

### How To Build A Boar

Novelty shoots are often the most talked about portion of archery activities at SCA events, simply because they are different from just shooting at the bull's eye. The trick for each shoot is to come up with something that is, well, novel.

A favorite of the shoots at Warriors and Warlords was the Boar Shoot. The scenario was that while hunting for deer, a boar is startled and rushes the group. It's a free-for-all as everyone tries to get in a disable or kill shot before the boar gets too close. There are no points awarded except for bragging rights when someone's arrow has found to be a telling hit.

To do this, you need a three-dimensional boar/pig, a platform to slide it across the grass and enough rope to haul it the length of the field. A couple hay bales serve as a "set" to shelter the boar until you make it charge by pulling the rope hand-over-hand or running with the end away from the line of archers (Be sure to go BEHIND them!). You need to set a mark so you know when and where to stop.

The shoot is easy enough. Assembling the parts gets trickier. Rope and a thick cardboard "sled" are easily found. However, three-dimensional boar targets are rare and pricy to purchase. Paper-maché is much less expensive and fairly easy to do. You do need a few days for things to dry.

#### Supplies:

- Newspaper torn into about inch wide strips-a Sunday edition is usually enough
- School glue-must be water soluble
- Water
- A largish (about the size of a meatloaf pan) disposable or easily washable tray to dip the strips into the diluted glue

- Four paper towel tubes
- A small piece of toilet tissue tube (about an inch)
- Scrap pieces of single layer cardboard to form knees, elbows, ears, mouth, tail and tusks
- Masking tape
- Two largish balloons-be sure to get good ones that won't leak: One round about 12" in diameter (inflated), the other blows up to about 18" x 12" pear shaped.
- Spray-in foam, like Great Stuff® large crack version (higher fill). You'll probably need a couple cans.
- Gloss spray paint in red, brown and black. White paint in brush form (Wite Out® works well.) for eyes and tusks.
- Knife, like a box knife or craft knife, and heavy-duty scissors to trim cardboard and hardened foam.
- Four 4"+ deck screws.

You essentially are making a paper-maché shell that will be filled with hardened foam.

Blow up your balloons, tie them off, and attach with tape the smaller round one to the narrower end of the large one. Putting the knots together works fine. It's OK, even preferred, to be a little offset. Use a piece of tape to hold the head up. It will form the ridge of the spine and neck muscles. Extra tape around the "neck" will make it more stable.

Cut out your cardboard for the details: Two 3" wide by 3" high triangles for the ears, two 4" by 3" rectangles for the elbows, one 4" wide by 4" tall triangle for the mouth, and the two knees. The knees are shaped by taking two 4" squares and cutting  $\frac{3}{4}$  of a 4" circle from each, leaving a corner. That corner forms the hock. Two 1" wide by 3" long triangles form the tusks.

The paper towel cores form the legs, and the small piece of toilet tissue core is for the round piggy nose. Tape each of the pieces where they go on the balloon body and head. You want the tops of the cardboard tubes to be open to the balloon fabric. You can set the legs for different gaits: front legs out front and rear ones back for full run; one side forward and the other back for trotting; or one side under the body and the other stretched out front and back for walking. It doesn't really matter which set you use. Trim the feet so that the tubes will be flush with the sled. Tape the feet to the sled. Run the screws up from the bottom through the board along the center of each leg. Now you are ready to apply the first layer of paper-maché.

Lay down drop cloth or lots of newspapers around your workspace. It WILL get messy. You might want to get a few pair of disposable gloves for this operation. Pour about half a bottle of the glue into your tray. Add about twice as much water. Stir until fully dissolved. Pull a strip of newspaper through the glue solution and lay anywhere on the pig (It's best to start at the top.), pulling out any wrinkles. Wet and lay the next strip so it laps the first. Continue until the entire pig is covered.

Set the pig aside so it can dry. Clean your tray or cover it with plastic wrap. The pig will be ready for another layer the next day.

Repeat the covering procedure for the second layer, only go at right angles (as much as you can) to the strips from the previous one. Set the pig aside to dry again and hope the balloons hold their air.

Repeat the third layer the same as the second layer. Let the pig get thoroughly dry before the next step.

Pop the balloons with a long needle or awl. If you can, remove as much of the balloon material as possible, as it may block access to a limb.

Carefully use the Good Stuff<sup>®</sup> to fill the boar, starting with the legs and working the body and head in layers. You want to leave about 25% for foam expansion, or your paper maché skin might split. This actually works best on a muggy day. Note: The stuff is hideously sticky and requires nail polish remover to get it off your skin.

Set aside for a day or two to let the foam finish expansion and cure.

Use a sharp knife or small saw to remove the excess hardened foam. Lay a track of foam in any splits in the skin that occur, allow the foam to harden, and then trim to shape.

Paint your boar. A primer red undercoat with a thin black topcoat looks nice. Use the white for the eyes and the pair of tusks you glue on the mouth. Note: Dark paint attracts heat. You may find your boar “breathing” as it warms up in the sun and cools down in the shade.

Attach the rope to the front of the sled, and the boar is ready to pull along.