

What is a “Plan A” Arrow

We’ve had folks ask us to define what a Plan A arrow is. In a nutshell, it’s an arrow that’s capable of cleanly and ethically taking the game species being hunted when everything goes right.

Criteria for Plan A Arrows:

- It must have perfect flight. That means a perfectly tuned bow and perfectly tuned arrow.
- Construction of the entire arrow system must be strong enough to resist damage, at both impact with the animal and during penetration, when the shot is placed such that neither heavy-bone is encountered nor is excessively deep penetration required to reach the vital organs and offer at least double-lung deep penetration.
- Further requirements are that the broadhead not only remain structurally intact it also must be of a quality such the blades, when honed and stropped, are surgically sharp. The blades must also retain their sharpness during penetration, even when encountering whatever lighter bones are likely to be impacted when the shot is perfectly placed.
- The distribution of the arrow’s force between the arrow’s velocity and the arrow’s mass must be sufficient to permit double-lung depth penetration on all perfectly placed broadside shots. This means sufficient arrow mass to achieve double-lung deep penetration every time, on every shot that is perfectly placed.

So, what separates a Plan A arrow from a Plan B arrow? Plan A arrows do not have:

- Enough mass to be an acceptable Plan B weight for each game category on the chart, and with the exception of Larger Thick-Skinned and Largest Thick-Skinned Game, the Plan A arrow does not have 650 grains of arrow mass required to reliably breach heavy bone (when the arrow is coupled with a broadhead having a Mechanical Advantage of at least 2.6).
- There is no requirement for the Plan A arrow to have a single-bevel broadhead. Neither is it required to have a broadhead of high Mechanical Advantage.
- A sleek broadhead with a smooth profile is not a necessity on a Plan A arrow. Nor is the broadhead’s tip-design critical, since the Plan A arrow is only used on perfectly placed broadside shots, where the broadhead’s skip-angle is of less importance, so long as the tip maintains structural integrity.
- EFOC is not a requirement of the Plan A arrow, and normal and high FOC are adequate, since the penetration requirements are at an absolute minimum for the species being hunted. The small penetration boost offered by a tapered shaft is also not required, for the same reason.

As one can see, there is plenty of space between the Plan A arrow and the Plan B arrow for Plan A+, Plan A++ and Plan A+++ arrow setups. Every additional penetration factor one adds to their basic Plan A arrow improves it terminal performance potential, and the closer it comes to being a Plan B arrow.

One parting thought: Using a Plan A arrow is like hunting Brown Bear with a .243. Perfectly placed, and with a perfectly performing bullet, it will work every time, but it’s not what one wants to be using when things go wrong. Sooner or later, ‘working every time things go right’ is apt to leave you very disappointed, or possibly eaten! The choice is yours.