

Handy Tricks Six

by [TimAnderson](#) on May 7, 2008

Table of Contents

intro: Handy Tricks Six	3
step 1: Electric Wheelchair Becomes Electric Car	4
step 2: Live in an RV	5
step 3: Make Charcoal in a Can	6
step 4: Quick Motorcycle Stands	8
step 5: Furry Chaps from Fleece Rug	9
step 6: BLOB JOB!	9
step 7: Ether Injection for Diesel Starting	10
step 8: Folding Pickup Topper	11
step 9: Hip Capital 2.0	11
step 10: Perfect Melted Cord Ends	12
step 11: Fix a Blender With a Jar Lid	13
step 12: Fix Blender with Hot Glue and Innertube	14
step 13: Stop Bleeding with Cellulose	15
step 14: Bicycle Pedal Electric Generator	15
step 15: Finger Smudge Blueprint	16
step 16: Lobster Buoy Hatches and Bilge Plugs	17
step 17: An Air Bag for Eggs	18
step 18: Create an Ergonomic Standing Desk and Office on the Go	18
step 19: How to Talk to Police	20
step 20: Fly Without Identification	21
step 21: Rubberband Babyproofing/ Dogproofing cabinets	22
step 22: Art Toilets	22
step 23: Hanging Jar Parts Bins	24
step 24: Charcoal Starter Chimney Can	24
step 25: Lab Stool Rolling Storage	24
step 26: Float Your Scope	25
step 27: Folding Cup from Paper Plate	26
step 28: Landfill Consciousness Wastebasket	27
step 29: Hasty Blade Guide for Bandsaw	28
step 30: Lathe Tool for Rubber	28
step 31: Car = Solar Oven to Cure Epoxy	29
step 32: Jug Buoy	29
step 33: Two Long Blasts and Two Short: "Open the locks!"	30

step 34: Kedge a Grounded Boat	31
step 35: Dirt Box Bridge Bumpers	32
step 36: Tug Plugs into Barge	33
step 37: Lock Casters with Clamp	33
step 38: Move a Container with an Undersized Forklift	33
step 39: Fix a Zipper	34
step 40: Dinghy Ferry Clothesline Loop Rig	35
step 41: Free Stuff Wagon	35
step 42: Hammer is Meat Tenderizer	36
step 43: Bill Boykin's Soap Box Derby Car	36
Related Instructables	37
Advertisements	37
Comments	37

intro: Handy Tricks Six

Handy Tricks Six! Hundreds already, and the Handy Tricks just keep on coming!

To see even more handy tricks, check out the rest of the saga at

[Handy Tricks 9: Oodles of random tricks](#)
and [Handy Tricks 8: Island Handy Tricks](#)
and [Handy Tricks 7: Bike Mods and Projects](#)
and [Fifty Handy Tricks](#).
and [40 More Handy Tricks](#)
and [Australian Handy Tricks](#)
and [Guatemalan Handy Tricks](#)
and [Yet More Handy Tricks](#)
and [Handy Tricks Six!](#)

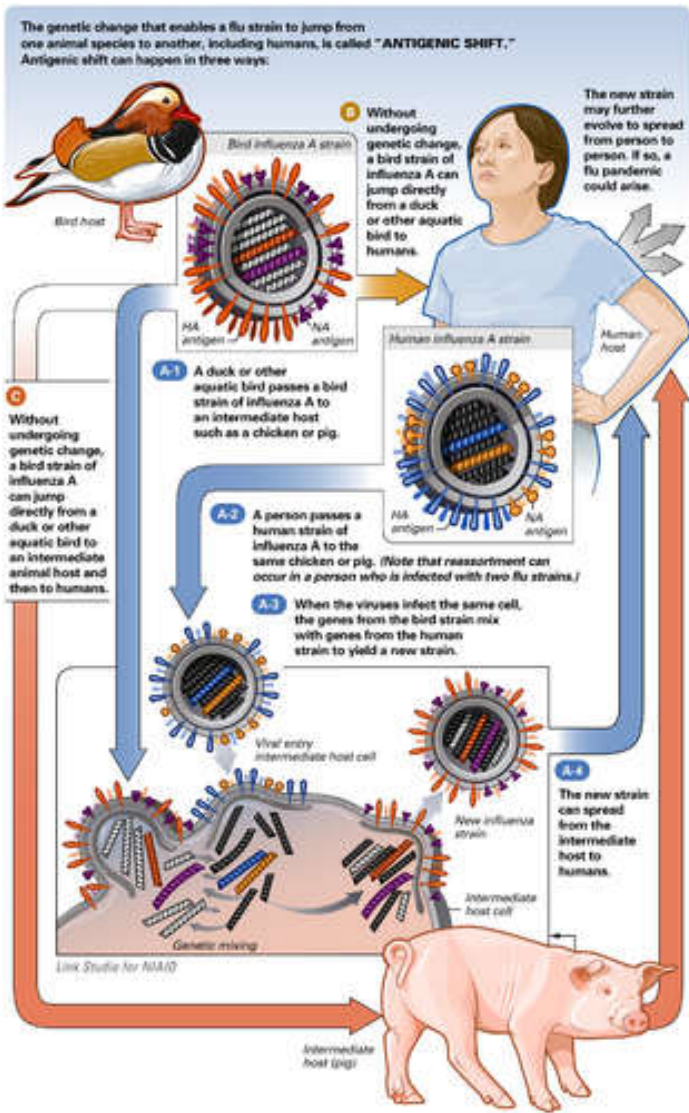
For a bunch of things that didn't work, check out [How Not To](#).

First trick: Avoid the Flu

Everyone I know gets one cold and flu after another and seems to be sick all the time. I haven't been sick in a year. Can anyone remember the last time I was sick? I can't. Here's how to avoid disease and act crazy at the same time.

1. Use your own bowl and utensils. Keep them in your office and keep them dirty so other people won't use them.
2. Eat live food. Kraut, kefir, kombucha. Fill your body with lots of warlike friendly bacteria. Create a "field of weeds" Microbial environment in your body. Then when a specialized people-eating germ lands on you, it's the new kid in a gang neighborhood and doesn't last long. Your dirty dishes are protected the same way.
3. Wash your hands before picking your nose or touching your eyes. Your mouth is made to eat off the floor. Your eyes and nose aren't so well protected.
4. Wear long sleeves so you have something to touch doorknobs with. We should really have footknobs on doors. The L-knobs or "elbowknobs" are ok, and are required in europe.
5. The air in airplanes is stale, dry, and full of germs.
[Wear a gas mask on airplanes](#). Preferably with underwear on your head or an Arab headdress.

Illustration courtesy of [National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases \(NIAID\)](#).



step 1: Electric Wheelchair Becomes Electric Car

This gentleman made a motorized wheelchair into an all-weather electric car by adding a prototype "Car board" body and a trailer. This is the hotrod of wheelchairs, which goes 13 mph without further modifications.

Here's his very thorough website about his car.





step 2: Live in an RV

In some parts of San Francisco you're allowed to park an RV on the street.

If you've got the resources to keep one of these things fueled, running, and legal, that's a cheap convenient way to live. For most people in the nomad phase of life it's too much vehicle.

A friend who's lived in a conversion van for years says his next vehicle/home will be a minivan. It'll be easier to find parking and it will attract less attention from police.

In some places police will pound on your door to see if anyone responds and tell you to leave. He doesn't respond and the police go away.

In many parts of our dumb country there are ordinances against RV parking, even on your own land.

There are even a few places where you can't sleep in a car.

Let us pray that God's wrath smite those evil lawmakers and show them the true path of charity and tolerance.



step 3: Make Charcoal in a Can

Got a fire going? While you're at it, make some charcoal for later blacksmithing or a bbq.

1. Cut an X in the top of a can and pry the flaps up.
2. Saw up some wood and fill the can with it. Dry hardwood is best. Pallet wood is good. I use the handy bandsaw.
3. Close the flaps and put the can upside down on a fire. We use Mr. Fireface.
4. Watch the fire and play banjo.
5. Smoke will come out of the can. The smoke will burn. When those extra flames die down lift the can with sticks. It should be a lot lighter.
6. Put the can upside down in a puddle or a bucket of water. It will instantly suck water up until it's full of water. That quenches the charcoal and keeps it from burning any more.
7. The can is suddenly cold. Pick it up, dump out the water, pry open the flaps and dump the charcoal into a mesh bag to drain.
8. You have charcoal. It's very clean. It won't smudge you. This can had some sticks that weren't fully charred. Put them aside to dry and do it again. Next time cut the sticks all one size and be more careful to get enough heat and burn enough smoke.

This method burns a lot of wood to make a bit of charcoal, but it's a good method if you've got a fire going anyway.





step 4: Quick Motorcycle Stands

No bolting or Jacking, just hook these onto your bike and push down til the lever hits the ground.

Now you can take wheels off etc without trouble.

Seen at [www.nimbyspace.org NIMBY in Oakland CA]

You could make a pair of these from shopping carts using the homemade welder



step 5: Furry Chaps from Fleece Rug

Star made me a pair of these. They're really cozy.

They stay up from the fur sort of gripping your legs. They keep my feet warm even when I'm barefoot, which is unexpected.

To make a pair wrap the fleece around your leg and figure out how wide it needs to be to be tight but not too tight. Cut it out. Sew them into tubes. That's easier if you shove the fleece inside the tube instead of letting it poke out of the seam. Put them on and enjoy the coziness.



step 6: BLOB JOB!

Robin Ivester holds the first stainless steel "blob job" ever made.

This is a historic moment. A new decorative motif is not created very often. And here is one.

It happened apparently by accident. She was waterjetting flame jobs for this fine speaker system, and the offcut was a perfectly formed "blob job". The first in human history! It'll look great trailing an oilspill off the back of someone's filler cap!



step 7: Ether Injection for Diesel Starting

My biodiesel truck was embarrassing me by being hard to start. I'd wait for the glowplugs to heat up and crank and crank and eventually it would fire up and blow a lot of white unburned fuel smoke out the pipe. I knew it was "bio-smoke" and probably very healthy for the planet, but it looked like hell.

Then I remembered the weird valve and crate of ether cylinders I'd scavenged off a doomed boat. So I tee-plumbed it up to one of my vacuum lines and ta-daa! I had built in starting fluid injection. A couple of taps on the valve and my beast fired up like magic. I'll figure out why it's so hard to start later.

Once I returned to my parked truck to see that some junk had shifted and pressed the lever down. "damn!" I thought. I've filled the engine with that crap and made it into a bomb!. How do I start my car without blowing it up? So I read up on the valve. No problem. It's a really nifty gadget. It doses out only 3ccs every time you press it. It's intended to mount upside down and dose out 3ccs of liquid ether, which gives you about 300 shots per can. There's mineral oil mixed in as a "top cylinder lubricant". I ended up mounting mine with the valve on top, to dose out vapor and get more shots. My truck is getting plenty of fuel, so cylinder lube is no problem.

If you don't have this fancy stuff you can do the same thing by just running a vac line into your cab and spraying start fluid from an aerosol can. Pinch the hose when it's not in use. Be careful where and how you place your ether can. Ether is very flammable. If it leaks or gets crushed it can blow you up or knock you out and asphyxiate you, just like the nice old doctor in "Cider House Rules".



step 8: Folding Pickup Topper

These roof support hoops slide forward along the rail to get out of the way. They're really solid, probably strong enough to use as a lumber rack. A tarp cover gets cinched over the top in inclement weather.

Spotted in the Costco parking lot in San Leandro CA.



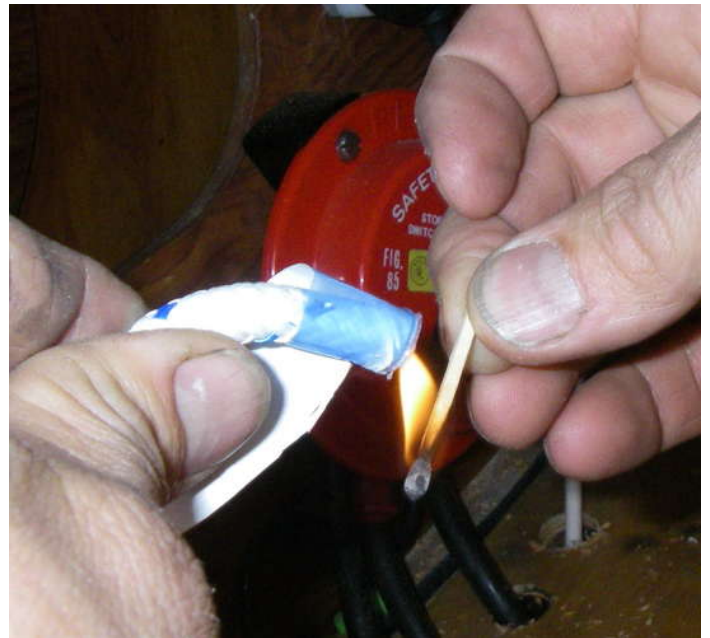
step 9: Hip Capital 2.0

Here's the Instructables crew at the Web 2.0 conference in San Francisco. Christy, Ed, Randy, and Billy are spreading the love and etching laptops for all and sundry. Notice the Bratz Mutilation Knife Block and Duck Mouse prominently displayed. I kept asking attendees, and no one found the artworks offensive. Yes, stop hiding your hobby from your co-workers. A new age has dawned!



step 10: Perfect Melted Cord Ends

1. Wrap the intact part of the end with tape.
2. Cut through the tape with a sharp knife.
3. melt the end with a match, keeping the tape on.
4. Don't touch the flame to the cord to avoid blackening it.
5. Wet your fingers and or use a piece of wax paper to squish the cord end into shape.
6. You have a perfectly melted cord end!





step 11: Fix a Blender With a Jar Lid

I dropped my blender's pitcher. It didn't break, but the thing on the bottom did. Fortunately the threads on the bottom are the same as a canning jar. So I put that on the pitcher. It works fine!
Could it be the ancient ones designed it that way?
If you break your pitcher, you could even substitute a jar for it, as in photo 3!



step 12: Fix Blender with Hot Glue and Innertube

Someone did a good job of fixing the blender at MITERS.

They filled a chip in the base of the pitcher with hot glue and made a new gasket from a piece of bicycle innertube.



step 13: Stop Bleeding with Cellulose

Chloe Byruck cut herself while sewing.

She dabbed the wound with a paper towel and the bleeding stopped.

Why? The cellulose fibers are covered with microscopic spiky scales. That's how the fibers grip each other to make paper. Blood contains platelets full of clotting factors. The platelets break on the cellulose spikes and clot the hell up. Bleeding stops.



step 14: Bicycle Pedal Electric Generator

Here's Fossil Fool's bike at Maker Faire 2007.

He puts it up on the rear stand and uses it as a pedal electric generator.

The generator appears to be a dc brushmotor with a drive wheel that rubs on his rear tire.

There was no visible wear damage to the tire.

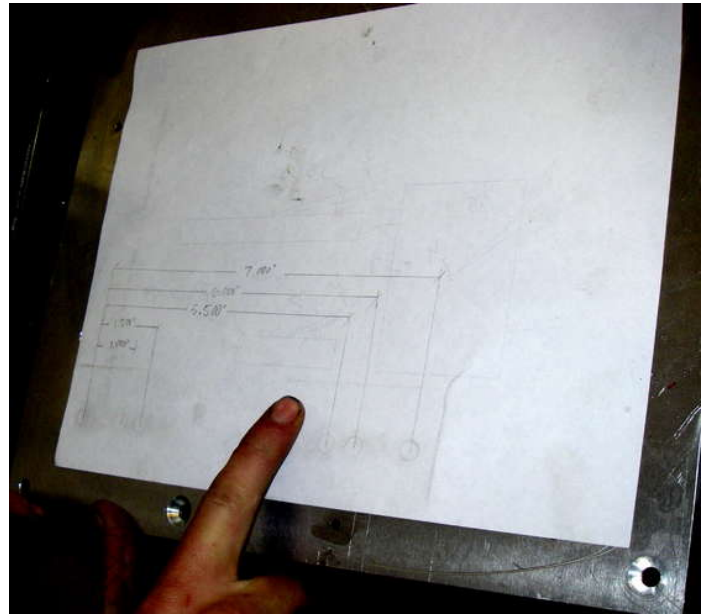
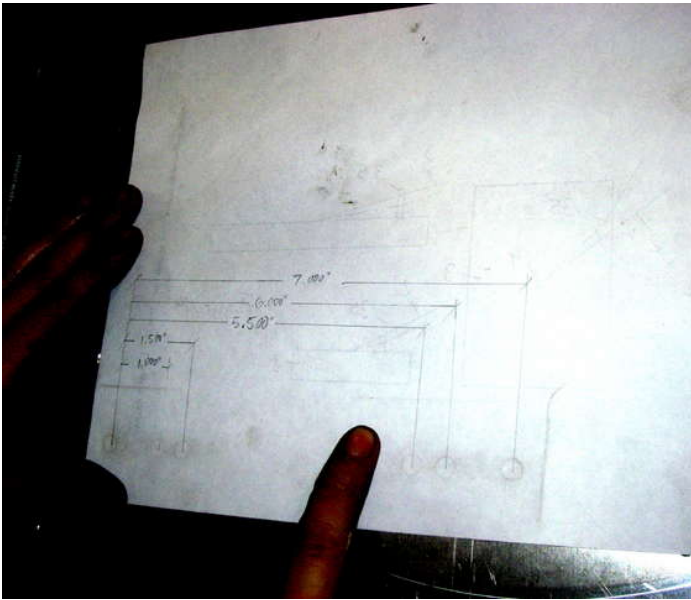
His organization "Rock the Bike" had a number of such bikes there, which they used to power a concert stage full of electrified musicians.



step 15: Finger Smudge Blueprint

Liam MacNamara needed to make a mounting plate with some holes that would line up with another plate's hole pattern. So he laid a piece of paper on the existing plate and rubbed it with his hand.

That made a fine copy of the hole pattern. He measured these holes to make the rest of the dimension drawing he needed.



step 16: Lobster Buoy Hatches and Bilge Plugs.

Buoys for lobster and crab traps and many net floats are made of chewy closed cell foam. In the Marshall Islands people would cut bilge plugs from them. They also make a good hatch cover if you cut a hole the right size. Here's one in my dinghy's forward flotation compartment. The retaining rope passes through the float and is tied to a wooden cookie.





step 17: An Air Bag for Eggs

Here at La Antigua Guatemala's market, people sell eggs by the flat, and don't refrigerate them because eggs store just fine when not cold. If you don't want a whole flat of 36 eggs, this shop keeper will sell you some in an inflated plastic bag. You still can't shake the eggs around too much, but at least you can pile your other groceries on top without worry.



step 18: Create an Ergonomic Standing Desk and Office on the Go

Christy and Eric have been traveling in Guatemala for a couple of weeks. They brought their laptops and have been logging into Instructables everyday. They call it "working from home from abroad."

Eric is really careful with his wrists and computer use in general. See: Ergonomic Work Station, Stand Up Desk, and Standing Desk

He brought his Goldtouch split keyboard and left and right handed vertical mice, as mentioned in the above Instructables and forum topic. Here, he's found a set of shelves that are approximately the right height and put the keyboard and mice below the laptop, which is about at head level. It's a little too tall, and the shelves aren't adjustable, but it's a world of difference over the RSI and back and neck pain associated with working on a laptop while actually on your lap or on a table.

With a good internet connection and VOIP with a local Bay-Area call-in number, few people even know they're out of the US!





step 19: How to Talk to Police

The ACLU teaches proper technique.

Here's a typical encounter where I don't use ACLU form, but don't get killed either:

I get pulled over a lot.

Apparently white guys who don't drive new cars are suspicious enough to be checked against THE LIST.

They make up some excuse like a partially obscured license plate, insufficient illumination on it, or a cracked taillight lens.

Then they take my license and go away for a long time to play with the computer in their squad car.

It takes a long time because there are so many of us Tim Andersons. We all look the same and have the same build, even though we aren't related. Some of us are deadbeat dads, some are parole-jumping sex offenders, and some of us are really major fuckups. Some of us are philanthropists and saints, but they don't have a database for that.

Usually the cop gets frustrated by the pages of arrest warrants and can't figure out which one is me. So then they come back with trick questions.

Question: "Who owns this vehicle?"

Answer: "The guy it's registered to. I insure it, he lets me drive it." (it helps to know his name and have a current registration with you.)

If the car is uninsured or unregistered, say you're transporting it during the 60-day grace period allowed by your home state and you're about to drive it there, and it's covered by your dad's (boat's/blanket's) insurance in the meantime.

Question: "Where do you live?"

Answer: "Same as my license". (it's better to know it well enough to just say the address.)

Question: "How long have you been in the state?"

Answer: "A couple of weeks."

If you've been through a few of these sessions your papers will be straight enough and you come off as the sort of hardened weasel that won't fall for their little games, and they let you go with a warning and mark your file with an "X-Ray number" (in CA anyhow) as someone who's been stopped, they couldn't figure out what you're up to, but they'd like to bust you for it.

Question: "Two weeks, huh, why do you have a CA toll-pass, pay stubs from a local job, etc. etc. etc. etc."

Answer: "I come and go a lot. I have boats/cars/holsteins registered in another state, my income comes from another state. What's your residence test? Can I vote here?"

The cop doesn't know anything about voting. She thinks I came to her suburb to steal catalytic converters off cars. She's really cute and obviously likes guns, which is hot, but things haven't gotten off on the right foot. I'm tempted to ask to file police reports against Cheney and Rumsfeld for kidnapping, torture, mass murder, and lying to congress. She hands me my license back and a receipt for something, and I put both of them in the glove compartment.

(image source: Roanoke pd)

So then the next day at the airport my license isn't with me.

<http://www.instructables.com/id/HandySix/>

What happens then? Read on.



step 20: Fly Without Identification

At Oakland airport security I shuffled through my wallet full of creditcards etc. and couldn't find my driver's license. Damn! It was that cop the other night. I must have put my license in the glovebox with the receipt/nonticket thingy.

I'm at the airport and I don't have my "Government Issued Photo ID". What can I do?

Airport security: "How about a Costco card?"

Me: "what? would that would work?" (I still don't know.)

Airport security: "hum, haw, delay delay, get supervisor."

Supervisor: "Where's the good pen?" (makes two checkmarks on my boardingpass) "Go over there". (xray machine line)

Woohoo! I can fly even without id!

All they do is give you the "extra screening" which means they're extra courteous and pleasant, dump out your stuff for the swab+sniff machine, and give you the pat-down massage, which is actually kind of nice. I got through the process just about as quick as normal.

They don't care at all about any of my other id, or the "name" I'm using. I could be traveling with a really cool name like... "Heimlich Richter", "Zamboni Carramba", or...

Yes! Hi, my name is "Phakopsora Pachyrhizi"!!!

Extra Screening Dude: "You paint cars?"

Me: "what? oh yeah, the gas mask and headphones? yeah. painting cars. Do you have a bandaid for this?" (my zombie bite)

I had a connecting flight in JFK. JFK sucks. You have to leave security to walk across a street and clear back in at the other terminal 50 feet away. I'm worried.

No ID? No problem! Another free massage!

Howabout Logan, home of white-knuckled incompetence? No problem! It's a slow day, so trainees practice the security massage while a supervisor gives a critique.

Me: "Have you always been able to fly without ID?"

Deskie: "I think ever since 9/11 you've been able to."

Me: "The terrorists still use the ID we gave them in training?"

Deskie, smiling: "something exactly like that."



step 21: Rubberband Babyproofing/ Dogproofing cabinets

Dogs and toddlers want to open this cabinet and eat your garbage. This rubberband around the handles thwarts them.



step 22: Art Toilets

Star made this toilet into a "talking toilet" interactive artwork. She painted the seat to look a mouth with tempura paint. She butt-proofed it with many coats of clear acrylic spraypaint. Then she added electronics to add speech capability. She waterproofed the electronics using military methods. The toilet says "Mmm delicious! Feed me more!". That is very disturbing to some people. This toilet doesn't get much use anymore. Her "Rage against the Latrine" is more popular.



step 23: Hanging Jar Parts Bins

Here's a handy way to organize small parts without using up shelf space. Just screw a bunch of lids to your ceiling and put the parts in the jars. Spotted at TEP, Boston MA.



step 24: Charcoal Starter Chimney Can

Steve Cooke made this handy gizmo from a tomato sauce can to start his grill. It saves lighter fluid. He starts a fire of wadded newspaper and tinder in the can and drops the briquettes on top of it. The convection airflow gets the charcoal burning well. When it glows and stops smoking he pulls the can off, spreads out the charcoal, and grills.



step 25: Lab Stool Rolling Storage

Frogger made this slick rolling labstool/caddy at MITERS.

He tied a stool to the base from an office chair with wire.

It's a really good way to store a lot of stools so they can be pushed out of the way but not fall over.

It's lasted for years.



step 26: Float Your Scope

Cut the damn ground pin off your scope.

If you think the case might electrocute you now, well, don't touch the case.

Grounding the case isn't exactly safe either. If you're working on a high voltage circuit and your scope is grounded, you might as well hold a water pipe with one hand. Not safe.

This trick isn't so important now that scopes have so many channels and A-B knobs. But education hasn't improved, so people are still burning probes out by not understanding the difference between "ground", "reference", and "signal".

It would be nice to have a high impedance reference clip instead of a low-impedance ground clip. Anyone listening at Tektronix?

I learned to use an oscilloscope in the good old days when there was one trace and very few knobs.

At least on the scopes you got for free.

Usually someone would want to use your scope to fix a their band's PA amplifier.

They'd hook the ground lead from the scope onto the amp's black output wire, and POOF!

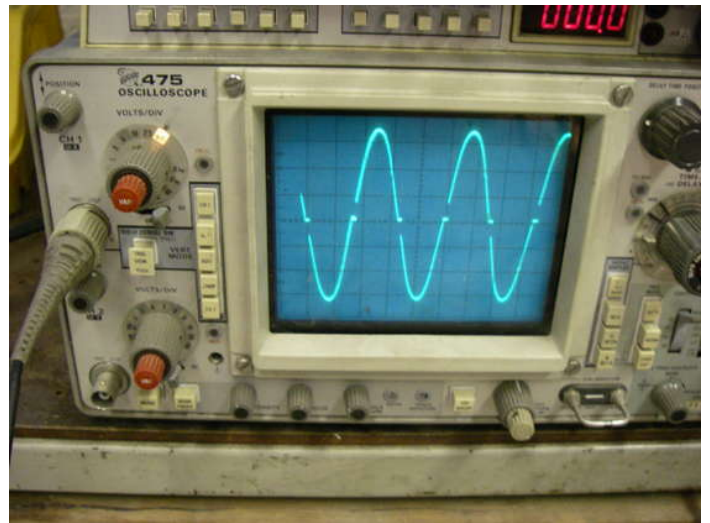
That amp channel is burned out now, literally "in a flash", regardless of what else used to be wrong with it.

How did that happen? The black wire on an amp or stereo isn't usually ground. Usually it's one channel of a push-pull amplifier. The ground clip from the scope is ground.

They just shorted an amplifier output to ground. Of course it burned out.

And now my probe is melted. Usually they'd wreck the other probe by leaving it on the floor and rolling back and forth over it with an office chair while talking about big ideas.

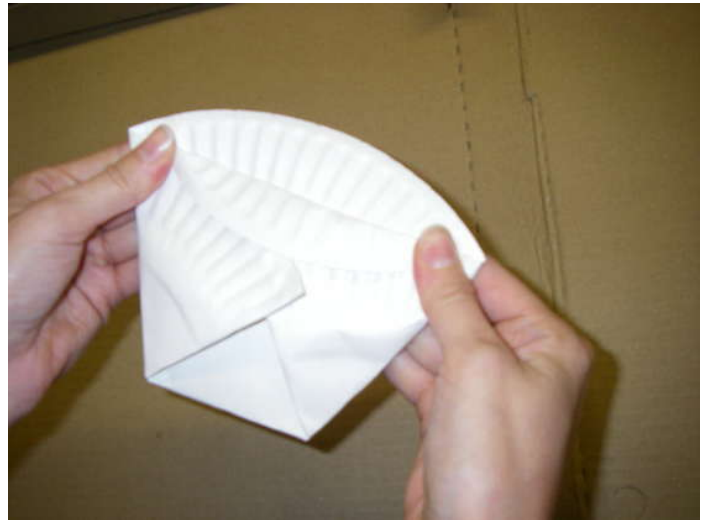
Solution. Float the scope. And hide your good probes.

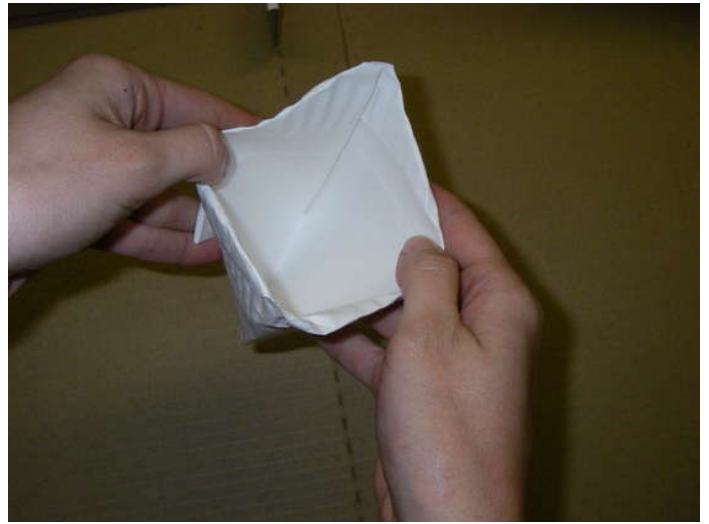
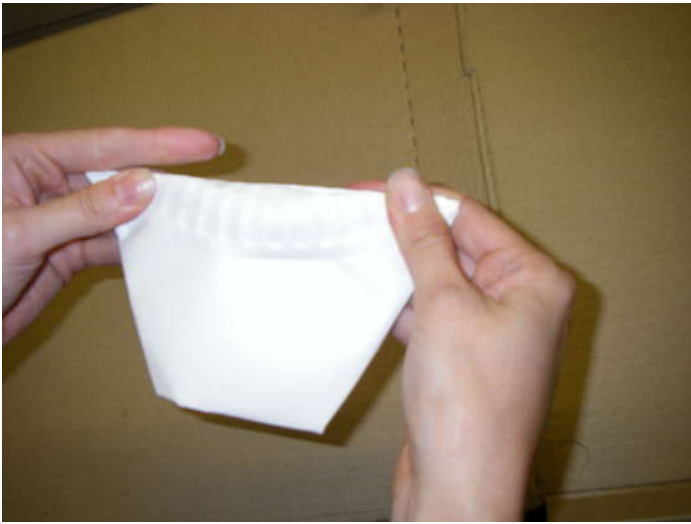


step 27: Folding Cup from Paper Plate

Kelsey demonstrated this fine trick at the Liotta wedding.

1. fold the plate in half.
2. fold the two corners up.
3. fold the lips down on each side
4. pry your cup open, fill it with beverage, and
5. drink from it
6. dispose or recycle your cup responsibly

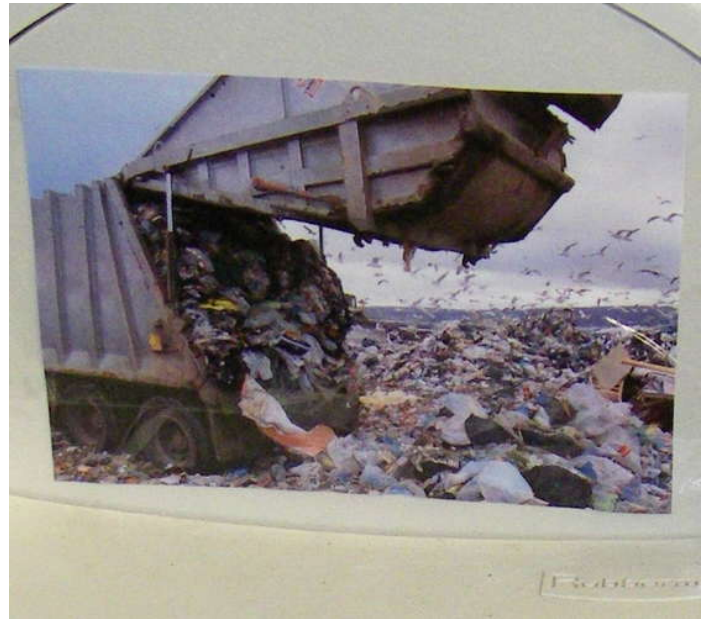




step 28: Landfill Consciousness Wastebasket

This photo is pasted on the lid of the wastebasket at Instructables HQ, SF,CA, USA.
It reminds people that each piece of trash is a nail in the coffin of our beloved mother earth.





step 29: Hasty Blade Guide for Bandsaw

Star says:

spotted at MITERS:

Someone jammed some blue or closed-cell foam around the bandsaw blade so it doesn't wobble all over the place.



step 30: Lathe Tool for Rubber

Star says: Charles figured out how to drill/lathe rubber, with this specialized lathe cutoff tool at MITERS



step 31: Car = Solar Oven to Cure Epoxy

Here in sunny NorCal, the weather is perfect all the time, which means it's slightly too chilly for epoxy to kick off. So after the epoxy gets tacky I put the parts in a hot car in the sun with the windows closed.

It gets all toasty inside and the part is ready for the clamps to come off in no time.

I try not to breathe the fumes in the car when I take the parts out, and I open the windows for a bit before driving anywhere.

In these pictures I'm curing a rudder, a couple of laminated booms and a broken baseball bat.



step 32: Jug Buoy

Someones got a lobster trap or crab trap here in Boston Harbor, which might not be such a good idea.

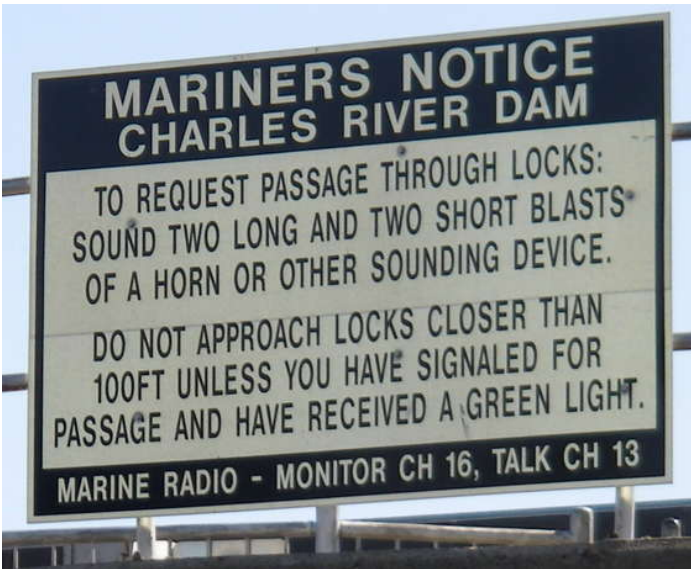
Then again, maybe the 17 mile sewage outfall pipe from the Deer Island treatment plant has cleaned up the water enough.

Anyway the buoy is a handy trick. It's a detergent bottle with the potwarp (rope to the trap) tied to the handle. Appropriately, the brand name is "TIDE".



step 33: Two Long Blasts and Two Short: "Open the locks!"

In the Charles river, paddling to the sea.
The works of man block the estuary
Stasterisk howls four coded blasts
The gates open up and let us past!





step 34: Kedge a Grounded Boat

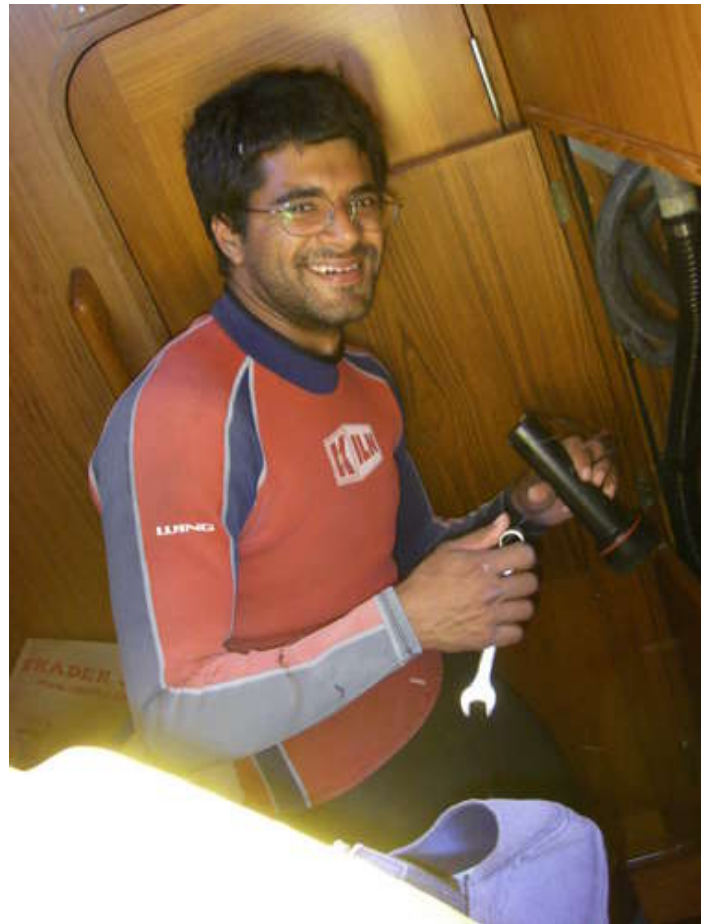
Our Italian neighbors have a keel 9 feet deep.
They got stuck in the mud while we were hydrofoiling nearby off Solara, the Free Yacht.

They got stuck because they ran out of diesel. Their injectors were full of air.

Victor and I went onboard to see what we could do.

We brought some diesel for their tank and tried to bleed their injectors so their motor would fire. We couldn't get the motor to start.

Finally we "kedge" them out of the mud. That means putting the anchor in the dinghy and rowing upwind as far as you can go. Then you throw the anchor in the water. Then the yacht winches in the anchor line, pulling the boat toward the anchor. Repeat as necessary.





step 35: Dirt Box Bridge Bumpers

The pillars of the Bay Bridge are surrounded by boxes of dirt and gravel at their bases. That protects them from collisions with ships.

Recently a ship wrecked itself on that big cement pillar and leaked a bazillian gallons of oil all over the bay, but the bridge was unharmed.



step 36: Tug Plugs into Barge

This barge has a big bay cut into its stern.

When it needs to move they drive a tugboat up into the hole and drive the barge around as if it's a ship.

Then the tugboat goes off to do other work while the barge is parked. No unnecessary mechanical stuff rusting away while the barge sits somewhere.

The name of the tug is "Gulf Reliance". Doesn't that say it all?



step 37: Lock Casters with Clamp

Vincent put a hull on a big dolly to move it around easier. The only problem is it tends to move around also when you're sanding or drilling on it. Solutions: He clamped some C-Clamps on the wheels,

Now it's stationary and makes a good workbench.



step 38: Move a Container with an Undersized Forklift

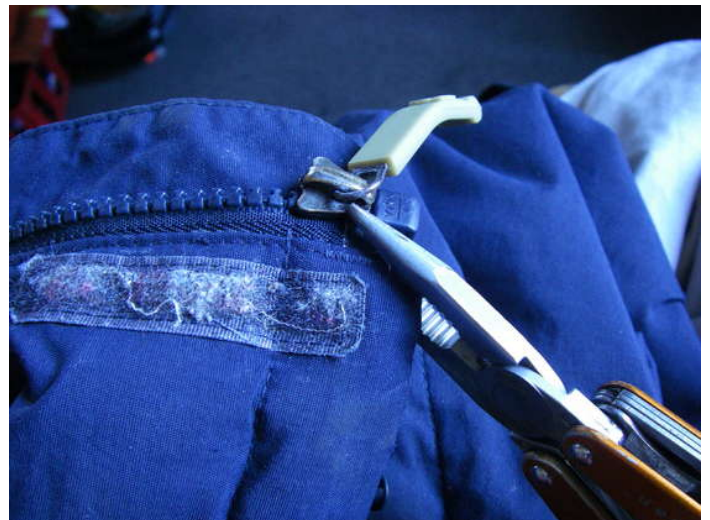
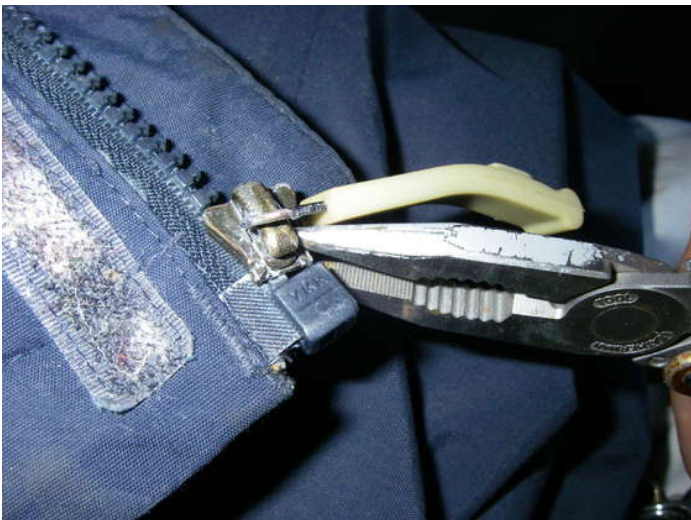
1. Lift one end of the container.
2. Put a four wheel dolly under that end of the container.
3. Lift the other end of the container with the forklift and push the container wherever you want it.



step 39: Fix a Zipper

The first way a zipper dies is usually by not fully zipping the two halves together. Then the zipper separates when the slider is in the up position. Then you get the garment for free.

Wrestle the zipper apart by whatever means won't cause permanent damage. Then take a pair of pliers and carefully pinch the base of the slider together as shown. Just bend it a little. The zipper will now work perfectly.



step 40: Dinghy Ferry Clothesline Loop Rig

The mothership is anchored fore and aft with two anchors so it won't drift and swing. The dinghy is tied to a loop of rope that passes through one pulley on the mothership and another on shore.

Now the crew can go back and forth between ship and shore, and not worry about being stranded. To get the dinghy, just pull it toward you with the loop of rope.

Spotted at Albany Bulb, California



step 41: Free Stuff Wagon

Got too much stuff?

Want people to take it?

Put it in a shopping cart with a big nice sign saying "FREE STUFF".

Take it to a festive area with high foot traffic. If people are near their cars that helps also.

Before long you will have less stuff and other people will have more.

This method tends to get less of your stuff scattered around on the ground than simply placing boxes out.



step 42: Hammer is Meat Tenderizer

Ingrid tenderizes some pork chops with a 20 oz. framing hammer. This is traditional Italian cooking technology, formerly done with a specialized implement exactly like this hammer.

Make a "hammerburger"!



step 43: Bill Boykin's Soap Box Derby Car

Bill built this with his grandkids to race down his driveway in Sebastopol CA. They used it for years and eventually grew up. He learned to build this style of car in his youth making similar vehicles.





Related Instructables



Handy Tricks from Australia
by TimAnderson



Handy Tricks Episode 9
by TimAnderson



Handy Tricks ⁵⁰
by TimAnderson



Handy Tricks 8: Island Handy Tricks
by TimAnderson



Handy Tricks 7: Bike Mods and Projects
by TimAnderson



Yet More Handy Tricks: Volume 5
by TimAnderson



Handy Paper Trick (video)
by greenpro



More Handy Tricks ⁴⁰
by TimAnderson

Comments

[50 comments](#) [Add Comment](#)

[view all 60 comments](#)



karsten.hain says:
Hi Tim,

Jun 19, 2008. 3:59 PM [REPLY](#)

It makes sense that the fuzzy leggings keep your feet warmer, even barefoot. The extremities are warmed by blood flow to that particular limb and in the wrists and lower legs, the blood vessels are close to the surface of the skin, so if you keep heat loss low in those areas, then the blood will retain more of its heat when it makes it to the extremity. This keeps the aforementioned hand/foot warmer than if the blood is "precooled" by passing close to the surface of exposed skin on the way there.



tanmanknex says:
hm, good to know. thnx

May 28, 2009. 9:21 PM [REPLY](#)



sierrabravo says:

May 4, 2009. 9:59 AM [REPLY](#)

my father uses those orange pill containers pharmacies give you (non-childproof or de-childproofed) since he worked at a hospital. my grandfather used to use baby food jars from when the neighbors were raising their kids aeons ago. jars are still there to this day! recycling heh



Kuru Valthaliendil says:

Aug 31, 2008. 4:52 PM [REPLY](#)

People have been doing this back where I'm from since the 1800s. They will even put them on all four sides of a board (usually a 2x2 or 3x3) mounted so that it can rotate. I have seen multiple sizes ranging from 10 large mason jars per side to the average of four baby food jars per side.



johnny q says:

Apr 23, 2009. 8:24 PM [REPLY](#)

Kuru - I like the idea you listed about mounting a group of jars on a 4 x 4 so that they could rotate, but how exactly would you mount the 4 x 4 ? What would it rotate on ?



Kuru Valthaliendil says:

Apr 24, 2009. 12:07 PM [REPLY](#)

Often, to attach the main piece with the jars they would use a 2x4 on each end somehow affixed to the wall/ceiling/workbench long enough so that the spinning jars wouldn't hit when they rotated. They were also usually tight against the center piece so that they didn't exactly spin freely. Some are so old that they no longer spin due to the wood swelling over time in a damp basement. The axles were sometimes as simple and cheap as a 16 penny nail in each side, sometimes a 1" or 1/2" dowel glued or nailed into the center board and sticking through each side, or even bolts/screws with washers. These were old farmers and woodsmen crafting these things. They used whatever they had available or could readily make. Function over form. We are still a bit "Hickish" where I'm from. (My mom, born in 1957, didn't live in a house with running water or electricity until she was 9)



rudedohio says:

Apr 18, 2009. 4:48 PM [REPLY](#)

What do you do if there smart enough to take the rubber band off



Harmodius says:

Jan 26, 2009. 6:12 PM [REPLY](#)

The only thing I dislike about tempura paint is the trouble it takes to dust it with panko and deep fry it before use.



Gamer917 says:

Mar 13, 2009. 8:37 PM [REPLY](#)

haha



omnibot says:

Feb 26, 2009. 3:19 AM [REPLY](#)

Wow .. those cops seem like a bit of a pest.



Ko0LaiD says:

Feb 14, 2009. 8:04 PM [REPLY](#)

I love my warm airline blanket hat, Thanks Tim!



A good name says:

Feb 4, 2009. 8:18 PM [REPLY](#)

Wear a gas mask on airplanes. Preferably with underwear on your head or an Arab headdress.

I'm not the only one who sees an issue with this right? I doubt that the security would let you through with a gasmask.



Phoghat says:

Jan 25, 2009. 3:57 AM [REPLY](#)

Re: 11 I haven't tried it yet (being Sunday morning and 6 AM) but I used to have a blender that came with Mason jars to blend in and for food storage. I'm thinking of trying to fit some jars to the blender base, and then turning the assembly jar down - base up to remove and affix a jar lid. Instant food storage Q E D.

RE 42 The hammer has much too small a surface area and will rip and tear the meat. If you get a large mallet or a metal something about 2-3" inches in diameter and cut the grooves (triangular file) it will work much better. Otherwise, I love your tips.



scafool says:

Nov 12, 2008. 11:58 AM [REPLY](#)

At step 11 I am wondering if the old rubber canning seals are a good fit to replace lost or leaky blender gaskets.



Kuru Valthaliondil says:

Aug 31, 2008. 4:59 PM [REPLY](#)

Another trick from the "Land of 10,000 Lakes" Up north don't forget to take your buoys in before the lake ices over. People back home use these to mark rocks and swimming areas and the like



scafool says:

Nov 12, 2008. 11:53 AM [REPLY](#)

Another use we had for bleach bottle buoys was to mark our mooring anchors. A light line from the buoy could be grabbed with a boathook and your mooring line brought up to the surface



altomic says:

Nov 9, 2008. 4:01 AM [REPLY](#)

i saw a medical documentary years ago about burn victims in India. Where their skin was burnt it was covered by potato skin. the cellular similarity between potato skin and human skin was apparently close enough.

I don't know exactly how it worked, i'm just saying what I saw.



Lokisgodhi says:

Nov 9, 2008. 1:51 AM [REPLY](#)

Re: Hanging Jar Parts Bins

My grandfather built something like this for himself and my dad. On his he attached the jar lids to all four sides of a 4 by 4 that hung by brackets to the rafters so you could spin it to find the jar that had what you wanted in it.



stasterisk says:

Oct 28, 2008. 7:15 PM [REPLY](#)

In the US, shopping carts have two fixed rear casters, and two swiveling front casters.

In Britain, all four casters swivel, making their shopping carts fully holonomic in the x-y plane. That is, you can move them sideways with no problem, and no grrrrrating of rubber on floor.

The construction is also simpler and uses less metal.



scafool says:

Oct 27, 2008. 3:47 PM [REPLY](#)

Is that an x-acto knife in the tool holder?



stasterisk says:

Oct 28, 2008. 7:13 PM [REPLY](#)

yes, it's an exacto knife



shadeofsound says:

Oct 25, 2008. 12:34 AM [REPLY](#)

can also be done with lighter, torch, etc. by following the same principles, i.e. don't touch the flame to it.



carpespasm says:

Oct 14, 2008. 6:29 AM [REPLY](#)

Good stuff. I've had to kedge my john boat in a creek before when the wind and tide were conspiring against my upstream travel. I just tossed the anchor out as far as possible then pulled the boat forward. It takes a while to make headway. Never knew there was a term for it.



creativitiser says:

Oct 5, 2008. 2:26 AM [REPLY](#)

Yay! Thanks to tip 39 I fixed the zipper on my rain jacket - it's been broken and annoying me for months! New zips are expensive - I'm ludicrously happy about it!



noahh says:

Sep 29, 2008. 10:12 PM [REPLY](#)

Wow. That is incredibly scary sounding.



MikeEC216 says:

Aug 31, 2008. 8:59 PM [REPLY](#)

As a proud Oklahoman I see this any time I'm on a lake. We use it to Trot Line fish. Gather up all your old bottles, get some twine, buy a huge pack of leaders with hooks already on them. Once you get some minnows somehow you can end your day with more then your legal limit of fish. The only kicker is that you have to have an eye for where to lay your lines.



elnorte says:

May 16, 2008. 5:06 AM [REPLY](#)

Please! Always CLOSE THE BOX OF MATCHES before striking the match!!



PyroManiac96 says:

its always more fun when you leave the box open, but if your not outside, i agree with elnorte

Aug 6, 2008. 5:42 PM [REPLY](#)



PyroManiac96 says:

P.S. thats how i got my first 1st degree burn by leaving the box open :P

Aug 6, 2008. 5:43 PM [REPLY](#)



A good name says:

What do you use charcoal for?

Jul 13, 2008. 1:54 PM [REPLY](#)



PyroManiac96 says:

Uses

Aug 6, 2008. 5:37 PM [REPLY](#)

One of the most important historical applications of wood charcoal was as a constituent of gunpowder. It was also used in metallurgical operations as a reducing agent, but its application has been diminished by the introduction of coke, anthracite smalls, etc. A limited quantity is made up into the form of drawing crayons; but the greatest amount is used as a fuel, which burns hotter and cleaner than wood. Charcoal is often used by blacksmiths, for cooking, and for other industrial applications.

[edit] Cooking fuel

Charcoal briquettes are widely used for outdoor grilling and barbecues in backyards and on camping trips.

In many non-industrialized countries, for instance in Africa, charcoal is used for everyday cooking by a large portion of the population. This is potentially a serious health problem when used indoors since carbon monoxide (CO) is a combustion product.[4]

[edit] Industrial fuel

A charcoal powered bus being "fired up" in post war Japan (late 1940's)

A charcoal powered bus being "fired up" in post war Japan (late 1940's)

Historically, charcoal was used in great quantities for smelting iron in bloomeries and later blast furnaces and finery forges. This use was replaced by coke during the Industrial Revolution. For this purpose, charcoal in England was measured in dozens (or loads) consisting of 12 sacks or shems or seams, each of 8 bushels.

[edit] Automotive fuel

In times of scarce petroleum, automobiles and even buses have been converted to burn wood gas (gas mixture containing primarily carbon monoxide) released by burning charcoal or wood in a wood gas generator. 1931 Tang Zhongming developed an automobile powered by charcoal, and these cars were popular in China until 1950s. In occupied France during World War II, wood and wood charcoal production for such vehicles (called gazogènes) increased from pre-war figures of approximately fifty thousand tons a year to almost half a million tons in 1943.[5]

[edit] Purification/Filtration

The porosity of activated charcoal accounts for its ability to readily adsorb gases and liquids; charcoal is often used to filter water or adsorb odors. Its pharmacological action depends on the same property; it adsorbs the gases of the stomach and intestines, and also liquids and solids (hence its use in the treatment of certain poisonings). Charcoal filters are used in some types of gas mask to remove poisonous gases from inhaled air. Wood charcoal also to some extent removes coloring material from solutions, but animal charcoal is generally more effective.

Animal charcoal or bone black is the carbonaceous residue obtained by the dry distillation of bones; it contains only about 10% carbon, the remainder being calcium and magnesium phosphates (80%) and other inorganic material originally present in the bones. It is generally manufactured from the residues obtained in the glue and gelatin industries. Its decolorizing power was applied in 1812 by Derosne to the clarification of the syrups obtained in sugar refining; but its use in this direction has now greatly diminished, owing to the introduction of more active and easily managed reagents. It is still used to some extent in laboratory practice. The decolorizing power is not permanent, becoming lost after using for some time; it may be revived, however, by washing and reheating.

[edit] Art

Two charcoal pencils in paper sheaths designed to be unwrapped as the pencil is used and two charcoal pencils in wooden sheaths.

Two charcoal pencils in paper sheaths designed to be unwrapped as the pencil is used and two charcoal pencils in wooden sheaths.

Four sticks of vine charcoal and four sticks of compressed charcoal.

Four sticks of vine charcoal and four sticks of compressed charcoal.

Charcoal drawing

Charcoal drawing

Charcoal is used in art for drawing, making rough sketches in painting and is one of the possible media for making a parsemage. It must usually be preserved by the application of a fixative. Artists generally utilize charcoal in three forms:


- Vine charcoal is created by burning sticks of wood (usually willow or linden/Tilia) into soft, medium, and hard consistencies. Bamboo charcoal is the principal tool in Japanese Sumi-e (?? lit: charcoal drawing) art.
- Compressed charcoal charcoal powder mixed with gum binder compressed into round or square sticks. The amount of binder determines the hardness of the stick. Compressed charcoal is used in charcoal pencils.
- Powdered charcoal is often used to "tone" or cover large sections of a drawing surface. Drawing over the toned areas will darken it further, but the artist can also lighten (or completely erase) within the toned area to create lighter tones.


[edit] Horticulture


One additional use of charcoal rediscovered recently is in horticulture. Although American gardeners have been using charcoal for a short while, research on Terra preta soils in the Amazon has found the widespread use of biochar by pre-Columbian natives to turn otherwise unproductive soil into very rich soil. The technique may find modern application, both to improve soils and as a means of carbon sequestration.


sorry for the REALLY LONG comment. article and full credits go to wikipedia.com.


here is the link Wikipedia: Charcoal


 **PeanutTheKidnapper** says: Jul 25, 2008. 9:44 AM [REPLY](#)
TSA Preferred ID Just looked this up on the TSA website. Apparently the additional screening was just added in May of 2008. I'm curious if before that you just got a pat on the back for not having ID. I guess sometimes when the GOV says, "Do/Have/Be this, or else." it's smart to ask, "What's the "Or else"?"

 **instructabully** says: Jul 23, 2008. 9:17 AM [REPLY](#)
"5. The air in airplanes is stale, dry, and full of germs."
Not sure where this myth started, but the air in airplanes is extremely sterile. The jet engines intake high altitude air and compress it. Most of this compressed air is fed to the engines but a comparatively smaller portion (large by building HVAC standards) is used to pressurize the cabin. This cabin air is also not stagnant. It enters at the engine pods then travels to the front via overhead ducts. Below each passenger are exhaust ducts that expel air out an opening at the rear of the plane, continuously allowing cabin air to escape. A sick passenger is in close proximity to others, but is less likely to infect due to the down-flow of sterile air.


 **craig3** says: Jul 12, 2008. 7:49 AM [REPLY](#)
this would work if you made them slightly smaller for the wrists? my hands are frozen


 **kill-a-watt** says: Jun 25, 2008. 9:20 AM [REPLY](#)
I'm currently drying out flooded electronics in my car. Wash unpowered electronics off with fresh water and dry completely in a car in the sun with a window cracked.
This should also work well when making jerky or dried fruit, although you should probably figure out some how to screen the open window to keep out bugs.
Also, drying apples and curing epoxy at the same time is likely a no-no.


 **kill-a-watt** says: Jun 25, 2008. 9:14 AM [REPLY](#)
that looks like a cutoff tool. How did he shape it?
I've heard the way to go is to soak the urethane piece in dry ice/acetone bath and then mount and quickly lathe with standard tools.
Never tried it though.

 **benthekahn** says: Jun 22, 2008. 3:44 PM [REPLY](#)
My class went on a field trip to Alcatraz that day. The water was shiny and rainbowy.


 **santy22** says: Jun 20, 2008. 7:23 PM [REPLY](#)
Haha
Free Laughther
Free lol
Did it empty fast??

 **karsten.hain** says: Jun 19, 2008. 12:02 PM [REPLY](#)
Happy to see an eco-consciouss cavalier here! 90% as good a gas mileage as a toyota prius (when driving hypermile style) with 0% of the waste of buying a new car when your old one was serviceable!

 **skunkbait** says: Jun 2, 2008. 1:07 AM [REPLY](#)
Nice to know. I haven't forgotten my ID/Passport since 911. Anonymity used to be so nice! Great i'ble. I always enjoy the Tricks i'bles.

 **fwjs28** says: May 16, 2008. 1:54 PM [REPLY](#)
whats the white stuff below the motorcycle??drugs...dried skeet.....hmmmm....or maybe a mass of bird crap.....

 **_Ko0LaiD_** says: May 22, 2008. 8:21 PM [REPLY](#)
cat litter

 **Notbob** says: May 16, 2008. 3:06 PM [REPLY](#)
It looks like the stuff you put on the ground when you spill chemicals. It sucks it up making it easier to clean up.



Tomcat94 says:
Kitty litter? O.o

May 16, 2008. 6:17 PM [REPLY](#)



Notbob says:
thats possible... but there is a special kind for chemicals.

May 19, 2008. 5:55 PM [REPLY](#)



tom e. turner says:
a minivan maybe too tight....a larger cargo van is about right.
good for helping people move/store stuff too.

May 20, 2008. 3:53 PM [REPLY](#)



theburn7 says:
5. The air in airplanes is stale, dry, and full of germs.
Wear a gas mask on airplanes. Preferably with underwear on your head or an Arab headdress.

May 19, 2008. 8:59 PM [REPLY](#)

If i done that, i would be considered a terrorist, cmon, very germophobic or terroristish. I forgive you tho, good instructable



Lithium Rain says:
Very nice!
Tim, do you mind if I make an X amount of handy tricks instructable?

May 19, 2008. 6:00 PM [REPLY](#)



GorillazMiko says:
I really, and I mean *really* want that car in step 1.

May 17, 2008. 4:52 PM [REPLY](#)

So oi' mate, this deserves a well done did-diddily 5/5 stars!



westfw says:
In step 9, isn't that Randy on the end opposite Christy? Or am I tricked by usernames vs real names?

May 16, 2008. 1:59 AM [REPLY](#)

[view all 60 comments](#)