

PARTS OF YOUR WEAPON

BLADE: The blade of your weapon is made of a spring steel meaning it yields when bent. The blade has a tang, often threaded, which passes through the other weapon components affixing them. The points on foils and épées often have nail heads to blunt them, while sabres have a rolled point.

GUARD: Guards sit immediately behind the blade providing protection for the hand. Guards also acts as a shield, aiding in deflecting opposing weapons. There are many styles of guards whose function is the same, though with differing subtleties.

PAD: A leather or cloth pad behind the guard is designed to cushion the fingers and if using an open ring guard, prevent blade penetrations through the openings.

GRIP: The grip is how the wielder manipulates the weapon. There are varieties of grip styles, shapes and materials. Grips should be designed to be comfortable, to offer purchase on the weapon, and assist in handling the weapon the way it was designed to handle.

POMMEL: Pommels function in two capacities: one, they hold all the weapon's components together by threading onto the tang and two, they balance the weapon backward to offset the relatively long blade. Careful balancing is needed as varying components affect handling vitality.

TIPPING YOUR WEAPON

Every weapon used for training purposes should be blunted and unsharpened to practice safely. Foil, épée, and sabre blades should not be bought sharpened or sharpened later; they are training tools. While sabre blades have a rolled point and do not need additional covering, foils and épées need a tip. A tip is a plastic, cloth or leather covering over the blade's blunted end to pad impacts. Additionally, épées can have a historically-accurate *point d'arret* to simulate a sharpened dueling sword. See our leaflet on attaching tips and *point d'arrets* available at our website under downloads.

ALWAYS PRACTICE SAFELY

It is *always* the wielder of the weapon's responsibility to insure his or her own equipment is safe and functional. See our additional leaflets on other equipment maintenance online under downloads. While we've relayed some equipment safety information here, we cannot guarantee safe fencing tendencies. Benjamin Arms, its proprietor and employees are *not* responsible for damage or injury caused due to correct or incorrect use. Always practice with safe equipment and with safety in mind for yourself, your opponent and those around you.

BENJAMIN ARMS

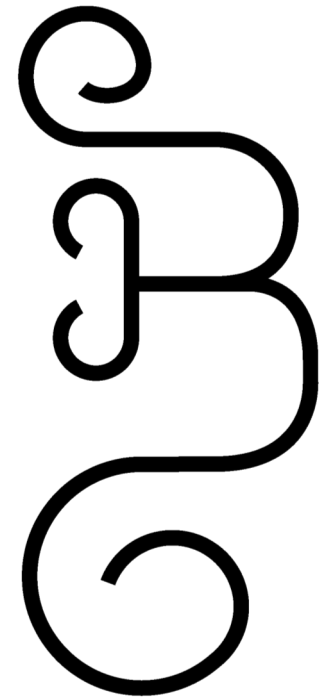
670 9th Street #A
Arcata CA, 95521

Phone: (707) 633-9216

Email: BenjaminArms@gmail.com

**BENJAMIN
ARMS**

PURVEYOR OF HANDMADE
FENCING WEAPONS



**WEAPON CLEANING
AND MAINTENANCE**

MAINTAINING YOUR BENJAMIN ARMS WEAPON

Buying a foil you like and is suited to you is a great investment. If properly maintained, your weapon can last a long time. Here are a few preventative measures to prolong the life of your weapon and keep it functioning correctly:

PRE-USE: Before using your weapon for practice, make sure the blade and guard are free of sharp nicks that could cause injury to either yourself or your training partner(s). Make sure the bend on the blade is appropriate for the weapon and is not misshapen. For foils and dueling swords this means a gradual and minimal downward bend.

USE: If during use the blade bends incorrectly, it should never be dramatically bent back to shape, as this would weaken the metal and ruin the blade. In reshaping, the bend needs to be massaged back by a gradual process. With a dry rag slowly suggest the bend back using only your hands and fingers.

POST-USE & TRANSPORT: After each use of your weapon wipe moisture off with a dry rag and place in a carrying case if available. Refrain from transporting it among wet clothes or equipment and avoid storing your weapon in a damp place. Eventually the layer of wax originally applied to your weapon will wear off. It should be reapplied when needed. Beeswax, Renaissance Wax or Butchers Wax should be used sparingly on metal elements only.

CLEANING: If rust develops on your weapon's blade, guard or pommel it should be removed immediately. Use a non-caustic oil like "3 In One" or a firearm cleaning oil to coat and break up the rust. Let the oil sit on the rust for a few minutes, then buff off with a clean rag. Repeat this process as needed. If aggressive cleaning is required, a medium-fine abrasive cleaning pad or medium-fine grit sanding sponge can be used, but will scratch the finish of the metal. Follow up with a fine grit sanding sponge or pad. The grip can be cleaned by wiping it with a dry rag, but will darken with age; this is normal.

LONG-TERM STORAGE: If you plan on not using your weapon for an extended period of time or plan to store it, it is best to prepare your weapon. A very light coat of wax or machinist's grease coating the metal surfaces will create an impermeable layer and prevent moisture-caused rust. Before applying any of the above agents, make sure the weapon is clean and dry. The grip should *not* be coated and should instead be wrapped in a cloth and tied in place. Once protected, avoid placing weapon into any cloth weapon bag; place it instead into a long plastic mailing bag and seal the weapon in.

BENJAMIN ARMS BAGS: Our weapons bags are made of duck canvas and are by design simple and strong. The fabric was pre-washed and as such can be machine washed in cold water and dried in low heat without risk of shrinking.

DISMANTLING: Unless you are experienced in disassembling and reassembling fencing weapons, do not attempt to take your weapon apart! If dismantling is required, such as replacing a broken blade, have someone experienced in this process do it for you.

THE SET OF YOUR BLADE:: In a French weapon, the blade is never set straight in prolongation with the guard, grip and pommel. Rather, the blade is angled slightly downward and inward at the juncture of guard and the forte of the blade, a procedure that French masters have advised since the 17th century. By setting this "cant" in the blade it will facilitate the proper manipulation of the weapon by the use of the fingers.

YOUR BLADES CANT: The weapon you've just purchased has been constructed with a "cant" already. If you desire to increase or decrease its angle only someone experienced should do it. If you wish to do it yourself, the weapon must be dismantled and the tang of the blade placed in a vice and the blade should be gently pulled by its forte to increase or decrease the angle of the cant.

YOUR WEAPON'S BALANCE: Only through Benjamin Arms' process of selectively balancing the weapon by choosing a pommel from a spectrum of varying weights, guard designs, blade lengths, and grip type it reaches a handling equilibrium unsurpassed by anything mass produced today. Removing any of the weapon's carefully selected components will of course compromise its balance and handling. This is not recommended.