



Product Review by Anthony Barnum

**Quality Archery Designs (QAD)** has been designing and manufacturing archery equipment and accessories in their Madison Heights, Virginia facility since 1992 priding themselves on providing “products that work” to the archery industry. A combined 75 years of staff experience in both the archery woods and the target range allows QAD to live up to their motto: **“Our Target is Your Success”**. Their new Ultra-Rest LD addresses some key areas of concern with many drop-away rests while living up to this maxim.

QAD’s Sales Manager, Patrick McDonald, contacted me with the interest of having the Ultra-Rest LD exercised in the same manner as the 15 drop away rests entered in the 2006 Drop Away Rest Face-Off ([www.archerytalk.com/archerytechevaluations](http://www.archerytalk.com/archerytechevaluations)). QAD was unable to provide this rest in time for inclusion in the Face-Off test, but many requests from potential customers were made for such a comparison. Although the Face-Off testing is complete, I jumped at this chance to make my first attempt at an individual product review. I hope you enjoy the results!

### **Fit & Finish:**

Upon opening the package for the Ultra-Rest LD, the quality of the product is evident. The fit and finish is what would be expected of a high quality accessory and both the black and camo anodizing are top notch finishes. Closer inspection showed very minimal markings due to the machining process in a couple of the aluminum components. Let me stress that these markings are VERY MINOR and very close inspection in appropriate lighting was required to reveal the blemishes. Also note that the blemishes appeared on only 1 of the 2 sample rests provided by QAD. To top off the quality machine work and finishing, smooth, rounded edges show great attention to detail.

### **Ease of Setup / Use:**

Included in each Ultra-Rest LD package are all of the pieces and parts necessary to make this product virtually universal. Although not adaptable from right to left hand configurations, an extra spacer block, longer horizontal adjustment screw, an additional launcher and even a cable clamp assembly are included for convenience. These items, combined with very good written and pictorial instructions, provide for an easy setup. In fact, I was able to install, time, and fully setup the rest (including paper tuning) in just over ½ hour (31 minutes and 19 seconds) on my first attempt! This is pretty quick, especially for a very methodical and meticulous person. A qualified pro-shop should be able to install and setup this rest in well under 20 minutes.

The number of tools required is one slight inconvenience in adjusting the Ultra-Rest LD as three or more are needed for normal setup. Adjustments are made easy with clearly marked calibration lines in both the vertical and horizontal directions. Oversized hex head screws provide secure clamping, ensuring that the rest will not move over time. The only items that could make setting up the Ultra-Rest LD any easier would be micro-adjust features and a less cumbersome quick attach connector.

After initial setup is performed, shooting the Ultra-Rest LD is a breeze. An arrow is nocked and the launcher arm is rotated to the “Capture” position using the convenient thumbwheel located at the top end of the timing cord. As the bow comes to full draw, the launcher arm rotates slightly to bring the rest to the fully upright position. After the string is released, the launcher drops out of the way without any noticeable sound providing full fletching clearance. I only required three shots to achieve perfect bullet hole performance from the Ultra-Rest LD after eyeballing center-shot.

### **SPECIFICATIONS:**

#### **Manufacturer:**

**Quality Archery Designs**

P.O. Box 940

Madison Heights, VA 24572

Phone: (434) 846-5839

FAX: (434) 528-1696

E-Mail: [sales@qadinc.com](mailto:sales@qadinc.com)

**Model:** Ultra-Rest Pro Series LD

**Weight:** 2.282 Oz.

**Material:** Aluminum, Delrin

**Finish:** Anodized Black, Anodized Camo

**MSRP:** \$119.95 Black, \$129.95 Camo

**Warranty:** Limited Lifetime Warranty



**ARCHERY EVOLUTION**

[www.archeryevolution.com](http://www.archeryevolution.com)

# ULTRA-REST

## Innovation:

While closely related in appearance to other drop away rests on the market, the Ultra-Rest LD packs a lot of innovative punch into a small package. Lock Down (LD™) and Velocity Drop-Away (VDT™) characteristics are combined to form QAD's Smart Rest Technology™. LD Technology uses a patented internal cam to lock the launcher in the down position, eliminating bounce-back and providing greater fletching clearance. VDT Technology allows the arrow to maintain full containment in the static, full-draw and let-down positions, addressing one of the areas of greatest importance to many archers. VDT uses speed and timing to rotate to the drop away position after the arrow is shot; other rests use inertial properties to achieve the same affect.

## The Benefits Of **SMART REST TECHNOLOGY™**

### **LD™** (Lock-Down Technology)

High speed photography has exposed arrow rest bounce-back which may cause fletching contact and erratic arrow flight.



Patented eccentric cam, brakes and Locks-Down into the Drop Away position, thus eliminating rest bounce-back and Guaranteeing Total Fletching clearance.

### **VDT™** (Velocity Drop-Away Technology)

Arrow is loaded and VDT maintains the arrow capture position. Arrow is fully captured even during slow let down condition.

At Full Draw the patented VDT with Smart Rest Technology is activated.

If arrow is shot, VDT using speed and timing NOT inertia, passes capture position and continues to Drop Away position. This guarantees Total Fletching clearance and the most accurate shot possible.

If bow is let down slowly, VDT recovers to the arrow capture position keeping arrow in Total containment until fired.

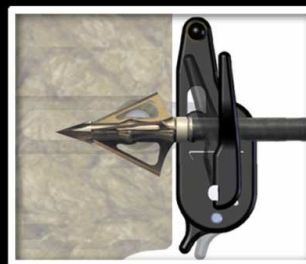


### **CAPTURE**



When nocking an arrow, cock the **ULTRA-REST LD™** in the arrow capture position via the ThumbWheel. Then forget it. Your arrow remains supported and fully captured until fired.

### **FULL DRAW**



Boasting Smart-Rest Technology, at full draw VDT is activated. The **ULTRA-REST LD™** knows to drop-away **ONLY** when bow is fired, not at slow let down.

### **DROP AWAY**



The **ULTRA-REST LD™** drops-away, and **Locks-Down**, giving you total fletching clearance and perfect arrow flight on every shot.



**ARCHERY EVOLUTION**  
[www.archeryevolution.com](http://www.archeryevolution.com)

# ULTRA-REST

## Performance:

The Ultra-Rest LD's performance was based on three basic tenets associated with drop-away arrow rests: Containment, Noise Output, and Fletching Clearance

**Containment:** The Ultra-Rest LD provides exceptional arrow containment. The arrow maintains its position within the launcher arms at all angles in the static, full draw and let-down positions. You can't ask for any more containment out of a drop-away arrow rest!

**Noise Output:** The Ultra-Rest LD scored very well in the Noise Output test and is quieter than at least half of the drop-away rests ever tested by our team. While in our experience it was not the quietest rest, it was far from the loudest with an average noise output of 73.5 dBA

**Clearance:** The Ultra-Rest LD scored high marks in the clearance category, achieving perfect clearance in both the cock vane up and cock vane down nocking configuration.

## Durability:

Durability is one of those qualities that is extremely hard to measure without highly sophisticated equipment and a large sample set of product. Because of this, I have devised a method of assessing durability by applying a load to each major component of the product assembly to see determine if any deformation occurs. This is a totally unscientific method, but if a part bends under a load that a human can place on it without "excessive" force, it probably won't hold up in demanding hunting situations. This method, combined with the total number of parts and moving parts is what makes up this durability assessment.

The components of the QAD Ultra-Rest LD that are most likely to deform under load are the launcher and the containment arm. Applying a hand load to the arms of the launcher yielded a noticeable bend in the launcher, which quickly rebounded to its normal position. The containment arm, though, did not fare so well. When a force was applied to the end of the containment arm, it bent noticeably and did not rebound back to its normal position. This arm was able to be bent back into shape, but it represents the weakest link of the exposed pieces of this rest. Note that the bending of this arm will not preclude the use of the rest and accuracy will not suffer. The only potential affect may be in the area of containment, although it appears this would not suffer unless the arm was completely broken off. Also, the Ultra-Rest LD has 20 total parts, 9 of which move during a normal shot sequence. Finally, no malfunctions were experienced during the normal testing of this rest.

## Value:

With an MSRP of \$119.95 for the black finish and \$129.95 for the camo, the QAD Ultra-Rest LD is by no means inexpensive. For the money, it provides great overall performance and does everything that a drop-away rest should do. There are many other products on the market that will perform the basic functions that any drop-away rest should, but few do it as well as the QAD Ultra-Rest LD. For the budget minded archer, the price may be a bit steep. But, this rest could definitely suit the needs of the demanding archer who requires peak performance.



## **Pros:**

- Most necessary tools provided (minus a Phillips head screwdriver)
- Easy, clear adjustments
- Great containment
- Zero bounce back
- Highly innovative

## **Cons:**

- Philips head launcher attachment screws
- Awkward cable clamp assembly
- Many tools necessary for setup
- No micro-adjustment



**ARCHERY EVOLUTION**  
[www.archeryevolution.com](http://www.archeryevolution.com)