

THE FOLLOWING ARTICLE IS OFFERED FOR INFORMATION PURPOSES ONLY! The manufacture of any explosive or primary initiator is a dangerous undertaking!

DO NOT attempt to make or use any of the compounds detailed in the following text without formal training! Injuries or loss of life is possible if accidents occur! The Independent American, it's staff and/or writers are NOT responsible for the actions of others.

Double Based Smokeless Powder For Handguns and Shotguns

This is to be our last entry in this series of making your own ammunition. We had more entries planned and there is much more to say on the subject. Unfortunately, *The Independent American* must close down it's internet publication. Hopefully, we have disseminated enough information to give you an idea of what is necessary to secure your Right to equip yourself with arms and the ammunition to keep your arms functional.

There have been a lot of questions as to whether such information should be published even among those of us working at *The Independent American*. In the end, it is the attacks upon our Right to purchase and stock ammunition that convinced us of the need to publish this information. Anti-American freedom-phobes within Congress have been consistent in their legislative attacks on our Rights. Not the least of these attacks have been directed against Americans' Right to keep and bear arms. The Right to keep and bear arms is the final protector of all other Rights, freedoms and liberty. As one freedom-phobe (Sarah Brady) stated to another freedom-phobe (Slick Willy Clinton), "We will never achieve our dream of a socialist America until those who would never agree are disarmed." That is the goal of the anti-Americans who are attacking our

freedoms.

Apparently, America is not yet socialist enough for these leftists. They will not be satisfied until America has collapsed into full blown communism. We are not that far off. If they have gotten away with so much so far, what do they have planned that they still fear armed Americans? Let's not find out. Stock back ammunition while there is still time. Stock back reloading supplies. This may not be enough. Those stocks will run dry should resistance against anti-American forces ever turn physical. In that event you are either back to swords and clubs against tanks and helicopters or you and a community of like minded individuals can brew your own ammo for America's needs.

One point we have been making throughout this series of articles is that you must work with a community. The manufacture of smokeless powder is not only a dangerous undertaking, it is very difficult. Long hours are involved not just in manufacturing the end product, but in manufacturing or acquiring the components. To produce a quality end product requires focus and many hands. A single individual *may* manufacture a workable product, but certainly not in any quantity capable of supplying a group nor with any consistency necessary to maintain performance. This takes a well equipped laboratory manned by several sober people with focus on what they are doing. You must prepare for this beginning now.

We have covered the manufacture or acquisition of the necessary components, as well as the manufacture of crude propellants like red or white powder, the manufacture of black powder and of modern smokeless powders such as Cordite MD, and single based smokeless formulae. Our final entry concerns the manufacture of double based powder formulated for shotguns and handguns.

Double based powder utilizes nitroglycerin as a component. Nitroglycerin is **EXTREMELY HAZARDOUS** to work with. I am in no manner kidding you!!! If you work with nitro long enough you will eventually be blown into flaming, flying cinders! My advice is to work with a somewhat safer single based powder and work up a formula suitable for shotguns and pistols. Granted, it is easier to make a double based powder work for this purpose. For this

reason, I believe it is prudent to dispense the following information on double based powders. The powder listed below is suitable for shotgun and pistol chamberings. It *must never* be used to load rifle ammunition!

WARNING! THIS FORMULA MUST BE TESTED IN FIREARMS WITH VERY STRONG ACTION! IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT YOU TEST FIRE AMMUNITION IN A REVOLVER IF POSSIBLE OR IN A BREAK ACTION OR PUMP SHOTGUN. TEST FIRE IN A PISTOL OR SEMI-AUTOMATIC FIREARM ONLY AFTER THE LOADED ROUND HAS BEEN DETERMINED SAFE. YOU MUST TEST FIRE TO BE CERTAIN THE ROUND WILL CYCLE THE ACTION.

CHECK CARTRIDGES AND FIREARM FOR SIGNS OF PRESSURE AND DAMAGE. IF SUCH SIGNS ARE PRESENT INCREASE AMOUNT OF POTASSIUM NITRATE, DINITROTOLUENE AND/OR VINSOL RESIN AND/OR DIBUTYL PHTHALATE.

Materials required:

1 large, glass mixing bowl
 1 measuring cup
 1 electric hand mixer or non-electric hand mixer or professional mixing machine
 2 flat cookie sheets
 1 glass water spray bottle
 1 rock tumbling machine
 1 exacto-knife
 2 lengths of 1/4 inch plywood approx. 12 inches by 12 inches
 2 lengths of 20 gauge sheet metal 12 inches by 18 inches
 nylon fine mesh window screen 12 inches by 12 inches
 finely powdered graphite
 Nitrocellulose/guncotton (See The Independent American January/February 2005)
 Nitroglycerin (See The Independent American November/December 2004)
 potassium sulfate
 ethyl or methyl centralite
 dibutyl or diethyl phthalate
 ether-alcohol (See The Independent American March/April 2005)

dinitrotoluene
 diphenylamine or acetone diphenylamine
 potassium nitrate

Procedure:

Before beginning, prepare your plywood sheets. Place a length of sheet metal on your work bench. Place a plywood length on the sheet metal. The sheet metal should extend 3 inches to each side of the plywood length. Fold these extensions over and onto the plywood's back. Bend the folds firmly into place. Repeat with second set of plywood and sheet metal lengths.

1. Begin by preparing your nitrocellulose. Nitrocellulose should be stored moist. You will need to dry your nitrocellulose out in the same manner. Remove the nitrocellulose from it's storage jars with wooden tongs or chopsticks. If the nitrocellulose is wet, **VERY CAREFULLY, BUT GENTLY**, squeeze some of the water out. If the nitrocellulose is not wet, **DO NOT SQUEEZE!!! Nitrocellulose is an explosive and can be detonated through friction, pressure, flame and static discharge!!!**

2. Place the nitrocellulose in a measuring cup and compress, **NOT TOO FORCEFULLY!** Measure out 6 cups. Place the 6 cups of nitrocellulose in glass jars with moistened desiccant. Place the glass jars no less than three feet from an infrared electric heater. Check the desiccant periodically. When the desiccant is dry the nitrocellulose is ready for use.

3. Place a glass measuring cup into a shallow pan. Fill the shallow pan with ice and sprinkle rock salt onto the ice. Allow the ice to melt into water, adding more ice as necessary.

4. Allow the glass measuring cup to cool to 50 degrees Fahrenheit.

5. **VERY SLOWLY!** add nitroglycerin into the measuring cup by tilting the cup and placing a teaspoon of nitroglycerin into the cup near the bottom and on the tilted side. Allow the nitroglycerin to slowly trickle from the teaspoon into the cup.

6. Repeat step 5 until 2 and 2/5 of cups is

accumulated.

7. Place the 6 cups of dry nitrocellulose onto a cookie sheet. **VERY SLOWLY AND VERY EVENLY!** pour the nitroglycerin over the nitrocellulose. Allow this mixture to set for 5 minutes.

DO NOT ALLOW THIS MIXTURE TO RISE ABOVE 50 DEGREES FAHRENHEIT! THIS MIXTURE IS STILL HIGHLY UNSTABLE AND MAY EXPLODE!

8. **VERY CAREFULLY!** add a teaspoon of cold water to the measuring cup in the same manner as you added the nitroglycerin until the cup is filled. Add baking soda and allow to set for half an hour, then rinse and clean.

9. Fill the measuring cup to 4 cups of ether-alcohol and pour **evenly and slowly** over the nitrocellulose/nitroglycerin mixture.

10. Very Slowly stir the ether-alcohol into the mixture with a spatula. Your mixture is now stable and can be more readily worked.

WARNING!!! WHILE THE MIXTURE IS STABLE FROM SPONTANEOUS EXPLOSION, IT IS STILL VERY FLAMMABLE. KEEP THE MIXTURE COOL AND AWAY FROM FLAMES!

11. Pour the mixture into the glass bowl.

12. Measure 1/3 cup ethyl centralite into the measuring cup and pour into the nitrocellulose/nitroglycerin/ether-alcohol mixture. Stir continuously while pouring.

13. Set your mixer on the lowest setting and begin mixing the nitrocellulose/ether-alcohol mixture. **BE certain NOT to splatter the mixture out of the bowl!**

[Thoroughly mix the colloid. Work with two people. One should operate the mixer while the other operates a spatula to move the colloid mixture from the sides of the bowl, back into the area being mixed.]

Continue this operation for an hour. Add more

ether-alcohol if necessary.

14. At the end of one hour, pour 1/2 cup of acetone diphenylamine slowly into the colloid while continuing to mix. Continue to mix for another hour.

[Acetone diphenylamine is used in the rubber industry and is not regulated so Independent Americans may come by it. To manufacture acetone diphenylamine dissolve 1 part diphenylamine in 4 parts acetone. Weigh the product on a specific gravity scale. Adjust the formula until your acetone diphenylamine reaches a specific gravity of between 1.06 and 1.12. If your product has a specific gravity less than 1.06 add acetone. If it is heavier than 1.12, add diphenylamine.]

WARNING!!! diphenylamine is highly carcinogenic!!! Wear rubber gloves, hazmat suit and respirator!!! DO NOT ALLOW ANY MATERIAL TO CONTACT YOUR SKIN! TAKE SPECIAL CAUTION WHILE MIXING!

15. At the end of one hour, dissolve 1/2 tablespoon of potassium nitrate into 1/2 cup of ether-alcohol. Slowly pour this into the mixture while continuing to mix. Continue to mix for one hour.

16. At the end of one hour, dissolve 1/2 tablespoon of potassium sulfate into 1/2 cup of ether-alcohol. Slowly pour this into the mixture while continuing to mix. Continue to mix for one hour.

Read procedure 7 carefully! It calls for potassium SULFATE here. NOT potassium NITRATE!

17. Measure 1/5 tablespoon dibutyl phthalate in the measuring cup. Pour the dibutyl phthalate slowly into the mixture while mixing. Continue to mix for 1/2 hour.

18. Measure 1/8 cup dinitrotoluene. Slowly pour the dinitrotoluene into the mixture while continuing to mix.

19. If your mixture is becoming pasty at this point slowly add 1/3 cup ether-alcohol while continuing

to mix.

20. Repeat step 10 if mixture is still too dry. If mixture is readily workable go to step 21.

21. Continue to mix for at least 1/2 hour or longer until mixture becomes pasty.

22. Remove the mixture from the bowl and place one of the lengths of plywood.

23. Roll the mixture out onto the plywood evenly with the rolling pen. **You must be certain that the mixture maintain even thickness and has no air bubbles.**

24. Place the second plywood length on top of the mixture. Press **firmly and evenly** so that the mixture is flattened to the approximate thickness of the window screening. **You must be certain that the mixture maintains even thickness.**

25. Lay the window screening over the mixture and place the second length of plywood over the screen. Press very firmly. **Be certain the screen cuts through the mixture it's entire thickness and with each square.** Use C clamps if necessary.

26. Repeat steps 1 through 25 until enough powder is manufactured to fill a rock tumbler barrel 3/4 full.

27. Place a layer of graphite into the tumbler barrel, then a layer of powder. Repeat until tumbler is full.

28. Place the barrel on the rock tumbler and start the machine. Run the tumbler for a half hour.

29. Poor a thin layer of the graphite and powder on a cookie sheet.

30. Winnow the contents of the cookie sheet by lightly blowing on the contents to separate the powdered graphite from the powder that is now coated with graphite.

[Your powder is now coated with graphite and will be the same color. Do not touch the powder as your skin oils and salts will degrade it. If you must move the powder use tweezers or spatulas. Do not remove the graphite coating from the powder.]

26. While winnowing remove the graphite from the

cookie sheet and save in coffee cans for re-use.

27. With the winnowed powder on the cookie sheet, winnow again by tossing the powder no more than a couple of inches off the sheet, then repeat steps 25 and 26. When the powder grains look uniformly smooth go to step 28.

28. Poor the powder from the cookie sheet into metal cans for storage. Place desiccant in with the powder (**NOT LOOSE**) and seal the metal cans.

When you have stored this batch of powder, begin preparing more nitrocellulose and follow all of the steps again until you have manufactured enough powder to supply everyone in your group or community with the necessary amount of ammunition needed.

Keep the proportion of components used as exact as possible. THIS IS VERY IMPORTANT! To help keep your powder uniform, mix equal amounts of the several batches you will make together in the tumbler and tumble for 1/2 hour. This should mix the powder together thoroughly and create a single uniform batch.

ALWAYS test your cartridges in a sidearm with a strong action, preferably a revolver. Be certain your semi-auto is of good quality. After firing check the barrel for bloopers or obstruction. Check the cartridge for signs of pressure. Also check the bolt face, chamber and throat and bore for wear, erosion and pressure.

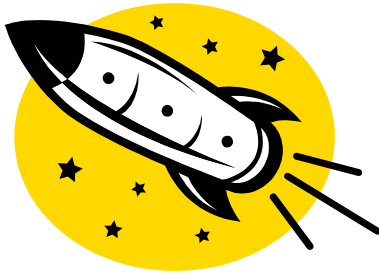
Another option would be to make a zip-gun or "experimental" weapon to test your ammo in without risking valuable firearms.

Dinitrotoluene may be substituted with ethyl or methyl centralite or vinsol resin. When substituting with vinsol resin, double the mixing time and be absolutely certain that your vinsol resin is dissolved in ether-alcohol to a watery consistency and that the vinsol resin is mixed THOROUGHLY into your mixture! Use the same measure of vinsol resin as you would with the dinitrotoluene. If you have problems with pressure when using vinsol resin, reduce the amount used.

Dibutyl Phthalate can be easily substituted with diethyl phthalate, which is much easier to come

by through the health food industry as an agent to denature alcohol. It may also be used as a substitute for dinitrotoluene if necessary. When substituting diethyl phthalate for dinitrotoluene, use 1/4 cup diethyl phthalate in step 18.

This is a fine powder that will back a high energy punch. It is suitable for shotgun loadings and pistol loadings. You will need to experiment with loading for the pistol calibers and shotshell gauges particular for you and your group. My advice is to stock up on what you need now so you do not need to mess with nitroglycerin.



The right of a citizen to bear arms, in lawful defense of himself or the State, is absolute. He does not derive it from the State government. It is one of the high powers" delegated directly to the citizen, and `is excepted out of the general powers of government. 'A law cannot be passed to infringe upon or impair it, because it is above the law, and independent of the lawmaking power." [Cockrum v. State, 24 Tex.394, at 401-402 (1859)]

History does not long entrust the care of freedom to the weak or the timid.

-Dwight D. Eisenhower

The true danger is when liberty is nibbled away, for expedience, and by parts.

- Edmund Burke (1899)

One man with courage is a majority. - Thomas Jefferson

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That the said Constitution shall never be construed to authorize Congress to infringe the just liberty of the press or the rights of conscience; or to prevent the people of The United States who are peaceable citizens from keeping their own arms... - Samuel Adams, Debates and Proceedings in the Convention of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, at 86-87 (Pierce & Hale, eds., Boston, 1850).