Liberty Lake Day Camp

L.A.R.P. Weapon Construction Guide

By Will Lewis

Necessary Materials:

- ¾" white PVC pipe
- ⅜" thick **foam** pipe insulation. Should fit on the ¾" pipe.
    - For every 1' of PVC, I recommend 3' of foam pipe insulation.
- Duct tape: Silver is typically recommended, but any color will do.

Optional Materials:

- Open cell foam: This is for things like axe heads, mace heads, hammers, spikes, etc.
- PVC cement: Highly recommended.

Tools:

- Saw or PVC pipe cutter
- Scissors
- Safety pin

Video Guides:

- Search "liberty lake day camp LARP weapons" on YouTube.com – there are two instructional videos

Basic Steps:

- 1. Measure and cut your PVC pipe:
    - Length will depend on the kind of weapon you want to build.
    - Here are some suggested lengths:
        - Short Sword: 24" - 30"
        - Long Sword: 36" - 42"
        - Hand and a Half Sword: 48" - 54"
        - Great Sword: 60" - 66"
        - Spear: 48" - 74"
        - Staff: 60" - 74"
    - Also recommended: Cut to a length that you will be comfortable using. If you're 4' tall, a sword standing at 5' will probably be tough to wield. Consider what will work well with you.
- 2. Cap the ends of your pipe with duct tape.
    - This is necessary so any foam bits protecting the tip will not just slide down the PVC pipe.
    - Make sure to cap both ends.
- 3. Mark where you want the blade and pommel.
    - Blade is the business end of the weapon: the part we use to hit. A staff will have two "blades" essentially.
    - The pommel is below the handle so we can keep a good grip on the weapon.
- 4. If using PVC cement: Prep where the blade will go with PVC cement.
    - This will just keep the blade in place.
- 5. Put the foam pipe insulation on the PVC. Make sure there is *at least* 2" of foam insulation above the end of the PVC.

    - This first layer of insulation gets the body of the blade.
    - We want that extra 2” for a thrusting tip so it’s soft. *This is required*.
- 6. Put another layer of foam pipe insulation around the first.
    - You can do this one of two ways:
        - 1. You can wrap one extra length around the blade and then cut a strip of foam insulation to fill in the gap that remains.
        - 2. Put two full pieces of foam pipe insulation around the first one. This will cause the insulation to bubble out.
    - Either method is fine since they provide the necessary padding.
- 7. Put 1 layer of duct tape on the blade:
    - For this, lay the tape long ways from top to bottom. This is the easiest to lay flat and gently.
    - This will also keep most of the air in the foam.
    - There should be enough extending past the blade to tape the blade to the handle as well.
- 8. Repeat steps 4-7 for the pommel.
    - The pommel is used to help keep a grip and clearly mark the handle.
    - It also operates as a counterweight.
- 9. Wrap duct tape around the handle.
    - This can be done as a couple of horizontal strips or in a spiral.
    - I also recommend using a different color on the handle. It just looks cooler.
- 10. Poke holes in the tip of the blade.
    - This is where the safety pin (or other pins) come in. Just poke a ton of holes in the top.
    - This is so air flows back into the weapon.

Your weapon should now be complete and ready for battle!

Optional steps:

- 1. Poke holes in the blade.
    - This is sometimes needed to get more air in.
    - Some foam insulation is denser and needs a little help, but this should not be needed most of the time.
- 2. Cut out open cell foam for a weapon head.
    - This can be great for an ax, hammer, spikes, ball, etc.
- 3. Gently tape the cut shape where it goes on the weapon (typically the top).
    - Put the tape on either side of the new attachment.
    - Make sure to lay it gently on the open cell foam so it keeps a ton of air.
- 4. Cover the head in duct tape.
    - Make sure to lay the tape down in strips & lay it down gently.
    - Keep as much air in as you can.
- 5. Poke a lot of holes in the new head.
    - Open cell foam needs air to work. The more air, the softer the blow.