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Estonian Defence Forces ceremonial swords

MAINTENANCE INSTRUCTIONS

<https://vf.erok.ee/swords/care-and-maintenance>

GENERAL



This manual is based on the recommendations of the manufacturer (Weyersberg, Kirschbaum & Cie).

Estonian Defence Forces swords and dagger (hereinafter referred to as the weapon) are hand-crafted.

The blade of the weapon is forged from stainless steel and nickel-plated. The blade is hand-decorated using traditional acid-etch technique.

The weapon's hand guard is made of brass.

All gold-coloured parts are plated with 24 carat gold.

The scabbard of the Army Officer Sword is made of metal and nickel-plated.

The scabbard of the Navy Officer Sword and the Air Officer Dagger are made of leather with gilded elements.

The scabbard of the Non-Commissioned Officer Sword is made of black matted metal.

CEREMONIAL USE AND SAFETY

Estonian Defence Forces swords and dagger are intended for ceremonial use only.

To prevent damage to the blade, the weapon must be drawn from and inserted into the scabbard in a straight line from start to finish.

When the weapon is inserted back to the scabbard correctly, there must be no difficulty or obstruction. The weapon must go into the scabbard smoothly and lightly. Never push the weapon into the scabbard with force.

Blade tips are relatively sharp, exercise care during use.

The blades are not designed for impact and fighting. While forged, tempered, and designed for flexibility and durability, ceremonial blades lack the toughness to withstand the heavy impact of blade-to-blade contact.

Do not use these weapons for re-enactment fighting. Horseplay may result in damage to the weapon or, worse yet, personal injury.

Children tend to have a natural fascination with swords and often mistake a weapon for a toy. Supervise children closely and know, that the misuse of a weapon is dangerous.

Sword handling is a developed and practiced skill. Do not be flamboyant when handling a drawn sword!

MAINTENANCE

After each use, the weapon and scabbard should be wiped clean with a clean, dry cloth, removing all fingerprints and sweat.

If the weapon gets wet, dry it with a soft, dry cloth until all moisture has been removed.

Do not sheath the weapon instantly after wiping the blade dry. The inside of the scabbard may also be wet and needs to dry in open air for some time.

The weapon must be regularly maintained by wiping it with a clean, dry cloth and lubricating the blade. The scabbard must also be maintained.

The blade of the weapon must be maintained like a firearm: use neutral weapon oil or grease for regular lubrication.

In case of long-term storage (incl. presentation), we recommend to keep the weapon unsheathed.

When cleaning and polishing metal parts, follow the manufacturers recommendations below to avoid damaging them.



MANUFACTURERS RECOMMENDATIONS

METAL COMPONENTS

Acids from fingerprints can react with metals and discolour metal components over time.

Salts and other air contaminants (e.g. formaldehydes from carpets) can collect on metal surfaces over time and can also cause discoloration.



Water or humidity can affect all parts of the weapon.

Weapon should be kept away from wet or humid conditions. In case the weapon gets wet, dry it properly by using a soft, dry cloth.

Periodically wipe your weapon with a soft, dry cloth.



We recommend monthly for harsh environments (e.g. high humidity, proximity to sea air, cities with heavy smog) and every few months for less harsh environments.

Do not use any chemical based cleaners.



Remove fingerprints and other oil marks with a soft, dry cloth.

The soft side of the manufacturer's fabric sword bag can be used as a cleaning cloth.

GOLD-PLATED COMPONENTS

Gold is a very soft metal. Rubbing or polishing gold-plated materials will take off the gold-plating.

MANUFACTURERS RECOMMENDATIONS

Do not use abrasive metal polishes or metal wool on any gold-coloured part.

Use a soft dry cloth and common glass cleaner to remove any discolorations.



Use the abrasive "jeweller" cloths only sparingly to remove any discolorations to avoid rubbing off the gold plating.

BLADE

Stainless steel and nickel-plated carbon steel blades

Discolorations or minor scratches can be removed with a jeweller's cloth or a mild metal polish like a silver polish.

Remove all polish residue with a final wipe of a soft, dry cloth.



Never use heavy abrasive polishes, scouring pads, or metal wool as they will destroy the polished finish of the blade.

Avoid contact with acidic or alkaline substances as either may chemically react with metals in the stainless steel.



High carbon steel blades

High carbon steel that is not protected by a nickel layer, grease or oil, will eventually rust.

Blade should be maintain like a rifle, with gun-oil or grease.

Do not store the blade sheathed for for an extended period of time, especially in humid environment.

MANUFACTURERS RECOMMENDATIONS



Store in dry area and apply oil or grease regularly, remove old grease. Remove fingerprints and other stains instantly.

SCABBARD

Leather scabbards should only require an occasional wipe with a cloth moistened with a clear household silicon spray polish.

Scuff marks in the leather can usually be repaired or hidden with ordinary shoe polish.



Pay attention that the colour of the polish, is the same as the leather.

Maintain nickel-plated and stainless steel scabbards as described for metal component and blades above.

ONGOING MAINTENANCE

All ferrous materials, including stainless steel, will rust in varying degrees, if not maintained and with prolonged exposure to the elements.

Whether displaying or storing your weapon, periodically clean and wipe your weapon and metal scabbards with a lightly oiled cloth to protect your weapon.



Do not store the weapon in a vacuum plastic bag in wet, humid or hot surroundings.

If shipping or transporting your weapon by air, securely wrap the weapon in plastic to minimize condensation on the cool weapon surfaces after the weapon returns from the cooler high altitudes.



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