

Electric Weapon Building Rules (Yeah it does)

Notebook: Grindfest Electric Knives

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Brought to you by the Weapon Wizards of Grindfest

So, you've decided that regular electric knife fighting isn't good enough. You want to take it to the next level and join the new exhibitionist league where you can carry your custom weapon into the arena. Maybe you're chasing glory. Perhaps you want to prove your building prowess. Whatever your motivation, we applaud you, and it is our job to keep everyone safe.

We can't have anyone towing an extension cord and a transformer into the circle to cook their opponent alive, think of the PR. Two people will walk into the ring, and by golly, two people will walk out on their own two feet. We're going to talk about what ingredients you can cook into your electric recipe, so everyone is smiling at the end.

We had a general, "Don't be a monster," mentality when we wrote these rules, but we codified them further to reduce ambiguity. Chances are, you brilliant people will force us to add new rules, and that is all right.

Building

1 - Power

- You must use a battery contained within the weapon. If that "containment" is a battery clip hot-glued to the side of a wooden dowel, that's cool. Heck, it makes it easier for us to investigate.
- Your batteries cannot exceed 4V (four-volts). We're building the standard knives with swappable 18650 batteries, but if you want to carry a pocket full of AAs, we won't stand in the way of your dreams.
- No boost converters before the high-voltage converter. The stock knives we're building throw an electrical arc nearly half-an-inch, and we don't want to BBQ anyone's eyelashes with a two-foot arc.

3 - Construction

- You may have one unbroken length of chain or flexible cable less than thirteen-inches long. If electric nunchucks get you excited, go right ahead, but if you think you're going to make a mancatcher, we have some bad news for you. Let's let the electricity decide, not asphyxiation.
- No sharp edges or points. If you have fought before, you understand that a simple zip-tie can draw blood, so we don't want anyone waltzing into our arena with a hand-forged katana duct-taped to a taser. Do that crap on your own time.

4 - Parts

- High-voltage converter. We standardized on a high-voltage converter because there are a lot of choices, and some of them would loosen bowels. We stayed clear of those once we learned our lesson. Salvage these mysterious relics from cheap Amazon tasers, like Vipertek VTS-T01, VTS-T02, VTS-T03, and VTS-880. Other brands sell these stun guns, like Sabre, and they all use the same parts. Whatever ships cheaply to your house, is peachy with us. We insist they come out of an existing taser because we know they tested on people, and those subjects were keen

on bowel control. We hope we're not making too many assumptions here. If you aren't sure, ask us. We're spectacular people.

- Your circuit must only be active when holding a momentary switch. A typical Normally-Open button works, and this eliminates throwing weapons, thank the stars, but it also means that you can't accidentally shock someone for a solid minute. That would start to smell foul.

Those are the main points. Simple right? If you ask yourself, "Will this harm my friend?" and the answer is "Yes," make some changes.

Testing

We devised some tests to make sure your shiny creation is ready for the big time. Ring-ready, if you will. Safety is the cornerstone of our testing and most definitely not a sick joy at shocking people in a dimly-lit living room. Perish the thought.

1 - Chest

- Someone* will shock the builder on the chest. We figure that if you're willing to step into the ring and apply the business-end of your weapon to a friend, you need to prove that it won't cause a cardiac event or past-life hallucinations. It's only one tap, if you're a keen fighter, someone else will get three.

2 - Arm

- Someone* will shock the builder on the back of the arm, and the builder must not drop a pen from that hand. We do this because we don't want a weapon that is going to cause crazy muscle contractions. You might be expecting another bowel joke, but we're mostly concerned about someone unexpectedly flinging themselves into a tree or the judging table.

3 - Veto

- A majority vote by Weapon Wizards can disqualify a weapon. The builder will hear all our concerns and reapply when it's safe. Your replica Buster Sword is a dandy bit of cosplay, but someone is going to get crushed. Not emotionally, I hope I go out like that.

That covers the testing. We don't expect to spend more than a quick session zapping folks instead because we'll spend our time asking how you made something so fresh.

* This will be someone who the builder is comfortable operating their weapon against them. It does not have to be a Weapon Wizard**.

** Yes, we call ourselves Weapon Wizards. Don't be jealous.

We have some honorary awards for the first year of exhibition matches. In no discernable order:

- Most fierce weapon
- Most adorable weapon
- "Safety third"

We reserve the right to add or subtract categories as necessary. If "Most glitter-filled weapon" becomes a contested category, I will walk home. I hope I die on the way. That's not a world where I want to live. Just thinking about it. Damn.