

Master Martek Discusses Plasma Blades

This new part of “**The Fourth Wall**” should be a treat for all the “techie geeks” out there. This section allows us to talk directly to the people who use the Sci-Fi Tech found in the ***Dreamscape Warriors Novels & Books***. In this interview, Bestselling and Multi-Award-Winning author Kurt Springs talks to the Gothowan Blade Smith, Martek, son of Eirtek.

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Kurt Springs interviews Blade Smith Master Martek...

Author: Hi everyone. Today I have the great pleasure of talking to Martek, son of Eirtek. He is one of the most knowledgeable beings in the ***Dreamscape Warriors Universe*** when it comes to the plasma.

Martek: (Shaking the author’s hand.) Thank you, considering you’re the author of the series.

Author: Can I start by stepping out of the universe for a moment and asking you how the plasma blade relates to the lightsaber of ***Star Wars*** and the Covenant energy sword of ***Halo***?

Martek: All three weapons are ultimately based on plasma, though in the original ***Star Wars*** the creators envisioned them as laser swords. The creators eventually realized that was impractical. It still uses focusing crystals like a laser. The energy sword of Halo is similar to our plasma blades in that both contain their plasma within a

force field. In Halo, they use electromagnetic fields. We use a force field.

Author: How do they work?

Martek: (Placing a hilt on the table and removing the access panel.) To recap from a previous interview, plasma is basically electrons and positively charged ions.

Author: In other words, an atom's electrons and nucleus are separated. This creates something highly energetic and hot.

Martek: Just like what is in stars themselves. The average plasma blade is around 2500°C or 4500°F.

Author: (Grinning) Or 2800° Kelvin.

Martek: Hot by any other term. Getting back to your question, the battery generates a magnetic field that strips electrons from atoms, creating plasma. Components in the hilt force the plasma out of the emitter.

Author: I see two pulleys on either side of the emitter array.

Martek: Good eye. Force fields require their own arrays. Note: Space fighters have antennas that deploy temporary wings for flight within a planet's atmosphere. As plasma is released from the emitter, wires unspool to create a force field ahead of it that contains the plasma. The alternative

is something akin to a plasma grenade, which is dangerous to anyone too close.

Author: But the force field lets just enough of that energy through to create an effective cutting edge.

Martek: It also allows one plasma blade to parry another.

Author: For people who play around with swords in my world, how does the handling compare?

Martek: It would be different. The mass would be much less. If you are used to swinging a steel sword of equivalent weight, it would be a learning curve.

Author: (Gesturing to the object on the table.) Is that just a mockup, or is it real?

Martek: (Places the cover back on the hilt and depresses the activation button. A blue-white energy blade appears.)

Author: Neat! You know, it reminds me of the videos I've seen about bronze smiths casting Bronze Age swords. The plasma is like the molten bronze being poured into the mold.

Martek: (Smiling.) Some people say it's like a balloon being inflated. I appreciate your analogy from the past.

Author: While activation is like casting, its creation is more technical.

Martek: On the one hand, yes. On the other, like many swordsmiths in the past on many worlds, we have acquired a mystique, almost a mythical quality.

Author: Not that you wield a hammer.

Martek: (Laughs) Not typically, and certainly not the heavy one used by the smiths of yore. The most legendary make their own components, fitting them to each device. This results in weapons that can withstand greater impact and offer a wider range of flexibility.

Author: But that limits options for battlefield repairs when the smith isn't available to remanufacture a part.

Martek: Not as much as you might think. Yes, original parts may need to be replaced with off-the-shelf parts. These must function adequately until the owner can visit the smith for proper repairs. With a good smith, the owner won't notice any performance degradation.

Author: What about blade shape?

Martek: The owner decides that. Even mass-produced plasma blades can be customized to some degree by their owner, though most militaries discourage this. They want a soldier to pick up a fallen comrade's sword and continue the fight. When someone like myself creates one from scratch, we learn what the purchaser prefers. In general, each race goes with something from their ancient past. In

the case of the Finnian, they prefer leaf-shaped blades akin to the Willburton style found in Bronze Age Britain and Ireland. Neo-Etruscans typically favor something like a Roman gladius. The list goes on.

Author: Terrans rarely use plasma blades.

Martek: A cultural preference based on weight. Even so, human soldiers have rifles with sections made of heat-resistant materials, allowing them to parry a strike without destroying their weapons.

Author: (Extending his hand) Thank you for your time.

Martek: My pleasure.