

Manual of the Sword



KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS SWORD, SCABBARD AND SERVICE BALDRIC DESCRIPTION

The scabbard is carried on the *left* side and attached to the service baldric.

The sword is *only drawn* from the scabbard on command and then *only when participating* in drills, ceremonies or practices for such occasions.

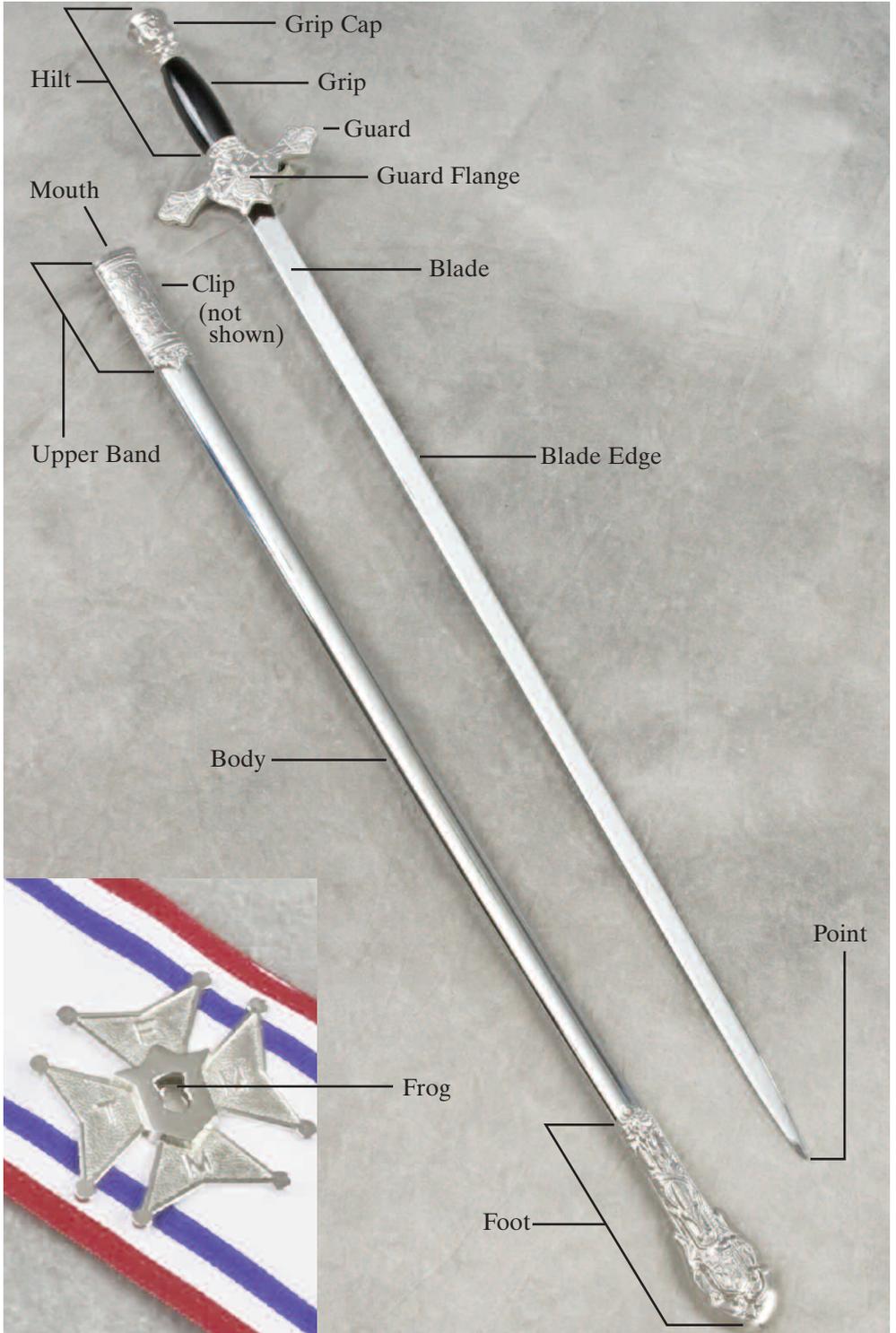
The parts of the Knights of Columbus sword are designated as follows:

- **Blade** - That portion of the sword from the forward edge of the guard up to and including the point.
- **Blade Edge** - The blade edge, not the flat part.
- **Guard** - The cross piece between the blade and the grip.
- **Guard Flange** - The decorative piece extending downward from the guard which covers the mouth of the scabbard when the sword is in the scabbard.
- **Grip** - That part, plastic or wood, grasped by the hand.
- **Grip Cap** - the bust of Columbus attached to the end of the grip.
- **Hilt** - The grip and grip cap.
- **Point** - The extreme end opposite the hilt.

The Knights of Columbus Scabbard is defined as the sheath for the sword. The distinctive parts of the scabbard are:

- **Mouth** - The opening in the scabbard to receive the blade of the sword.
- **Upper Band** - The decorative band below the mouth of the scabbard to which the clip is attached.
- **Body** - The main tube, undecorated, of the scabbard.
- **Foot** - The decorative band and cap at the lowest end of the scabbard.
- **Clip** - The device on the upper band by which the scabbard is attached to the frog of the service baldric.
- **Frog** - The device on the service baldric on which the scabbard is attached.

SWORD, SCABBARD AND SERVICE BALDRIC - PICTORIAL VIEW



COLOR CORPS DRILL

Sword drill, practices and ceremonies are always conducted at extended intervals and distances to prevent accidental injury and to avoid presenting a poor appearance for the Fourth Degree.

Persons confined to the interior of a formation and at close intervals and distances must take care as they perform the manual of the sword.

Much care and hard practice are necessary to become proficient in handling the sword.

A flexible arm and wrist are the first requisites in sword practice.

[**Note:** Rare exceptions may be allowed of the extended intervals and distances if it is the desire of the C.C.C. or M. to have all Sir Knights participate in a drill when the intervals and distances are less than normally required.]

There is a great need for the Honor Guard and the Color Guard to practice and rehearse to provide the best possible image of the Order. To that end the Honor Guard must be ready to be of service, but must be consistent and precise in executing a drill.

The Color Guard, though optional, if employed must be professional and follow established flag protocol without deviation. The Faithful Pilot has been charged with the responsibility of becoming an expert on flag protocol matters. The C.C.C. or M. should practice assembly drill with assembly officers present to ensure compliance with Flag Rules established in each country of our conduct or operation.

POSITION OF ATTENTION WHEN WEARING THE SWORD

A. WITH SWORD IN THE SCABBARD

1. With the sword in the scabbard, the position of attention is identical to that described for the Sir Knights drilling without sword, with the exception of the position of the left hand.
2. The left thumb, forefinger and second finger are used to control and prevent the swing of the scabbard and should lightly grasp the body of the scabbard (or the upper band, depending upon the length of the Sir Knight's arm) with the arm hanging straight down the side without stiffness, to keep the scabbard from swinging during facing or marching movements. (See Figures 4, 5 and 6.)



Figure 4



Figure 5



Figure 6

B. DRAW SWORD

1. The command to draw the sword from the scabbard is “***Draw, SWORD.***” At the preparatory command, “***Draw,***” grasp the upper band of the scabbard with the entire left hand and tilt the scabbard mouth forward until the scabbard is at an angle of 45 degrees with the ground. Simultaneously press the left hand lightly against the left hip.

2. With the right hand, reach across the body and grasp the grip of the sword and withdraw the sword completely from the scabbard. Keep the head erect and the eyes forward throughout the draw movement.
3. As the point clears the mouth of the scabbard, release the scabbard with the left hand and with the thumb, forefinger and second finger grasp the point of the sword.
4. At the command of execution, "***SWORD***," lower the right hand down across the body, firmly holding the grip of the sword. With the left hand still holding the point of the sword, raise the sword upward and across the body, guiding the sword to the center of the shoulder, ***guard flange to the right side***.
5. When the maneuver is complete the right arm should be as nearly extended as possible, elbow back, the grip of the sword clasped easily between the thumb and forefinger. The third and fourth fingers will be back of the grip. The flange will rest on the top of the thumb and forefinger.
6. At the same time allow the scabbard to return its normal vertical position and resume the light grip with the left fingers as in the position of ***Attention***. This is the position of "***Carry Sword***" and is reached automatically without further command. (See Figures 7, 8, 9 and 10.)



Figure 7



Figure 8



Figure 9



Figure 10

C. CARRY SWORD

1. With the sword drawn, the position of attention is identical to that described in the previous paragraph with the exception of the right hand.
2. The right hand is used to hold and control the sword as described herein for the position of Carry Sword. (See Figures 11, 12 and 13.)



Figure 11



Figure 12



Figure 13

D. PRESENT SWORD

1. This command is used to salute with the sword. It is used when the unit is presented to the colors, to any person, or when the *National Anthem* or “*To The Colors*” is played.
2. The preparatory command for this order is “**Present.**”
3. At the command of execution, “**SWORD,**” raise and move the sword to the front, bringing the hilt of the sword to the center of the chin with the guard flange to the front.
4. As the sword is placed at the center of the chin, allow the flat side of the blade to nearly touch the tip of the chapeau making the swords for all of the unit consistent and in line, the thumb on the grip directly behind the guard and the remaining fingers grasping the grip firmly and the right elbow resting against the body. (See Figures 14, 15 and 16.)



Figure 14



Figure 15



Figure 16

E. CARRY SWORD FROM PRESENT SWORD

1. The preparatory command of “*Carry*” is a signal.
2. If the Color Corps is at the “*Present Sword*” position, at the command of execution, “*Sword*,” bring the sword to the “*Carry Sword*” position. (See Figures 17 and 18.)



Figure 17



Figure 18

F. PARADE REST

1. PARADE REST WITH SWORD IN SCABBARD

- a. With the sword in the scabbard, and only from a position of Attention, the commands are “**Parade, REST.**”
- b. At the command of execution “**REST**” assume the position of “*Parade Rest.*” Move your left foot 10 inches to the left of your right foot, resting your weight equally on the heels and balls of both feet.
- c. Maintain control of the sword with the left hand and move the right hand to the small of the back. (See Figure 19.)



Figure 19

2. PARADE REST WITH DRAWN SWORD

- a. “*Parade Rest*” with drawn sword can only be ordered from the position of “*Carry Sword*”. The command is “**Parade, REST.**”
- b. At the command of execution “**REST,**” maintain the left hand on the scabbard, move the left foot 10 inches to the left of the right foot; drop the point of the sword directly to the front, near the ground (floor), guard flange to the right, thumb along the grip. The blade should be extended at an angle. (See Figures 20 and 21.)
- c. The same restrictions apply to silence and movement as prescribed for the Sir Knight drilling without sword.



Figure 20



Figure 21

G. AT EASE

1. “**At EASE**,” with drawn sword, can only be commanded from the “**Carry Sword**” or “**Parade Rest**” positions.
2. The same restrictions apply to silence and movement as are prescribed to the Sir Knight drilling without sword.

H. REST

1. “**REST**,” with drawn sword, can only be commanded from the “**Carry Sword**,” “**At Ease**” or “**Parade Rest**” positions.
2. The same restrictions apply for the “Rest” position as prescribed for the Sir Knight drilling without sword.

I. RETURN SWORD

1. This order is used to return the sword to the scabbard. It can only be ordered from the “**Carry Sword**” position.
2. This command is only executed at the “**Halt**”.
3. At the preparatory command “**Return**,” grasp the point of the sword with the left fingers.
4. At the command of execution, “**SWORD**,” drop the point of the sword by turning the right hand in the most convenient manner as the design of the sword permits. At the same time grasp the scabbard near the mouth with the left hand, thumb on the mouth of the scabbard and tilt it forward. Turn the head slightly to the left, fixing the eyes on the opening of the scabbard, raise the right hand sufficiently to insert the blade of the sword and return it into the scabbard.
5. Once the sword is in the scabbard, turn the head to the front and drop the hands as in the position of “**Attention**”. (See Figures 22, 23, 24 and 25.)



Figure 22



Figure 23



Figure 24



Figure 25

J. SITTING WHILE ARMED WITH THE SWORD

1. Knights of Columbus should remain standing throughout their attendance in a drill. However, to prevent distractions to others behind the formation and to provide that others be able to see, it will occasionally be necessary for Knights of Columbus to be seated. This is particularly true in Church. To provide uniformity and to maintain control of the sword in the scabbard while seated, the following procedure will be utilized.
2. As you begin to be seated, grasp the upper band of the scabbard with the left hand and carry the sword and the scabbard forward and across the lap. When seated, the sword will then rest in the scabbard with the body of the scabbard at an angle across the lap with the foot of the scabbard pointed towards the right front. (See Figure 26.)
3. The Sir Knight must keep control over the scabbard to prevent the scabbard from striking the seats or pews to not be distracting.



Figure 26