

Construction Tips - NamBam pommels

Given that the tang of a NamBam knife cannot be bolted into the pommel, I needed a means to secure a pommel. The first step was to cut the pommel plate and the tab-to-be out of the same material. The tab was sawn out to approximately 3/8" as the widest and 1/4" at the narrowest (width was 1/4").



The next step was to turn down the narrow part of the tab to a cylinder. While this can be done on the grinder, it's a good excuse to use the lathe.



The completed plate and tab are shown here. A bevel cutter is useful for making a nice depression into which the tab will be riveted.



Since the pommel plate may not be at right angles to the handle, you will want to determine just what angle the tab should make to the pommel plate. This is especially important if the plate is asymmetrical - it's a real pain if you set the rivet 180 degrees off!



I've found that the easiest way to set the angle is to clamp the tab in a machinist vise at the correct angle, then set the rivet. You will want to have annealed the material before doing this! I've found

that a rivet set is useful (see below) and a micro-die-grinder is a great tool for making the cavity for the tang (below right).



Given that the same material has been used, the tab vanishes when the pommel is polished. A pin is run through the handle and tab (with lots of epoxy, of course) to complete the installation.

