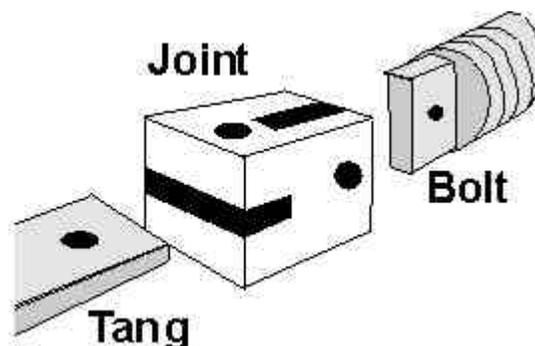


Construction Tips - U-Joint tang

Ever have to attach a pommel to a tang and have a problem getting it to lie flat on the butt end of the hilt? Ever screw on a pommel and find out that it doesn't align to the shape of the butt end?

Well....here's a complex solution to both problems. Make a tiny U-joint -- a block of 3/8" square stock works for me. Slit it on one end and then slit the other end at 90 degrees to the first slit. Make the slits big enough to fit over the end of the tang and over the end of a ground down bolt (1/4x20 typically). Drill a couple of 1/8" holes thru the tang and slit combo and thru the bolt and slit combo and rivet both with short lengths of pin stock. If you counter sink the holes, you can rivet the pins into the counter sinks and then smooth off the entire joint. You now have a mechanism that automatically guarantees the pommel will lie flat.



The next problem is the getting an elongated pommel to align with the handle (for those who use elongated pommels and hate to grind away lots of material. Attach a bolt section to the pommel, make a connector nut (buy one and turn it down) and a lock nut (again, just grind off the 'corners' between the flats (see below). By adjusting the location of the connector nut on the bolt section attached to the U-joint and locking it in place with the lock nut, you control when the pommel finally locks down on the handle, i.e., you can control the alignment. Of course, you could just use spacer material that crushes a tad.....

