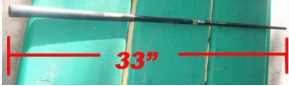


The Ultra-light Short Sword:

Many say the best Amtgard sword is the Ultra-light noodle. They vary in style, length and design and are becoming the mainstay of Amtgard combat.

Benefits: lightweight, speed, and the extended playtime due to both (you don't get as tired as quickly). The Ultra-light also is inherently safer for the types of cores it uses. Kitespar, Graphite and Fiberglass clubs all break clean and completely in comparison to Bamboo and PVC which have their own problems when breaking (though they are still legal for cores). Drawbacks: Ultra-light cores tend to be smaller in diameter than the hole in most noodle. Therefore the extra "play" or space between the core and the noodle causes the core to bite into the noodle with each hit, thereby breaking the noodle down quickly and "tipping" your sword. This can be ratified to compare fairly weel with the "Tip Life" of any other weapon by some simple steps below.

Directions: First decide which core material you're going to be using. My favorite is a Graphite golf club because it is generally the lightest you'll find and has a decent thickness for it's handle already built in.



Cut the core you've decided on to 33".



Cut two strips of blue camp foam 5/8" wide x 2.5" long.



In preparation for the next steps cut 2 pieces of 1" strapping tape 3.5" long and 2 pieces about 10" long.



Fold one blue foam strip over the tip as shown.



Anchor it to the core by wrapping one of the 3.5" pieces of strapping tape around it as shown.



Fold the second blue foam strip over the last in the cross pattern as shown.



Using the second piece of 3.5" strapping tape anchor it like the first. Cross pattern strap-tape the tip as shown with the 10" pieces making sure to NOT compressed the tip.



Torque wrap the tip starting on the base side and wrap "tip-wards" as shown. Again to not compress the very tip!!!



Next Take a piece of 2x2 inch blue foam and secure it 12 inches from the tip with strapping tape as shown. (This adds a bit of balance and will cut down on the rattle, or "dead" sound the Ultra-light would make otherwise.)

-If using a golf club I suggest trimming off some of the rubber handle. Some like to take it all off to save the weight, my preference is a ticker tapered handle that the rubber grip already provides. Just trim all but the bottom 6-7 inches off as shown.



Just score the rubber deep enough around the diameter of the grip and then up the length from you cut point in order to peel the pieces off.

Next cut a piece of noodle to the desired length of blade you want, I suggest about 29 inches(or the full length of the core from the tip down to the grip plus one inch.)



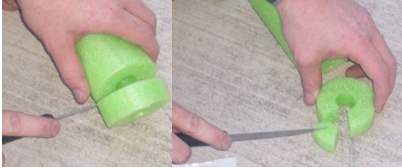
Slide the core into the noodle until the tip is inset by about an inch from the top edge of the noodle.



Trace the diameter of the noodle onto a piece of blue foam camping pad 3 times. Cut out each cap. Glue 2 of the caps together (for the pommel latter)



Cut out a Pineapple shaped wedge from a 1 inch width section of noodle as shown.



Stuff it into the hole at the tip. ****DO NOT OVER STUFF!** If the wedge is thicker than the hole just trim it off level with the end of the noodle. If you compress it will eventually expand pushing your tip cap up and away from the noodle**

You can glue one cap to the tip of the sword and reinforce with strapping tape in the cross pattern as shown or just tape it on if you don't want to glue. Gluing will just hold the tip on a bit longer, I normally blow through the fun noodle long before my cap breaks through the tape so I don't glue the cap any longer.



Using Strapping tape or Clear Packing tape reinforce the tip cap as shown.



Using a steak knife cut around the lower edge of the noodle blade at a 45% angle as show.



Torque wrap the lower edge of the noodle blade with strapping tape making sure to wrap down onto the core at least 2 inches and then back up to the noodle as shown .



This will anchor the noodle to the core, some prefer to use clear packing tape for this step, (both work).

Using clear packing tape, run 3 strips up one side of the blade and down the other side, slightly overlapping each time as shown:



As time has gone by I have stopped using Strapping tape all together on this type of construction and have started substituting all the above steps with Clear Packing tape. I also spiral wrap the “sweet spot” (the top 6 inches of my sword) with the packing tape making sure not to compress or torque as I do it.

Pommels:

A quick note on pommels: Pommels must be ESL, eye socket legal, (larger than an eye socket) and have half of an inch of padding. As a personal rule of thumb I make sure every pommel has at least 2 layers of blue foam camp pad (or the equivalent) on the end cut the same diameter as the caps made for the noodle tips. Theses will compress down some, but will still remain large enough in diameter to be ESL (Eye Socket Legal).

Noodle Pommel:

Used by many this pommel is the easiest to make. Great for those who choke up on their grip but bad for those who "pistol" grip their pommel because it tends to break down quickly.

Directions:

Cut a two inch section of noodle out.

Slide it onto the end of the core until it is flush.

Glue/tape two camp pad caps to the end of the pommel.



Strap-tape the noodle pommel to the core using the cross pattern just like you did on the tip of the sword. (using that pic cause I forgot to take pics of the pommel making).



Bevel the edge opposite the end cap and torque wrap down onto the core just like you did the blade.



(just imagine that's a picture of the pommel.....)

Now go make a cover for it and you're good to go!

Fitz