

Easton Mako Torq

The Easton Mako Torq bat is a revolutionary model of the already existing Easton Mako bat. In today's world of aluminum bats, companies are doing whatever it takes to produce a product that is unique and better than its competition. This particular bat utilizes technology that has never been seen before: the rotating handle. The Mako is made for baseball players of all ages, but the main focus of this model is geared towards high school and college athletes. The BBCOR model (approved model for collegiate and high school athletes) is a -3 drop (-3 relates to bat length in inches minus bat weight in ounces) and features a barrel size of 2-5/8 inches in diameters. The bat is offered as a 31, 32, 33, or 34 inch length. This Easton model is a two-piece bat, meaning that the barrel and the handle are separate entities that are connected at the middle of the bat. A more detailed outlay of the bat components is featured in Figure 1 and listed below:

1. Knob
2. Rotating Handle
3. Bat Grip
4. Barrel
5. CXN Connection
6. Cap

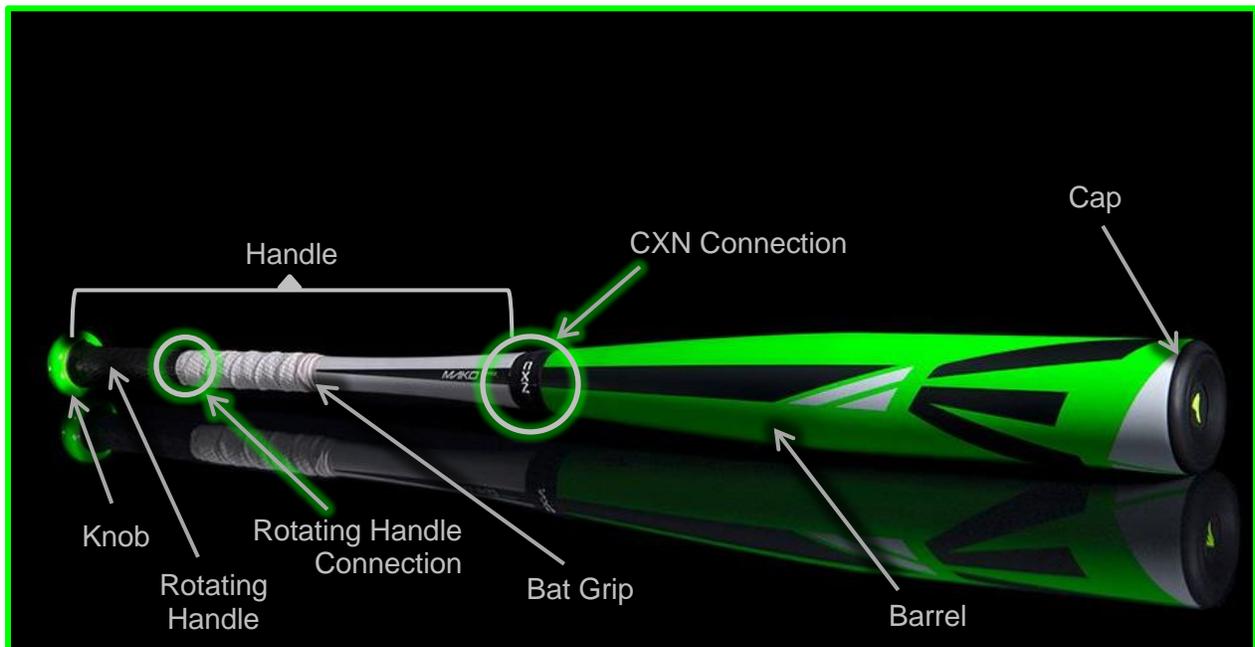


Figure 1: Easton Mako Torq Components. *The Mako Torque is comprised of seven main pieces.*

Knob

The knob is placed at the end of the bat to counter force that is generated during the swing to give the batter a much better grip on the bat. The knob prevents the bat from escaping from the hitter's hands during his swing. In the special case of the Easton Mako, the knob is attached to the rotating part of the bat handle.

Rotating Handle

The rotating handle is a revolutionary concept that has never been implemented in any bat design before. Easton has patented this idea as 360 degree Torq handle technology. A baseball swing is not always the most natural of motions. Hitters continue to face the problem of having inaccurate

timing when swinging at a pitch. A negative result of poor timing occurs when the batter rolls his wrist through the strike zone on his swing. The purpose of the Mako's rotating handle is to combat the problem a hitter faces when he rolls his wrists at the wrong point in his swing. This technology allows hitters have the bat stay through the strike zone longer, essentially giving the hitter a better chance of making contact with the ball.

Bat Grip

The main purpose of a bat grip is to give the hitter a better "grip" on the bat and have more control over his swing. An additional benefit of the bat grip is that it reduces the force of the shock that a hitter may feel when he makes contact with the ball. Bat grips are typically a rubbery material. The grip of the Easton Mako Torq is defined as torq handle gauze.

Barrel

The barrel is the part of the bat in which a hitter is supposed to make contact with the ball. It is the largest part of the bat. The Easton Mako Barrel is made of TCT composite material. Composite bats vary from typical aluminum bats by applying a woven interior graphite wall to the bat. Many argue that composite bats are better than standard aluminum bats because of this. This aspect is another technology that helps put the Mako ahead of the competition.

The Easton Mako comes in a variety of barrel sizes. The particular model portrayed in figure one is 2-5/8" in diameter. The 2-piece design of the bat allows for a longer than normal barrel size. This creates a larger "sweet spot" which gives the batter a better chance of making solid contact with the ball. The larger barrel length also produces a lower moment of inertia, which reduces vibrations throughout the bat when the ball strikes the end of the bat or the bat handle.

CXN Connection



Since the Easton Mako is a two-piece bat, there must be some type of connection holding these two pieces together. Easton uses a hinge technology that can be seen in Figure 2. The two pieces are held together by a hinge connection then covered by a rubber sleeve. This connection efficiently transfers energy and isolates the handle from the barrel to eliminate most vibrations. This provides a unique feel that one-piece bats cannot replicate.

Figure 2: Easton Mako Hinge Technology.

Cap

The final piece of the bat, the cap, is placed at the end of the bat to enclose the barrel and contain the pressure inside the walls of the barrel. Typically the cap is glued to the end of the barrel with

a strong adhesive. While this part of the bat may seem insignificant, it is essential to the performance of the bat that the cap remains intact and maintains a solid connection to the barrel of the bat.

Mako Torq Comes to Life.

All components outlined above assemble to produce one of the most impressive bats on the market. The knob must be firmly attached to the rotating handle, and the rotating handle must be properly attached to the main bat handle. This connection is essential, for if the rotating handle is too tight or too loose, the hitter may experience an awkward swing. The grip is then wrapped over the handle. The handle must be successfully attached to the barrel, which is easily achievable due to Easton's CXN connection technology. The bat is then completely ready for use once the cap is popped onto the end of the barrel. The success of the Easton Mako is reliant on these components being properly assembled. Easton has struck a phenomenal balance in incorporating all of these components with the Mako Torq.

Sources Referenced

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