

TROPHY TALK

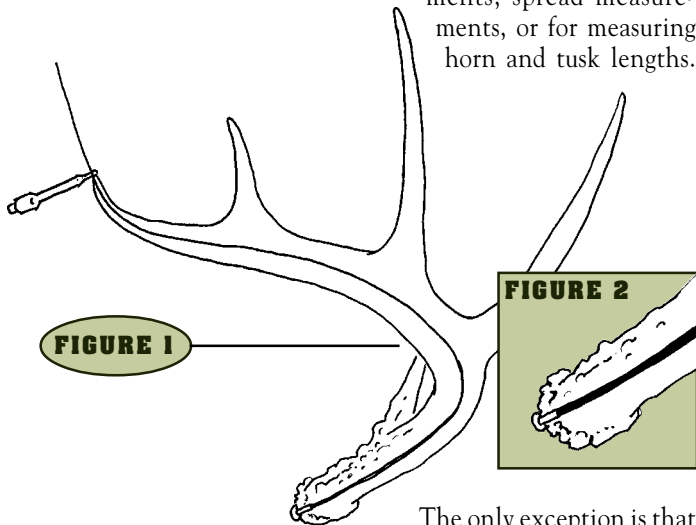
Using Boone and Crockett Club's Measuring Cable



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Director
Big Game Records

OFFICIAL MEASUREMENTS have been taken using a quarter-inch wide, flexible steel measuring tape since the Boone and Crockett Club's universally recognized, copyrighted scoring system was adopted in 1950. The steel measuring tape is still the Official Measurer's primary measuring tool, but a flexible steel cable is approved for measuring lengths of antlers and points for all categories of deer, elk, and caribou. The use of a cable greatly speeds up the measuring process while still yielding accurate measurements.

The cable is *not* approved for taking any circumference measurements, spread measurements, or for measuring horn and tusk lengths.

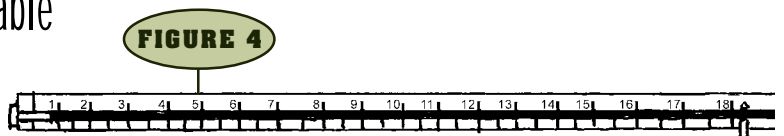


The only exception is that a cable may be used to determine horn length on muskox.

The measuring cable consists of a "mini-hook" clip and a six foot long piece of plastic-coated, cable used on compound bows. A rivet is affixed to one end of the cable. An "alligator" clip can be substituted for the mini-hook clip.

MEASURING BEAM LENGTHS

To measure the length of a whitetail deer antler, position the cable along the outer curve of the main beam (**Figure 1**). The rivet end of the cable is hooked on the bottom edge of the burr as illustrated in **Figure 2**. The end of the main beam length measurement is indicated by attaching the mini-hook



clip to the cable at the tip of the main beam as illustrated in **Figure 3**. Masking tape, or some similar tape, may be used to position the cable or to hold it in place while the length measurement is being determined.

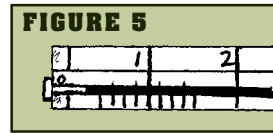
Once the mini-hook clip is in place, the cable is removed from the antler and placed on a straight edge, such as an extended folding carpenter's ruler, as illustrated in **Figure 4**. The rivet end, which was hooked to the bottom edge of the burr, is hooked to the zero point of the straight edge (**Figure 5**). The cable is then tautly stretched along the straight edge, and the antler's length is read off the straight edge on the inside edge of the mini-hook clip (**Figure 6**).

The measurement is then recorded in the appropriate blank on the score chart. For example, the length measurement for **Figure 6** is recorded as 19-6/8. If the hook end of the mini-hook clip falls between eighths, you should round the length measurement up or down to the nearest eighth of an inch.

Figures 1, 2, and 3 illustrate the proper method for determining the main beam length of a whitetail deer with a cable; a similar technique is used for determining beam lengths on all deer, elk, and caribou.

MEASURING POINTS

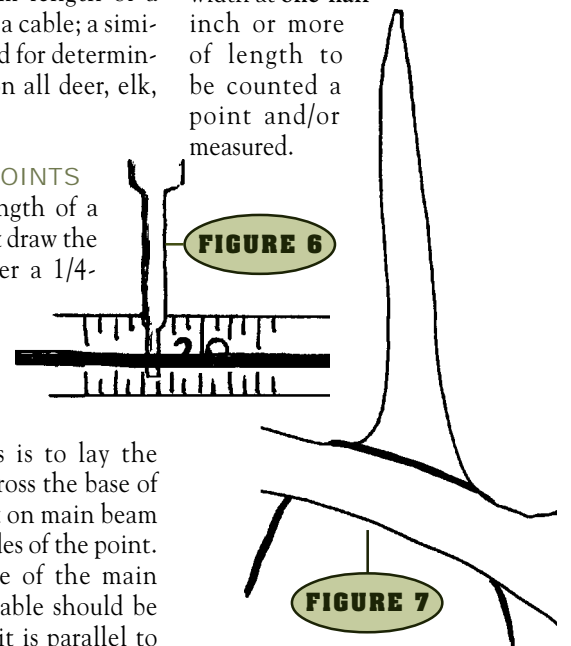
To measure the length of a point, you must first draw the baseline with either a 1/4-inch-wide, flexible steel tape or the measuring cable (**Figure 7**). A good method for drawing base lines is to lay the measuring cable across the base of the point, resting it on main beam material on both sides of the point. If the bottom edge of the main beam curves, the cable should be positioned so that it is parallel to



the bottom edge. Once the cable is properly positioned, lightly draw a pencil line across the bottom edge of the cable as illustrated in **Figure 8** on the main beam and remove the cable. Basically, the base line is drawn to emulate what the main beam would look like if the point were not present.

Once the base line is drawn, place the end of the cable *without* the rivet on the center of the base line and follow the outside curve of the point to its tip (**Figure 8**). The end of the measurement is marked on the cable by attaching the mini-hook clip to the cable at the tip of the point as illustrated in **Figure 8**.

Keep in mind that in order for a projection to be counted and measured as a point for deer and elk, it must be at least an inch long with length exceeding width at one inch or more of length. In caribou, the projection must be at least **one-half** inch long with length exceeding width at **one-half** inch or more of length to be counted a point and/or measured.



Remove the cable from the point and place it on a folding carpenter's ruler as described above for determining the length of the main beam. The point measurement is recorded in the appropriate box on the score chart.

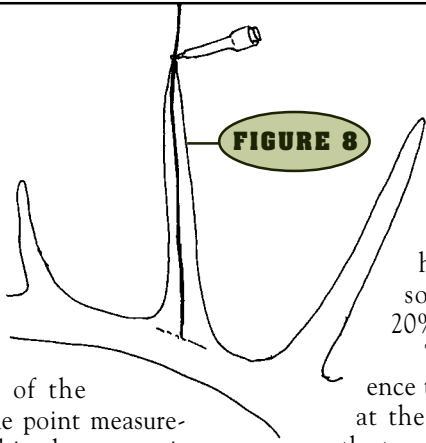


FIGURE 8

quarters for \$12.95 each, including shipping and handling. Associates get a 20% discount.

The circumference tape has a ring at the beginning of the tape, instead of the standard clip-end. It also has a two-inch blank space before the zero mark to aid in accurately taking circumference measurements.

CIRCUMFERENCE MEASUREMENTS

Circumference measurements cannot be taken with a cable; they must be taken with a standard 1/4-inch wide, flexible steel tape. Horn and tusk length measurements are also taken only with a flexible steel tape. Circumference measurements for antlers, horns, and tusks are taken with a specially designed circumference measuring tape available from Club head-

SCORING MATERIALS

Score charts with simple scoring instructions, as well as other information about the Club's records-keeping activities and scoring materials can be obtained by checking out the Club's web site at boone-crockett.org or by calling B&C headquarters at 406/542-1888. ▲▲▲

BIG GAME SCORING SYSTEM NOW AVAILABLE

The Boone and Crockett Club has released the Big Game Scoring System CD. This CD includes a special program for calculating the final score of your trophy. You simply input the measurements as instructed and the program calculates the final score for you. Other features of the CD include a special B&C World's Record screen saver and all the score charts in pdf format.



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