used until the seals in the regulator are replaced. Please contact the manufacturer or seller of your compressed air bottle for this.

WARNING!

*Slight leaks that you cannot hear or feel can cause the bottle to empty slowly and, if connected to the Steambow, can cause pressure to build slowly in the system. **If this happens, a Steambow that was not initially cocked will slowly become cocked.** Always disconnect the power source before storage.*

2. If there is a bolt on the deck, remove it.
3. Fold the limbs back to the mainframe to make your Steambow as compact as possible (see “Folding and Deploying the Limbs”)
4. You do not have to remove the string for transport or storage. If you leave it on, secure the string to the limbs with our string keepers so that the string cannot slip off. You can also remove the string from the limbs and store it separately. Always inspect the string for damage and never use a damaged string.

Three Year Limited Warranty

Your Steambow is manufactured to the highest possible standards, using quality materials to give a lifetime of service. In the unlikely event that there are any defects in materials or workmanship in the first thirtysix (36) months after retail purchase, we will repair or replace the defective items under warranty.

What is covered?

- Replacement Parts and labor.
- Transportation charges to consumer for repaired product.

What is NOT covered?

- Any damage or faults caused by owner misuse, action or inaction.
- Transportation charges to Air Venturi for defective products.
- Damages caused by abuse or failure to perform normal maintenance.
- Any other expense.
- Parts subject to normal wear and tear.
- Consequential damages, incidental damages or incidental expenses including damage to property.

This warranty is in addition to your statutory rights. Retain your sales receipt as proof of purchase.

NOTE

Some states do not allow the exclusion or limitation of incidental or consequential damages, so the above limitation or exclusion may not apply to you.

Warranty claims

Call Air Venturi at 216-220-1180 before returning any product.

Implied warranties

Any implied warranties, including the implied warranties of merchantability and fitness for a particular purpose, are limited in duration to one year from the date of retail purchase.

NOTE

Some states do not allow limitations on how long an implied warranty lasts, so the above limitation may not apply to you.

To the extent any provision of this warranty is prohibited by federal, state or municipal law, which cannot be preempted, it shall not be applicable. This warranty gives you specific legal rights, any you may also have other rights, which vary from state to state and country to country. Illustrations and photographs are for information purposes only and may not show the exact model you purchased.

This warranty shall be invalid if the product

- Has been incorrectly disassembled, reassembled or maintained
- Has been fitted with non-Steambow parts
- Has been abused, misused or improperly stored
- Original purchase receipt cannot be presented



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