



Swords from Toledo

**SWORDS FROM TOLEDO**  
Ap. Correos, 424  
45080 TOLEDO (SPAIN)

Tlf: +34-925-35 31 55 ; Fax: +34-925-35 40 87

<http://www.swordsfromtoledo.com>

# MATERIALS, SOME HISTORY AND QUALITY OF OUR SWORDS

## **Broadwords, Arming Swords and Shortwords**

Ranging from the 10th century into the 1500's, these were the main weapons of the mounted knight. Designed primarily as cutting weapons to shear through mail and/or armor, these weapons were big but by no means unwieldy. Properly called arming swords, the Victorians dubbed them broadwords to distinguish them from rapiers and smallswords. While the single handed arming sword reigned from the tenth century into the 1500's, the two-handed sword made its first appearance in the 1250's. It was used also into the sixteenth century, although it became more of a "proccessional" instrument to keep order, rather than a wartime weapon.

The hand-and-a-half arming sword, sometimes called a bastard broadsword, tried to combine the best of both worlds. Light enough to wield with one hand when used with a shield, the grip was long enough to use with both hands if the shield was lost or destroyed. Two handed arming swords are approximately 50" overall, roughly 10" wide at the guard and weigh about 5 pounds. The hand-and-a-half arming sword is approximately 43" overall, roughly 7" to 10" wide at the guard and weighs about 3 pounds. Single handed arming swords are approximately 38" overall, roughly 7" to 8" wide at the guard and weigh about 2 to 3 pounds. The 170SS shortwords are approximately 25" overall, roughly 4" wide at the guard and weigh about 1 1/2 pounds. The blade is 18" long and 1 1/4" wide at the forte.

## **Swords**

These are the simple hilted weapons suitable for a quasi-rapier or broadsword look. They are ideal when budgetary concerns prohibit full hilted rapiers, or when you want the look of a broadsword with a much lighter (and more economical) blade. Swords in this category are approximately 41" overall, roughly 6" to 8" wide at the guard and weigh about 1 to 2 pounds (depending on the blade used).

## **Rapiers and Transitional Rapiers**

The rapier was the first civilian weapon, developing as the use of armor declined. A thrust and cut weapon, the rapier first appeared in the late 1400's and had its heyday up to the 1600's. The 1600's saw the start of the transitional rapier as hilts became smaller and blades were designed more for thrusting and less for cutting. The cup hilt rapier made its appearance in the early 1650's in Spain, and enjoyed popularity in Spain and Southern Italy until the early 1700's. The rapier was often used with a second defensive weapon; daggers, bucklers, and cloaks were the most popular. While daggers were often decorated "en suite" with their companion rapier, it was by no means unusual to have a "mismatched" set of rapier and dagger. Much lighter than the broadsword of medieval times, the rapier brought about a whole new style of swordplay and a proliferation of fencing schools. The rapier marked the earliest beginnings of fencing as a sport.

## **Smallswords, Townswords and Courtswords**

Popular from the 1660's to the early 1800's, the smallsword is a thrusting weapon; the point is used to penetrate the skin and puncture vital organs. As rapier hilts became smaller in the mid 1600's, the smallsword, or "Townsword", came into being. Initially it used shortened rapier blades, but by the 1670's the lighter hollow triangular blade was in use. Our Musqueteer



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blade is close in dimension to this type of smallsword blade. The triangular blade continued to be refined until it evolved into the modern epee blade, and the style of smallsword play eventually evolved into the game of modern foil.

As the use of the sword fell out of fashion, the smallsword became more elaborate and less functional, eventually becoming a piece of jewelry to be worn at court (hence the name courtsword). Consequently, the smallsword was constructed for actual use, whereas the courtsword was an elaborate accouterment.

Weapons in this category have blades approximately 35" long and are approximately 40" in overall length. They are roughly 3" to 4" wide at the guard and weigh about 1 pound.

### **Fencing Weapons Modified for Theatrical Use**

This category of weapon is from the old school of modern stage fighting. These weapons were popular on the stage in the 1920's and 30's due to the lack of any historical replicas. They are the "theatrical" versions of the modern foil, epee and saber. Weapons in this category are approximately 41" overall, roughly 4" to 6" wide at the guard and weigh about 1 pound.

### **Daggers**

Used both offensively and defensively, daggers were often used in conjunction with rapiers or swords. Our daggers use the same hilt pieces as their companion rapiers or swords; For overall length add approximately 6" to the blade length.

### **Polearms**

The Dark Ages spawned these weapons, designed to break bones inside chainmail or armour. These polearms are costume props and at no time should be used in a choreographed fight. They will not hold up to any use other than theatrical walk-on's or wall decoration.

### **Polishing**

Most of our weapons come standard with a dull finish. We can buff and polish the hilts so that they gleam. The cost of polishing varies from weapon to weapon because of the varying hilts and polishing difficulty. Costs range from approximately \$12 to \$36. Don't hesitate to Contact us by email, fax, letter or through our Contact page for a quote on any weapon you wish to have polished or any additional information.

### **Scabbards**

We make scabbards for some our Swords, Rapiers, and Smallswords. We do not make scabbards for our two-handed broadsword blades because they are too long to fit properly into a functional scabbard. Scabbards are made with brass cores, leather coverings, velvet, iron, steel and belt/frog hooks.

### **Blades**

Part of what makes a sword a sword is tempered steel. All of our weapons are combat worthy and use high carbon tempered steel blades (except those items in the Decorative and Costume section). Only tempered steel will stand up to the rigors of choreographed stage combat use. Blades are threaded 4mm.

### **Hangers**

Hangers, or Frogs, are theatrical devices used to hold a sword in place on the actor's hip. They are handmade out of fine leather and other materials and come in two colors, black or brown. Unlike hard scabbards, hangers expose the blade of the



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weapon, which many people prefer, especially for stage combat. Our brass scabbards will also work in conjunction with our hangers.

### **Handles**

All of our combat weapons are made with solid maple handles. We do offer some alternative choices for selected weapons. Please contact us for further information.