

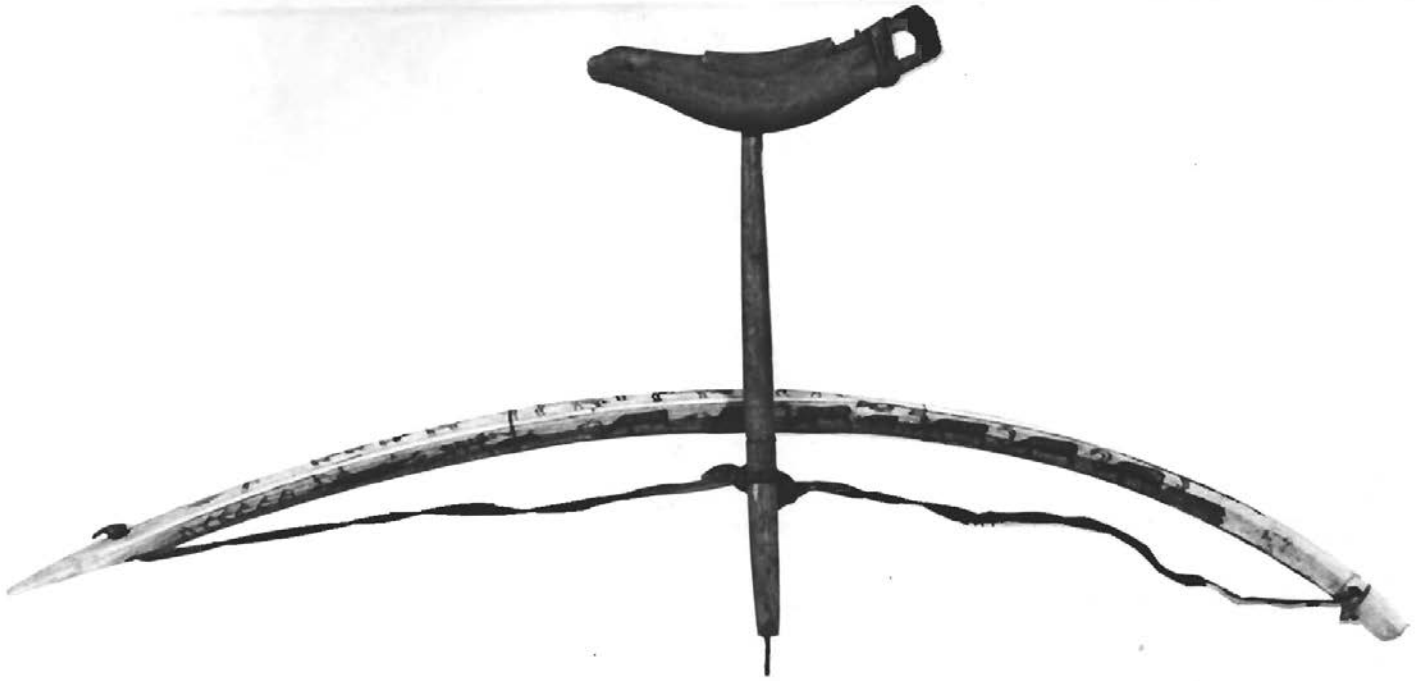
Ivory drill bow, 19th century, 35 cm

Two of the four engraved sides of this drill bow, with a square cross-section, are shown below. For ivory carving and engraving, the ivory was usually softened by soaking in urine (sometimes repeatedly), and the engraved portions were blackened using a mixture of gunpowder and blood (Nelson, 1899, p. 196).

Nelson, E.W. (1899): *The Eskimo About Bering Strait*, Annual Report, Bureau of American Ethnology, Washington, DC.







A complete bow drill assembly (Sheldon Jackson Museum II.X.68)



Bruce White photo

Punuk mouth support for a bow drill

A protrusion on the concave side (broken off in this example) is gripped between the teeth.



Wood wolf figure, with bone inset to hold the drill, representing the top portion (cap) of a drill assembly, 11.5 cm

Drill caps of this type were used by placing under the chin or forehead to support and put pressure on the drill. For similar caps with bone insets in the bottom, see Nelson, 1899, Plate 37 (e.g., numbers 22, 23, 26, 27).