

How To Trim a Finger Tab

- The goal is to trim the tab to the length that allows you to feel your anchor point and hit the middle of the target. If you can accomplish both goals, then the tab is trimmed correctly.
 - The tab will hit your face if it is too long and the string will sting your fingers if the tab is too short.
 - Do not trim more than 1/16" to 1/8" at a time! Take your time during this process.
 - Make sure that you are using a quality pair of scissors and a ballpoint pen.
1. Start by determining how you want to hook the string and hold the tab in your hand.
 - a. How you hold the tab is personal preference. Some people like to set the plate deep in their hand while others prefer the plate farther out on the fingers. For example, I set my hook about 5/16" in front of the edge of the tab plate and I prefer the tab to set out on my fingers a bit.
 - b. Shoot a few arrows with the uncut tab to make sure that you are comfortable with where you are hooking up on the tab face. Do not anchor on your face or the extra tab material may hit your face when you release the arrow.
 2. After you are comfortable with how you want to position your tab in your hand. Hook the string with your tab as though you are going to draw an arrow. With light tension on the string, lightly trace the around your fingers on the suede with a pen or marker. A ballpoint pen typically works best.
 - a. A second person is always helpful, but not necessary.
 3. Trim the suede only to the outside edge of the line.
 - a. Hook the string and ensure that the tab was trimmed to the desired length.
 4. Place the tab facedown on a table and trace around the trimmed edge of the suede on the back of the cordovan.
 5. Trim the cordovan to the inside edge of the line.
 - a. The cordovan should be 1/8" shorter than the suede. This will ensure the edges of the cordovan and suede are even when you hook the string.
 - b. You can continue to trim the tab if it is interfering with your shot.
 - c. **Nothing can be gained by trimming your tab shorter if you can feel your anchor point and hit the middle of the target. You only risk cutting your tab too short by cutting it any further.**

