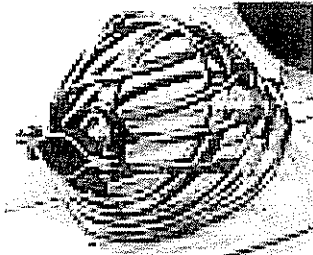


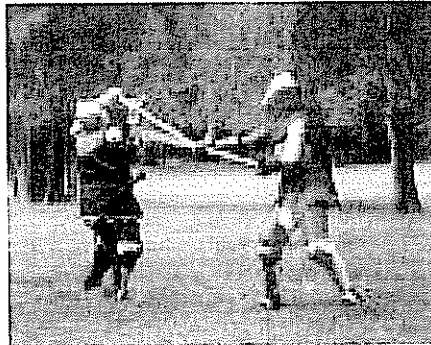
How to make a Rattan Sword

- 1) Get Rattan. Purchase rattan $\frac{1}{4}$ inch or greater, preferably with the hard outer skin still on.
- 2) Decide how long you want your sword to be (generally if you hold your hand by your side you should be able to swing the sword without touching the ground)
- 3) Choose the straightest length of rattan.
- 4) Determine where you want the handle (at which end), cut off the excess length.
- 5) Position the Basket Hilt next to the rattan and mark where the attachment points will sit when it is mounted.
- 6) If the rattan is thicker than $1\frac{1}{4}$ inches you may want to shave it down to make the blade lighter and to exploit smaller gaps in your opponents defence. Personally I prefer to flatten the rattan sides (by mounting in a vice and planing the non blade edges.) leaving the skin on the front and back as this will make the sword last longer. Also round the edges off the tip of the rattan to remove hard edges which could injure your opponent.
- 7) Shape the handle to be comfortable.
- 8) Attach the basket hilt according to the style you have.
- 9) Tape the length of the blade in a spiral from tip to hilt with fibre tape.
- 10) Tape up the length of the blade with duct tape continue over tip of blade and back down to the hilt, repeating on all sides.
- 11) Make sure the width of the blade is equal to or greater than $1\frac{1}{4}$ inches. Add more tape if need be. Ensure no bare rattan is showing.
- 12) Mark your blade edge with a contrasting colour and attach a lanyard.
- 13) Go test out your sword on a willing opponent.

By Dan



Basket Hilt



Sword in action