



# **BULLETS AND GUNPOWDER**

## **HOW TO CREATE UNLIMITED AMMO AND LOW-GRADE EXPLOSIVES**

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## Where Gunpowder Came From

Gunpowder has been around for a very long time. Evidence of its use dates back to the middle of the seventh century. Chinese alchemists were trying to find an elixir to immortality for the emperor, but what they concocted was a corrosive, volatile substance that has taken on a life of its own ever since. Some historians go so far as to call gunpowder the second black plague of Europe. It is safe to say this is one of those man-made items that significantly changed the course of mankind.

Right away, we are going to talk about the safety issues. When dealing with black powder, always err on the safe conservative side. Black powder is seriously dangerous; it is not a toy and can easily result in severe burns, and/ or missing fingers. You can also inhale or ingest the chemicals quick by accident with disastrous health results.

Always wear the proper protective equipment when working with gunpowder. You need to know what your local state and municipal laws are when it comes to the use of black powder. Most states allow it for personal use, under the amount of twenty pounds. This varies depending on where you live, so it is up to you to find out. If you're doing the research, you're intelligent enough to research laws specific to your state of residence.

Information about gunpowder manufacturing exists out there in many forms, which may or may not be reliable. Given the current political climate, the subject is no joke. Many think this information should be a closely guarded secret. We disagree. It's much too important to be kept secret, and it's crucial that safe, accurate methods and procedures are being taught.

But when it comes to your personal preparations or use of these methods, we'd advise against broadcasting the fact. These methods can only be safely entrusted to intelligent, responsible individuals that understand the potential dangers. Commercial gunpowder is readily available from many sources. The methods in this guide are designed for those who want to truly understand this substance. That being said, you could seriously hurt yourself if you don't know what you're doing, this guide is for informational purposes only.

This information is intended to give you the knowledge and skill to manufacture black powder in severe end of days crisis. The kind that changes the world to the point that there may never be a way back to society as we know it today. Gunpowder gives you the ability to ignite fires and perform signaling. Certainly, it is useful for self-defense situations.



Using these powders in firearms is a last resort. If it comes down to a choice between starving or using these formulas to load firearms that will be your decision. We are not experts in explosives or reloading

ammunition. You are doing this at your own risk. This report is for educational and informational purposes. You should not try this at home without the supervision of professionals.

## **Gunpowder**

Obviously, gunpowder came before guns. Early guns were simply tubes filled with black powder (gunpowder). Over time, guns have evolved to become much more sophisticated machines but gunpowder, at its core, is virtually the same. Let's start with the basics.

### **How Does Gunpowder Work?**

When gunpowder is heated, it explodes or combusts and turns to gas and expands. When gunpowder is placed in a gun, that combustion and expansion can be used to discharge a bullet. When old fashioned black powder was used, about half of it was left behind in the gun and expelled as smoke particles. However, the other half was turned into gas and used to discharge the bullet from the gun.

With gunpowder, there are high explosives and low explosives. The difference between high explosives and low explosives is simple; time. High explosives burn much quicker than low explosives and are often used in bombs and other quick detonating devices. Low explosives are used in gunpowder and ammunition. If you load a rifle with high explosive gunpowder, it would turn to a gas really quickly and not leave much time for the expanding gas to discharge the bullet. The rifle would explode before the bullet could be discharged. This would make shooting a gun really dangerous.

However, if low explosive gunpowder is used, the expansion of the gas takes place much slower and allows time for the bullet to be discharged. The ammunition and gunpowder in this book is the low explosive kind.

## **Black Powder**

Many people think that gunpowder and black powder are synonymous. But while black powder is gunpowder, not all gunpowder is black powder. The reason it's called black powder is because there are other colors and types of gunpowder. However, since this is the more common type of gunpowder, we'll start with it first. Black powder is fairly simple and easy to make. It's best used as either blasting powder or gunpowder.

Making your own ammo can be tricky business. For that reason, the appendix contains an easy to-follow checklist of what bullets to buy along with how to make your own.

There are two phases to independence:

1. First of all, you have your store bought professional ammo stockpile. You keep it hidden, but the reality is it could still get confiscated, especially with all the surveillance the government is running.
2. Then you have your future stockpile, which doesn't exist right now. With the following instructions, you can make your own bullets even if your first stockpile gets confiscated. You've heard the expression that there are certain things you can never unsee? It is the same idea, there's nothing they can do to take this knowledge away from you once you learn it.

The first part of the report is going to have self-defense and black power making instructions. This will lead into how to make your own bullets (since this is the harder technique). Then, in the back of the book you can find the blueprint for making your commercially available ammo stockpile.

## **Safety First**

I mentioned earlier. So now for the sake of Here's a short list of the proper personal protection equipment that you need.

- Thick Kevlar Infused Gloves, thick enough to resistant heat from a fire.
- Protective eyewear preferably goggles
- Protective face mask. Suitable to prevent the inhalation of chemical irritants.
- Long Sleeves at all times.

Always wash your hands and other body parts that come into contact with any chemicals. Resist the need to rub your eye or exposed skin while working with chemicals.

A quick search on the internet can reveal multiple formulas for making gunpowder. These formulas come from military and mercenary manuals. Over the years, crack military troops have proven these formulas work.

## **Charcoal+Salt Peter+ Sulfur = KaBoom**

Gunpowder is produced by combining three chemicals into a safe, workable powder. The three chemicals are potassium nitrate also known as salt peter, wood charcoal, and sulfur. The compound is seventy-five parts salt peter, fifteen parts charcoal, and ten parts sulfur.

The best part about this is all of these are readily available and easy to find. Sulfur is available at any home improvement store in the garden section. Usually sulfur is sold in powdered form. If you don't have a home improvement center or big box store near you, then you can order a three pound bag of sulfur for \$10 or less on Amazon.

Potassium nitrate makes the oxygen when the concoction is ignited. Potassium nitrate is used in stump removers. Most stump removers are 99.9% percent potassium nitrate, which works perfectly. If you want to go pure, a five pound bag can be purchased off Amazon for less than twenty bucks. This is usually the most expensive item to buy, due to the fact you will use potassium nitrate for 75% of your gun powder.

Charcoal is what is going to provide the carbon needed once ignition takes place. The commercial charcoal we all know and love will make a perfectly suitable black powder. There is a condition though, you can make a better black powder by making your own charcoal. Hardwoods should never be used to make charcoal for black powder, hardwoods produce too much ash. Soft woods like willow and pine are perfect. Knot free willow is the best choice. Pine is very inexpensive and readily available throughout the country.

### **Potassium Nitrate The Old School Way**

Potassium nitrate is relatively easy to extract and harvest. It is commonly found in the soil of areas used as cow pastures where the manure is prevalent or compost heaps. It's presence is one reason that when defunct dairies are subdivided for home construction the top 10 feet or so are scraped off and replaced with purer and less contaminated dirt. Areas with decaying plant matter contain potassium nitrate as well. The floors of barns and cellars can provide a rich area to mine salt peter. It's not just lying around. You're going to have to extract it from the dirt yourself, which is fairly easy.

Shopping list:

- ½ cup of fine wood ash
- 2 containers around 5 gallons. You need at least one bucket, but the second container needs to be at least as large as the bottom of your bucket
- 2 Pieces of cloth, at least a little larger than the bottom of your bucket
- Shallow heat resistant container, like a cooking pot.
- 1 ¾ gallons of water
- 1 appropriate sized fire resistant container for boiling the water
- Small tool that can make a small hole (like a punch or small icepick)
- Alcohol, rubbing, whiskey
- Heat source
- Sheet of metal screen large enough to cover top of bucket and drape down a few inches
- Bungee cords or adjustable strap



- 2 strong sticks.
- Slotted teflon or wooden spoon

This is an activity that is best conducted without spectators. Send the kids and pet somewhere else to play or inside. If you have been shooting the breeze with your buddies and a cold brew, this is an experiment for another day and a clear head.

The first step is to punch holes in the 5-gallon bucket. You are making a sieve here. Punch as many as you can in the bottom without having it fall apart. The holes should be no bigger around than the diameter of a pencil. If you have one, a small ice pick is your tool of choice.

Next, put one cloth in the bottom of the bucket. Lay it out the smoothly and avoid any bunching up or folding. Distribute the ashes over the cloth in an even layer. Cover the ashes with the second cloth. This creates a filter for the potassium nitrate.

Now, you are going to fill the bucket with the dirt from the pasture, barn or compost heap. Do not fill the bucket completely: leave at least a couple of inches at the top of the bucket. Create a grill by laying the two stout sticks over the shallow container and set the bucket on these sticks. This keeps the bucket from slipping into the catch all, giving the bucket room to drain.

The next step is to boil the water over your heat source. You may have to make a small pit to do so. Once the water has reached a boil, you are going to slowly, repeat ..... **slowly** pour the water over the dirt bucket. If You have a Dutch oven it will work.

You're going to pour it a little at a time, making sure to cover the entire inside of the bucket. Think about how you mow the yard, in strips.....start from right to left, pour a little, move left pour a little and so and so forth. This will help insure the entire contents of the bucket are covered. Do this back and forth, slowly, until you run out of water.



Allow the liquid draining from the bottom to cool for one to two hours. This will insure the bucket has enough time to drain. Once the liquid has cooled and finished draining you are going to carefully drain it into the pot where you boiled the water. The pot should **NOT** be on the fire while you do this. Pay attention as you pour because at the bottom of the container you are emptying there will be sludge or mud. You don't want this in the pot. Discard the sludge left behind.

Now, you can put your pot over the fire. Allow it to boil for a minimum of two hours. Pay close attention as small grains of salt will appear. Use the slotted spoon to scoop these grains of salt out. Place these crystals in a safe place.

Once the liquid has boiled down to about half its original volume, carefully remove it from the heat source. Don't burn yourself. Let cool for half an hour. Next add an equal amount of alcohol to the mixture. Lay the screen over the top and attach it securely with the bunge cord or strap. This will act as another filter to catch the crystals.

Drain the mixture through the filter slowly. Make sure the screen stays firmly attached. Remove screen and you should find more of those white crystals stuck to it. Some of these crystals may be stuck on the inside of the container, so go ahead and scoop them out. Place them in the same safe area.

Now it's time to purify. To purify potassium nitrate, we are going to dissolve them once more. Place the crystals in the pot and the minimum amount of water needed to boil. As before, when the crystals begin to form and appear in the boiling solution scoop them out. Allow the mixture to boil until dry. Your remaining potassium nitrate crystals will be in the bottom of the container. You now have purified potassium nitrate.

This is a labor of love and quite possibly necessity. It is fairly easy to do though, requiring patience and a safety-oriented mindset. It's better to lose crystals, or to completely start over than it is to suffer a severe burn.

## **Dirty Black Charcoal**

Making your own charcoal isn't difficult, but does require some time and a little effort. If you have a chiminea, or if you even know what that is you probably know how to make charcoal. If you don't own one of these, you have alternatives.

Here's a method that can be tailored to your needs. You need a metal container with a small hole, a hardwood fire, and your chosen charcoal wood. My choice is a small stainless steel pot, without any kind of plastic handles. The flatter the lid is the better. Poke a hole in the metal top using a nail and a tap from a hammer. If you do not have one of these kinds of pots, and do not want to ruin a new pot, check at garage sales or swap meets for a used one. Build your hardwood fire.

While the fire is getting going, cut your wood into inch blocks, they don't have to be exact inches, just be approximate. Shove as much wood as you can into the pot and put the lid on. You will need something to secure the lid, as pressure will build underneath and potentially throw it off. Heavy rocks or pieces of brick work well.

Some heavy pieces of scrap metal across the top of the pot or c-clamps to hold the lid on are alternatives. Pressure is going to build up inside the pot and you don't want the lid coming off with explosive force. All of these give great results and zero issues as long as you monitor the process.

Next, you lower the pot into the middle of the fire. Use caution while doing this, and make you wear some thick, fire retardant gloves. Now you start building the fire up a little more around the pot. Stack the wood around and up the side of the pot. It shouldn't be too long before you see steam coming out of the hole in the lid. The amount will grow, and it smells terrible.



After about forty minutes of this, the steam will typically turn almost invisible and then catch fire. It's pretty neat to see, like a blow torch spewing from your pot.

Once this torch burns out, your wood is now charcoal. Carefully, remove the pot from the fire. If you have doubts about being able to do this without burning yourself, let the fire die down.

After you remove it from the fire, set the pot down to cool. This will be an overnight affair. Cover the little hole in the lid with something, be it a piece of wood, or plug it with a nail. Cuts down the amount of oxygen circulating in the pot, which can cause the charcoal to ignite. It might be an extra step, but I don't want my charcoal to become ash and have to start over.

After it is done cooling overnight, you can remove the charcoal. The next step is crushing it to dust. To crush the charcoal to a fine powder, I use the end of a baseball bat and a plastic bucket as a giant mortar and pestle. To be clear, I'm not swinging the bat to crush the charcoal, but crushing it using the fat tip of the bat.

Throw a few pieces of charcoal in the bucket at a time. This will be pretty messy, so do it outdoors, and wear clothes you don't mind ruining. Cover your mouth with a bandana to avoid getting the charcoal dust in there; it tastes and feels terrible and you'll wish you listened to the instructions.. Either put a lid on the bucket when you're done or transfer it to a sealable container like you use for leftovers.

Some folks swear by a manual meat grinder for the task of grinding up the charcoal, this will probably take a little longer, but sounds easier physically. We wouldn't recommend using that meat grinder for meat again. A word of caution, discard the first few pieces of charcoal through the grinder in case they contain metal debris. This could cause sparks later on. We don't have to tell you sparks and gun powder are a bad combination.

So now you have high quality charcoal. It's a lot of work and messy to boot but this higher quality charcoal is going to give you a 100% improvement in your end product.

## Mixing Time

This next formula was comes from operations where no other alternatives were available.

The following instructions will yield two pounds of black powder, a significant amount for homemade powder. The first step is to use a mortar and pestle to grind the potassium nitrate, charcoal, and the sulfur to a fine powder. Most importantly never grind these ingredients mixed together. A spark or the heat from the grinding may ignite the powder and turn your mortar into a grenade. For the same reason it's important to use a wooden or plastic mortar, a metal mortar can spark. Your limbs are on the line here don't take chances..

You will need :

- 3 cups of potassium nitrate (Salt Peter)
- 2 Cups of wooden charcoal,
- 1/2 a cup of powdered sulfur.
- 5 Pints of alcohol, rubbing alcohol is preferred and much cheaper, but the manual lists whiskey, so it would be safe to assume any hard liquor may work.
- 3 cups of water
- Heat source (fire)
- 2 buckets, 2 gallons each, one bucket should be metal
- 1 Flat piece of window screen at least 1 x 1 foot square.
- 1 Large wooden stick, big and long enough to stir
- Cloth, about 2 feet square, a pillow case is perfect.

Step one is to build a small fire will do, allow it to burn and develop nice hot coals. If you can build a simple grill over the fire, it's going to help you a lot. If not you're going to have to build something to hold the fire resistant bucket over the flame. If you have a Dutch oven, with a tripod stand, that may work perfectly.

If not, this is a very way to set this up and needs minimal supplies and effort. First dig a small pit. This is where your fire is going to be built. Build your fire in the hole and assemble a grill over the top using thick, live branches. Live branches won't burn as easy or as fast. After building the grill, insure you have enough room to add wood to the pit if needed.

Walk away at least a few feet from the fire, and pour the alcohol into the non-heat resistant bucket. Mix the three main ingredients, potassium nitrate, charcoal, and powdered sulfur into the heat resistant bucket. Be careful around this bucket; keep it far away from your heat source.

Next pour a single cup of water into the mixture and stir thoroughly until all the ingredients have mixed together. Now go ahead and add the remaining two cups to the mixture. Next place the mixture over the heat source and stir slowly.

### Caution

While you're stirring make sure the entire mixture stays wet, if any gets stuck on the sides and dries it can ignite. Be mindful and observant of this, or it may be a bad day in your neighborhood. You're going to be stirring until you see small bubbles begin to form, when this happens remove the solution from the heat source. DO NOT let it boil (yes, it's so important I just yelled that at you). Immediately pour the mixture into the alcohol while stirring strongly.

Let the mixture sit for approximately 5 minutes. Wrap the cloth around the opening of the bucket and strain the mixture through the cloth. This is why the pillow case works so well, you can pour the mixture into it without losing any; it's also handy for the next step. You are going to squeeze the mixture and drain out as much of the water as possible.

Dry out one of the buckets, or obtain a third bucket or container. Place the screen over the dry container and begin breaking off clumps of the damp powder. Grate this over the screen so it can granulate and fall through to the container. Just like grating cheese.



If the granulated powder begins to stick together and change shape, you're going to have to wrap it back in the cloth and squeeze it some more. Back to grating it through the screen again. After proper it is powdery, it's time to move on to the final step.

You are going to lay out the granulated powder on a flat dry surface. Form the mixture into a

sheet about half an inch thick and set it in the sun. In roughly an hour, the powder should be dry. Depending on the temperature and humidity where you live this can vary. It is very important to regularly check the powder, as soon as it's dry it needs to be collected and stored in a water tight container. Once dry, the powder is ready to

use. This should be dried as soon as possible, preferably in one hour. The longer the drying period, the less effective the black powder.

## Undercover Method

The last recipe we used was for the Special Forces soldier to use behind enemy lines. This one is a mostly indoors recipe. No one sees what you're doing and no one knows any better. However, your kids, pets, and your home are more at risk.

The materials needed are going to differ slightly. This is actually an easier method, but makes less gun powder than the previous recipe. You need:

- Instant Cold Pack
- Salt Substitute
- Water
- Glass Jars
- Coffee Filters
- Scale
- Stove or hot plate.
- Sugar

The cold pack must contain ammonium nitrate. Somewhere on the packaging label, it should list the contents as Ammonium Nitrate and Water. Cut open the top of the packet, and remove the ammonium nitrate crystals and place them in a separate container, discard the water, and the rest of the packet.

You probably do not have a digital chemical scale. The proper recipe calls for 40 grams of ammonium nitrate and 37 grams of salt substitute. Here is a simple way to make a scale with a ruler and a lighter. Set the lighter on a table and balance the middle of the ruler on top. This gives you a fulcrum with the ruler acting as the beam. You are going to need 2 identical containers plastic leftover containers work well.

A can of Morton's salt substitute comes in an 88.5 gram container. Pour half the bottle into a container, giving you 44.25 grams in one container. Set the container on the scale. Take your identical container place it on the makeshift scale and slowly add the ammonium nitrate crystals until the containers are dead even. You now have a proper measurement of chemicals.

To measure out the chemicals, you are going to need a set of measuring spoons. A tablespoon equals 14 grams. Use a tablespoon to measure out two full tablespoons and one half will be a close estimation of the proper amount of salt substitute. Then three complete tablespoons of ammonium nitrate will equal 42 grams, again, a very close estimation of the proper amount.



## Let's Get Cooking

Next, you are going to measure out 100 ml of water in a measuring cup with metric scale. If you don't have a metric scale on your measuring cup, 100 ml is about 3.4 ounces. Mix the water and ammonium nitrate in a plastic bottle. Stir the solution until the ammonium nitrate is dissolved, the water will probably be cloudy, and that's fine. It is essential that all the ammonium nitrate is dissolved though.

## Substitute Solution

Add the salt substitute to a glass container or metal container like a coffee can or a mason jar. Now, you're going to add the ammonium nitrate solution to the salt substitute. A funnel actually comes in handy to hold the coffee filter needed to strain any undissolved solids that you missed. Pour the mixture into the container with the salt in it.

Now set the container on your stove or hot plate, and turn it on a low setting. Apply gentle heat and continuously stir the mixture. Observe the solution for a few minutes and the solution will become clear, and free of particles.

## Put It On Ice

Place the mixed solution into the freezer. It will need to be in there for anywhere between half an hour to two hours. You should watch for crystals to appear at the bottom of the container. Can you guess what you just made? You just learned another way to make potassium nitrate AKA salt peter.

Next you are going to want to very carefully discard the liquid, without losing any crystals. At this point, the crystals are actually slush and not very solid at all. Leave the open container out to allow the crystals a chance to dry. An old school, non-energy saving desk light placed over it may aid in the drying.

Once you've determined the crystals are dry pour the crystals into your mortar and pestle. The mortar and pestle can be replaced with a non-metal container and a plastic spoon. Salt peter is very unlikely to ignite, but safety first. A mortar and pestle is best but in a survive or die situation, you might not have a one lying around.

You are going to grind the salt peter into a very fine powder. If you find your powder is not fully dry, don't worry, simply set it back out and let it dry some more. Once the mixture is dry and crushed into a fine powder, you're ready to move on to your last step.

## Sugar

Sugar is going to act as your substitute for charcoal. You are going to combine one equal part sugar, and one equal part salt peter. Mix the two in a plastic bag and shake, the more you shake the more the powder will mix, increasing its effectiveness. You now have a crude form of gun powder. This gunpowder is not as efficient, but would work for igniting fires, or things like smoke bombs. Take a small spoon full and test it out, I was impressed how such a simple formula made an effective gun powder. This formula may be much easier to make in a crisis. Finding the necessary ingredients may become a challenge in a survival situation. Sulfur and saltpeter probably won't disappear off the shelves once panic buying and looting begins, but it eventually they will be difficult to acquire.

## Quick Black Powder

While the two above black powder recipes aren't extremely complicated, they do require using and acquiring materials you may not find easily. If you need to make some gunpowder in a pinch and want to use materials you may already have on hand, you can use matches. The flammable tips on matches can be ground up into black gunpowder.

Take a match. If it's one of those strike anywhere matches, scrape off the red tip (Don't throw this away. It will come in handy later.) That part is of the high explosive variety and isn't suitable for black powder. However, the match part underneath that covering is ideal.

Remove the head from the match, cut off the black tip. Grind the black tip down to powder. This is black gunpowder. While this may seem tedious, it's the quickest and easiest way to create gunpowder from scratch. You will have to do this to quite a few matches but once you do, you'll have the powder you need. Since match head powder isn't as powerful as the kind of powder you'd purchase commercially it's safe to use.

If you want to make sure your newly made black powder is done correctly, there's a simple test. Burn a small pile of the powder on a fire safe, flat, cold surface. A good powder will burn really quickly with no pearls of residue. If there is a residue, it is an indication that the powder has been wet sometime in the past or that the ingredients aren't well incorporated. That powder isn't good to use and you'll have to try again. Homemade powder will be corrosive and should be handled with care. Err on the side of caution when you start creating it at home. Always assume it's more powerful than it may be. This way you won't make careless mistakes and blow something or someone up in the process.



## Red Or White Powder

In addition to black gunpowder, there is also powder that is red or white in color. White powder is the initial color of many powders because of using sugar or a type of salt in the mixture. In order to make it red, rust (ferric oxide) must be added. It also may be safely prepared from scratch. Below is the procedure and ingredients. This is a small arms powder and should only be used in weapons with 1/2 inch inside diameter or less, such as the Match Gun or the 7.62 Carbine. It is not suitable for pistols.

You will need:

- Heat source (kitchen stove or open fire)
- 2 gallon metal bucket
- Measuring cup (8 ounces or 240 milliliters)
- Wooden spoon or rubber spatula
- Metal sheet or aluminum foil (at least 18 inches square)
- Flat window screen (at least 1 foot square)
- Potassium nitrate (granulated) 2-1/3 cups (560 milliliters)
- White sugar (granulated) 2 cups (480 milliliters)
- Powdered ferric oxide (rust) 1/8 cup (30 milliliters) (if available)
- Clear water, 3-1/2 cups (840 milliliters)

The above ingredients will make about 2 and 1/2 pounds of powder.

Place the sugar, potassium nitrate and water in the bucket. Heat with a low flame, stirring occasionally until the sugar and potassium nitrate dissolve.

If available, add the ferric oxide (rust) to the solution. Increase the flame under the mixture until it boils gently.

**Note:** The mixture will retain the rust coloration, which will make it red powder.

Stir and scrape the bucket sides occasionally until the mixture is reduced to one quarter of its original volume, then stir continuously.

As the water evaporates, the mixture will become thicker until it reaches the consistency of cooked breakfast cereal or homemade fudge. At this stage of thickness, remove the bucket from the heat source, and spread the mass on the metal sheet.

While the material cools, score it with the spoon or spatula in crisscrossed furrows about 1 inch apart.

Allow the material to air dry, preferably in the sun. As it dries, rescore it occasionally (about every 20 minutes) to aid drying.

When the material has dried to a point where it is moist and soft, but not sticky to the touch, place a small spoonful on the screen. Rub the material back and forth against the screen mesh with a spoon or other flat object until the material is granulated into small worm-like particles. After granulation, return the material to the sun to dry completely.

## Primer

In firearms, primer is the substance, when ignited, that reacts chemically to produce heat, which ignites the propellant and fires the projectile. Primer is the what makes a firearm actually fire.

Before chemical primers were created, the primer was a mechanical tool that was used to light the propellant. It started off as a person poking a hot ember or a torch through a hole in the firearm and was improved upon until chemical primers were introduced in the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

Before we discuss into how to make primer, we return to the safety warnings. Primer includes an explosive that it triggers in the reaction that causes a firearm to fire. In order for a primer to work, it must be made up of the proper materials. These materials; mercury fulminate, antimony sulfide, lead peroxide, picric acid, lead azide and nitromannite are not your run of the mill ingredients that you can pick up at your local drug store or hardware store.

These ingredients can be tough to find and dangerous to manufacture. However, if you're determined to create your own ammunition, primer is a key component and must be a part of the process. Because primer involves an explosive, safety should be strongly considered when making it from scratch. Should you decide to move forward, you do so under the assumption of a certain level of risk. There is no foolproof way to make primer in a risk free environment unless you choose to buy your ammunition already made. Once you embark on the creation of ammunition on your own, you assume some level of risk. The instructions below do have some level of risk.

## How A Primer Works

Before you make your own primer, you must first have a general understanding of how it works. It would help to start by examining an already fired primer. You will notice that it looks like a small cup that has a residue on it and contains a small two or three legged piece of metal called an anvil. The residue is not unlike the match head of a strike anywhere match. When the primer hasn't been fired, it is like a cup filled with match head. In order for the primer material to ignite, it has to be struck against something. The anvil is that something.

When the metal is struck against itself, it ignites the primer material and activates the process.

## How To Make A Primer

You now have some idea about how a primer looks and works. Obviously, the tricky part of making a primer is the primary explosive inside the cup. The cup and anvil are fairly simple to make in that you need two metal surfaces that will strike the primary explosive and ignite it. Anvils come in different shapes, but all perform the same function in the primer. They provide a surface against which the primary explosive can be compressed.

Once you've created your cup and anvil pieces, the next step would be to create the primary explosive. I hope you listened earlier and didn't discard the tip you scraped off of the strike anywhere matches you used to make the black powder. This is where they're valuable. Since that material is a high explosive, it's ideal to be used as the primary explosive.

The part that you want to use for primer is the very small tip portion. It's made of phosphorous trisulfide. The rest of the match head can be saved for later and used to make gunpowder, but it's not explosive enough to be primer. Remember this only works with strike anywhere matches. Safety matches are great for gunpowder but won't work for primer. They aren't explosive enough to provide the proper charge needed for a good primer.

You need to crush about three to five match tips for each primer. This isn't an exact amount and could be more or less depending on the size of the primer (large rifle, small rifle, large pistol, etc) and the amount of material on the tip of the match. The best amount is to use enough to fill the primer cup level full with the crushed primary explosive before you tamp or compress it.



Before you start crushing match tips, make sure you have some safety precautions in place. Always wear safety glasses. You want to protect your eyes from any sudden flares or sparks that could happen during this process.

Make three areas on the paper. You want to keep the areas separate in case any one portion sparks, you don't lose all of your materials at one time.

Crush the match tips using the cutting edge of a knife. Cut the tips into halves, then quarters, then dice them into a powder. From time to time, a tip will ignite. If you work with one at a time, you'll lose one tip and burn a hole in the paper. If you work with multiple tips at once, you'll lose more tips and risk burning more than just a hole in the paper. Patience....

Gather all of the powder in one place. Since you're dealing with fine powder, static electricity is something you'll have to contend with. You may spend some time chasing down the powder while you gather it up. Once again, have patience.

You can either create a primer cup from scratch along with an anvil, or you can use one that has already been fired. It will most likely be dented so you'll have to smooth that out. Below are instructions on how to use an already fired primer. If you've created one from scratch, you can skip to the number 4 in this section.

1. Sharpen a nail to a tapered, slender point
2. Pry out the anvil and put it to the side. You will need it later.
3. Press out the dent in the primer.

The nail must be thin enough to go through the flash hole.

4. Fill the primer cup with the match tip powder you prepared previously and set aside.
5. Use the wooden end of the match stick or some other non-metallic, non-sparking tamper. Start by packing it softly, but increase firmness until the powder is firmly packed in the cup. You want the primary explosive to be packed tightly enough that it doesn't fall out when you turn the cup upside down and tap it lightly.

Assemble the primer and cartridge:

- Place the anvil in the primer pocket in the cartridge case.
- Place the primer cup in the primer pocket using your fingers initially, then a vise to further secure it. Now you have a primed cartridge case.

If you're making a primer for a shotgun, the process is slightly different when the time comes to put the primary explosive into the primer cup.

- Place the anvil into the empty cup.
- Sprinkle the crushed match tips into the cup around the anvil.
- Pack the crushed tips tightly around the anvil so when you hold the cup upside down and tap it lightly, nothing comes out.

If you are using match tip powder in your primer, you should clean your gun after you fire it because match tip powder is very corrosive. If you let the powder build up, over a week's time, the bore would be coated with a thin layer of rust.

**Caution:** Do not store the mixed explosives more than 5 days before you use them! Keep the explosive dry at all times!

## Ammunition

Gunpowder is just a part of ammunition. Here ammunition will refer to anything made to be used in conjunction with gunpowder in a firearm also known as firearm ammunition.

There are three general components of ammunition; explosive materials and propellants, projectiles, cartridges.

### Explosive Materials And Propellants

An explosive material is any substance that contains a lot of potential energy that can produce an explosion if released suddenly. This explosion is usually accompanied by light, sound, heat and pressure. A propellant is another term for gunpowder because when gunpowder is ignited, it becomes a gas that can be used to propel other objects.

### Projectiles

A projectile is any object pushed into empty space. Here projectiles will be any kind of bullet that would be used in a firearm.

### Cartridges

A cartridge is the packaging that holds a bullet, propellant and primer in a metallic, plastic or paper casing. It's used specifically in firearms and fits in the firing chamber. Because ammunition is made up of three distinct parts that can be made from a variety of materials, there are as many different types of ammunition as there are firearms.



Earlier you learned how to make gunpowder and primer. Now it's time to put all of those things together in a cartridge to round out your homemade ammunition. Reloading can be a daunting process, especially if you've ever researched reloading tools. Here is how you can reload the ammunition using the most basic of

tools. Once you've loaded your firearm with the homemade ammunition, make sure you remote fire it before you fire it handheld. This should happen with any firearm and any ammunition.

We're going to start from how to load fresh primer into a spent shell. These instructions will be based on the match head gunpowder. See Appendix for chart.

- Add powder to the primed shell casing.
- Install the fresh primer
- Load gunpowder into the shell
- Add a piece of fluffy cotton if the powder doesn't fill the shell
- Install the bullet

If you're particularly enterprising, you could make your own bullets. Fishing sinkers can be melted and cast into conventional bullets. You can also create a wooden mold like the one pictured below. Make sure you use Hardwood. It will scorch but it won't burn up. The lead can be melted in a pan on your stove or soldered down into a liquid.

## Shotgun Shells

Shotgun shells are trickier to reload than rifle cartridges and are made up of slightly different components. The components are: shell casing, powder, primer, shot and wad. The purpose of the wad is to trap the explosive force of the gunpowder behind the shot to expel the shot from the muzzle in a unit or lump.

- Remove the primer from the shell.
- Replace the old primer with fresh primer. Add the new primer with finger pressure then seat it using a vise and a wooden dowel.
- Add the powder using a funnel and measuring spoon.
- Add the wad. If a conventional plastic wad is used, you can stretch the mouth of the shell by inserting and twisting a cone shaped, wooden rod. The wad is inserted by hand and seated with a dowel. Be careful not to spill the powder that's already in the shell. If a plastic wad isn't available, a wad of paper can be used.
- Add shot to the shell using a funnel. If you don't have factory made shot, you can use pieces of fishing sinker, lead collars from roofing nails and old ball bearings.
- Recrimp the top of the shell. You'll have to use your fingers if you don't have a press, which is difficult but not impossible. If the new crimp won't stay shut, use a small piece of paper to plug the hole. (picture below)

You should check the shotshell loads when you make your own shotgun ammunition to see how accurate your ammunition is when it fires.

1. Fire at a large piece of paper 20 yards away.
2. Draw a circle 30" in diameter around the most dense concentration of shot and count the shot particles inside the circle. Compare it to the number of shot particles in the original load.
3. A factory-made shotgun will place 35% of its pellets in a 30" diameter circle at 40 yards. Your homemade ammunition won't do that well. Pattern your gun at only 20 yards. You will have to experiment with different loads (kinds and quantities of powder, shot, wads, etc.) to achieve the load that will place the highest percentage of shot inside the circle.

While you're experimenting with different shotshell loads, you can also try modifying your shotshell to get more dispersion control.

Materials Required:

- Shotshell
- Screwdriver or knife
- Any of the following filler materials:
  - Crushed rice
  - Rice flour
  - Dry bread crumbs
  - Fine dry sawdust

### Star Or Roll Crimp

Carefully remove crimp from shotshell using a screwdriver or knife.

**Note:** If cartridge is of roll-crimp type, remove the top wad

Pour shot from shell. Replace one layer of shot in the cartridge. Pour in filler material to fill the spaces between the shot.

### Shot Filler Wad Propellant

Repeat above until all shot has been replaced. Replace top wad (if applicable) and refold crimp. Roll the shell on a flat surface to smooth out crimp and restore roundness. Seal the end of the case with wax.

### Candle

This round is loaded and fired in the same manner as standard shotshell. The shot spread will be about 2/3 that of a standard round. This will help you control your shot pattern more and make more accurate ammunition.

Fill previously primed cartridge case with match head coatings up to its neck. Pack evenly and tightly with a match stick.

**Caution:** Remove the head of the match stick before packing. In all packing operations, stand off to the side and pack gently. Do not hammer.

### Neck of Cartridge Match Heads

Place rag wad in neck of case. Pack with a match stick from where the head was removed. Saw off head end of the bolt so remainder is approximately the length of the standard bullet. Place bolt in cartridge case so that it sticks out about the same length as the original bullet. If bolt does not fit snugly, force paper or match sticks between bolt and case, or wrap tape around the bolt before inserting into the case.

### What Can You Do With It?

Quite a few things can be made using your improvised black powder. This is completely separate from using it in firearms. A few useful recipes appear in this section that use black powder as a core ingredient.

These are to never be made without the supervision of a trained professional. These are for use only in a life or death situation, and when a person has received the proper training under the supervision of professionals. As always be knowledgeable of the local laws concerning the manufacture of the following recipes.

These following recipes were derived mostly from The Army's improvised munitions handbook and are a matter of public record. They differ in small ways without changing any of the actual chemicals, so you can understand what is needed from household goods.

### Improvised White Flare

A white flare can be made using some similar ingredients to black powder. While black powder is not in this mixture, it is figures in making a white smoke bomb. You will use the white flare mixture combined with gunpowder and other ingredients to make a white smoke marking grenade. We include the procedure for making the flare as well.

A flare can be an excellent marking device in a survival scenario. The ability to mark one's position for rescue is invaluable. Take caution when using this flare to stand back away from it, insure there is nothing overhead, and you are launching it in an area not capable of igniting a fire. Common sense tells you to avoid fields of hay or highly combustible materials. This flare will last approximately 2 minutes.



### Ingredients required:

- Potassium nitrate aka saltpeter. Either field or commercial grade will work. 21 tablespoons required
- Aluminum powder – Easy to find in hardware stores 21 tablespoons required
- Shellac- also found in hardware stores, 12 tablespoons required
- Quart jar with lid
- Fuse, at least a foot long; either homemade or commercial
- Wooden rod  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch thick, a pencil will work
- Tin can, 2  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch in diameter and at least five inches long; soup can
- Flat window screen
- Wooden block
- Optional, Tarp, jacket, or large container
- Tablespoon

First grab your potassium nitrate crystals, your wooden block, and your screen. Now you are going to lay out your potassium nitrate on the screen. Take the wooden block and begin rubbing the crystals into a fine powder. This is where your optional equipment comes into place. Lie whatever you have selected on the ground and grind the crystals over this. This keeps you from wasting any potassium nitrate.

Now you are going to need to grind up potassium nitrate. All 21 tablespoons of ground potassium nitrate and 21 tablespoons of aluminum are going into your jar. Put the lid on, and shake it up, shake it hard and long. Now add your 12 tablespoons of shellac. Take your pencil, stick, or whatever and stir the mixture. Put the lid on and store it until later. This is the mixture for the smoke bomb.

Now you are going to need your tin can, and fuse. Knot one end of the fuse, the same knot you tie your shoes with will work, you are going to need approximately a two inch loop. Take the loop and lay it around the bottom of the inside of the tin can, placing the knot in the center as best you can. Run the rest of the fuse out the top of the can. Pour the mixture from your quart jar into the can, insuring the remainder of your fuse stays outside of the can. Keep this away from any kind of flame or heat until ready for use.

When ready, insure you are in a safe area, light the fuse and get some distance from the can, preferable behind some cover, because always safety first. Your fuse can always be longer to give you more time. It is important to know your burn rate of your fuse as well.

## Iron Oxide

Before we can move on to the smoke bomb we need one more ingredient, iron oxide. You can purchase iron oxide online or manufacture it yourself. Iron oxide is simply rust, but we need black iron oxide. Never make this indoors, and never smell or inhale black iron oxide, always handle with gloves, mask, and goggles. Making iron oxide is a simple procedure, but should be done with caution.

You will need:

- Approximately 16 large steel wool pads. Buy the detergent free kind.
- Piece of metal fire resistant pipe, approximately 4 feet long, by 12 inches in diameter and 1/16 of an inch thick.
- Improvised manual fan, like a magazine. Only needed if not you don't have the window screen
- Newspaper
- 2 containers
- Wooden blocks
- Lighter or matches

Take a handful of the steel wool and form it into a fluffy ball around 12 inches in diameter. Shove this handful into the metal smoke pipe. Place the pipe on a level, non-flammable surface. Use your wooden blocks to stabilize the pipe, if needed.

Set a flame to the steel wool, and fan the flame gently with your manual fan. This will force a stream of oxygen into the flame and make it burn better. The steel wool will burn to a powdery substance inside the pipe. As it's almost completely burned add another handful of the fluffed steel wool and reignite.

Do this until you're out of steel wool, or have enough black iron oxide gathered in the pipe. Once you're done burning the wool, allow it to cool before moving to the next step.

Next place your sheet of newspaper under your window screen. Pour the cooled iron oxide out on the window screen. Shake the mixture until the fine powders have fallen through on the newspaper. Discard any unburned material that's on the newspaper. It's always smart to be thrifty, so save any large material on the screen for future burning in one container.

Now the rest of the burned material on the newspaper is the iron oxide, seal it one of your containers for later use.

## White Smoke Bomb

Smoke can be used the same way as a flare for marking. It can also be hidden and set off to escape a dangerous situation. Prepping is all about surviving, and fighting will not always be the answer.

This recipe has a lot of ingredients but is fairly easy to construct. Again, remember we are working with dangerous toxic chemicals, only do this with the proper personal protective equipment, the supervision of trained professionals, and training yourself. Obey all local, state and federal laws.

You will need:

- Sulfur
- Potassium Nitrate Aka salt peter, field grade or store bought. - Improvised Black powder
- Aluminum Powder
- Black iron Oxide
- Carbon tetrachloride Available at hardware stores
- Improvised white flare mix. Details instructions are provided in the white flare recipe
- Tablespoon
- Wooden Rod or Stick
- Newspaper
- Quart Jar with Lid
- Window Screen
- 15 inch fuse
- Tin can 2 ½ inch in diameter and at least five inches long
- Flame Source
- Aluminum foil

Grab your tablespoons, sulfur, and quart jar. Measure three level scoops of powdered sulfur and pour it into the quart jar. Next add 4 level tablespoons of your powdered potassium nitrate. Add 2 heaping tablespoons of black oxide to the jar.

The next step is the same thing we did earlier with the window screen and newspaper. The window screen simply goes over the newspaper, and we pour the ingredients on the window screen. Next it's incredibly important to properly mix the compounds. So we are going to shake the screens and allow the ingredients to fall to the newspaper. This is also called sieving if you didn't know.

We are going to pour the ingredients back on the screen and do it all over again. You are going to do this at least three times, but if you have extra time doing four or even five times will insure proper mixing of chemicals. After you are done sieving, pour the

ingredients back into the jar. Screw the lid on and shake it vigorously until the ingredients are properly mixed. If it hasn't dawned on you yet, mixing these ingredients properly is your key to success.

Remove the lid and add 15 heaping, remember heaping, tablespoons of aluminum powder to the mixture. Use your wooden rod, like a pencil or strong stick, never metal, to stir the mixture thoroughly. If this is for later use, screw the lid on the jar and store it.

When you are ready to use it, this is the method. Next we add carbon tetrachloride. Use extreme caution when handling tetrachloride, work in a well-ventilated area, the fumes are toxic and hazardous. This also means wearing the proper protective mask. Okay now that's out of the way, you are going to pour the carbon tetrachloride into the mixture until it is a paste consistency.

You are going to add approximately half a cup of black powder to the mixture. Now, you need to stir very carefully with a WOODEN (or plastic) spoon. I don't like to yell, but I felt I needed to get that point across. Metal can cause sparks, or static, and that creates a terrible risk no one should take.

This is your white smoke mix, go ahead and put a lid on it, and store it away from any heat or flame.

Next grab your white flare mix, and cut approximately a 4 inch square piece of aluminum foil. Measure out one heaping table spoon of white flare mix onto the square. Knot one end of the fuse and put it into the mix. Take the corners and fold them lightly around the fuse. It should look like a large Hershey's kiss.

Now take your white smoke mix, not to be mixed up with your white flare mix, and pour it into the can. Take your little kiss all wrapped up in foil, with its beautiful fuse sticking out and place it beneath the surface of the white smoke mix. You can mark your location or fool the dangerous into thinking you are somewhere you aren't.

### **Homemade Bottle Rocket**

You are probably wondering what use a bottle rocket could have in a survival situation. Aren't they essentially a dangerous toy for children? Are we supposed to celebrate Fourth of July when we are scavenging and scraping for food? If you can't think of a good reason for bottle rockets, allow me to educate you.

First off constructing bottle rockets are incredibly simple and take very few supplies to do so. That's a plus for survival. Bottle rockets can be used as a short range form of signaling. Bottle rocket can be used to ward off predators, and pests, saving you ammunition and maybe your own skin. If it's a term survival situation, a bottle rocket

can scare animals like birds and raccoons away from the crops you've grown. This is a much better option than trying to run out there waving your arms like an idiot every five minutes.

The supplies you will need:

- Sticky notes or small note pad paper can be used. Post its preferred.
- A Hammer
- A small bit of fuse, commercial grade firework fuse is available quite cheaply on the internet.
- A small mixing bowl
- A mortar and pestle, or bowl and plastic spoon (and some patience)
- Needle nose pliers
- Duct tape, scotch tape works as well
- Some form of wooden skewers. This can be hand made with a knife and a stick. It's just a small light stick. Things like chopsticks can also be used.
- A Pencil or pen
- A Nail
- Black powder
- Kitty Litter

First we are going to roll our paper into a tube. Fold the sticky note in half, but leave the sticky side up. Begin wrapping it around your pencil or pen, the sticky side will hold it together as you roll. With regular paper you are going to have to roll the tape and use a small piece of scotch tape to hold it there.

Now grab your duct or scotch tape and tightly tape the tube around the pencil, but not to the pencil. Set this aside for now.

Next you are going to grind up your kitty litter. You don't need a large amount, 4 table spoons will be more than enough, with some left over. Pour this in the mortar and pestle and start grinding away until it is a fine powder. Pour it onto a small piece of paper.

Now this is important. Separate the paper tube from the pencil and hold it tight to the table, pour only about a quarter inch worth of material in the tube. Your still holding the tube tightly down to the table, allowing some of the kitty litter to leak out.

Now insert the pencil and start pounding the kitty litter gently. You can use the hammer to gently tap the pencil. The kitty litter is being compressed, and will stick together, and seal itself. Now the kitty litter should be tightly packed, and you can set the tube down. Now you're ready for the black powder. The powder needs to be a fine grade, so gently use the mortar and pestle to make it so. Once the black powder is a fine enough grade pour it into the tube. Now once again you are holding the tube tightly to the table. Take

your wooded pencil or plastic pen and gently tap it in to compress the powder. Next take a small, thin nail and gently tap it creating a hole into black powder and the kitty litter. Be very gentle, your still working with black powder, no matter how small the amount. Plus you don't want all the compressing you've done to be wasted if it all spills out.

Ok, next is the fuse. Use a few inches, whatever you're comfortable with, but no less than two inches. Bend the last 8<sup>th</sup> of an inch or so onto itself. Insert the fuse into the hole you created with your nail.

Take your skewers and insure they are as thin as you can make them. Have them between 6 to 7 inches. Now tape the skewer onto the rocket, any side you choose, it doesn't matter. And you're done, simple easy, what's not too love?

Credit for this recipe goes to the pyrotechnic community at large. This recipe is everywhere, it varies from person to person, but this is the simplest method I've found to build them.

## Pressure Alarm

The next recipe and device is a little tricky and requires a different level of experience. As always never attempt to build one of these if you are a not a professional or under the supervision of professionals. Always wear the proper personal protective equipment and obey all local, state and federal laws.

This device involves an electronic initiator, made from a light bulb. This is designed to alert you of anyone approaching your bug out location without harming them. This is an excellent alarm system when placed along a path.

The first we will go over is the electric bulb initiator. For this, you will need a light bulb, the long and narrower types. This type of bulb is similar to some lamp bulbs, but much different than the typical household light fixture bulb.

A full list of supplies needed:

- Desk lamp light bulb
- Two wires
- Black powder
- Tape
- Construction paper or cardboard.
- Small tool to break glass.
- Soldering Tool

The first step is to carefully break the bulb, while avoiding damage to the filament. Don't get over excited and smash the bulb. Gently tap the bulb until it breaks, if glass remains after it's broken you can use a pair of pliers to remove the remainder.

Form a 3 to 4 inch tube with the paper or cardboard, sealing it closed with your tape. Place this tube around your light bulb, fully enclosing the filament. Using your tape, secure the tube around the base of the light bulb.

Now using your soldering tool, solder the two wires to the base of the bulb, these wires should not be touching when soldered. Allow solder to cool completely. Next add your black powder to the tube. It's critical to do this step last. Do not attempt to add black powder before you solder the wires. This creates an unsafe situation you don't want to be in. Lastly seal the open end of the tube with tape. And you're done. The amount of wire you use will be dictated by the distance from the power source you want the step trap to be.

### **Building The Alarm**

The step trap is simple to make and requires some common goods purchased from any hardware store. Essentially it is a tube with gun powder, the initiator and some wadding, not much more than that. When the alarm is triggered, the powder ignites causing a small, but loud explosion. Sounding something similar to a blank round fired from a weapon. The trap is mostly harmless, but care should be made to place the opening of the trap behind something, so hot powder doesn't endanger anyone. Even in crisis situation the vast majority of people aren't out to get you, and do not need to be endangered.

What you need:

- Iron Pipe, One foot in length with threaded ends. At least three inches in diameter
- One threaded cap to fit pipe
- Black powder
- Electrical igniter
- D cell battery (Large flashlight battery)
- Cloth for wadding, old shirts work great, as well as rags.
- Non-metallic stick
- Newspaper or paper bag
- Digging tool
- Small plank of wood.

Alright we are going to hit the ground running on this one. Attach the threaded cap onto one end of the pipe. Place the black powder in the bag, how much will depend on the diameter of the pipe.

Insert the igniter into the powder and tie off the bag or corners of the newspaper with string or use tape to hold them shut. Do not shove the wire all the way in, allow a good amount of it to remain outside the bag. (There has to be enough to reach outside the pipe and give you enough to work with.) Now carefully fit the bag full of powder and the igniter into the pipe.

If it doesn't slide in there easily you're going to have to remove some of the powder, Do not force the bag in, you could rip it. Push the bag in until it rests on the threaded cap. Allow the wires to run out of the pipe.

Next, take your cloth and roll it until it's the same diameter as the pipe and slide it in gently. This will act as your wadding.



Now we come to where to place your alarm. Look over the path, pick a spot with a tree or rock in close proximity where someone would walk. Face the open end of the pipe to a tree, rock, or small hill. This is to absorb the still burning powder that will be ejected. This has the added effect of camouflage so no one from the path can see it. Next bury the pipe so it's facing the obstruction; make sure to angle it upwards. For safety reasons, point the

opening in a different direction than the path. The opening and maybe an inch or so of the pipe should remain above ground. You can make this more water resistant by placing a plastic bag loosely over the opening.

Lead the wire back to the path. You will bury this later. Next you are going to need your D cell battery, wires, tape, and small plank of wood. Dig a hole big enough to conceal the battery. These batteries have negative and positive sides. One side has a hump, the other is slightly concave.

These two points should be just below the dirt. Attach one; I say again, one piece of wire to either of these points. For instructional purposes, we pick the negative point. Attach the other piece of wire to the piece of wood. Bend the wire that is attaching to the board so that it is in a zigzag pattern, about the size of a fifty cent piece. Now tape it down, covering as little of the wire as possible.

Place this board slightly above the battery. Make sure the zigzag wire is not touching



the positive terminal, but hovering above it. The zigzag pattern is to insure a good connection. A single wire could miss the small battery terminal. The way this works is once someone steps on the board, the zigzag wire will touch the positive terminal, complete the circuit and activate the igniter. The igniter will activate the gun powder and a loud boom will warn you of anyone approaching your location.

Whoever is approaching will probably have a heart attack. You will have to swap the battery out occasionally, and make sure the powder is dry. Always disarm the trap first by carefully removing the board, and disconnecting the wire from the terminal. As always, safety first.

This is for educational purposes. Before trying anything mentioned here, seek professional pyrotechnics training. Google it, many training seminars are held in May and June....in preparation for 4th of July. Always wear the proper personal protective equipment, and obey all laws. These are not toys, but skills to be used in a last ditch survival situation, and even then one should have the proper training to even attempt constructing a simple bottle rocket.

## Safety

You can start making your own ammunition. Before you run off into your workspace to get started, the importance of safety and care needs to be mentioned again.

Please remember that you are handling explosive and corrosive materials in their raw form. Even if you stick to the basics and just use the matches, those flammable tips are created to ignite. When you start manipulating them in large quantities, you run the risk of starting a large fire or causing a small explosion. Neither of those things is positive, especially if you're in a small space.

Keep these safety steps in mind when you begin making your own ammunition.

Keep flammable substances as dry or as wet as required based on the instructions. When you're mixing different chemicals, make sure all of it looks the way the instructions say. For example, when you're making gunpowder, you have to melt it down and it's important that all of the mixture stay moist until it all can be dried. When you're working with the match tip powder, it should stay dry.

Keep flammable substances separate! When you're working with substances that will ignite easily, make sure to work with them away from the other materials that may ignite easily. Try to keep the fires small or none, the latter is preferred of course.

Don't experiment or deviate from the recipe! You need to follow every recipe down to the letter. Don't skip sections or skimp on materials. If you don't have everything you need, wait. Make sure you are fully prepared to follow all the steps for creating ammunition from beginning to end.

Use the explosive materials within five days of opening or creating them. Don't try to store these materials for long periods of time.

The idea is for you to err on the side of caution. If something looks wrong, stop and re-read the recipe. If something catches fire, stop and make sure the fire is fully extinguished. If something smells funny, stop and make sure the room is properly ventilated. By creating your own ammunition, you are making the decision to accept a certain amount of risk. You should be ok with this risk but also be as careful as possible

## **Closing Thoughts**

You are in a tiny segment of the American population who takes their self-defense serious enough to dive into some powerful demolition techniques.

That's a great thing, but remember. Never take this information lightly. It's powerful stuff, but can also be dangerous.

And most important of all, put what you learned here into practice! Even if it's just buying the 10,000 bullets laid out in Appendix A and you never get around to creating your own homemade ammo, you'll be ahead 90% of the rest.

You'll always have this book to refer back to, but my advice is to get started ASAP. You never know when a crisis could hit, the government could crack or terrorists decide to drop by. So take what you learned here and apply it.

## **Appendix A The Commercial 10,000 Bullet Stockpile**

These numbers are highly subjective. Some people don't feel safe unless they've got 50,000 rounds or more. Other people think it's overkill with 10,000 rounds.

To our way of thinking, it depends on 2 things:

- How many people you have.
- What type of ammo you buy.

That said, a rule of thumb is, "when in doubt, buy more".

One thing though, if you don't have all 4 types of ammo, your stockpile has a serious

problem. You could run out very quickly. You will be operating under a false sense of security. These calculations are for a family of 6. (Let's just ignore the fact game will start running out from overhunting and assume you head some place with plenty of deer and squirrels).

#### Hunting Rifle: 160 rounds

If you use 4 pounds of deer meat per meal for one meal per day and each deer lands you about 45 pounds, you're going to need a total of 32 deer over a year long period.

#### .22 LR: 2,800 rounds

This should be enough to get you through your small game hunting for a year. It works out to be about 7 and a half rounds per day, so every other day you get one extra

#### Combat Handgun: 1,500 rounds

You hope it never gets in close enough for your hand gun, but you never know. Make sure you've got at least 1,500 rounds this is one of the most ignored types of ammo.

**Tip:** if you're on a budget, 9MM is about half the price of .45 ammo, so feed a Beretta or Glock.

#### Combat Rifle: 4,500 rounds

4,500 rounds should be enough to get you through 25 big fights in a year. If you get into more than that you need to find another place to hunker down.

Remember – don't waste these rounds on small game. That's what the .22LR is for.

#### Barter: 1,040 rounds

Just to give yourself some room to barter I suggest grabbing an extra 1,000 rounds. This is usually budget dependent, but you can't go wrong with a little extra in the combat rifle realm.

#### The "Power Number"

Add in about 15% of your rounds to go for training and bartering: long range rifle 90% for hunting, 10% sniping. Combat rifle should be 15% training and barter. The idea here is to remember the weapon's primary use and be sure to save at least 80% for that.

## Appendix B Match Head Table

<i>Rifle</i>	<i>Number of Match Heads</i>
.22 Hornet	13
.222 Remington	26
.223 Remington	39
.243 Winchester	61
.30 M1 Carbine	16
.30-30 Winchester	45
.308 Win. (7.62mm NATO)	58
.30-06	74
.375 H&H Magnum	87
.44 Magnum	32
.45-70 Govt.	76
.458 Winchester	79
<i>Pistols</i>	
9mm Parabellum	8
.38 Special	15
.357 Magnum	26
.45 ACP	27
<i>Shotguns</i>	
12 Gauge	33
16 Gauge	30
20 Gauge	27
.410 Bore	19