

Constructing a Safe Boffer Weapon for MAGESTRY

Boffer weapons are constructed from PVC or CPVC Pipe, two types of foam, and duct tape.

Materials You Need

- PVC or CPVC Pipe with a 3/4" total diameter (not inner diameter)
- Pipe Insulation Foam with a 3/4" inner diameter and at least a 1/2" thick wall (1 1/4" or greater total diameter). Be careful not to use the wrong sized pipe insulation foam. Typically, the stuff that we use is beige in color: the black stuff is too dense and has too thin a wall.
- Open Celled Foam, like the stuff inside sofa cushions (please don't tear up the living room).
- Duct Tape.
- Leather, cloth, sports tape, etc. to function as a good hilt grip
- Hacksaw or pipe-cutter to cut pipe with
- Scissors or a Utility Knife for cutting foam

Step 1

Measure and cut the PVC pipe. Remember: your weapon must meet our size specifications and the extra foam at its ends will extend about four inches farther than the pipe. Let's say you want to make a longsword (that can be no longer than 45 inches), so to be safe you cut your pipe to 40 inches. Cut it as straight as possible, smooth out any jagged edges, and then tape both ends closed to prevent foam from getting pushed inside the pipe.

Step 2

Cut a piece of pipe insulation foam to function as the cross guard (cross hilt); about 10 inches is good for a 45 inch longsword (Anything longer than 12" tends to interfere with your swings during combat.). Cut a 3/4" diameter hole exactly in the middle of the cross guard and slide it onto the pipe so that there are 28 inches of exposed pipe above it and 10 inches of exposed pipe below it (the cross guard covers about 2 inches of pipe). Your sword will have an 8-inch handle because the pommel will cover another 2 inches of the pipe.

Step 3

Cut a 29-inch piece of pipe insulation foam to function as the blade and slide it over the exposed 28 inches of pipe. The pipe insulation foam must extend one inch past the end of the pipe. Use duct tape to tightly fasten the blade to the cross guard and the cross guard to the pipe. Then stuff the one-inch of space between the end of the pipe and the end of the blade with open celled foam; tape the end of the blade to trap the foam inside.

Step 4

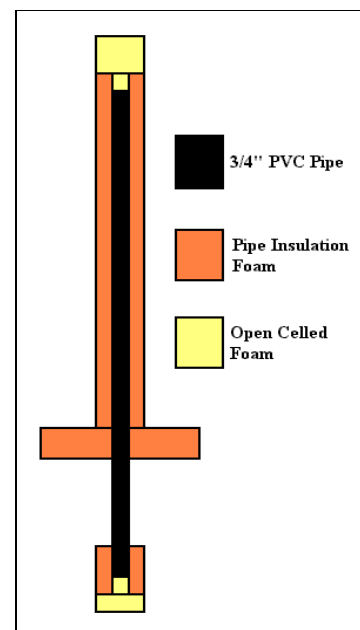
Cut a cylindrical piece of open celled foam that is between 2 and 3 inches tall (it will be pressed down to about 2 inches) and tape it to the end of the blade for a nice soft thrusting tip.

Step 5

Create a pommel in much the same way that you did the blade. When you fasten the pipe insulation foam, it should cover about 1 1/2" of the pipe and extend about 3/4" past the end of it. Once again, stuff that empty 3/4" with open celled foam and tape over the end of the pipe insulation foam to trap it inside. For the pommel, cut a 2-inch cylindrical piece of open celled foam and tape it to the end (it will compress to about one inch long). The pommel should never be used in combat; the only time it is used to strike someone is softly in the back when using the skill *Waylay*.

Step 6

Lengthwise up the weapon, neatly cover the blade and thrusting tip with long strips of duct tape (do not wrap it around the circumference of the blade). Also neatly cover the pommel and the cross guard. Do not use more tape than you need to simply cover the exposed foam; tape gets heavy quickly. Then, cover the entire hilt (handle) with whatever material you chose for your sword's grip. Once that is done, take a pin and poke a few hundred little holes in the duct tape at the ends of the sword so air can get into the open celled foam of the thrusting tip and the pommel to soften them.



Done!

Now you should have a longsword with a 2-inch thrusting tip, a 29-inch blade, a 2-inch (wide) cross guard (10 inches long), an 8-inch hilt, and a 3-inch pommel. The sword's total length is about 44" (safely under the 45" limit). Make sure that none of the foam on the sword is visible and that all the duct tape is smooth and flat. When you hold it by the handle and shake it, you should not hear or feel the pipe rattling around inside the blade. Practice a gentle "touch" combat with a friend before playing Magestry; learn to aim well and control the strength of your swings.