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# Epee Troubleshooting

(Wednesday, 26 November 2003) - Contributed by Craig Harkins

Basic troubleshooting guide for electric epee.

Weapon fails weight test.

- The main spring is too soft. Get a new spring or stretch the old one.
- Friction between the barrel and point is overwhelming the spring. Clean the inside of the barrel, or replace the entire tip if the barrel or point is bent/warped.

Weapon fails shim tests.

- The contact spring is too long. Adjust or compress it.
- Point and barrel are mismatched. Replace.

Hitting the strip produces a light.

- The strip is not grounded, or is dirty/corroded.
- The tip is dirty/corroded.

A touch to the guard produces a light.

- The guard is dirty/corroded.
- The exterior of the tip is dirty/corroded.
- The body wire (in particular the ground) is faulty (test against the ground pin of the body cord; if the lights continue, the body wire or reel is at fault).
- The contact between the clip and weapon is faulty or corroded.
- The guard is loose.
- The ground pin socket is loose in the weapon clip.

Epee produces lights when the tip is not depressed.

- The tip is jammed shut. Slap on the floor to free it.
- Grit in the tip is shorting the circuit. Slap on the floor to dislodge the grit, or disassemble and clean the point.
- The blade wires are shorting to each other. Check the insulation, especially inside the guard.
- The scoring box is on the wrong weapon setting.

There is no light when a touch is made.

- You are not hitting properly.
- Friction between the barrel and point is preventing the point from depressing. Slap on the floor to loosen it; otherwise clean or replace the tip.
- Main spring is too heavy. Compress it or heat one end with a match.
- Contact spring is too short. Adjust or stretch it.
- The barrel is loose.
- Point contacts are dirty/corroded.
- The epee wire is broken. Re-wire the blade.
- The epee wire is shorting to the weapon.
- Something has come unplugged between you and the box.
- The wires are improperly fastened to the weapon clip.
- The body wire is broken.
- The reel or floor wire is broken.
- The scoring box is on the wrong weapon setting.