How to Make a Boffer Arrow

By Dean Hitchcox

Intro:

To make a boffer arrow you should have some experience making other weapons like a sword first. Bows and arrows can be dangerous if not made correctly. Bows and arrows were made in real life to KILL. Extra caution is needed when making boffer arrows. The arrow made in this tutorial was made to be as safe as possible. It is possible to cut some corners but it is HIGHLY not recommended and requires previous experience with boffers.

Further notes about arrows are that they break down faster than other boffers and should be redone after 10 days of use. Arrows should be checked each day and after every battle when it is safe IG. Do not be surprised if the shaft has bent or splintered, the penny has shifted, or the open cell foam tip has moved out of place. Be considerate to players that you are shooting. BE SAFE!

Needed Materials:

- Sharp exact-o knife
- Replacement Blades for the knife
- Fiberglas or Aluminum arrow shaft
- Approximately 2 feet length of ¾” Black insulation closed cell foam
- 2”x2”x2” (min) cube of Open Cell Foam also known as couch foam
- One Penny
- Duct Tape of colour of choice (See rep colours per damage types in rule book).
- Double Sided Tape also known as carpet tape (Outdoor)
- Clean Plastic Cutting Board
- Plastic Bag; grocery, garbage...
- Hack Saw or other means of cutting arrow shaft to length

Steps:

1. The arrow shaft had a metal spiked tip and I cut it off with the hack saw. This shaft is a cheap Fiberglas another acceptable alternative is Aluminum for the shaft. The key is to cut only if it has a built in spike of any kind, some higher end arrows have a screw in tip to change heads. Those do not need to be cut off.
2. Penny is the cheapest and best coin for job. Dime is too small, Nickel us too heavy, rest are too big.

3. Penny is used to make sure that the arrow shaft does not go through the foam. ONLY metal (besides arrow shaft) allowed in a boffer weapon.

4. From one corner have the duct tape cover the penny then to the shaft. Do for all four corners. Go North/South. Then East/West to make sure that shaft is centered on penny.

5. Measure a 3'' (Three inch) piece of foam. To be placed behind the penny. This will give it support, and the longer the foam is the less likely it will warp with use. The down side with making the length longer is that you lose that much draw with your bow.

6. Then measure a slightly shorter length of DST (Double Sided Tape). NOTE that you will have to start peeling off the plastic layer before the tape is fully around the shaft.

7. Grab your 3'' length of Foam and remove (That is if yours has the sticky edges) the yellow strip on one side so that the DST doesn't stick to the yellow plastic.

8. Carefully move the foam around the shaft. Make sure that the foam is not loose. You have one shoot at this, since the DST will hold fast.

9. You'll have some over lapping of excess foam. Use your sharp knife to cut off the excess. Don't cut it right where the 2 ends would meet, rather about 2-3mm before they do. Push the foam to join up.
10. Now you got the penny support and the first layer cut out the second layer. Make sure that it extends an inch past the penny. (NOTE do not use the shown grip on the far right where, I am about to cut my finger. Was solely for photo purposes.) I got lucky and 3/4inch foam fits perfectly.

11. Cut off a length of DST just shorter than the 3” first layer of foam to hold the second layer on. But first... Lay it out on a CLEAN cutting board to cut the DST into 3 strips length wise like a hotdog (Vertically). Put on the 3 strips of DST in a triangle pattern on the length of the first layer of foam. North, South East, and South West.

12. Remove Plastic coating of the DST. One shot as always. Line up the bottom and wrap the foam around. Like before, with the yellow plastic cover off one side. Connect the ends with one inch past the penny.

13. Roll up some excess foam to fill the hole that is left past the penny. Where the measuring tape is in step 12 far right picture. Cut off the excess. But make sure that it is ALL the way into the penny, and cut flush.
15. To make an open cell foam boffer tip see Simple Short Sword Tutorial for more details (Step numbers 29-30). NOTE: That tip should be slightly bigger than the outside of the second layer.
16. Size up the plastic coating to be used for the boffer arrow. Roll over one side. Tape the Plastic to the black shaft. So that you can tighten the plastic in the next step. Fully wrap the plastic over. Visually mark out where you can cut off the excess. Make sure that you leave enough to FULLY cover the arrow. Tape in place. Note the overlap from the two pics prior.

17. Force in the tip. Wrap the plastic and hold it in place with a small strip of tape. Put down the tip so that it forms to the plastic covering and trim off excess Plastic. Start folding one side then the opposite. Hold it in place with a small strip of tape. Now the other 2 loose ends.
18. Now it is capped. Put tight the plastic at the bottom of the arrow. Trim the excess and hold it in place with some tape. Make sure not to pull down too hard, since this will compress the foam, hindering its cushioning ability. You got a naked arrow that looks like a phallic symbol.

19. Cover it up. Not too far. Slice the ends so that it folds over nicer and cleaner. Do this as well for the bottom.

20. There you go now do it a few more times with a quarter inch over lap. Then to cover the end use a 2”x2” piece to cover the end.
21. To finish the head need to secure the cover to the arrow shaft using a thin length of tape. Then using a pin like object punch holes in it like crazy. You are done!

22. Get Shot and have fun.

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