and saw the spiked end of a broken bat sticking in the frustrating tendency of modern bats breaking. The recent article in the L.A. Times that chronicled the Cold Steel bokkens were designed using high-grade work with various designs. Faced with this challenge, all of Cold Steel's products, Lynn Thompson got to ago by a sergeant who complained that their traditional baseball bat seriously. He was contacted a few years for the LAPD that Lynn began to take the idea of a and innumerable car trunks, the baseball bat rests, ready to be pressed into service at a moments notice. Yet it was not until Cold Steel developed bokkens for the LAPD that Lynn began to take the idea of a baseball bat seriously. He was contacted a few years ago by a sergeant who complained that their traditional issued wooden bokkens had a nasty habit of breaking. Wanting to take the strong craftsmanship that make all of Cold Steel's products, Lynn Thompson got to work with various designs. Faced with this challenge, Cold Steel bokkens were designed using high-grade plastic, and it turned out so well that they began to consider the possibility of using this technology in other areas too.

What proved to be the last straw for Lynn was the recent article in the L.A. Times that chronicled the frustrating tendency of modern bats breaking. The article went on to note that Jared Washburn "shuddered and saw the spiked end of a broken bat sticking in the mound during a recent game." Not only are the bats cracking and breaking, but they are splintering and flying apart. It is appalling how easy they are breaking to a variety of problems; one being that they don’t stand up under great pressure. The problem was simple; was it even possible to to create a bat that wouldn’t break? Wood wouldn’t work, metal was out of question, and so was reinforced bamboo. Was there a solution? The answer to that question came in the form of precision injection molded polypropylene, the heaviest grade Cold Steel could find. The Brooklyn Smasher is made out of this dense material, making it literally unbreakable. There are no more worries about shards flying all over the field when you swing. There is no more having to shell out money every month to purchase a new bat. No matter what you hit, no matter how hard you swing it, this bat will not break. It won’t crack, it won’t rot, it won’t rust, it won’t fade. It is solid and strong, and it proudly bears the name Cold Steel. There is simply nothing else like it.

This bat is clearly the next step in the evolution of baseball bats, as the history of the bat shows us. For early American ballplayers in the first half of the nineteenth century had no rules whatsoever in regards to the design and make of their bats. Since the game clearly had historical ties to cricket (a British game that uses a flat sided bat), American ballplayers used everything from an almost cricket-shaped tool to clubs of wood that appeared to be a good fit with the game. Heavy and light bats were experimented with, as was every possible shape and size. After this period of experimentation, it was generally agreed that a round shaped baseball bat was the most effective fit for the game.

Over time the game began to evolve. In 1859, baseball made a rule that no bat could have a diameter larger than 2.5 inches, and only a decade later they added to their rule and said that no bat could be longer than 42 inches (the average professional’s bat is around 34 inches); this rule still stands today. Almost a hundred years went by with little advances in bat technology other than the development of the Louisville Slugger10 type bat. Bats during this time were relatively simple, for they were all about the same and made out of Ash.

Yet in 1970 advancements in the area of metal gave inventors the idea of a metal bat. Companies like Worth® and Easton® began to market bats that were metal, and many of these early metal bats may still be lying under people’s beds today. The problem with these early metal bats was that they were fairly solid and did not fit right in the hand. But like always, as technology advances so do the products on the market. The 1990’s brought modern bats farther still, with various alloys infused into the bats as well as pockets of air that allowed bats to not only have more pop, but be lighter too.

These lighter bats may have good pop with the ball, but they are far from indestructible. Also, as is chronicled above, the aluminum bat has deficiencies that make it a poor tool for training and self-defense. For this reason, Cold Steel has taken baseball technology forward. Clearly the bat has evolved and now moved into the 21st century; Cold Steel, in introducing the Brooklyn Smasher, has taken bats to a whole new level. Never before has a bat had the advantages that the Smasher has. It is the next step in the evolutionary process of the baseball bat.

The Brooklyn Smasher has many of the benefits of both wood and aluminum without the irritating drawbacks. If you were to ask ballplayers about their preference, most would prefer the sound and feel of wood. Baseball has been played for over a century with the beautiful crack of wood ringing in the air.

**Under the Wheel of a Pickup Truck!**

Stresses like this would splinter a wooden bat and put a permanent dent in an aluminum one, but the Brooklyn Smasher holds its own!
Compare that sound to the ting of metal bats, and it is clear that wood is superior in sound and feel. Luckily for the baseball aficionado, Brooklyn Smashers have a solid look and feel much like wood. They are molded with a grain similar to a high quality wooden bat. Also, upon contact with a ball, they have a much more satisfying feel than metal.

Another feature of the Smasher is that it has a thicker handle than most modern bats. Because of the desire for home runs in recent years, bats have become fatter through the barrel, while shaving off diameter around the handle. The belief is that by cutting down the dimensions of the handle and adding it to the barrel, the hitter will be able to generate more bat speed and whip through the hitting zone. The unfortunate result is that by restricting these dimensions, the bat loses some of its structural integrity.

These unique specifications make the Brooklyn Smasher ideal for baseball practice and training. At every level, eye work and batting practice are the most essential tools in developing the hitter’s skills. This bat lends itself well for this purpose. The density has a great feel in the hitter’s hands, and since it is made in the more traditional style of American baseball bats, the bat is slightly heavier than a wooden or metal bat of similar length. This disparity causes the batter to develop the quick hands and reactions needed to succeed in the game. Also, it has already been noted that all types of bats need to be replaced quite often because of constant use. That will not be the case with this bat. It will never wear down and deteriorate. If someone were to leave it in the cold, leave it outside, knock it around or treat it roughly the bat would suffer no negative effects. It will be a perfect hitting tool for as long as it is needed.

As a baseball player myself, I know how frustrating it can be to have to purchase bats every season. Growing up in the year-round warmth of Phoenix, Arizona, I was never far from the baseball field. Early in childhood I found a love for baseball, and as my love grew so did the time I spent on the field. The crack of the bat that is so distinguishable in American culture became music to my ears. All my time and effort was put into enhancing my growing ability.

And yet as I look back, I see a past littered with broken and tired bats. At every stage of my game I had to purchase another bat. Both metal and wood were necessary, and almost cringe at the cost of those various tools. For much like golf, in order to better your skill you must practice hundreds of times every day; I did that. Almost every day I would go to the batting cage at the field where I would take hundreds of swings off of the tees, in various drills, and off live pitching. With every hit my bats were wearing down. With every season I found myself necessity in the possession of a new one.

By the time I reached high school I knew that I was going to at least be able to go on to the college level, and at that realization my work efforts doubled. I began serious training and sought the help of anyone I could find with knowledge of the game. Local scout teams, which represented major league ball clubs that were grooming the best talent in various regions of the U.S., were sprouting up, and I was a player on one. We would travel all over the state of Arizona as high school players playing colleges in practice games. Scouts from various teams would attend, and many of the players on my team went on to play professionally. In these games against colleges, we would not swing metal, which is what we used in traditional high school play, but we played our games with wood. The reason for this was to give the local scouts a chance to see us play with the same material that pros used.

This is far from an uncommon practice. As players progress in their game and begin to get ready for high school, most begin to exclusively practice with wood. The reason for this is that wood does not have as much explosion off the bat head as metal, so the players who believe that they are headed eventually to the major leagues get prepared by swinging wood. Yet as it has been mentioned, wood constantly breaks; I know this first hand. Players who swing their wood all the time will go through a ridiculous amount of wooden bats over a season. It is a costly and necessary expense to the budding ballplayer.

My history in baseball is no exception. There are littered bats lining my path through my baseball career. Looking back, I wish I had been introduced to a tool like the Brooklyn Smasher. I can see exceptional benefits to a bat like this. For starters, I would not have had to shell out money constantly for bats that were breaking. The Brooklyn Smasher is too tough to ever break. Those hundreds of swings that I took every day are no match for the truly solid work of this bat. I can see great upside in making this your everyday practice bat. First, it won’t get worn down. Also, it has a feel and connection with the ball that is very similar to wood. The upside to this is that the player who is training to go farther in their game will be able to get the benefits of wood without the irritation of breaking the bat.

Baseball continued to take up a large majority of my time into college. Since I was skilled enough to go to college on a baseball scholarship, I had to keep up my skills constantly. Especially on the college level, coaches are trying to get their players prepared for the next level by using wooden bats in practice, and yet, the bats break constantly. I wish this bat had existed back when I was in college a few years ago. If it had existed, there is no doubt that it would have been a constant tool in my baseball workout.

In all truth, this bat is perfect for any level of ball player. The reason is that by swinging a slightly heavier bat with a connection similar to wood, every player will develop the quick hands and reactions needed to succeed in the game my numb hands rang with the sensation of the batting gloves. When the pitch was thrown, I swung with all my might and connected well with the ball, but unfortunately my hands felt destroyed. For the rest of the game my numb hands rang with the sensation of the metal. This was not the only time that this occurred during my playing years, for with metal it is a common sensation. When struck on hard surface, metal bats will send shocking sensations up the arms. And just like in baseball, defensive situations you are not going to always strike your target. If you miss with metal and hit a pole for instance, a metal bat will be shockingly uncomfortable in your hands. The Brooklyn Smasher, because it is made out of plastic, will be perfectly fine in the same situation.

In fact, the Brooklyn Smasher has serious advantages in a fight. Besides the fact it is unbreakable and yields well in a person’s hands, it’s finish has advantages all its own. The dense plastic finish will stand up well against an edged weapon and help keep the weapon from sliding down to the bat wielder’s hands. On an aluminum bat, a knife or sword might slide down the metal finish and strike one’s hands. With the Smasher, it’s much more likely that the blade will slightly nick the surface of the bat, doing no damage to it, and keep the blade from sliding. These benefits make it function well as a cross over trainer to develop strength, agility and eye hand coordination for those studying Western saber fencing, Kendo, Kenjutsu, Filipino stick and sword fighting, and Chinese martial arts.

When compared to the other bats on the market, the Brooklyn Smasher far exceeds the competition. And at a price of only $45, it is priced similarly to good wooden bats, but will last infinitely longer. Whether you play baseball or desire a simple yet effective defensive weapon, the Smasher is the way to go.