

## How to Make a Moscow Broomball Broom or Stick

Here are basic instructions for making a broom. (this is just one way, there are, I am sure, others). With broom-making, teams normally get together, have beers and go about making brooms as a group.

### To make 1 Broomball Broom/Stick you will need:

3-4 Russian brush brooms (venik).

Several rolls of clear tape, and coloured tape for finish.

A roll of Nylon twine for binding.

Shoes laces for wrist strap.

Hockey or tennis racket handle tape for the grip.

You will also need wire cutters to remove the bindings on the venik, kitchen shears and a serrated knife.

### How to make a Broomball Broom/Stick:

(This is a fairly messy business, so find a kitchen floor or like. DO NOT do on a carpet). Be fairly conservative on the amount of material you use. A broom that is too heavy is useless. The concept is more of a racketball crack at the ball with one hand, rather than the two-handed field hockey or ice hockey method.

Ideally you want a light, very rigid, strong stick that is long enough to touch the floor when standing and slightly bent over. The contact/hitting area should be around 8" or 20cm long. If it is too heavy you can't strike quickly. If it is too long you will be swinging a club. If the contact or striking point is too long you cannot easily fight for a ball.

- 1) Take all the veniki apart completely. Undo all the metal or string bindings and get rid of them (wire cutters). Take all the venik material and lay it out.



- 2) Cut off all the spongy handle part of the venik. Use only the bristle part (the spongy material will allow the broom to flex and break)



- 3) Lay out the bristles in a long, mixed line. It is not best to do sections, and works better to have a continuous layering of material to avoid weak points. The thickness will compress, but you don't want too much, as you will be adding layers of tape and string to bind it together.
- 4) Draw the material together into a long bundle and starting at one end, begin binding together with clear tape. Once you have a layer or two of tape to hold it together, I have found that another layer or 2 of tape all the way down and back up will do.



- 5) Once you have a long bundle that is held together with tape, start binding tightly with tape. Draw the tape at an angle down the stick, pulling it as tightly as you can, almost to breaking point. Go all the way down, and at 90 degrees to the last winding, go back up. This creates longitudinal strength in the broom, and is vital to ensuring it is less likely to break later on. Binding tightly creates compression and strength. Now go up and down one more time.

- 6) Now it is time to bend and shape the blade part of the stick. Before this it won't hold much shape. You want a straight hitting area at an angle from the handle part.



After this add to the blade part by adding material in 1 or 2 bundles and binding tightly to the main length of the broom.



- 7) Next you need to bind tightly with string. This adds strength. I would not just wrap round. You will add too much weight and use up massive amounts of twine or string. Bind at an angle as you did the tape. The best way I have found is to tie one end to a door handle and pull against that with the broom in both hands while winding.



- 8) After that one or more final wraps of tape to adhere the string in case of it breaking at some point. More adds compression, but beware of adding too much weight.

- 9) Next you need to make the wrist strap. This is a requirement. You can do this above you handle area or below it. Most prefer above, but below the end. The best strap I used was a braid of the shoe laces and then use that as the strap. Tie tightly on to the broom and then tape over, going above, over and below the string to fix it to the handle.
- 10) Finally, it is time to add finishing touches, use hockey stick handle tape for the contact area and the grip area. Use coloured tape to add a finish.
- 11) You can finally cut the top and bottom ends back to suit the length, but better to be very conservative on this, and doing again later, than ruining a broom by cutting too much first time. This normally requires a serrated blade to cut. You MUST have both ends open to show what the broom is made of.
- 12) To further flatten and make the contact/hitting point even, I use a rolling pin or heavy bottle, putting as much weight as possible and moving up and down the blade. Some take outside and with a piece of wood, run over the blade end of the broom with a vehicle. That takes still.
- 13) Done! Now it is time to get used to it and practice hitting a ball around. Adjust length and shape as necessary.
- 14) **Note:** Both ends of your stick must be open to show material made of.
- 15) Here are some images from a finished stick.



Handle strap



Bottom end



Handle end

These are the basics, as I learned how to make brooms. Get with your team and have a go!