

November 19, 2003

Greetings from Ravenslake's Knight's Marshal!

I know that Ravenslake has been getting many new fighters lately, so I decided to write an article on how I make a single-handed sword. Remember, this is how I make a sword. I cannot teach you how anyone else makes one. But I find this method works best. PLEASE READ ALL INSTRUCTIONS BEFORE YOU BEGIN.

How to make a single handed sword by Gintaras:

1) CUT IT TO LENGTH. First, stand up straight, extend your arm out to the side and measure from the armpit to the tip of your middle finger. Subtract 2 inches if you are including a thrusting tip. That will be the BLADE length. Next, add the length that your basket hilt (or equivalent) will take up space on the sword. Be sure to include *the entire* hilt. Then, if your hilt allows for any rattan to "stick out" on the bottom, add two more inches for balance. Last, total those measurements and cut out the piece of rattan.

2) THRUSTING TIP. Go check out my article at <http://www.ravenslake.com/heavycombat.htm> on how to make a thrusting tip. It's at the bottom of the page. You want to always make the tip *before* taping it.

3) GET RESOURCES. Purchase the following items:

- Red Duct Tape
- Grey Duct Tape
- Strapping Tape (you'll need more of this than anything else)
- A length of light ounce leather, cord, or equivalent (for the lanyard)
- Basket hilt (or equivalent)
- Attachment method for hilt (I use hose clamps)
- Jigsaw
- Something that provides grip (I use sand paper and Elmer's wood glue)

4) GRIP. Mark your blade by finding the blade length as in Step 1. Now place your hilt in position at the mark and mark where your grip will be. Remove the hilt. Now use the jigsaw to carve out a handle that fits you best. Some people don't do this, but I find that it makes it easier to hold the sword. *The easier it is to hold the weapon, the less energy you are using.*

Now take your gripping method (i.e. sand paper) and glue it in place (if necessary).

5) BLADE. Now that you have your grip set and markings marked, cut 4 pieces of strapping tape that equals the length of the blade. You will put 2 on each side of the striking surface. Now place 1 strip of gray duct tape on each side of the "flat" of the blade. Do not worry if they overlap. Finally, place a half strip of red duct

tape on each side of the sword that will be considered the “blade” (covering up the strapping tape). The red duct tape may need to be wider or thinner, depending on the size of the rattan and your taping job with the gray duct tape.

6) HILT. Take your hilt and slide it into place. Attach with preferred method (i.e. hose clamps). If you do use hose clamps, you will need to cover them with gray duct tape.

7) LANYARD. Take leather, cord, or equivalent and tie one end to the hilt. Make the other end into a loop for your wrist and you will have your lanyard.

8) START WHACKING!

If you have any questions, do not hesitate to contact me. Have fun!

~Gintaras Tauras, C.R.C.~  
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Midlands  
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