

= Bat 'leth =

The bat 'leth (Klingon : betleH , pronunciation : [ʔbʔtʰlʔx]) is a double sided scimitar / hook sword / deer horn knives hybrid @-@ edged weapon with a curved blade , four points and handholds on the back . It was designed and created by Star Trek : The Next Generation visual effects producer Dan Curry for the Star Trek franchise , where it is the characteristic melee weapon of Klingons . Curry has called the bat 'leth " one of the iconic images associated with the show " . It has spawned a smaller version , which became known as the " mek 'leth " (Klingon : meqleH) . Bat 'leths have become an enduring symbol of the franchise among fans and are occasionally referenced in other media .

= = Description = =

A bat 'leth is a curved blade approximately 5 feet (1 @.@ 5 m) long , with two spiked protrusions at each end and three handholds along the back which can be used to twist and spin the blade rapidly .

Dan Curry created the bat 'leth in 1990 for Worf , a character played by Michael Dorn in Star Trek : The Next Generation after receiving approval from producer Rick Berman . Curry based it on the " Chinese fighting crescent " . Curry ? a martial artist ? also developed a fighting style similar to t 'ai chi ch 'uan for the use of the weapon . In 1995 , he developed a smaller version of the bat 'leth , the " mek 'leth " ? which is based on a Northern Tibetan cavalry sword . He designed the weapon for Dorn to use when Worf joined the crew of Star Trek : Deep Space Nine . Mek 'leths are intended for one @-@ handed use and shaped like a scimitar ; it is about half the length of the full @-@ size bat 'leth .

= = Use in Star Trek = =

In Star Trek lore , the Klingon Kahless created the bat 'leth around 625 A.D. According to Klingon mythology , he formed the blade by dropping a length of his hair into some lava from inside the Kri 'stak Volcano , then cooling , shaping , and hardening it in the lake of Lursor . He then united Qo 'noS , the Klingon homeworld by killing a tyrant named Molor with the weapon , which became known as the " Sword of Kahless " . The sword was later stolen by a species called the Hur 'q during their invasion of Qo 'noS . In the Deep Space Nine episode " The Sword of Kahless " , Worf and another Klingon named Kor rediscover the artifact , but it is eventually transported into space to prevent them from using it to attack each other . The Sword of Kahless differs from normal bat 'leths as it has five points and one handhold compared to four points and three handholds .

In the Klingon language , the bat 'leth was originally referred to as batlh 'etlh , then was shortened to betleH . The word " bat 'leth " means " Sword of Honor " . Bat 'leths are made of a reinforced metal called baakonite and are normally 116 centimetres (3 @.@ 81 ft) long and weigh 5 @.@ 3 kilograms (12 lb) .

The bat 'leth appeared in 29 television episodes across the Star Trek franchise in Star Trek : The Next Generation , Star Trek : Voyager , Star Trek : Deep Space Nine and Star Trek : Enterprise . The Bat 'leth was also used in the 1994 film Star Trek Generations . The mek 'leth appeared in the television series Deep Space Nine and in the 1996 film Star Trek : First Contact . The Sword of Kahless appeared in the 2000 video game Star Trek : Armada and normal bat 'leths appeared in the 1996 video game Star Trek : Klingon . Some of the bat 'leth 's uses were in the debut episode " Reunion " , where Worf teaches his son Alexander how to use one . Worf used a bat 'leth to kill Duras ? a Klingon who killed Worf 's mate K 'Ehleyr . Notable uses of the weapon occurred in the Voyager episode " Barge of the Dead " ? in which Tuvok uses a bat 'leth to teach B 'Elanna Torres about her Klingon heritage , and in the Deep Space Nine episode " Tacking into the Wind " ? in which Worf kills the leader of the Klingon High Council , Gowron in a bat 'leth duel to give the Klingon Chancellorship to General Martok .

= = Cultural legacy = =

The bat 'leth is considered an iconic image of the Star Trek universe . Replicas are widespread and are considered collectibles by some and a part of Klingon costume . A number of outlets , including replica merchants , weapons dealers and pawn shops sell them . Ronald D. Moore , who has worked on Star Trek and Battlestar Galactica , displays one in his office . However , due to the dangers of real bat 'leths , no officially licensed replicas of the weapon are available from either Curry or Paramount Pictures .

The rise in the popularity of the bat 'leth has led to the formation of martial arts teams aiming to develop a martial art distinct from the one Curry initially developed . Such teams have incorporated moves from ju @-@ jitsu , kendo , kinjitsu and nunchaku . Bat 'leth competitions have been held at conventions such as MileHiCon and StarCon .

The bat 'leth has appeared in television programs outside the Star Trek franchise . In 2002 , it was seen in Stargate SG @-@ 1 episode " The Other Guys " . In 2005 , a bat 'leth was in the background of the US detective series Monk episode " Mr. Monk vs. the Cobra " . In 2010 , one was seen in the " Chuck Versus the Beard " episode of American comedy series Chuck . In 2011 , a bat 'leth was used in American situation comedy The Big Bang Theory episode " The Zarnecki Incursion " .

= = Legality = =

Replicas of the bat 'leth are often made of metal and can be dangerous . A British police spokesman said that stainless steel bat 'leth could " literally , take someone 's head off " . Media reports documenting instances of replica bat 'leths being used in crimes have referred to the weapon as a " double @-@ pointed Klingon crescent @-@ shaped sword " , a " Klingon @-@ type sword " , a " Star Trek Klingon @-@ type sword " or as a " double @-@ pointed scimitar " .

= = = United Kingdom = = =

In the United Kingdom , it is legal to possess a bat 'leth on private property ; however , they may be seized if they are considered to be " potential evidence of a criminal lifestyle . " They are classed as weapons , which makes it illegal to carry one in a public place . A replica bat 'leth was surrendered to Gloucestershire Constabulary as part of the 2006 knife amnesty in the UK . In 2008 , a miniature bat 'leth was seized in Oxford after a 17 @-@ year @-@ old was caught trying to smuggle it into a College . Police described the weapon as " most horrendous " . The person was arrested and sentenced to six months in a young offenders ' institution . In 2009 , a man from Billingham , County Durham , was arrested for possession of a miniature bat 'leth in a public street . In the court documents , it was referred to as a " multi @-@ bladed sword " , and the judge said " I 've never seen anything like it in my life before . " The accused pleaded guilty at Teesside Crown Court , and he was later sentenced to thirteen weeks in prison . The court ordered that the bat 'leth was to be forfeited and destroyed . A custom @-@ made bat 'leth was seized in 2009 in Accrington , Lancashire .

= = = United States = = =

The legality of the bat 'leth in the United States differs between states . In 2009 , a replica bat 'leth was used in Colorado Springs , Colorado , in two armed robberies . The Colorado Springs Police Department said that it was a deadly weapon . In New Jersey , bat 'leths are considered weapons and are liable to be seized . The Federal Bureau of Investigation discovered and seized a bat 'leth as part of a cache of weapons in connection with a \$ 4 million Medicare fraud investigation in 2010 .