

YAC Sword Building

Materials:

- 3/4th inch diameter rattan
- 1/2 inch High-density Closed Cell foam or CC foam, (camping mat foam)
- Strapping tape
- Duct tape 2 colors
- Athletic grip tape
- Rubber chair foot cap, 3/4 inch
- Thick leather
- Twine

Tools:

- Hacksaw
- Spoke shave
- Sand paper
- Scissors
- Cutting board
- Leather knife

Building the sword

Prepare rattan-

Cut rattan to length; remember the sword will be 2 inches longer than the rattan core.

Spoke shave and sand down rattan to no greater than 13/16th inch or less than 5/8 inch.

It is best to keep the rattan as close to 3/4 inch as possible, because it makes building the thrusting tip easier.

Taping the "blade"-

Cover the rattan core completely in a layer of strapping tape placed lengthwise on core end to end.

Roll rattan in 1/2" CC foam, mark where foam meets around blade, and mark foam 2" past blade tip down to where the handgrip starts. Cut the foam using marks as a guide.

Tape the foam into a long tube, off the blade, by abutting the sides of the foam piece together. Short pieces of strapping tape work well for this. Careful joining of the foam hides the seam. This task is easier with two people.

Place foam tube on blade; the foam should fit closely to the blade so the rattan doesn't move around independently of the foam.

Leave the top 2 inches of the tube above the rattan empty. Take a piece of foam about 2-3 inches by 2 inches and roll it tightly and slip in the top 2 inches of the foam tube. Often this will take a couple of tries with a bit of foam cut off the width each time until you get a good fit. This makes the thrusting tip. Put an X of strapping tape over thrusting tip going down to mid blade.

Cover blade lengthwise with strapping tape from handle over top and back down to handle. Use 2 strips of tape to completely cover the foam, making an X over the top, this secures the foam to the rattan.

Cover the blade in duct tape, or cloth, and mark the cutting edges and thrusting tip in a contrasting color.

Building the handle-

Cut the hand guard from heavy leather, leaving tabs to allow attaching to the sword with tape. Tape the blade end first, and then move the bottom of the hand guard out of the way up the handle, so the rubber chair foot cap can be put on the bottom of the rattan. Then tape the chair foot cap down with strapping tape, and cover with duct tape. Then move the bottom of the hand guard back in place and tape down.

Attach the lanyard to the rattan at either the top or the bottom of the hand guard, your choice. Tie the lanyard around the rattan, and tape into place. As an alternative, you can add a trigger on the leather tab from the hand guard on the handle.

Cover the handle with athletic grip tape, and the sword should be ready for inspection and combat.