

Basic Boffer Construction

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The following will be eight easy steps to the construction of a simple boffer sword design. Know that this is mostly just my opinion and only one way to make one; there are a multitude of ideas and crafters out there who are just as valid (if not more) than I am.

Materials

- 1 roll of blue mat foam (camping foam)
- 1 driveway marker (either the orange one or the white w/ the red reflector on top)
- Open cell foam (cushion foam)
- Glue (I recommend E600 crafting/construction glue)
- Measuring tape/ yardstick
- Retractable box knife

Steps

1. Draw out your design for your sword. Once you have one you like, figure the weapons total length (X), the length of just the blade (Y), and the length of the handle (Z).
2. Cut the driveway marker to the length of your sword (X) minus 4" (the 4" will account for your tip and pommel). Then take your blue mat foam and mark/cut out 3 copies of your blade (Y); which should be your blade measurement (Y) minus 2". Take one of your blade copies and cut out a space for your core to sit in; this space should be from the bottom of the blade to 1" from the top, leaving a space of blue mat foam between your core and your tip.
3. Assemble the pieces as shown on the diagram applying plenty (but not too much) glue between each layer. Clean up any glue that leaks out the sides to prevent any hard pieces on the surface of your weapon. (Note: E600 glue will require to set over night to fully cure. Recommend to allow it to fully cure before further work to prevent any shifting of the pieces.)
4. Measure out the edge part of your blade and cut the foam at your desired angle to create the edge portion of your blade. The size and angle of your edge is up to your preference, and though an edge is not required it is highly recommended as it creates a better/softer striking surface of your weapon.
5. Measure/cut out a 2" tip using the open cell foam. Then create a cross guard for your weapon. (This can be however you wish to make it; the simplest way would be 1 to 2 layers of blue mat foam glued together in a rectangular shape w/ the core running through the center as seen in the diagram) Glue both the tip and crossguard onto the blade as shown.
6. Create a pommel in the same manner as you made the blade in step 3. The pommel can be any shape you wish with a minimum of 2" (being 1" on the core and 1" past the core.)
7. You can create your handle any way you see fit so long as it is sturdy and safe. Two easy and popular options are to wrap the core with a thick gauge of rope (Ex 1) or to tape/glue short pieces of the driveway marker to the core to the desired shape/size. (Ex 2)
8. Once the construction is fully completed, you may then finish the weapon in either a layer of duct tape or in a coating of plastidip. (If choosing plastidip be sure to do it in 2 to 3 even layers. Too much will create a hard striking surface.)

I hope you found this short tutorial on basic weapon construction to be helpful and informative.



