

How to Build a Basic Weapon

Materials you will need:

- 3/4 or 1/2 inch PVC pipe
- 5/8 inch wall pipe insulation
- Two 2 inch or larger cubes of open cell foam

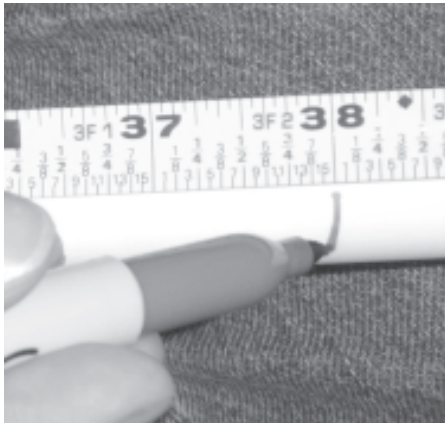
foam

· Hacksaw, scissors, knife, marker, tape measure

- Duct tape or cloth tape
- Electrical tape (optional)

This section will walk you through building a long sword. These directions can be extrapolated to most other weapons by making minor adjustments for their type. Remember to minimize the amount of tape that you are using when possible. Often times a half-width piece will do the same job as a full-width piece.

Before cutting anything, make a quick sketch of the weapon you intend to build, including dimensions. Double check that all of your proportions will meet the requirements listed on the weapon specification chart as well as any additional rules listed in the construction section. Mark your materials so that you are certain they are the correct size.



1: Use the hacksaw to cut your core to the desired length.



It should be six inches shorter than the finished length of the weapon (six and a half for spears, polearms, and two-handed swords). Tape over the open ends of pipe to remove the sharp edges and to prevent foam from packing into the tube.



Cut your pipe insulation for your blade and pommel. The blade piece should be two inches shorter than the total blade length you desire. Unless you are making a bow, you should have a pommel piece that is about three inches. If you are making a bow, you should have two 'blade' pieces of about equal length.

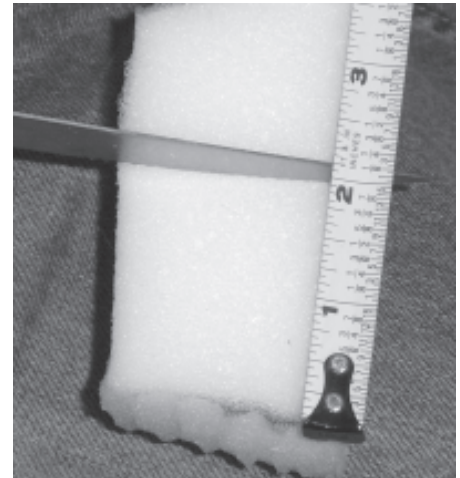
2: Take two inch-long pieces of pipe insulation (about a quarter circle each) and secure one tightly to each end of your core.



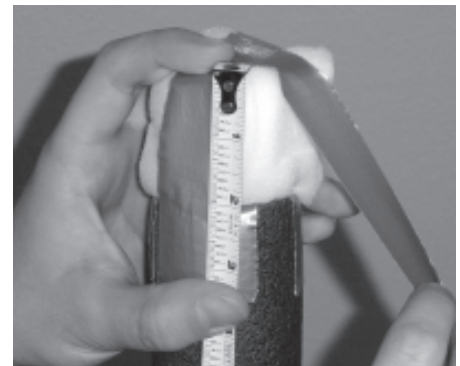
Slide the blade foam onto the core, stopping when you reach the foam plug you just affixed. Tape over the end so that the foam cannot slide down.



3: Cut a piece of open cell foam that is two inches square and at least two inches tall.



Trim off four edges so that you have a tall cylinder the same width as your blade. Secure the open cell foam to the top of your blade with a cross of tape.



Be certain that the tip is not compressed more than two inches. Once the tip is secure, encircle the region where the two pieces meet with a strip of tape.

