



The Elven Equipment List (part 1: weapons)

By S.V. Wilson 3 (svwilson3@msn.com)

Introduction-

After scanning the LOTR RPG core book I was slightly disappointed that the Elven weapons and armor were not discussed in detail. Considering I was so impressed by the WETA designs in the movie trilogy, I was inspired to come up with my own table. These are not enchanted weapons; they are the regular armaments of the Eldar. Mind you, it is for optional use and if you don't agree I would like to hear your criticism, so please email me.

Weapon	Damage	Parry Bonus/ Range	Size	Weight
Ancris (Long Knife)	2d6+3	+0	M	1lb.
Farithivago (short sword)	2d6+4	+1	M	2.5lbs
Raenivago (longsword)	2d6+5	+2	M	4lbs
Dagnivago (Great Sword)	3d6+3	+1	M	8lbs
Vagineldo (Spear)	2d6+4	+0	L	6lbs
Erincu' (Small Bow)	"arrow" +str mod	5/30/60/120 +30	M	2lbs
Cuilith (Longbow)	"arrow" +str mod	5/35/70/185 +35	M	3lbs

Ancris-

The Ancris, or long cutter in Sindar, is the long knife commonly seen among the Eldar. A favored weapon among archers and a good secondary weapon for warriors as well. The curved blade is 1 ¾ foot and is used one handed. Legolas's dual blades are considered long knives.

Farithivago-

The *Farithivago* is a single-handed long bladed weapon with a single edge and slight curve to the blade. It is commonly used by archers, scouts (hunters), and is the preferred blade for she-elves. Also known in sindar as the 'hunter's sword' the blade is 2 ¾ ft. long and is an excellent weapon for use from horse back. Arwen's *Hadhafang* is a *Farithivago*.

Raenivago-

The primer weapon of the elves from Beleriand, the *Raenivago* is the culmination of over 9,000 years of elvish martial study and development. Originally conceived by Fëanor, it is a slightly curved single edged weapon of considerable martial prowess. The blade is 3¼ ft long and is balanced for use with either single or dual handed fighting styles. It is primary weapon for ground fighting, but masters of the weapon have used it successfully from horseback. It is also

known as the wanderer's sword, due to the fact it come with the Noldorian exiles from out of the west. Elrond's and Haldir's swords are of *Raenivago* design.

Dagnivago-

The dreaded two-handed great sword, or "battle sword" in Sindar, is over 4½ feet long. From that the handle alone is a foot and half dictating the two-handed weapon style. The three-foot blade is a slightly curved heavy cutting blade with a reinforced tip for thrusts, though it is primarily a cutting weapon with great power. It is not commonly seen in everyday elven settings, unless when in times of war. The *Dagnivago* is common issue to the heavy armored infantry of the Elves of the west such as the Noldor and Sindar of the kingdoms in exile and Doriath. Also used by those Silvan elves, which are affected by the Beleriand culture. The elves of the Lindon, Imladris and Lothlorien armored troops seen in the FOTR and the TTT are armed with the *Dagnivago*.

Vagineldo-

The "bladed tree" or the war spear of the Eldar is unlike its Human counterpart more of a pole-arm in some respects. The *Vagineldo* is a long bladed spear that allows the bearer to not only thrust at his opponent but also slash at him. *Aeglos*, Gil galad's spear in the FOTR is a *Vagineldo*.

Erincu'-

The "*bow of the wood*" as it is called in Sindar and commonly known as the elvish short bow. It is the utility bow of the elves and is used for hunting and martial purposes. Refined after centuries of use, master elven bowyers have taken it to inhuman levels of range and penetrating power. It is second to only the *Cuilith* and the Numenorian Steel Bow. The *Erincu'*, due to elvish craftsmanship, adds the archer's strength to the power of the bow. Thus, it inflicts more damage than the average small bow found in middle earth. Legolas's original bow, prior to the gift of the *Galadrim's bow*, was an *Erincu'*.

Cuilith-

The "*bow of ash*" is the famous Longbow of the elves perfected later in Lorien by the *Galadrim* under the tutelage of the Noldor and Sindar elves whom lived there. It is the supreme elven ranged combat weapon with ranges that almost compare to the fabled Numenorian Steel Bow. The *Cuilith* like is little cousin, the *Erincu'*, share the same elvish workmanship that adds the archers strength to the power of the bow.

Closing notes-

The weapons above where inspired by the recent Lord of the Rings Movies. I have attempted to duplicate them for the LOTR RPG. I think players and Narrators should keep in mind that elvish craftsmanship is not purchased on the open market. So that will explain why there isn't a price affixed to the weapons on the above table. Also it is in my opinion that elvish crafts when compared to man made items will conceivably have a greater durability and resistance to the blade shattering effects of sorcery. The names that I have given these weapons were devised using Ruth Noel's, *The Languages of Middle Earth*. I used a small variation in Sindar to give it a Tolkien feel to the list. It is my hope that this is well received by the community for what it is, a simple attempt to bringing a bit of variation to the game. I am going to follow up with part two: Armor and Shields, and then close with part three: equipment and other items.

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Elven Equipment Part: 2 (Armor & Shields)

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Introduction-

I have already mentioned in part one of my series the delight and wonder I expressed at WETA's creative prowess. Those opening shots in the prelude to the FOTR with both Gil Galad and Elrond resplendent and lethal in their Noldorian armor were wonderful. In the TTT by comparison of armor styles of Haldir and the company of the Naith at Helm's Deep were a startling, yet appropriate visualization and made the elves seem more so otherworldly Tolkien. Again if there is any conflicting opinions or if you actually like it please let me know via email. Thanks and enjoy.

Armor	Damage Absorbed	Weight	Culture
Leather	3(4)	7lbs	All (Nandorian)
Chain Mail (Corselet)	6(5)	20lbs	Nandorian, Sindarian
Chain w/Plates	7	25lbs	Sindarian
Chain Mail (corselet)	7(6)	20lbs	Noldorian
Chain w/Plates	8	25lbs	Noldorian
Shields	Parry/Attack Mod.	Weight	Culture
Buckler	+2/-2	1lbs	Nandorian
Small	+3/-3	3-5lbs	Any
Large	+5/-4	4-8lbs	Any

Nandorian Armor- The Nandor were not steeped in the lore of metalworking as were their westward kin. It was after their contact with the Sindar and Noldor realms that they began rudimentary efforts in armoring themselves (especially after the massive losses they suffered in the epic battles of the first and second ages). They preferred to remain fleet of foot and they employed skirmish tactics. In accordance with lightly armored troops they developed superior skills in leather working and often reinforced such leather armor with thin tempered strips of steel (an economizing measure due to the scarcity of metal and wood elves don't mine for ore). Nandorian jerkins are prized for their protective qualities as well as the flexibility and lack of encumbrance. Later, they learned to produce surpassing corselets of mail of astonishing lightness without compromising protection. In closing, the Nandorian Buckler is the noted choice of shield protection complimenting the intrepid swift attacks of the Silvan elves and their fabled two weapon fighting styles¹. In the third age Nandorian armories are found in Tharanduil's kingdom and Lothlorien.

Sindarian Armor- Prior to the arrival of the Noldor out of the blessed lands of the west, the Sindar relied upon the dwarves of both Nogrod and Belgost for their supplies of armor. As time progressed the Sindarian armor smiths grew in skill began to challenge the superior craftsmanship with the Dwarves. This could be considered a result of contact with the great craftsmen of the Noldor or due to the continued contact with the dwarves themselves. Through the later ages the Sindar began to produce renowned coats of mail and hauberks of platemail esteemed for its lightweight without the sacrifice of flexibility or movement. It present day third age middle earth one would find the Sindarian smithies in Lothlorien and in Tharanduil's wood-elven kingdom of Northern Mirkwood.

¹ I am referring to the evident scenes of Legolas using both his long knives in the LOTR: The Fellowship of the Ring. It is a supposition about using bucklers not a canon fact.

Noldorian Armor- The Noldorian armorers are greatest craftsmen of middle earth. Due to the time spent in Valinor, under the tutelage of the Vala Aûle, they are fabled for their unearthly or magical comprehension of metallurgy. Noldorian smiths produce the lightest and the strongest armor in Middle Earth. Only the Dwarves armories of the elder days produced hauberks that surpassed Noldorian craftsmanship for protection. Even the mythical Numenorian Armories failed to match the High Elves' tempered steel platemail. In the third Age of middle earth some Noldor armories are still found in Imladris (Rivendell) and Mithlod (Grey Havens). I would presume that only a handful of the craftsmen from Eregion (Hollin) would have come to Lothlorien following the demise of that realm at the hands of Sauron in the second age.

Closing notes – I reiterate that elvish crafts are not normally found in open markets; therefore no prices are included in the tables above. Finished goods as usually acquired through friendship and gifts with or from the elves, rather than through open purchase. It should also be taken into account that elvish armor is crafted for the maximum flexibility and to minimize encumbrance. This should be taken into account for weariness and any check rolls involving any penalty for armor. –SVW3

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