



# MEMBERS UPDATE

September 2021

**No Holster Required:  
Shirt Pocket Pistols**

**How to Build The Paiute  
Deadfall Trap**

**Alternative Finance Tips:  
How to Fight Inflation**

**19 HIGHLY EFFECTIVE  
WEAPONS THAT DON'T  
GO BANG!**



**CHECKOUT OUR NEW STORE ONLINE  
FOR ALL OF YOUR TACTICAL NEEDS**

**MYCRISISGEAR.COM**



# CONTENT



**02**

## 19 Weapons

If carrying a concealed handgun every day just isn't possible for you, not to worry. There are many other potent weapons that you can carry in almost any scenario or workplace. Some of these weapons are simply far too often overlooked, while others are obscure and unknown to most – which can work powerfully to your advantage.



**06**

## Pocket Pistols

When it comes CCWs, it's hard to beat the ease of carry and accessibility of a "shirt pocket pistol." Esoteric and intriguing as these diminutive handguns may be, they are definitely the smallest and lightest class of firearms on the market. This sub-genre of so-called "mouse guns" is brimming with unusual firearms that you've likely never even heard of before.



**12**

## Fight Inflation

With inflation fears on the rise, many of our readers have asked for self-reliance strategies to protect their hard earned dollars from this silent thief. Daunting as it may be, there are time-tested methods for surviving and even thriving during periods of high inflation. Get started protecting your quality of life with these inflation-fighting tactics.



**16**

## Deadfall Trap

Trapping is an all-but forgotten, yet highly effective, method of taking game animals for food and fur. The Paiute deadfall trap, in specific, is one of the most effective and easy-to-construct traps that every prepper should know. That's why we've created these step-by-step instructions for this simple yet ingenious trap, in use for thousands of years.



## 19 Highly Effective Weapons That Don't Go **Bang!**

Using weapons that make a satisfying bang sound may have the best chance of working, but there are many, many more ways to take down an opponent. Doing so without using a gun will definitely make a potential future court case easier, too. Let's take a look at some of the best ways to defeat an aggressor without using a lethal weapon.

### Your Body

It might sound odd, but yes, your body can be a highly developed tool of self-defense. You can use everything from a martial art to good old-fashioned street fighting to defend yourself, and your body won't make a bang sound (although it may make some other noises, depending on how in-shape you are). As the picture above illustrates, one of the best ways to end an aggressor's movements is by popping their eyeballs out. We can pretty much guarantee you that if you can pull this move off, the fight will end very quickly.

### Stun Gun

Whether you use a stun gun or its longer brother, the stun baton, these weapons pack a powerful punch! Although you usually have to be relatively

close to use one, once an aggressor feels a bunch of volts running through their body, they're very likely to not mess with you again.

Be sure to check your local laws regarding stun guns. The last thing you want to do is end up in jail for protecting yourself with a weapon that's not legal for citizens to use.

### Tasers

This is similar to a stun gun, but it comes in many shapes and sizes. You can even get some that look kind of like lipstick. Your best bet, however, is to invest in a taser that can take someone down from up to 15 feet away.

The lipstick look is cute, after all, but you'll have to actually touch your aggressor for it to work. That's just quite simply way too close for comfort.

Again, be sure to check your local laws. The good news is that tasers and stun guns are legal in many states.

## Baton



Any type of baton is going to give you a fighting chance. You've undoubtedly seen footage of police officers using these batons to great effect, so why not do the same thing to your aggressor? All you have to do is get a couple of good whacks in and you're probably going to be good to go.

## Mace or Pepper Spray

Many people believe that these are the same thing, but they're not. Therefore, consider what each can do before you choose which one to carry.

Mace is tear gas, and it's used to subdue crowds. Known as an irritant, mace may be less effective in hand-to-hand combat. Pepper spray, on the other hand, is an inflammatory substance. Its sole purpose is to stop aggressors immediately.

As you can see, pepper spray is the superior option if you really want to get out of a bad situation. If all you have is Mace, though, be sure to use plenty of it.

## Tactical Flashlight



A tactical flashlight is always a good thing to have around. It can temporarily blind someone with its strong light, and it can be used to thrash someone's temple. You may also want to look into hidden special features, including a knife, within your flashlight. Overall, the point of a tactical flashlight

is that it can defend you, even if it doesn't look like much. When it comes to weapons, one that can surprise an aggressor is definitely a good choice.

## Tactical Pen

This may seem like a bit of a stretch but hang with us. A tactical pen serves its purpose by allowing you to write something. However, it can also be a fire starter tool, an emergency glass breaking tool, and much more.

When you reach into your shirt pocket for a pen, most aggressors will laugh it off. That's their mistake, though. Once you've put your pen through their eye, they'll learn their mistake. It'll be too late for them by then, and you'll have gained the protection of their shock. In most cases, it's best to thrust a tactical pen into your opponent's eye and then run like hell.

## Knife



So far, this list has contained items that are more likely to defend you than to give you an opportunity to aggress against someone. With a knife, however, you can choose to do either. Of course, we're going to lean on the defensive side of the fence because aggressing against someone else isn't exactly in the spirit of this article.

A knife provides a fantastic weapon that doesn't go bang, but only if you know how to use it to its full advantage. You've heard the jokes about bringing a knife to a gun fight, but don't believe for a second that a knife will be worthless against an aggressor with a gun. In fact, if you can draw the gun wielder into a tight situation, you may be able to lash out at

them with your knife before they pull the trigger.

Of course, a knife should be used as a last resort quite simply because it does require you to be in such close contact with your opponent.

## Sword



Many of the same concerns about a knife will also make you hesitant to use a sword. But if you're a swordsman, then you know how effective this weapon can be. From using a machete, to protecting you from wildlife, to using a broad sword to aggress, you have a million different ways to defend yourself.

One of the best points about a sword is that you don't have to stand as close to your aggressor as you would with a knife. Swords also have the advantage of being able to stab someone much more deeply. On the other hand, they'll require much more knowledge to handle correctly, and they can become surprisingly heavy.

Ultimately, when given the choice between a sword, a knife, and some pepper spray, your best bet may actually be the pepper spray. As long as it's legal in your area, this weapon will show that you were really just trying to defend yourself. Use a knife or a sword, though, and your intent may come into question.

## Self-Defense Keychain

Simply placing your keys between your knuckles will be enough to defend you. However, if you'd like to take this a step further, a self-defense keychain may be exactly what the doctor ordered. As you



can see, you simply put two fingers through the plastic eyeholes and then punch an aggressor. With unbreakable ABS plastic, this nasty little trick is going to leave someone seriously messed

up. Think of it as having gadgets hidden up your sleeves. Most aggressors won't see the keychain until it's already embedded in their face.

## Kubotan

Most people aren't looking for you to have a Kubotan, and that's exactly why you need one. The purpose of this particular weapon is to make your defensive blows much stronger. If you put your force behind it, you may even be able to break bones or cause temporary paralysis. In other words, this is a serious weapon that's masquerading as just another knick-knack. Make sure you put all your strength behind the first punch because you may not get to make a second one.



## Guard Dog

Why waste time with many self-defense techniques when you could simply get a dog instead? As long as you're going to be at home – or taking your dog for a walk – a dog can play a major role in self-defense.

Be sure to train your dog to respond to your commands. That way, even if your dog doesn't run to your defense immediately, you can get its attention focused on your aggressor very quickly. Use a command such as "sic 'em" to mean that it's time for your dog to stop being friendly and start defending you.

## Sound Alarm

In some cases, there's nothing you can do to protect yourself other than make a lot of noise. Getting a sound alarm will give you this opportunity.

The best thing about this particular form of self-defense is that no one is going to steal it to use against you. Some of these alarms are ear-piercing, which makes them a fantastic choice. This is especially true if your live in an urban area.

## Cold Steel Brooklyn Crusher

If you want to defend yourself at home, you've probably got a baseball bat that can serve you well. However, the bad thing about traditional bats is that they can splinter. Therefore, how about getting the Brooklyn Crusher instead? This item looks like any other baseball bat, but it's designed to work as a blunt weapon. In fact, it's virtually indestructible, so go ahead and hit your aggressor as many times as you need to until they fall down.



## Bean Bag Gun

This is the weapon police officers use when they want to knock someone down without killing them. It exerts a lot of force on the bean bags that are flung from its barrel. Be aware that even though it's referred to as non-lethal, this gun could possibly kill someone, depending on where the bean bags hit them (don't aim it at their throat if you're looking to avoid this).

## Pepper Spray Gun



We've talked about using pepper spray, but that usually comes in the form of a keychain item. Now, it's time to talk about taking pepper spray to the next level. As you can see, this gun has got the

goods to shoot pepper spray from a distance. In fact, it works from up to 60 feet away! This will definitely make it easier to subdue an aggressor and get away. Keep this gun loaded if you want to be able to take down an opponent without having any issues.

## Tactical Whip

This concealable weapon allows you to strike out quickly at anyone who is coming for you. Much like Indiana Jones' bullwhip, you can use this to take people down. It might not make the satisfying sound that Dr. Jones' whip makes, but it will have a very similar effect.

## Monkey Fist

A monkey fist is one of the world's oldest weapons, and yet it still earns an appearance on this list. Why? Because it's just that good. All you have to do to make one is take a heavy ball and enclose it in paracord. You can use a large ball bearing for this, or you can take the much more dangerous option and utilize a pool ball. Either way, this will give you some reach with your weapon, which is always a good thing when someone is aggressing against you.

## Cane

Whether you really have a limp or want to pretend like you do, a cane can be a great weapon to have at your side. Choose a hardwood cane for durability and be prepared to launch an attack. You can ward off aggressors who are bigger or stronger than you with a few well-placed whacks.

## Final Thoughts

When it comes to self-defense, there's really no limit to what can be used to help you. Even a scarf can become a weapon (seriously, ask the French Foreign Legion) as long as you know how to use it. As you can now see, having a gun may be much easier, but it's far from the only way to defend yourself.



## NO HOLSTER REQUIRED: TOP 10 SHIRT POCKET PISTOLS

When it comes to concealed carry weapons, there's that sweet spot, a balance between weight, size, capacity, and "shootability." Most guns fall short in at least one of these categories.

The perfect CCW requires a delicate balance of features that takes an incredible degree of research and development to produce. What's more, every shooter has their own preferences, hand size, finger length and body type. It's just a tall task to manufacture a weapon that does it all. There are some rare specimens that do manage to thread the needle... but these are NOT our focus in this article.

Our focus for this piece is a little bit different, to shine a light on a few of the easily overlooked gems in the handgun arena. Easily overlooked partly because these weapons are literally a lot shorter, narrower and lighter than the rest of the herd. They're specifically not the balanced concealed carry pistol; these are the runts of the handgun market, what we sometimes refer to as a "shirty" (short for "shirt pocket pistol").

Rather than level the playing field, we're tipping the scales in favor of a short list of characteristics. It's what people in the advertising world refer to as a niche. But, interestingly enough, rather than exploited for maximum benefit, we find that this niche is uniquely ignored and unnoticed by many of the major manufacturers.

### INTRODUCING THE SHIRT POCKET PISTOL

Small size (sub-micro compact even), light weight, and reliability are the keys that make up a good "shirty." Medium range accuracy, grip feel, and holster selection are obviously going to take a back seat here. The shirt pocket pistol needs to be safe, tiny, and absolutely go bang when its trigger is pulled.

These weapons can be a bit eccentric, which is part of their intrigue. In fact, that's why we've decided to dedicate an entire article to a philosophy shared by only a small segment of self-defense aficionados, a sub-culture if you will. This philosophy states that the best pistol for self-defense is the one you will carry all day, every day.



If this is your goal, then your list of criteria is remarkably and gloriously simple: Select the absolutely smallest pistol you can safely and comfortably shoot. You might describe this concept "the pocket knife of the handgun world."

The shirt pocket class isn't exclusive to folks who literally want to carry a handgun in a shirt pocket, right next to an ink pen. However, to qualify for the "shirt pocket" class, the gun must be able to conceivably ride inside of a shirt or vest pocket comfortably. Suffice it to say, this is sub-sub-compact class.

These diminutive little shooters don't specialize in knockdown power, tactical prowess, or making a bold "Dirty Harry-esque" impression when you flash your piece in a punk's face. They don't specialize in anything but being small and lightweight, perfect for a shirt pocket.



With this in mind, it's easy to see why you might want one of these babies to carry around your property, shop, or wherever. If you happen to own a business where you run a high risk of staring across the counter at an armed robber, then these pocket guns make an awful lot of sense.

## WHY YOU NEED A "SHIRTY"

We were first introduced to the pocket class by a lifelong jewelry store owner. As you can image, he'd had more than his share of run-ins with armed robbers, smash and grab types, etc. Like any good shop owner, he had a 12-gauge pump stashed behind the counter. At issue, of course, was accessing this large and clunky weapon nonchalantly when face to face with a hostile threat.

Over the course of time, he decided that the only way to turn the tables (and potentially save the lives of himself and his employees) was a pocket pistol. For access, utility, and the element of surprise, there was virtually no alternative.

Granted, this was decades ago and concealed carry weapons and accessories have come a long way. But when you stop and think about it, you will probably reach the same conclusion that this jeweler did.

While some folks love feeling the weight of a Glock in their shoulder holsters, others find it somewhat annoying. This prevents them from carrying their sidearm some or most of the time. A pocket pistol allows you to carry a firearm without the inconvenience of a holster.

Another advantage, and this is the big one should you ever need to pull in a tense moment, reaching into a shirt pocket is far less obvious than going for an IWB holster or even a boot pistol. A shirt pocket pistol could, in some cases, provide you with a tactical advantage. Again, that's not to say a pocket pistol is entirely practical. This class of weapon is a bit eccentric and specialized, as it is not a competitive category among manufacturers.

As a result, the specs for what makes a "shirty" are fairly subjective, yet they must follow one rule to qualify. They must be small enough and light

enough to comfortably fit inside a regular shirt pocket. What they don't require, however, is long-range accuracy. These are last resort self-defense weapons and little more.

With that in mind, let's get to the good part: Our Top 10 Pocket pistols.

## NORTH AMERICAN ARMS .22LR "MINI-REVOLVER"



Some might say this is the ultimate pocket pistol. Somewhere between a derringer and a boot gun, the North American Arms .22LR is highly unique in the world of firearms these days. This stainless steel 5-shot revolver is awfully tiny, with a body length of only 4 inches and a weight of 4.6 oz (unloaded).

Being small has its advantages and disadvantages. Its iconic status, reliability, and price point all make the Mini Revolver a shoe-in for this list. On the other hand, smaller guns like this are harder to shoot for someone with large hands.

While this may not be your favorite gun to shoot at the range, it may be your favorite to carry around the farm while you do your chores.

As a single action with a fairly long hammer-pull, it's almost impossible to cock the hammer unintentionally. There's also a notch between each chamber, allowing you to rest the hammer between chambers to ensure that it's impossible to fire unintentionally.

For those who want additional comfort/safety, North American Arms does offer a folding Holster Grip that covers the trigger guard, for additional safety.

**MSRP: \$226**

## KEL-TEC P-32



You really can't have a conversation about sub-compact pistols without the P-32 coming up, and for good reason. This very small, very lightweight pistol is one of the most modern and sleek pocket pistols in production.

At 5.1" in overall length, the P-32 is one of the larger end of the pocket pistol scale. However, it more than makes up for that in its weight and superior functionality. With a 7-round magazine capacity and a weight up to 9.4 ounces (loaded), this is a very capable and well-rounded pistol.



It's not a true double action pistol. The P32 allows for a half-cock position, but has been put through rigorous safety drop testing and won't fire when dropped. That's one of the advantages of a thoroughly modern design.

In fact, the P32 is a very popular concealed carry weapon, due to its combination of high quality and reliability in a very small package.

**MSRP \$360**

## SEECAMP LWS .380

While this pistol comes in both .32 and .380 versions, we tend to lead toward the larger cartridge in this case. Since these are primarily self-defense weapons, the .380 comes much closer to being an "effective" caliber for defense, not that we'd want to take a bullet of any size. No thanks.



The overall length of this so-called "mouse gun" is 4.25 inches, quite reasonable for shirt pocket carry. L.W. Seecamp Co. has a reputation for producing high quality steel arms and that goes a long way when you're going to trust this weapon for carry outside a holster. Many of the cheaply made pocket pistols seem way too flimsy for the application they were clearly designed for.

The 6+1 capacity gives you plenty of firepower for the size and weight (13.5 oz fully loaded). This gun is double action only, a good feature for safety outside of a holster. The only issue for this pistol is the price tag.

**MSRP: \$595**

For those who want all the same features in a 32ACP, the price drops to a much more reasonable **MSRP \$565**

## BOND ARMS BACKUP (45ACP)



This is the only Derringer style addition to this list, but it's a new and noteworthy pistol with a lot to like for the shirt pocket crowd. Firstly, it's available in a variety of larger, readily available calibers like the 45ACP.

As you can see, it's a two-round capacity pistol, designed as your "Backup" when the chips are down... or something. With an overall length of 4.5 inches, it's pretty compatible with shirt pockets and self-defense. It'll also turn heads and get lots of attention at the range. It does have a safety.

On the heavy side (18.5 oz unloaded), it may be less-than comfortable in lightweight shirt pockets, but it depends on how much its wild-west style is worth to you.

**MSRP: \$490**

## KAHR P380



Like the Kel-Tec, the Kahr P380 is a favorite among the concealed carry crowd for its compact size, reliability, and top-notch reliability.

With an overall length of 4.9 inches, it also qualifies as a shirt pocket pistol in our book, although it's a bit on the heavier side (9.97oz without a magazine).

Just as before, we like the larger .380 cartridge in these tiny pistols when we can get it. However, it does tend to bump the price and weight up significantly.

Aside from that, the P380 is basically a Glock style semi-auto with a polymer frame. Like a Glock, it's a very simple and extremely reliable design. It's also got adjustable sights, which is rare at this size.

**MSRP: \$667**

## NORTH AMERICAN ARMS GUARDIAN 32ACP



The Guardian is unique in both its incredibly small size and its exceptional quality. Many of the “micro” pistols on the market are junk, about half a step above a toy pistol in terms of quality and finish.

The Guardian is all stainless steel, oozing with American craftsmanship. This pistol comes with two 6-round magazines, double action only firing, and a long trigger pull (no external safety). The Guardian measures 4 & 3/8” and weighs in at 15.6oz fully loaded.

Though the barrel is extremely short, shooters will be happy with a level of accuracy that exceeds expectations. For the features, accuracy, and affordability, it's hard to beat the combination offered in the Guardian's small package.

**MSRP: \$409**

## JIMENEZ JA-22



If you're familiar with compact pistols, you may already know that the Jimenez J.A. 22 is based on the ever-popular Jennings J-22. In fact, it's basically a rebranded version of the same gun.

For a little backstory, the J-22 had a good reputation with shooters and a bad one with law enforcement. The venerable J-22 became synonymous with gang crime in the LA area and became a whipping post for the authorities.

The ATF listed the gun as “extremely dangerous.” The official reason given was because of an insufficient gap between the trigger bar and the sear. Bryco Arms eventually declared bankruptcy.

Enter Jimenez Arms, which purchased Bryco's equipment as set up shop in Las Vegas, NV. Lo and behold, these guns are not known to be any more “extremely dangerous” than other firearms. The fact notwithstanding, Jimenez arms declared bankruptcy

in 2020 after being sued by Kansas City, Missouri. Suffice it to say, government officials do not want you to own this gun.

Weighing in at 13-ounces, the JA-22 measures 5 inches in overall length, and comes with two 6-round magazines. Its specs make the JA-22 a candidate for a pocket pistol. If you want a budget friendly pocket pistol that's adequate all around, but not great, this is it.

The JA-22 is fun to shoot, though quality is lower than that of the Guardian or Seccamp. Unlike others on this list, it does come equipped with a safety. The magazine and release mechanism are a little suspect. The price is very right, however.

**MSRP \$139**

## RUGER LCP .380



Have we been holding out on one of the best carry pistols of all time? Loads of concealed carry enthusiasts think so...

Since its introduction in 2008, the Ruger LCP has become an instant classic.

The lightweight polymer frame, compact size, and Ruger reliability have helped launch this 5.16" in length pistol into the sub-compact hall of fame.

Designed for the concealed carry market, it's a bit larger than we'd prefer for a shirt pocket pistol, but it's extremely lightweight and its durable design more than compensates. It's a double action only pistol with a long trigger pull and no safety.

The LCP was made even more famous when former Texas Governor Rick Perry used one to shoot a coyote that was reportedly attacking his daughter's dog on a jogging trail.

Perry was wearing running shorts, yet he somehow found room for his LCP, which speaks volumes about this gun's ease of carry.

**MSRP: \$309**

## RECOMMENDED: BERETTA 21A BOBCAT 22LR



If ever there was pistol that fits the "pocket" category in every way, the Bobcat is it. With an overall 4.92" of total length and a weight of just 11.5 ounces unloaded, the Bobcat is right there with any pocket rocket out there.

It's rugged, reliable, and it says "Beretta" on the side. What more do you want?

Whether you choose the 22r or .25-Auto, the Bobcat has a magazine capacity of 7, plus 1 in the chamber. Both rounds are small, something to take into consideration for the price.

This 22r is unique in that it features a "tip up" barrel, which among other benefits makes the Bobcat more user-friendly to shooters that have strength or disability issues with racking a slide.

The quirky action created by the tip-up barrel is something you'll like or you won't. For those who do enjoy it, this is an excellent pocket weapon.

**MSRP: \$449**

## SPRINGFIELD ARMORY HELLCAT 9MM



This self-proclaimed “micro pistol” from Springfield Armory made a pretty big splash upon its arrival in the concealed carry marketplace, as it set a new bar for magazine capacity within the sub-compact group. Boasting a flush fit 11-round magazine, the Hellcat literally one-upped the Sig P365, which itself had made news for offering a 10-round capacity. For weapons this compact, these capacities are truly an engineering wonder.

Why? Because these weapons are quite small. Now, the fact is these are borderline shirt pocket pistols in size and stature. Suffice it to say, it really depends on the shirt and the pocket. Still, this weapon is so capable and compact that it must be considered.



At 17.9 ounces, Springfield openly calls this a micro-compact pistol. With a 3-inch barrel and 1-inch grip width, the Hellcat is definitely going to feel pretty “micro” to anyone with large hands. Interestingly enough, the trigger, controls and accuracy all get high marks. Again, the R&D on this weapon had to be pretty extensive to allow for all of these features and ergonomics.

When it comes “shootability,” the Hellcat is at the top of this list. In fact, that’s mostly what earned the Hellcat a spot in our shirt-pocket hall of fame. Many of the contenders on this list are designed to fill one primary role, to be the smallest they possibly

can be. The Hellcat shoots full-size ammo and provides for more fun and success at the shooting range.

**MSRP \$599**

## SIG SAUER P365 9MM



Much of what we said about the Hellcat can also be said about its predecessor, the Sig Sauer P365. We say predecessor not because these weapons are related by blood or manufacturer, but that the P365 was the first “high-capacity” micro pistol to hit the market with a 10+1 capacity 9mm.

Love ‘em or hate ‘em, the folks at Sig Sauer know how to make a high-quality, dependable handgun; and the P365 doesn’t disappoint. This striker-fired micro handgun is just unbelievably small, considering the 10-round flush-fit magazine. At 17.8 ounces, it’s right where it needs to be to meet the micro-pistol threshold.

The P365, like the Hellcat, is another exceptionally “shootable” pocket pistol. Despite its small dimensions, the P365 is easy to handle for most shooters and has a confidence-inspiring grip feel and trigger pull.

Advancements in technology never fail to move the goal post on what’s possible, it seems. But it’s sure hard to imagine a weapon any smaller than the P365 handling anywhere near as well as this specimen does at the range.

At present, if you take a look at the bleeding edge of where pocket sized pistols intersect full-sized ammo capacities, that’s where you’ll find the P365 and Hellcat. If these were any smaller, they wouldn’t handle this well. Any larger and these handguns wouldn’t fit in the pocket pistol class.

**MSRP \$599**



## ALTERNATIVE FINANCE TIPS ON HOW TO FIGHT INFLATION

Inflation is coming, and once it gets here, you'll have even less disposable income. Combine that with the cost of groceries spiraling upward, and you could find yourself in a very rough situation. Even worse, the Feds say that they see not one, but two inflation rate hikes happening in 2023. The good news is that there are several alternative methods for fighting inflation. Some of them aren't exactly traditional, but they can all help.

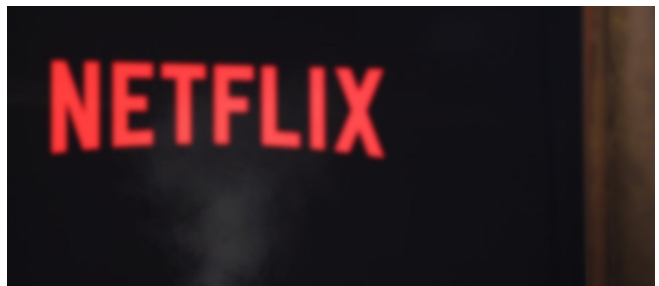
### GET YOUR HOME READY

The majority of finance articles will tell you to invest in a home. This is all well and good, but once prices go up on everything else, you may find yourself struggling to pay your mortgage. Instead, we're going to focus on the topic from a different point of view.

First, you need to make sure you've got several months' worth of food stored in your pantry. This is especially important right now, as food costs are getting absolutely ridiculous. By storing up food that you purchased at a lower price, you'll be able to avoid some of these additional charges.

Second, make sure you have water saved up. It may seem like you'll always be able to get water. However, the truth is that the cost of water may also increase by a lot. Store up water now to reduce your reliance on it as it becomes more expensive.

### CUT EXPENSES



One of the best ways you can deal with inflation is to cut your expenses. This can keep your overall monthly expenses about the same. Do you have an extra car you're not using much? Consider selling it. Or, at the very least, reduce your car insurance policy.

Do you have five or six streaming networks? What would it look like if you cut yourself back to only one or two? The reality is that most people can never watch everything that's available on one network, let alone six. You may need to make a list of pros and cons to choose what network to keep, but it will cut costs and make your life simpler.

How about the cost of books? Do you pick up each new book from Amazon or your local bookstore? Instead, use a library card. This will dramatically reduce your expenses. Additionally, if you're a big reader, you may want to check out Kindle Unlimited via Amazon. Getting all the books you can read for \$9.99 a month is a better deal than paying for each one individually.

Eliminate as much debt as possible. For now, you can still get a 0% APR card for anywhere from six to 18 months. Take advantage of this to cut your debt down much faster.

How are your daily splurges? Do you get a coffee from Starbucks every day? This might not seem like much, but it could add up to a lot of money. If you consider the fact that the average drink is around \$5, you're looking at spending around \$1,825 annually. If you simply cut your drink consumption in half, you'll save more than \$900.

As you can see, taking a close look at your budget is a relatively easy way to cut some expenses. Anything you're not getting a lot of value out of should go. And yes, that includes your gym membership. Unless you go often enough to get your money's worth, it's time to cancel your membership.

## EXPAND YOUR SELF-RELIANCE



Do you know what's easier than going to your local grocery store? Going to your garden! Although it will take more time and effort, you can get food without the expense of relying on your local store. So, get out there and plant as big of a garden as you can. And make sure you plant things you'll actually want to eat. Also, you can raise chickens and other small creatures in your back yard. Eating the eggs of your chickens will be a great way to save money!

If you live in an apartment, all is not lost. Instead of having a big garden, you should be able to raise some vegetables in pots. If you're lucky enough to have some yard space or a balcony, you can expand upon your tiny garden. Basically, as long as you can plant anything, your reliance on stores will go down some.

Speaking of self-reliance, do you have solar energy? This may take an investment, but in the long run, it will save you money. Another nice perk is that if

you live in Texas, you'll want to be able to go off-grid as much as possible. Start looking into solar panels and the like right now before they become more expensive.

## LOOK AT THE WORLD THROUGH A PREPPER'S EYES

This article is ostensibly about dealing with an increase in the interest rate. However, things can quickly move from increased interest to falling apart altogether. Even if that doesn't happen, looking at the world through a prepper's eyes should put you in a much better position.

There are many ways to reduce your expenses. For instance, you could learn how to homebrew beer. Additionally, you could learn how to repair your clothing, or even expand your skills to make clothing from scratch. Basically, if preppers know how to do it, then everyone should be aware of it. Therefore, whether you're the world's biggest prepper or haven't even thought of prepping, you could definitely learn a few more things to help.

## LEARN TO FISH AND HUNT



As long as you live near a good source of fish or deer, you should put a lot more energy into honing your hunting and/or fishing skills. Remember: the price of a license is much less than the price of food that you can replace. And if society starts to crumble, you may not even have the license fee anymore.

Learning how to hunt and fish alone won't be enough, though. You'll also need to master gutting, preparing, cooking, etc. It will take some time, but if you're able to do so, you could save a lot of money.

## LEARN WHAT WILD PLANTS CAN FEED YOU

Your local woods most likely have a lot of plants that can feed you. From wild carrots to wild garlic, the wilderness provides a free replacement for many of the items that you can buy at the grocery store. Go to your local wooded area with an identification guide and get ready to eat for free!

## STOCKPILE, STOCKPILE, STOCKPILE!



Although we've mentioned this once already, it bears repeating. You need to have the most important items on hand already before inflation goes up. Want to know why? There's a piece from the BBC that explains what could potentially happen in the US.

Venezuela has been under the burden of heavy inflation for years. What has it done to their people? A whopping 90 percent can't afford daily food. Citizens lost an average of 25 pounds in 2017, with the poorest losing even more. And, in a country that has 28.5 million people, 8.2 million had two or fewer meals daily. This catastrophic turn of events is real, and it could hit the US at any time.

The only thing you can do to make sure you and your family don't fall into this trap is to stockpile food. Have at least enough for one year. Even if you have to stretch it out, you'll still be in a much better position than people who didn't stockpile at all.

## PURCHASE NON-FOOD ESSENTIALS

As long as there's a woman in your household, the odds are high that you're going to need feminine hygiene pads. Stock up on this necessity today to avoid paying much more for it tomorrow. You can also stock up on toilet paper, contact solution, soaps, and shampoo.

Let's take the example of Venezuela. There, the inflation rate went up every 19 days. This means that if you purchase non-food essentials now

for \$24, they will cost as much as \$12.5 million within a year. Think it's impossible? Think again. Although the US isn't currently poised to go through an inflation hike anywhere near as severe as Venezuela's, things can always change. And whether it's going to cost you \$30 or \$12.5 million, the fact is that you can stretch your money by stockpiling these items for only \$24 today.

## KEEP YOURSELF HEALTHY

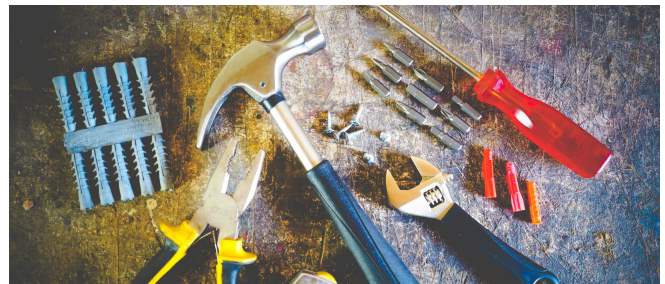
Do you know what one of the major problems is in Venezuela? People there are very unhealthy, and they can't get to the doctor. But if they'd known in advance what was going to happen, they might have been able to keep themselves healthier.

You need to exercise on a regular basis, whether you want to or not. You also need to eat healthy meals and maintain a diet of fresh air, sunshine, and sleep. Additionally, you can keep yourself in the game tomorrow by making time to visit the doctor today. Keep in mind that the dentist is also a critical component of good healthcare.

Another aspect of your health that many people miss is mental health. While you can afford it, talk to a therapist. Deal with issues from your past that could cause you to completely fall apart when big inflation hits.

## BUY TOOLS

Buying tools – and learning how to use them – is a great way to save money. You won't have to rely on



someone else to fix things for you, and that alone will give you peace of mind. You're also going to want to purchase tools that are useful for other things. For example, having a really good quality can opener is a must, and we don't mean an electric one.

One thing you should never skip on is the quality of your garden tools. Remember: your garden could



save your life if things get really bad. The last thing you want is to deal with tools that can't cut muster.

Look at your current tools and decide what you need to invest in. Spending some money now will seem really smart when you see how well your tools work.

## PLANT FRUIT-BEARING TREES



Another thing that has the tendency to keep getting more expensive is fruit. And when you think about how important it is, this fact becomes even more enraging. Instead of getting mad about it, however, plant fruit-bearing trees on your property. Again, this goes along the lines of spending some money now will save you lots of money in the long run.

Depending on where you live, you could plant apple trees, pear trees, etc. Keep in mind that you can also plant trees that will give you nuts. Another fantastic resource is planting goji berries and/or bush cherries. Basically, you want to plant as many food sources as possible. As soon as the Feds raise the cost of inflation twice in 2023, you'll be glad you did.

## LEAVE ELECTRONICS BEHIND

It might seem scary, but electronics may not always be able to help you. That's why you should ensure that you have a resource library. This will help you raise everything from chickens to tomatoes. Again, this might not be at the top of your list, but if the power grid in Texas is any indication, it may become very important soon.

## KEEP CASH ON HAND

It used to be that you could get a decent amount of interest on your money. Now, though, you could keep \$15,000 in the bank for a year and not even make \$1. With this in mind, it makes much more sense to keep cash on hand. Keep in mind that banks could easily go under if there's an economic

rush. Don't get stuck without access to your cash. Additionally, try to build up a cash reserve that will float you for at least three to six months.

## PRECIOUS METALS ARE A SOLID CHOICE



The value of cash money may tank, but precious metals tend to be much more solid. In fact, when inflation harms the dollar, it often helps precious metals. Whether you keep gold bars on hand or a bunch of silver, it's always a good idea to have this resource available.

## FINAL THOUGHTS

One thing has been true in the US for a long time – we don't typically have wages that can sustain us, even with the current financial situation. After all, even if you can get a job that pays \$15, it should really be \$24 to keep up with inflation. And by 2025, it's estimated that minimum wage will need to be \$30.

Even worse is the fact that the US has been moving in the wrong direction financially for about 50 years. People today would need to make at least \$8.25 to end up with the same buying power they had in 1950. Yet there are still millions of people who make \$7.25 instead. And that's not even counting the fact that house and rental prices have increased dramatically during the past year.

In 2019, the lowest amount of money someone could make to afford rent was \$13.95 per hour. Of course, that was the lowest end of the spectrum. It would cost \$35.20 per hour, for 40 hours a week, to afford an apartment in Hawaii. These numbers are two years old, and the price has gone up since.

As you can see, no matter what side of the financial divide you're on, this simply isn't sustainable. Once inflation is raised twice in 2023, the US economy could come crashing down. Make sure you're prepared if it does.



## STEP-BY-STEP METHOD TO GET SURVIVAL MEAT WITH A DEADFALL TRAP

Trapping has been around for 12,000 years and started when early hunter-gathering civilizations devised methods to stalk game and forage for food. In more recent times, Native Americans and early settlers developed weapons and trapping devices such as deadfalls, pits, traps and snares to trap game for food and commerce.

If you don't want to starve after a societal collapse, it's critical to know how to trap your quarry before circumstances force you to. Therefore, the NSRA is providing helpful tips for setting up the Paiute deadfall trap, which is a no-brainer method for acquiring small to medium-sized game. Before that, though, let's go over the evolution of trapping in American history.

### EARLY AMERICAN HISTORY OF TRAPPING

Inside early settlements in what is now New York and its surrounding states, trappers and Native Americans alike harvested the animals they caught for meat and used the fur of furbearing creatures for commerce.

Around 1550, The Beaver Era began and stayed prominent until 1830, when the silk trade took over. During that period, the beaver population thrived and was widespread throughout New York.

Americans treasured beaver pelts during that time since they were durable, warm and had a desirable texture. Beavers, and other furbearers, such as muskrats, raccoons, river otters, and badgers were trapped to

As the fur trade expanded, trading outposts were formed in cities and towns formed.

### THE ADVENT OF WILDLIFE CONSERVATION



A lot of people don't think about wildlife conservation until they see a documentary on the topic. However, it's helpful to read about the history of wildlife conservation before you build and use your traps. This section covers topics like why it was needed in the first place, what happened to make people realize that there was a need for this kind of conservation, and how things have changed since then. We'll also talk about some major milestones in wildlife conservation history that you might not know about!

### EXTERMINATION OF THE AMERICAN BUFFALO

The NSRA doesn't want to sound preachy, but wildlife conservation is important. If you ever wondered why you can't just set a trap or hunt any place, anywhere and anytime, there are good reasons why you shouldn't. And those who want to know the reasons need look no further than the overhunting of wild bison in the United States.

The American buffalo, also known as wild bison, was almost hunted to extinction in America's early days. Their numbers fell drastically due to overhunting, and a species that numbered 30 million crashed to a population low of 325 in 1884. Through conservation efforts, their numbers have recovered, increasing to 500,000 today. Meanwhile, it's a cautionary story of why we need wildlife management efforts.

### THE BIRTH OF THE CONSERVATION MOVEMENT

As human settlements expanded throughout New York state, furbearers, such as beavers and the fisher

cat (a weasel-like animal), were over-trapped. They were also eliminated as vermin because they were often considered pests. There were no conservation movements or state-wide trapping regulations, so their numbers started to decline.



We have President Teddy Roosevelt to thank for much of the conservation movement that exists today. Luckily, Teddy Roosevelt used his presidential term to birth the conservation movement. And instead of viewing furbearers as vermin, the “Conservation Movement” emphasized the need to manage wildlife through managed plans.

The wildlife management plans of today developed as part of this initiative. The establishment of these plans, along with official trapping and hunting seasons, have helped populations of game and furbearing animals recover across the country.

Because of conservation efforts and wildlife management plans, hunting & trapping is more regulated than it was in the past. Such measures exist for freshwater and saltwater fishing, as we need to give animal populations in the water a chance to recover, too.

## THE ESSENTIALS OF TRAPPING



A big part of trapping is getting used to the reality that the feast and famine cycle our ancestor's hunter-gatherer lifestyle brings. And, just because

you're not thrown in the middle of an apocalypse where it's everyone for themselves today, doesn't mean that you should not be able to envision it for prepping for tomorrow.

Imagine this: Most days you're likely going to be dining on rodents and less desirable fare you catch in traps. There will also be some days you'll have plenty of meat. However, on others, there won't be any at all. Likewise, it's helpful to have expectations that match your situation, skills and supplies.

Since the critters are not going to line up and impale themselves on skewers by the campfire for you, let's get started and learn the essentials of trapping during a survival scenario.

## WHICH TRAPPING METHODS ARE LEGAL?

In the United States, trapping devices such as cage traps, ladder traps and sticky traps are not banned. Some are banned in some states, however, including the steel jaw trap.

## WHICH TRAPPING METHODS ARE NOT?



Although we are no longer dependent upon trapping to survive, a lot of the tradition continues to live on in modern times. Then again, some of them don't and are highly illegal to use.

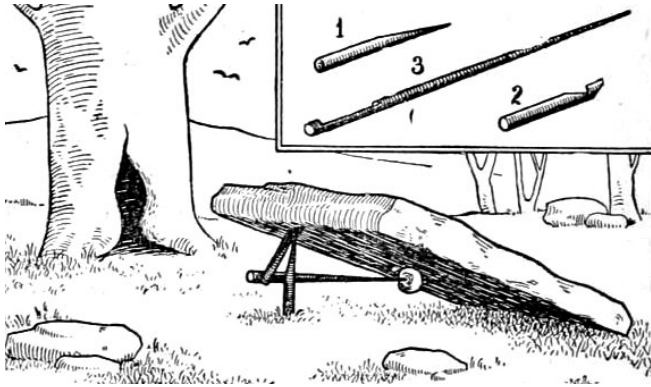
However, in a SHTF situation, what is old might become new again, and typically the legal technicalities are the first things that fall by the wayside when you and your family's bellies are growling because of hunger.

Survivalists trapping aliens, mutants and dangerous trespassers in spring powered, leg-hold traps in dystopian movies like *A Quiet Place 2* are good plot devices, and you can tell they would have a place in a TEOTWATKI-like event. In modern times, though, the use of a steel jaw trap is highly unethical because of their cruelty, not to mention the fact that they pose a danger to your family and neighbors.

The use of the device is banned in 88 countries, and in the United States, eight states have either

banned or restricted their use. Also, where trap-check standards are in place, they are often weak, meaning U.S. authorities don't enforce infractions much.

## THE BEST TRAP FOR BEGINNERS: THE PAIUTE DEADFALL TRAP



Although it is illegal in some states, one of the best traps beginners can use to get survival meat is a deadfall trap. That, or just a simple spring-loaded metal cage. Aspects that make it such a good choice are its simplicity and low expense. In fact, all you just need is some bait, sticks, string and a flat boulder and you're set. Also, in a SHTF situation, it's quiet to set up and won't bring marauding hordes to your homestead like a boomstick could.

A deadfall trap consists of a large, flat rock or log that falls and crushes prey when triggered. This type of trap is commonly known as the Paiute deadfall trap in prepper circles, and the crushing device is named after the Paiute people who were nomadic hunters and gatherers.

The Paiute survived, in part, through the use of deadfall traps, and you can, too. This nomadic civilization subsisted on animals and plants they encountered in the wilderness to survive.

The device has a sensitive trigger, and you can scale it up to catch either small animals like chipmunks, rabbits and squirrels or larger animals such as raccoons, coyotes or foxes. Once you get the hang of making a deadfall trap, you can build several of them in about an hour or two.

The Paiute deadfall can be sort of tricky to put together, especially if you've never done it. The device works by crushing game, so be sure that you

don't put any part of your body underneath it, as it can get crushed, too.

What follows is a guide to preparation and set up for a Paiute deadfall trap. Before starting, however, bear in mind that in all states where trapping is allowed, you'll have to get a trapping license.

### Step 1: Pick Your Target Animals

For trapping, you have to be willing to put in a lot of time and effort. For instance, you're going to need to do things like know the habits and baiting methods to use for your target species.

Be on the lookout for water sources, animal dens or tunnels, game trails, food sources or anything that indicates that wildlife commonly pass through, as that will be where you put your traps. Also, if you can determine the transition path between the animal's food and the places they take shelter, you can set up multiple deadfall traps.

### Step 2: Find the Appropriate Bait



To make the deadfall trap successful, it is recommended that you use the correct bait. Meanwhile, the art of baiting traps correctly is an important part of the overall skill of trapping, and a lot more thought goes into it than smearing peanut butter on a mousetrap and waiting to hear the snap while you're watching TV.

Here are the bait types commonly used for herbivores, omnivores and carnivores:

- **Herbivores:** Plant-eating animals like groundhogs love sweet apples, so skewer one on a part of the trigger or make crude applesauce to dribble on the dirt underneath the trigger stick. Nut-eaters like squirrels and chipmunks find nuts irresistible, so crush sweet pecans and hickories into a paste and smear them on the trigger mechanism or underneath the rock part of the trap.

- **Omnivores:** Omnivorous creatures will eat just about anything.

Raccoons, in particular, like strong smelling food, so you can bait traps with fishy cat food or cheap tuna. Raccoons often forage alongside branches and

creeks, so they will also be attracted to baitfish pieces or fish guts.

• **Carnivores:** Meat is what it will take to entice a carnivore for trapping. For coyotes, good bait is made out of living animal remains, be it deer, beaver, hogs, calves, or even a mix of more than one. Rotten, hardboiled eggs are good lures for foxes. The weasel family (ermine, mink, fisher cats) enjoys them some tasty fish. Bobcats are attracted to fresh organ meat.



• **Scavengers:** Although the palatability factor is questionable, you can eat opossums, skunks and even buzzards as long as they are properly prepared and cooked thoroughly enough to kill germs and parasites. Bait your trap with cold cut meat and hot dogs because scavengers love them!

### TIPS FOR BAITING YOUR TRAP

- It's not good to bait a trap with food that's already in an animal's immediate vicinity. In other words, it doesn't make sense to bait the trap with apples underneath a tree that's loaded with them or has them scattered around on the ground around it
- Bait meats and other perishable food stuffs should be replaced daily
- Ants, rodents and tiny birds can steal your bait in no time. They probably won't trigger the trap while they are doing it, either

### Step 3: Clean Human Scent off Your Hands

No trap or bait is going to likely work with human scent all over it. You can minimize scaring animals away from your trap by cleaning your hands with material you find in nature:

1. Take sand or mud and scrub your hands in a nearby river, stream or other local waterway. No soap is needed, and the soil and water will remove

the skin oils and dead skin flakes that could linger and frighten off critters.

2. Rub pine needles, wild onions or a similar non-toxic, pungent regional plant on your hands.
3. Lastly, wipe a layer of dirt over your hands to make sure the job is done

Use this technique for de-scenting your hands anytime you are building trap components or handling traps or parts of the traps. Then, repeat before setting any traps.

### Step 4: Collect the Materials

Although the Paiute deadfall trap is heavy and has a sensitive trigger, it can be built by hand without the need for tools. Also, don't forget to cover your human scent before working through these steps.

Materials needed

- String
- Appropriate bait
- One rock with a flat underside that is 5 to 10 pounds (for a 1-2 pound animal)
- Four sticks of varying lengths that are strong enough to hold up a flat rock that weighs between 5 to 10 pounds.

### Step 5: Assemble the Material

Follow these steps to collect the material and do the prep for building a dead trap for a regular-sized rodent:

1. Collect four long trigger sticks
2. Using your hands, break down any longer trigger sticks down than what is needed. Sizes and shapes you'll need are:
  - One straight, 9-inch lever stick that's a little thicker than a school pencil.
  - One 2-inch toggle stick that is a little bit skinnier than a school pencil.
  - One 12-inch slender bait stick that's about half the diameter of a school pencil.
  - One stick that is about eight inches long and Y-shaped to function as the post.
3. Find eight inches of string. Old ones that are lying around the house will do as long as they are in decent condition.

4. Bring the flat rock, bait and all the materials to the area you are setting up the trap.

### Step 6: Prepare the Trap Parts

Take the lever stick and tie one end of the string to it using a square knot. Then, tie the other end of it to the toggle stick using the same type of knot. Smear or stick the food on the end of the bait stick.

### Step 7: Set Up the Trap

Now that you got the prep work out of the way, it's time to set up the Paiute deadfall trap.

1. Lay your flat stone on level, hard ground.
2. Stand up the post by the edge of the rock.
3. Put the end of the lever stick that doesn't have string into the fork of the post. Leave about 1 inch of the stick to jut out toward the rock.
4. Lift up the stone and situate it on the tip of the lever. You should be able to steadily hold the stone's weight by solely pressing down on the end of the lever that has the string tied to it.
5. Next, wrap the toggle halfway (180° around the post). It's basically a 180-degree turn. You should now be able to hold up the stone by solely holding the toggle.
6. Lastly, place the baited side of the bait stick between a rough spot under the rock and the tip of the toggle. It's a good idea to closely look at this crevice before you set up the trap.

When you let go of the trigger stick, and the flat rock stays suspended in the air, that indicates you did good.

### Step 8: Create a Trap Line

Now that you have the Paiute Deadfall set up down pat, it's time to make a series of them and place them along the line that animals are likely to travel. This is known as a trap line, and it functions as a circuit you follow to visit traps and collect any trapped game. It also keeps you from forgetting where you set up your deadfalls.

Be sure to leave a mark or sign nearby to warn others, and so you will know where to find your

traps later. In a forested area, you could put a little paint on the trees to mark the path. For swampy or grassy landscapes, you could mark the trap line with brightly colored little flags on stakes.

For practice, you can set up circuits on most public or private lands that allow trapping. Also importantly, always set up your Paiute deadfall traps in a safe fashion and make sure that they are marked in a way that people and pets won't get injured by them.

## FINAL TIPS & TAKEAWAYS

We hope you enjoyed our little tutorial on setting up Paiute Deadfall traps. If you are new to the whole thing, the key to it is try and try again until you get it. If you've learned and intend to go forth and conquer, though, here are some main takeaways to keep in mind:

- Respect nature and don't just set a deadfall trap wherever, or for whatever reason.
- Unless you're in a true survival situation, check the regulations and seasons in your area before setting a trap.
- You need to have a specific species in mind before you start trapping.
- Understand a critter's habits, paths they use for food, water and shelter, their haunts and the type of bait they prefer.
- Know how to remove human scent from everything during all stages of the process of deadfall trapping or you will scare animals off.
- Make sure your trap and its components are strong enough for the size of animal you are catching.
- If the SHTF, you may have to trap animals out of the normal trapping season. If you do, plan to cook all meat until it's well done for protection against parasites. Also, curing methods, such as drying or smoking, and slow cooking in a crockpot, will not get rid of parasites.
- Always obey your state's trapping laws unless it's a case of life or death.

Now, there you go and happy trapping from NSRA!



# WCG SPECOPS RANGE BAG

Available Today At [MyCrisisGear.com](http://MyCrisisGear.com)



 **INSRA**  
Liberty. Independence. Patriotism.