

From the office of the Group Knight's Marshal,

It has been my observation as the Knight's Marshal that there has been many people making thrusting tips for their swords and ending up with mixed results. Because of this, I have decided to describe my method of making a thrusting tip for a single-handed sword or dagger. It is an edited version of the method used by Serjant Rutgur von Stuttgart that I received off of the Middle Kingdom Combat email list. I say edited because I've added some things that I thought would be good to include. Rutgur swears that he's had only one "blow-out" in two years on several swords and that was a very well used Unbelted Battle practice sword.

As with all instruction, please read through the steps before making an attempt at making a tip. Also, this method involves making the tip before the rest of the sword.

Materials needed:

- 3/8" or 1/2" neoprene foam (do an Internet search for this)
- 1/2" closed cell foam (blue camping foam found at Wal-Mart)
- Duct tape of appropriate color
- Athletic tape
- Spray contact cement (optional)
- A measuring instrument
- A marker or pen

1. Cut out one piece of neoprene in an octagonal shape 3/8" bigger across than rattan.
2. Wrap the neoprene over the rounded corners of the rattan. Either use contact-cement or rolled tape to attach foam to rattan. It will make things easier if you can get the neoprene that is self-adhesive.
3. Add two more layers in the same way as in steps one and two, but use the 1/2" camping foam.
4. From the tip (the topmost piece of foam) measure six inches down the sword and make a line around the sword.
5. Now with the athletic tape, start at the mark you just made and tape vertically up and over the tip and back down to the mark on the opposite side. Do this two more times in a star-like pattern. NOTE: make it very loose and do not tape tightly.
6. Starting at the mark, spiral wrap the athletic tape vertically up the sword with a 1/2" overlap. When at 1/2" to 1/4" near the end of the tip make one wrap of the tape completely around.
7. Check the side-to-side resistance and tape again if necessary, but be careful. The tighter the foam is taped, the less likely it is to compress. Current Middle Kingdom rules (2003) say that thrusting tips are required to compress for a 1/2".
8. Now tape the sword as usual with strapping tape and duct tape. Make sure that when taping the tip that the duct tape is loose and does not affect compression of the tip.

This method makes for a sturdy and durable tip. The athletic tape holds up better than strapping tape because it is meant to support whatever is under it and the neoprene lasts a while longer against rattan than the camping foam. If you have any questions or suggestions, do not hesitate to contact me.

Happy Thrusting!

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