

Eight Tips for Better Articulation Doug Strong

1. Take your time.
2. Don't start articulating until you're finished dishing! Most authentic elbows and knees are dished to **at least** 2-3 inches depth.
3. There are no flat surfaces in articulated armour. Dish your lames slightly.
4. In order to be sure that your articulation holes line up properly, pre-make all the holes on the parts of the plates that will be on the outside of the armour. Place the lame into the cop in the position that it will be in when the piece is opened as far as it will go and mark the position of the holes onto the cop. This can be done with anything sharp, such as a magic marker, a pencil, or a scratch awl. Now take the lame and place it in the opening so that it is positioned as it will be when the piece is fully closed and mark the holes. Be careful not to let the lame move from side to side while you are marking these. You should now have two pairs of holes which are running more or less parallel to one another. Find the center point between the two marks and make your articulation holes at these points. Bolt the pieces together and check the articulation. If for some reason they don't work quite right try loosening or tightening the bolts. If all else fails try this process again and make some new holes.
5. Bolt your pieces together until all of the parts are articulated. When you are finished putting the pieces together and they all work properly remove the bolts and polish the pieces. Then you are ready to rivet them.
6. You don't need washers. Make one of the two holes you're articulating through the same diameter as the rivet you are using. Make the other bigger so that the rivet can spin freely.
7. Use a Weiss-Koenig tool in order to separate your lames while riveting. This is a piece of 14 gauge steel with a slot cut in the end, big enough to slip around the rivet, to allow the lames to have sufficient space between them to articulate properly.
8. When peening rivets for articulation place the rivet in the hole and rest its face against the anvil. Begin to strike the edge of the rivet with the ball end of a ball-peen hammer. Work your way around the edge in a circular fashion until the rivet mushrooms out slightly. You will only need to make the shaft of the rivet big enough so that it cannot fit through the hole.