

Always be Armed

“Inside every granite hewn tough guy is a defeated man waiting to be carved out! Every strike thrown, every blow landed is a chip at his façade until his granite will is but gravel strewn about the floor”

Start carving motherfuckers and here is a whole list of tools to get started.

Is The Garrotte a Legitimate Self-Defense Tool?

Some people have a heavy opinion on this issue. They have opinions as to the legitimacy of the garrotte as a tool of self-preservation. Others have strong opinions as to the definition of "garrotte."

[I'm not going to debate the spelling, I'm using Col. Rex Applegate's spelling of the word and whenever you see me use something different, it's a typo.]

Some people say, "Well, the garrotte is a..." and then they define it to the exclusion of anything else. The simple fact of the matter is, a "Garrotte" was an execution device that was utilized in Spain up until the mid-1970s. A few other countries used it now and again. And there were many different types of garrottes used as execution devices.

When someone says, "The garrotte is only a killing weapon..." Technically, they are correct, but they are not usually speaking of the execution device that was once used for Capital Punishment, therefore, they are incorrect in reality.

The number one deciding factor is intent. How you use it. You can use some "garrottes" as a Flexible Weapon with no intent whatsoever to kill.

The garrotte had a couple of different forms. One had a metallic collar that was placed around your neck and the collar had a threaded hole that a bolt was inserted through. On the other end of the bolt was a large "T" handle for the executioner. The condemned was seated in a chair, the collar placed over a wooden post and the head of the prisoner, then, the executioner began to tighten the contraption until your neck was crushed or your vertebrae were dislocated, broken or crushed.

Later versions had a blade that ran through the bolt for what was thought to be a "mercy killing." The blade was slipped between the vertebrae, severing the spinal cord.

In a pinch, the improvised garrotte could be a seat, wooden post, strong cord and a metal bar. The noose being affixed around the post and neck of the condemned, the bar could be inserted and the cord twisted until death occurred. Much like using a tourniquet and stick.

These are "garrottes." The important thing to remember is, if someone says, "No, that's not a garrotte, this is a garrotte..." And they are speaking in absolutes or anything other than an execution device, they're incorrect. More on that later.

Other "Garrottes"

So, if we exclude the execution devices, what is left? If we do exclude the execution devices, any flexible or semi-flexible weapon that cuts the air off by compressing and/or crushing the trachea, severs (up to and including complete decapitation) the trachea and other vital structures (carotid arteries, jugular veins, vagus nerve, etc.) or breaks the neck, we have a list of items that have been used as a "garrotte."

One Point of View: The Debate

I was once involved in a debate with a person who insisted that a "True Garrotte" would be a "cutter." Meaning, a piano wire or guitar string garrotte. The wire being so fine that it would cut into the structures rather than compress/crush them.

If we trace the lineage of these hand held devices back to the origin of the word, as I did above, we see the "Original Garrotte" did nothing of the sort. The "Original" killed by compression and/or crushing and sometimes neck fracture.

Yet, I consider the "cutters" a form of garrotte because there is modern history to back that up. However, the "cutter" type of garrotte is not a "true" garrotte. It's just another type of garrotte.

The "Cutter"

Back before delicatessens had slicer machines, the cheese was usually cut by a wire. Yes, a "*Cheese Cutter*" was basically a wire with two handles. As far as I can tell, this is where the "Modern Cutter Garrotte" came from. The source is Melton's "Clandestine Warfare."

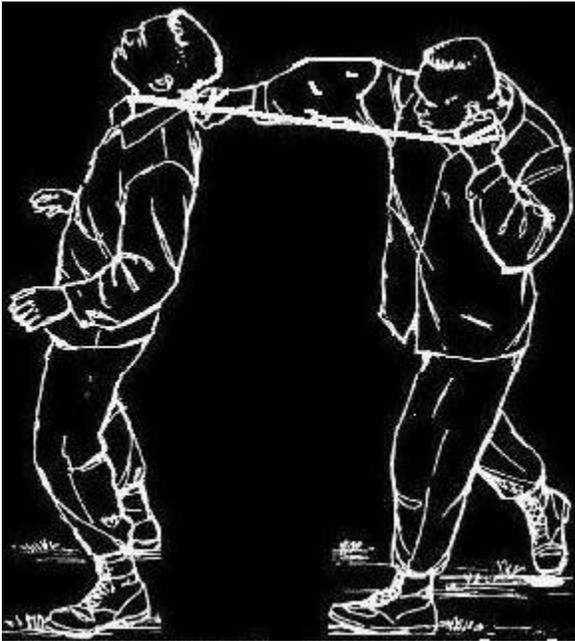
The British SOE and American OSS used these devices, to what degree I do not know. Some wire garrottes with machined and knurled brass handles (for enhanced grip) were manufactured and issued. They are in the OSS Weapons Catalog, as well as other references...

Gigli bone saws were also used as "Survival Saws" as well as "Cutter" Garrottes during World War Two.

The "Crusher"

"The Garrotte. Thugs in India have long been known for their method of strangling, called garrotting. It can be executed with a rope, strong cord or a piece of twisted cloth about three feet long with a noose in one end. This is a garrotte. Properly applied, it produces a deadly, silent strangle.

Slip the noose over the forefinger of the right hand so that the loop lies down across the palm toward the little finger. Close the right hand and pick up the free end of the cord with the left hand, so that the thumb and fingers are on the inner side of the cord and the end is even with the little finger. Approach the victim from the rear and, opening the right hand, throw the loop over his head with the left. Use the left hand to draw the noose through the right hand until it is nearly taut about the neck. Then close the right hand about the noose at the back of the victim's neck and twist as you would in applying a tourniquet. With your hand against the back of his neck and your right arm stiff, the victim is held at arm's length and is unable to free himself from the strangling cord or to reach his attacker. A hard pull to the rear at this point will make the victim fall backward and cause his chin to fold down over the cord, thus adding his own body weight to the pressure of the strangle." ~Col. Rex Applegate, Kill or Get Killed



In the illustration above you can see the finishing position of what Applegate describes. The right hand is **INSIDE** the loop, when the loop is pulled tight around the neck and your hand, a fist is made with the open hand then the fist is cranked counterclockwise. Much like a stick in a tourniquet. The palm is open and oriented **UP**, then closed into a fist and oriented **DOWN**.

What Colonel Applegate was describing was the method and weapon of the ancient Thuggee Cult of India. This is where we get our slang word of "thug." The word "Thug" comes from the Hindi verb, "*thaglana*," which means, "to deceive."

I do not know if the garrotte described above contained a rupee or not. There is another line of thought that there was more than one way to strangle with a scarf [rumal]. And that was, a rupee or rupees [coins] were tied into the end of the scarf to give it weight so it could be thrown around the neck and then the strangle was initiated. In fact, more than a line of thought, there is proof of this from the period of British Occupation of India when the British suppressed the Thuggee Cult and executed and imprisoned thousands of Thugs.

Throwing the Japanese Fighting Chain, which is weighted, in such a way that the chain is propelled around the neck is also throughout Japanese Martial Arts that focus on the Manrikigusari/Kusarifundo.

In "Kill or Get Killed," Applegate then mentions the "Stick Strangle." This is a triangular method where the stick is held in reverse grip and inserted under the chin from behind (or from the front)...John Steyers covered this Stick Strangle in his book, "Cold Steel."

Then, he addresses other methods of strangulation:

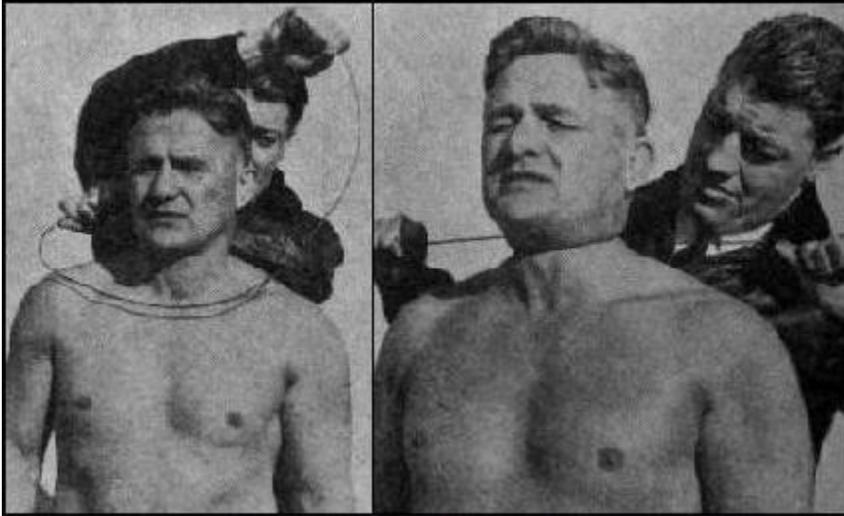
"The Cord Strangle. Another type of strangulation, as old as history in the Far East, is accomplished with any light cord or wire of good tensile strength, about 18 inches long. The thinner the cord or wire, the quicker will be the effectiveness. Tie a loop at each end of the cord, or tie small wooden blocks on the ends, so that a secure grip can be taken. Approaching the man from the rear, throw him off balance, as with the stick [strangle], with your right foot against the inside of his right knee. With a hand on each end of the cord (the cord held taut), bring the cord over the victim's head and back against the throat. Cross the hands at the rear of the neck and apply pressure both ways. Strangulation is quick and silent..." ~Applegate

You will notice that Col. Applegate describes the cord/wire as being taut when going over the head. During the approach, the arms would not be crossed. After the garrotte is thrown over the head, the arms would then cross at the wrists/forearms. Imagine holding your hands out in front of you as if you are preparing to clap your hands together. Then, with your right palm, touch your left elbow and simultaneously, with the left palm, touch your right elbow. The forearms are parallel to one another. That is the motion you make. This also takes a shorter cord/wire to use effectively. The wrists/forearms are crossed after the loop has been thrown over the head, not before.

This is actually a weaker garrotting method than having the arms crossed on the approach as is currently taught in the U.S. Army's Combatives Manual, 21-150 where the arms are crossed at the wrists/forearms on the approach. Then when the

loop is thrown over the head of the enemy, the arms are jerked apart. This is much stronger.

There is another, older way of achieving the same position without approaching with the arms already crossed. It was depicted in the U.S. Navy's World War Two Hand to Hand Combat Manual for Naval Aviators, the famous "V-5" manual. This is shown below.



Notice that as the years passed, not much changed. This is the U.S. Army's Field Manual 21-150 marked December 1971. Showing the same, basic method.



In this method, your left hand makes a cross-body movement and is positioned at the back of the enemy's right shoulder. The right hand holding the other end of the garrotte is then looped over the head of the enemy in a semi-circular, counterclockwise motion and then the arms are pulled apart.

Takedowns, Using the Enemy's Weight

There are four basic ways to take someone to the ground immediately following any of these maneuvers.

#1 Pulling straight downward and back.

#2 Kicking the back of the knee and pulling back and down.

#3 Knee strike to the lower back and a pull backwards and down.

#4 A quick turn of the body where you are back to back with the enemy and the enemy is hoisted off of his feet to complete the crush. This is the movement that can possibly result in decapitation if a "cutter" garrotte is used.

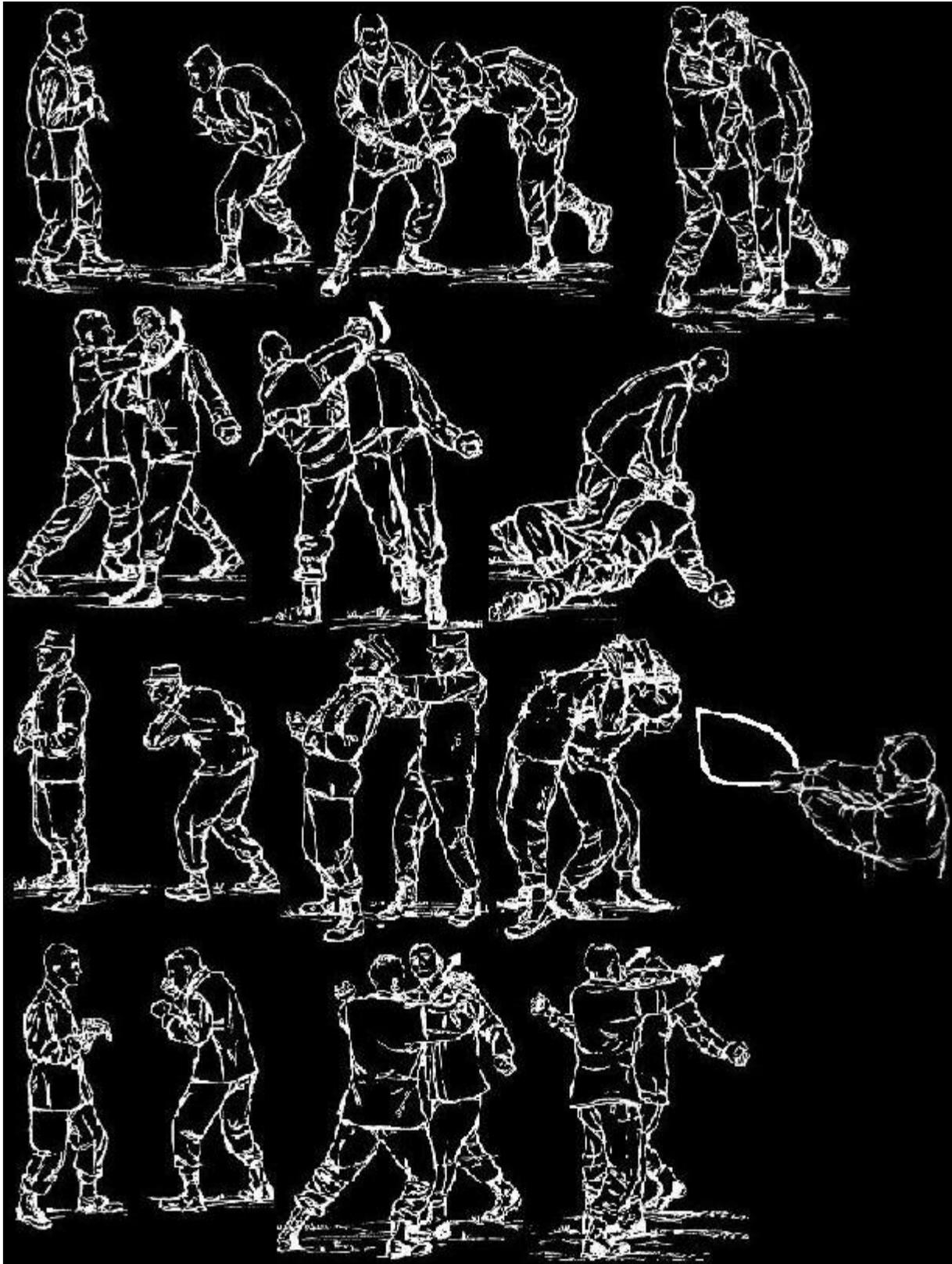
So, is the garrotte a legitimate tool of Self-defense? That was the original question. The answer to the question is, it all depends on what type of garrotte you are going to use really.

I cannot imagine going through the trouble of carrying something with such a single purpose as a "cutting" garrotte. That is a specific type of weapon and the only outcome from the proper use of one is death of the opponent, and that is going to be carried out from behind almost exclusively, as in Sentry Removal.

Any belt, length of rope, cord, a telephone cord, whatever is at hand, can be a garrotte. You can carry a very strong bandana or scarf with that being carried with the intent to be used as a flexible weapon. A jacket or light coat can be used as a garrotte, like the belt, it is a common, every day item. The every day items that are all around us points to flexible weapons being really viable and valuable Self-defense tools.

Anything other than a "cutting" garrotte can be used with lethal or non-lethal intent. So, if you make an improvised garrotte from 550 ParaCord, what you do with it will be the deciding factor.

Now, we can break this down and go to Part Two, "The Flexible Weapon." Before we do, here is a series of pictures showing just a few methods. Some are not "Classical Garrotte" Techniques. They are still very important. It also shows what can be done totally unrelated to a rear attack, or, a response if the enemy turned to face you. What if someone were trying to Garrotte you from behind? This shows you how the weapon might be used against you if you thwarted the rear attack and you turned to face the attacker.





Rope cannot be banned, and criminals can always find weapons anyway, but could you defend yourself against these methods? That is the question...

In that last series of illustrations, you can substitute a jacket or a belt and you can still see the viability of the techniques. You do not have to tote around a "Garrotte," and always remember, the criminals don't have to either.

Blackjacks and Saps

The Quick & Dirty Guide to Saps and Blackjacks

There are 3 basic "loads" in a lead filled sap;

- Lead powder
- Lead shot
- Lead clay, molded

There are 6 basic types of Blackjacks/Saps;

- Round body with a flat or coiled spring in the handle for increased "whip."
- Flat body with a flat or coiled spring in the handle for increased "whip."
- Round body without spring in handle.
- Flat body without spring in the handle.
- Sap Gloves
- Palm Saps

There are 2 basic exteriors;

- Plain
- Basketweave

The most lethal type of blackjack is a round body with coil spring in handle.

The safest type of blackjack that still offers knockout capability is the flat sap with lead shot and no spring in the shank.

Round 'Jacks concentrate force whereas the flat type spread the force out. Round saps can actually break bones with relative ease. The introduction of a spring increases the possibility of this along with the round shape.

Basketweaved leather increases the severity of damage done to the skin, to a greater degree than a regular finished, smooth leather sap will.

"Sneaky Saps"

The "Palm Sap" was a cylinder of lead encased in leather and had a strap so you could secure it in your palm with the strap going around the back of your hand. Invisible at night for sure. Some Police Officers used to simply love these types of Saps because when used in front of other "Tough Guys," because it looks like someone being knocked out by being slapped open handed. If the Officer kept the "secret" well, he would develop a reputation on the street of being able to knock someone out by slapping them upside the head. The best way they were used was in a crowd of people causing trouble, taking out the Big Mouth in the group.

The Key Fob Blackjack. This was a miniature 'Jack that had a grommet placed in the leather on the end...and you could whack someone with your keys in your hand. Most were only about 4 or 5 inches long. Think of a small Blackjack in the form of a Kubotan bit with a noticeable "pouch" on the end like other 'Jacks.

Sap Gloves. I'm sure everyone is familiar with these nasty items. Very good leather gloves with powdered lead sewn into the knuckles. Most Departments banned these along with the others to avoid the so-called, "Gestapo image."

Although the years have blurred the terminology, a Jack is technically round and the Sap is flat. Saps are also called, "Slappers, Slapjacks," etc.

This was indeed an impressive close-quarters weapon that would absolutely put someone away quickly if it landed accurately and powerfully.

The Blackjack and Sap used to be so popular with Law Enforcement in America that alot, if not most, Police Uniforms came with a long and narrow "Sap Pocket." That speaks volumes.

Blackjacks/Saps: Bad to the Bone

If you speak with most Police Officers who have been on the job for over 15 – 20 years, they will tell you that they miss the Blackjack/Sap a lot. They have experience with these weapons and they know how effective they are if used properly.

In one case I know of, a Patrolman was wrestling with someone, a standing grapple over a traffic citation and because there was ice on the ground, they both slipped. He was trying to gain control of the suspect and they were both trying to get to ground without ice on it to gain control of the situation... In desperation, the Patrolman slipped the 'Sap out of its pocket and aimed...and splintered a patch of ice where the suspect's hand had been a split second before. The suspect gave up instantly, still

slipping on the ice, on his belly... He knew if he escalated what that Sap would do to him...it just took the fight right out of him and he never even had to get hit with it.

The "Gestapo Image" B.S. aside, Police really lost an effective tool because of the brutality of a few rogue Officers in the grand scheme of things. The deterrent value of the blackjack or sap, once drawn, is not even up for debate. You would have to be from another planet to not know what you were in for if you resisted...or worse yet, attacked the Officer. When the round blackjack started, literally, caving in skulls in the hands of the fearful or brutal, some departments banned them and "OK'd" the use of flat saps in their place. Eventually, they too fell victim to politically correct Police Department Administrators and Attorneys.

I have personally witnessed as a child and as an adult, Police Officers use Blackjacks, and it ain't pretty folks. These are brutal tools for brutal streets to be used on equally brutal people. The streets have not changed a bit, they have become worse, but Administrators and Politicians in Police Departments have all but eliminated the Blackjack or anything remotely resembling it.

Targeting

The elbow joint, collarbones and groin slaps were all favorite targets... The elbow being particularly effective if you had someone handcuffed and they started to act crazy and resisting more. A quick and discrete crack on the elbow joint would bring them in line quickly, just as a Kubotan thrust into the ribcage with a quick "shake" will as well.

In close quarters, they are as effective as they are illegal in most places. Even the small ones pack one hell of a wallop. Much like Brass (and other metal) Knuckles, they are an instant bust in most locales if you are caught with them with the added bonus of it being a *felony*...

The Know-it-alls

I read somewhere where someone said that Saps were good weapons, but they were not effective against large muscle groups. These people don't know what they are talking about.

There are certain things some people will say when speaking about some subjects and you can tell immediately if they really know what they are talking about.

If you hear that the Flat Sap is not effective against large muscle groups, this is someone that does not know what they are talking about or they were never taught how to use one by "The Old School" of Police Officers...

You simply strike with the *edge* of the Sap instead of the flat of the Sap. It's really that simple and very effective. That edge of the Sap will transmit force, cutting

through the muscle [not literally, we're speaking about pain/damage, not laceration].

You can tear someone down with the edge of a Sap. I learned these things from the same veteran Officers who schooled me in the use of handcuffs as metal knuckles and another LEO-Restricted item, the Iron Claw as a metal knuckle or fistload.

The Slungshot

This is sort of funny. I keep seeing folks who think Slingshots are banned but the State that banned them does not know how to spell "Slingshot" and instead, the people think the State has misspelled the word with a "u" instead of an "i."

As I understand it, I'm not a Sailor, but Sailors in times past used to work with knots and braids just for something to do in the down times when they were bored, etc.

There were a few different types of Slungshots. They were banned in most States and you will see "Sand Club" in many States on the banned list of weaponry as well. A "Sand Club" is just what it sounds like. A Sack of Sand used as an improvised blackjack. Just like a bar of soap or a lock in a sock, etc.

The Monkeyfist Knot

Sailors would make a Monkeyfist Knot out of hemp rope and they would place a steel, lead or brass ball, whatever they could get their hands on, inside the knot before tightening the knot down. After you tie the Monkeyfist Knot, you have two "tails" coming out, they could add one piece of rope to that and begin a simple French Braid. Once the braid was of sufficient length, they could double it over and whip the end with thread. All things a Sailor knows how to do, especially in times past.

The hand would be placed in that loop and the whole thing became the vicious and deadly *Slungshot*. You were "slinging shot." Some people have said that grapeshot/canister shot was popular and this is where the device received the name.

The device could be swung with maiming/deadly effect. Or, the weighted portion could be held in the palm and the lanyard was around the wrist, and the weight could be thrown directly into the face of the other person, this would stun the person and then rapid and very powerful full-power swings could finish them off.

Immigrant Slungshot

I call this one the "Immigrant" Slungshot because I heard about Immigrant Irish Railroad Workers "taking care of business" with this one in groups.

One person would be targeted and a group would surround the person to block the view of witnesses. This had to do with the establishment or the "maintenance" of Unions and Gangs, etc.

The Slungshot Man would enter the circle and throw the weighted shot in the face of the victim and then simply pummel them until they were dead or at least maimed and seriously injured. Remember, this is a weapon that can change a person's face forever, in an instant. Your facial structure is crushed. It's a brutal weapon.

The difference between these two types of Slungshots was not in the usage, but in the construction of the weapon. The "Irish Immigrant" Slungshot was usually a heavy-duty leather bag with long straps. Dump the "shot" into it for weight and there you have it.

Other Improvised 'Jacks

What was it...Sean Penn in "Bad Boys?" Used a sack or sock of some sort with cans of full soda in them to bust someone up? Expedient and effective.

Locks in socks, sand in socks...lock on the end of a chain...there are so many things...the chilling scene in "Full Metal Jacket" comes to mind...

The Jailhouse Blackjack is very well known, a bar of soap wrapped in a towel or in a sock...like that used in the aforementioned movie.

Steven Seagal wrapping a billiard ball in a bar towel in "Out for Justice," just another example of a Slungshot/Blackjack that is improvised and very effective. Hollywood sometimes gets it correct. If you hit someone with these things...you will bust someone up badly. They're lethal.

Check out "Fighting Bandanas" for more information on improvised 'Jacks.

One simple way to make a blackjack quickly is to obtain a fishing sinker, a large one, a heavy duty coiled spring about 7 inches in length, some ParaCord and black electrical tape.

Drill a hole lengthwise through the fishing sinker then run the ParaCord through the length of it and out the other end. Not the cord so it cannot go back through the lead sinker.

Run the ParaCord through the length of coil spring and when it exits, tie it off securely and create a thumb loop.

Now, simply cover the entire thing in tape. There you have it.

The picture below just represents some things in the article, obviously the Jay Pee Iron Claw is *not* a Blackjack or Sap. It is simply placed in the article so people will know what it is.

PENNA. BUCHEIMER BLACK JACKS														
11.45	10.95	10.45	12.95	11.50	10.15	10.35	9.25	8.60	10.15		8.15	7.35	6.35	11.95

FLAT SAPS		SAP GLOVES	
	Midget 7.95		Big John 19.50
	Denver 8.25		Junior 8.95
	Texas 10.95		

Blackjacks	Saps

THE PROTECTOR D-100 (self-defenders that look like dress gloves). Black deerskin leather unlined. At least 6 oz. (depending on size) of powdered lead in knuckle area. Standard lock machine (seam) stitching (nylon thread.)
 Retail \$29.95 Sale \$24.95

Fistload!

What follows is a rambling modern history of the good, old-fashioned *Fistload*...

Once Upon a Time...

I saw a Dude get his lights turned off by a rather quick Gent with a Snap-On Spark Plug Socket in his hand. You won't see that in Snap-On's advertising...but it happened.

This fast exchange was a nice left jab and then a right cross with the Socket in the right hand. *Poof...down he went...*

I have seen quite a few things, growing up in a white trash neighborhood full of assorted riff-raff. Human flotsam... More than I care to remember sometimes. Sometimes it is hard to look back and remember. The incident above, that was just a really quick fight. Not a real bad memory...it was a beautiful moment in time if you want to examine a really fast streetfight. But not everything is so crisp on the street. Some people just don't want a *winning edge* on the street that a simple Spark Plug Socket or a pair of Metal Knuckles can provide. Other people want to literally change the way you look, "rearrange the face" as we used to say...

Common Fistloads

Along with large sockets, like for spark plugs, coin rolls seemed to be everywhere on the street where I spent my formative years. As I wrote in the Brass Knuckle Article, Knucks were common, right along with the various improvised hand weapons. There were cylindrical pieces of steel, lead and brass, some wrapped with black electrical tape...a lot of different fistloads carried by good and bad guy alike.

Some guys carried them constantly, others only when they expected trouble. Some preferred the common socket that could be explained away if they were caught. Especially if they were really Mechanics, they would have grease under their fingernails and other telltale signs that the socket was really not out of place at all.

Others preferred to make purpose-driven fist loads out of various materials.

The Rationale

There are three basic attributes most fistloads have.

- Reinforcement of the fist, solidifies the structure.
- Weighting of the fist.
- Projection from one or both sides of the fist.

A spark plug socket does not have a lot of weight to it, it was basically a reinforcer of the clenched fist. A cylindrical piece of solid steel, brass or lead would have the same effect with the added benefit of weighting the fist, i.e.; a harder hit on target.



The third is taking the fistload out of the arena of mere reinforcement and weighting and into the Yawara Stick realm. Some of the fistloads were larger...and that opened up more possibilities as the ends projected beyond the clenched fist and allowed for powerful hammerfist and reverse hammerfist strikes, just like a Yawara, Kubotan or Koppo Stick are well known for.



Massad Ayoob in his excellent book (which should be on everyone's bookshelf), "The Truth about Self Protection," speaks highly of the coinroller.

An interesting Martial Arts Fistload

This one apparently never caught on. I should have bought one, way back when and used it in Jujutsu Class. Ha!

This is from an advertisement and an article in the February 1984 Issue of Inside Kung Fu Magazine. "Korea's Kung Fu: They call it Sib Pal Gee." By Randy Bennett

KA-WEE

The Ultimate "Tool" of Self-Defense

(Kata, Weapon Form)



Fist Strikes

Developed by Master Dai Sounq Chun of the sib pal gee kung-fu system. The ka-wee has been proven effective, and has over 250 applications.



Finger Strikes



Palm Strikes

The ka-wee is perfectly legal, and easy to use, allowing anyone to successfully perform punches, grabs, or open palm strikes.



Dragon Strikes

Made from high quality steel, the ka-wee easily closes and is thus easy to carry in one's pocket. Upon removal of its threaded spheres, 3 different screwdriver heads are revealed, thus making the ka wee a practical tool as well as a functional weapon. Weighs only 6 oz. and is available in brilliant chrome. Pamphlet illustrating techniques and uses included.



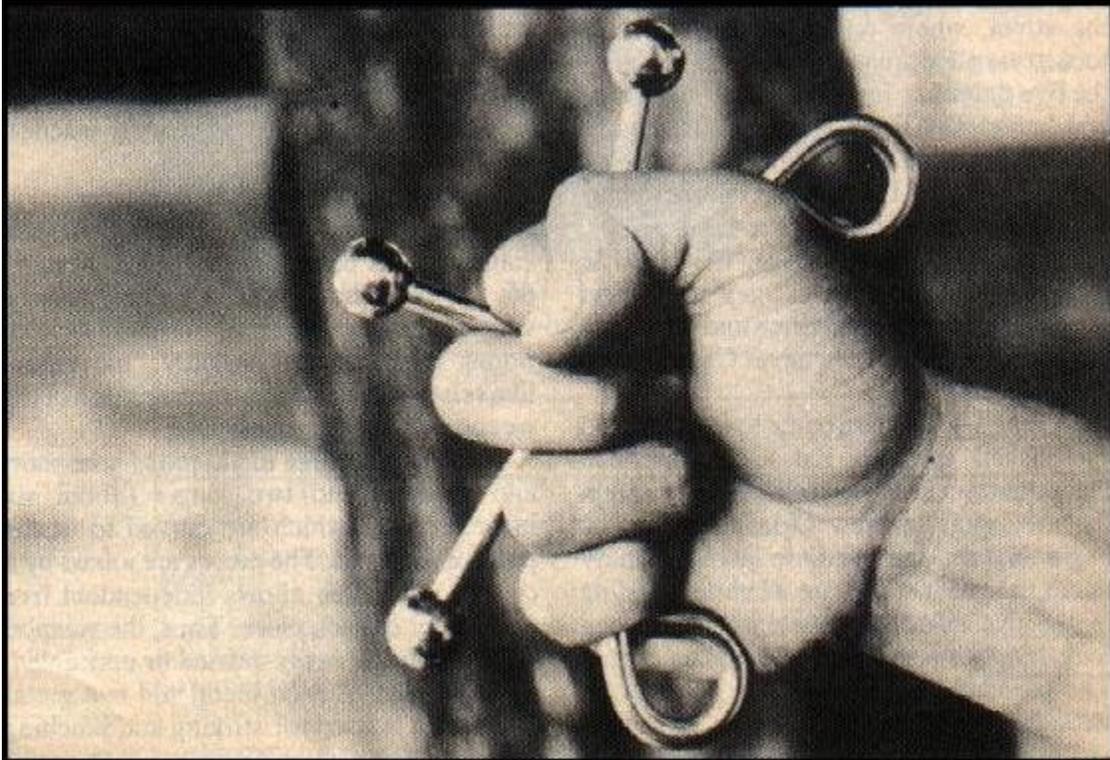
\$11.50 ea.

\$20.00 pr.

Wholesale prices available in quantity.

Dealer and distributor inquiries are welcome.

Patent Pending



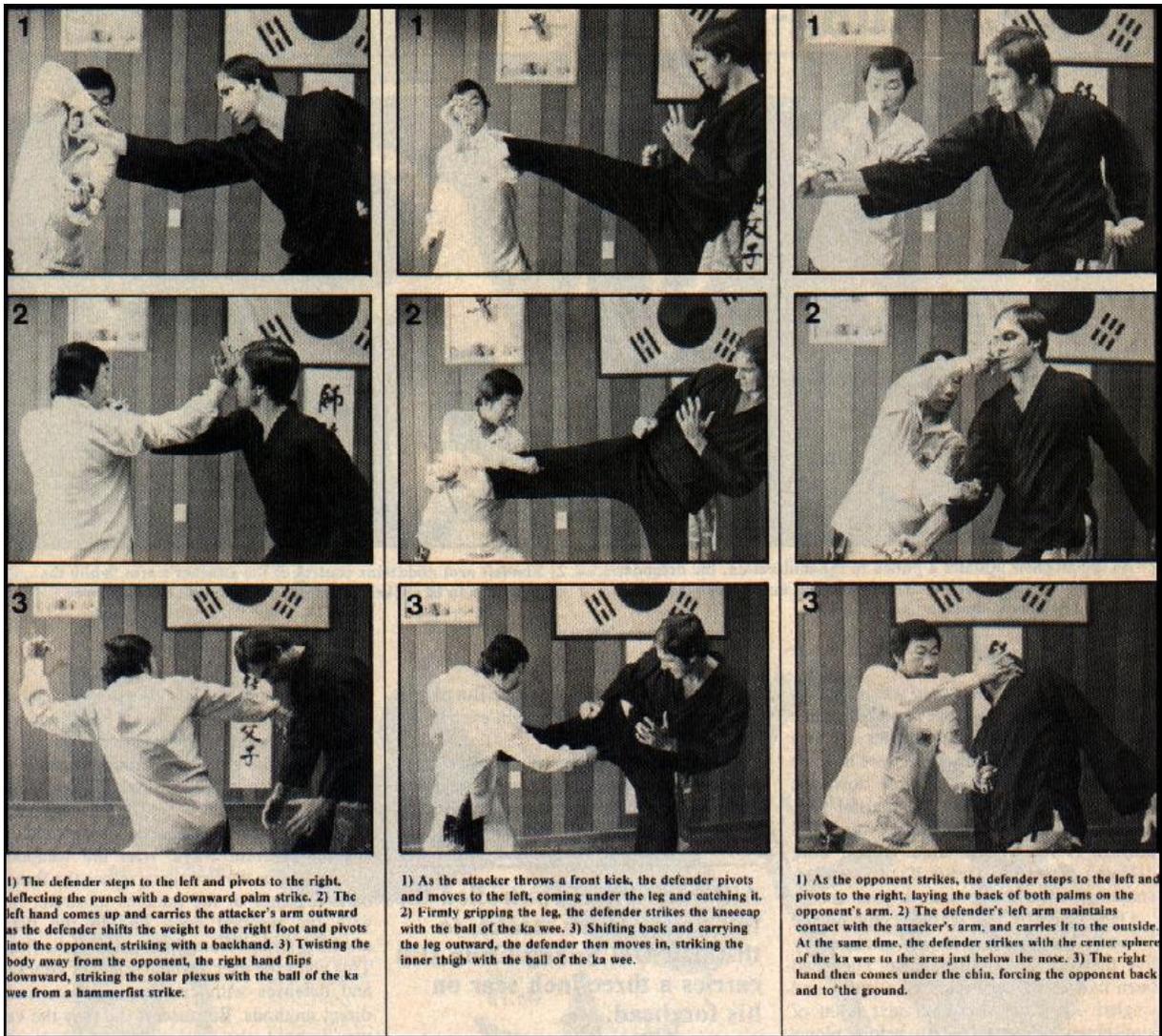
This is called The Ka-Wee.

From the article:

"Among Sib Pal Gee's many weapons, one stands out as being unique to this system: the Ka Wee. The Ka Wee, a Pa Kua weapon...means literally, 'movement like scissors...'

It consists of three metal rods, one short and straight, and two longer (about six inches) pieces which are curved to fit the palm of the hand. The pieces are joined by a central pin which allows independent free movement of each piece. Thus, the weapon collapses to be easily carried or concealed.

At the end of each metal rod is a metal ball which is used for striking and pinching..."



James Keating's Stinger

I wrote about this nasty little bugger in my article for Cheapskates. The Comtech Stinger is simply so inexpensive that you should have one even if you are not a "puncher." The reason is, they cost next to nothing, they are incredibly strong and you should familiarize yourself with everything that comes down the pike in my opinion anyway...

For those of you that punch well, hard, fast and furious...this is the fistload for you. The older I get, the more I prefer to keep my hands open, using edge of hand blows and the heel of hand – closing it only around a weapon or perhaps for a hammerfist...



But the Comtech Stinger is simply *awesome*; it has a lot of power and will make the person who focuses on punching with the clenched fist in Self-defense very happy indeed.

In the Comtech Specificity Series, there was one volume about Push Daggers. In that tape, years ago now...the Stinger was shown.

There is your link. To the Push Knife of Old...another effective weapon in its own right but often maligned and illegal...



Well, the Stinger is not illegal yet...not yet. And it has the same excellent attributes as a Koppo Stick and a Push Dagger...

The pocket stick is the double-ended knife that can only thrust – it cannot cut. The Comtech Stinger is the Push Dagger that cannot cut, it can only thrust. With no entry into the body...

You can still grab with the Stinger in your hand, just like a Push Knife or Koppo Stick...a bag of groceries, an attacker's clothing or hair, etc.

You can still strike with the palm, the heel of the hand, as you can with a Koppo Stick or Push Knife without fear of losing it. You merely clamp your fingers *together*...

You can still hammerfist with it in your hand, like the Push Knife and Koppo Stick...

The Stinger can do more than "sting," so be careful with it. If you can punch moderately hard, the Stinger will break a rib as easily as a Number Two Pencil. It's not a toy.

I know it looks sorta funny...but listen...the Stinger is a very powerful device. As powerful as it is simple and brilliant. Nothing to break or wear out, it's just a chunk of well thought out plastic.

You can hang your keys on the Stinger as well as a good LED Flashlight like the Photon II and you are good to go! I love the thing and I don't even like punching anymore, why? The Stinger can take a moderately powered punch and turn it into a miserable-feeling-deeply-penetrating strike. That's why. You hang a Turquoise-colored [the brightest] Photon II LED Flashlight off of it, learn to keep your cool and you learn how to "Flash & Punch" [Metsubushi] with this combination and you will absolutely turn the tables on someone in a heartbeat.

Again, a direct, straight punch or a "rolling" vertical punch, right to the face after flashing with the light...awesome results, low line kicks should follow.

The Impact Kerambit/DTL

The brainchild of Datu Kelly Worden, this is also a favorite of mine and very viable for street Self-defense. I remember Datu Kelly sending me one almost six years ago now...you see one of the first in the picture below along with a current production one. This is a really effective device as well.



"DTL," as this Impact Kerambit is sometimes referred to, simply stands for, "Destroy, Trap and Lock." Datu lovingly refers to it on some of his seminar tapes as, *"The Puncher..."*

It's more than a puncher. It's more than a reinforcer of the hammerfist, although it is clear when you hold it in your hand that it is going to excel at hammerfist strikes.

The bottom portion that forms the "L" makes for a vicious reinforced hammerfist, as stated above. As that portion projects past the clenched fist, that has a Comtech Stinger effect for straight on, direct punching and uppercuts, etc.



The ring is not merely for retaining the DTL. Everything stated about holding groceries or grabbing attackers by the hair or clothing as well as Kubotan pinches with your attacker's flesh (ear, nose, etc.) stated about the Stinger, Push Dagger and Koppo apply here as well.

The ring also becomes the reinforcer for the reverse hammerfist or...a straight on punch as well...very versatile.

Yubi Tori, fingerlocks – especially the particular agony of Professor Wally Jay's fingerlocks, all become a brutal reality with the DTL.

The fingers that are captured are grounded into plastic that will not yield, they are clamped in and everything works effectively.

The Wild Kat



This is a plastic rendition of an old "Half Knuckle" Brass Knuckle pattern. It has been around for years. Now people are making them in an indestructible plastic format. You might not believe it, but these were made years ago out of brass and they were Half Knuckles with extreme points. I tried one scan out of an old martial arts magazine, but it came out really bad. But that was in the 80s and these were made out of metal then. The plastic seems more than suitable and will hopefully be more friendly when it comes to the law.

I don't have experience with them or I would probably write more about them. They are interesting to me in a way and I'm not saying they are not going to be effective...they would be in determined hands for sure. Just not my cup of tea.

I would add one more thing...this particular weapon along with the "Ninja" keychain carry with them the possibility of actually penetrating the eyes or trachea. I don't know that for sure, as I have not tested them but my best guess is, if they will survive medium-power strikes to a wall...they're probably going to go into these structures.

My personal belief is...if a stranger, a male, grabs a woman in a parking lot...not at a party or any other "social" gathering...but in a setting where the woman should be in fear for her very life...

If he got his eyes put out or his trachea, jugular or carotid pierced...I could not care less.

Unfortunately, the law does not see things this way. The law would demand that women should be psychics and perform Oprah-approved whistle blowing and Cellular Phone Self-defense...they might come down hard on a woman who put an attacker's eyes out, etc., if it were not a clear cut case where lethal force was OK.

I'm just saying this as a warning... In Kelly McCann's ["Jim Grover"] Self-Offense, he speaks of the "*Ocular Knockout*." Where the eye is pushed in to a depth where this causes a knockout. That would probably be the result of a forceful strike, along with the possibility of eye damage and blinding...if you used a blunt Kubotan or something along those lines. But the Wild Kat's "ears" are rather pointy. This is for you to decide.

Romatron



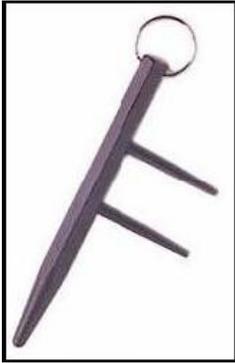
It is a keychain-based device and can be a fistload, that's why I'm placing it in here...

The Romatron has a body and a plastic ball, the ball is connected to the body by a steel cable. The ball can rest in the end of the device and then with a flicking motion, the ball exits the body and becomes a striking flail.

I had my hands on one in the early 1990s and the plastic ball did NOT have lead in it at that time. It was very light and I thought it would be rather ineffective against a determined attacker.

The website for Romatron now states the ball has lead in it. That's a whole new ballgame now...I have not had my hands on one yet, however, not one of the newer ones...

The "Ninja" Keychain



I purchased one of these about 14 years ago for a girlfriend and she carried it daily and loved it. It's not a bad Self-defense keychain; in fact, it's going to be really nasty-effective on the street!

It's just the whole "Ninja" thing associated with anything to sell it. Why, hell, I think the words "Ninja" and "Romatron" are now associated as well...sigh...

With this device, you have those two nasty, aluminum prongs sticking out the front when a fist is formed...that's going to hurt. The prong sticking out the bottom is a bone breaker with a hammerfist, to be sure.

It really is a cool design; it's just the way everyone sells the damned thing. I know, I know...it sells...I know...

It's a keychain! It can always be with you! It's not a bad device at all. Just a bit bulky for slipping in the pants pocket with the keys hanging outside which is the norm for me. I've carried Kubotans and Koppo Sticks for years now...it's second nature... This Ninja Thang might get hung up coming out of the pocket, however. Something to consider.

It is definitely something I don't want to get hit with...

As an interesting sidebar, my buddy Seth sent me a video that he received as a "bonus" from a TRS Series he had ordered or something. This keychain was featured in part of that video. I won't go into who or what the video was but will list one thing shown on the video with this device.

There was a straight punch to the trachea, at extension, the palm would be down. Upon contact, you twist your fist so these two prongs that have basically landed on both sides of the trachea...wrench the trachea...crushing it.

There are a lot of things on videos you will see that are rather odd, crazy, bloodthirsty and strange. Most of them won't work at all. This one was brutal and

having held these keychains before, I have to say, as odd as this movement seemed, it would probably do the damage the fellow said it would.

PlastiKen



Yet another keychain enters into the fistload category. Could have been in the Brass Knuckles Article...but it's not metal and...did not seem to fit.

As I wrote elsewhere, this thing is close to being "Knucks," and as such, you could be arrested and charged with carrying "Knuckles." Especially if your State has a catch-all game with its' Citizenry regarding carrying NOTHING to defend yourself with. Some States say, "Metal Knuckles." I believe others say, "Metal or other knuckles."

Again, this is for you to decide. I have no experience with this device but it's another puncher-hammerfist-reverse hammerfist device that looks viable. Just not so forgiving if you are hassled or arrested for it.

Shu-Chu

SHU-CHU (patent pending)

ASSAULT PROTECTION WEAPON

No other hand held device is as simple to use or as effective. SHU-CHU causes great pain to assailant when applied firmly. Light-weight SHU-CHU is made of a tough durable, black nylon. Instruction leaflet is included with your order.

Single SHU-CHU **\$4.95** SHU-CHU pair with Pocket Clip **\$8.95**

Order one or all three of these "easy carry" devices for your SHU-CHU

 Pocket Clip #501 \$1.50	 Belt Holder #502 \$3.50	 SHU-CHU Key Chain #504 \$5.50
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ALSO: Complete book with more instructions on how to use your SHU-CHU effectively will soon be available. Reserve yours now **\$5.95**

This rather odd fistload device was advertised in an issue of Black Belt back in 1983. Long time ago...around the same time, Tak Kubota of Kubotan Fame was advertising a "T-Hold Kubotan." Thicker than this Shu-Chu device...think of a miniaturized version of a PR-24 Side Handle Baton and that was the T-Hold Kubotan.

Anyway...this Shu-Chu device is a lot like that T-Hold Kubotan and the reason I did not go ahead and scan the T-Hold Kubotan. Redundant.

This is sort of neat and I'm absolutely sure it would be effective. The beauty of fistloads and pocket sticks is, they do not have to be radically involved to be effective. So, of course it will work. But it is just another in a sea of devices...

The G.I. Fistload

Yes, the Government issued a fistload. Amazing, huh? Well, it's not really a fistload, but a lot of people sure use them for fistloads. They are catching on in popularity in the more restricted areas of the country.



The good old Carabiner makes one hell of a fistload/knuckleduster. Or, you can simply hook your index finger through it and kerrang someone that way as well. No more explanation is required. It can do a lot of damage. Metal has a tendency to damage people.



The Karate Key

KARATE KEY

Dealer Inquiries Invited

- Protection in your pocket or purse.
- Weighs less than one ounce.
- Machined from solid aluminum bar stock.
- Available in:
 - Women's size (fits most women)
 - Men's Medium, Large (fits most men) and Extra Large

\$6.95 ea.

Plus .50 for postage and handling. Two KARATE KEYS, \$14.00 incl. postage and handling.

Wrap Up

Fistloads, Pocket Sticks...Knuckles and Knuckledusters of all types...these cause a severe amount of damage. The reasons are listed in the beginning of this article. Reinforcement of the clenched fist or open hand, weighting it so you hit harder, etc.

People do not realize that these sorts of things break bones easily. They also break facial bones easily as one of my sinuses bears painful testimony to, to this day.

An interesting thing about striking the face with something like brass knuckles, or in my own injury I sustained, a simple piece of steel...

These injuries do not really hurt until the adrenaline wears off...then it hurts. If you hit the thicker parts of the skull, you can knock someone out or kill them.

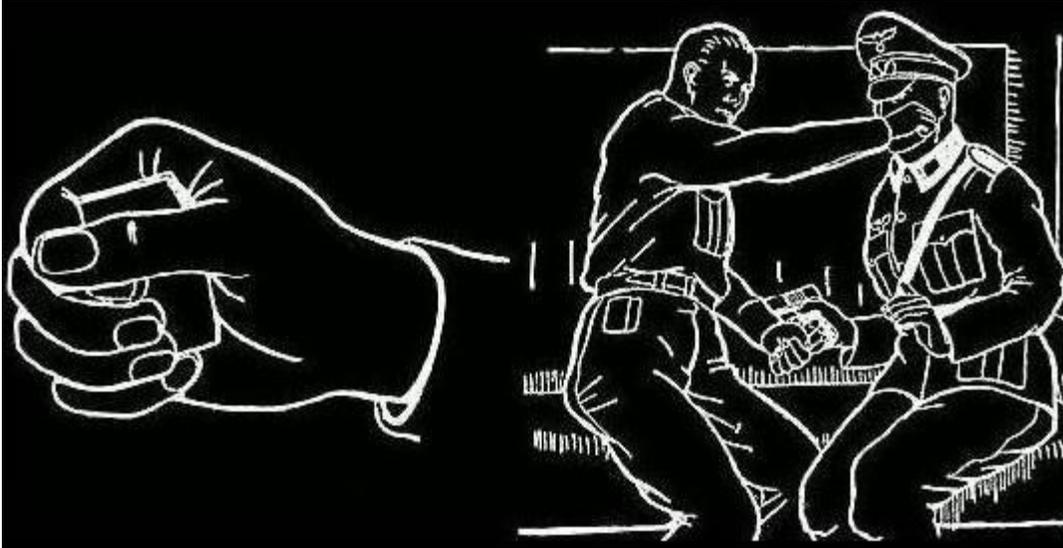
Aiming for the face against someone determined will not necessarily stop them from hurting you as the facial bones break so easily and dissipate the force. The skull can be a fatal shot, as can anywhere in the neck so if you were to target these areas with some sort of reinforcer. Be aware that it would have to be a situation where your life is in danger, immediate threat of grave, bodily injury and/or death...for you to counter in that manner.

These devices can break ribs easily...anything they hit gets smashed and damaged to some degree. If you train with these things to familiarize yourself with various weapons, expedients and improvised weapons and tools...do so with the utmost caution. Dentists are very expensive Doctors to have to hire and death is forever. Be careful please.

The PlastiKen, Wild Kat and other "Keychain" Self-defense impact tools can be purchased through



The Modern Matchbox...*The Pager*...



Modern Metsubushi Concepts

When I was a kid, we watched "professional" wrestling...alot. We were sort of dense, we did not quite understand that the winners and losers were decided before the match. So, we never understood how a "Referee" could be so blind to the truth. Blatant cheating was never caught and whenever the "good guy" did the slightest thing wrong, he was always busted. It made for good, addictive entertainment looking back.

So, we had many misconceptions from watching this nonsense. We would hear the "Commentator" scream into the microphone, "Oh...and a CHOP to the THROAT!" [Gasp!]

When I started in Jujutsu, my world was crushed, I found out this was all fake. I was almost ten years old, after all... I found out that a Shuto [Karate "Chop"] to the throat was often fatal and one of the most vital weapon/target combinations a person can have in their arsenal. My Instructor told me, "If you don't believe it's fake, watch it closely, they are hitting the pectoral muscles high in the chest..." Sadly, he was right. It does not really matter how much of a bodybuilder you are or how tough you are. You cannot grow muscle over the trachea and you cannot survive with a crushed trachea.

Pro-Wrestlers most certainly are some tough human beings, and they do get injured and they have a great capability to injure someone that would attack them. However, it's not real...many things are not real... [I just had to say that so this does not look like simply a slamming commentary on Pro-Wrestling]

So, I would walk through the door on a Saturday, my Mother is sitting there watching two dudes pounding on one another for money, and she is screaming at the TV like someone possessed. Then I saw something that I had probably watched as a child but for some reason, I forgot...

A Japanese Tag-Team [They were probably brothers and owned a Law Firm in Wisconsin or something in real life], well, one of them reached into the waistband of his shorts and rubbed his fingers into his palm...and then he blasted the other guy in the face with a handful of salt.

So, I sat down and watched this. And my Mother is screaming, "You cheatin' sonsabitches!" I always reminded my Mother when she would read *The Enquirer*, "The only thing scarier than the stories in *The Enquirer* are the people that read *The Enquirer* and actually believe those stories..." The same applies to pro-Wrestling.

So, she is believing all of this is reality, on the TV. Now I am rather intrigued...I'm watching this, I get up and walk away. The mind is moving now...

This would have been about 1984, "The Ninja Craze" was in full swing, hand in hand with "The Balisong Craze..." So, I began to do some reading...

Whatever meager allowance I was given, whatever money I could earn, I spent on books and magazines. I bought my first piece of junk Balisong Knife in that time period as well. I was into both of these "Crazes" full swing [pun fully intended].

I must have driven my Instructor to drink heavily, I was always dragging books into class for him to explain movements. Mostly books by Stephen K. Hayes. Some concepts Hayes would write about, I was intensely interested in. Sometimes I received a good answer and sometimes I was scolded.

I would read about metsubushi, the use of powders and all sorts of things to either vanish or to blind someone so you could either exit or damage them. This was appealing to me, I thought back to the fake wrestling, right? Common sense, salt in your eyes would hurt.

After awhile, my Mother could be heard in the bathroom, "Where is all the baby powder?" She would be in the kitchen, "Where is all of my salt and flour?" I was out in the woods experimenting, you see...

Enter The Ninja

So, do you remember the rather bad Sho Kusogi "Ninja" movies? I already had the low-down from Shidoshi Hayes' books that these movies had nothing to do with Ninjutsu except to cash in on it. It was sort of neat to see the smoke bombs and whatnot though. So...I'm in the woods, I'm using anything in the house I can to

figure things out for myself. I'm dusting trees, bushes, anything I can. I'm having a ball. My Mother is pissed and has to run to the store just to make Christmas cookies, but me, I'm in the woods and I'm lighting everything up.

Whole portions of the woods have turned white from flour and baby powder, ants are dying from salt poisoning...I'm having fun.

So, I had this friend, the same age, and he was taking Shotokan at the time. We would have these discussions about Jujutsu and Shotokan, and we thought we were the Kings of the World. We knew everything! One day, we were screwing around in the backyard and I dusted him with an aspirin bottle of flour. If we put aside the fact he was extremely pissed, it worked like a charm. He was gagging and rubbing his eyes, and I became the dirtiest bastard in the world at that moment. It worked!

Stephen K. Hayes

"A second method of creating the effect of invisibility is to take away the perceiver's capability of sight. This method includes smoke bombs and smoke screens, chemical gases and sprays used as eye irritants, metsubushi blinder clouds of ash, sand and iron filings and intense flashes of bright light, all of which render the perceiver's sight temporarily useless."

Do you see the Gateway that Shidoshi Hayes opened?

Dr. Masaaki Hatsumi



[The following are excerpts from the December 1996 Issue of "Ninja Magazine," once in a while, this magazine had a great article in it, this was one of them.]

"If he (or she) was discovered or faced with possible capture, more often than not the agent was probably outnumbered by the enemy. In order to 'equalize' the odds, the Ninja had to develop a method that would provide him with time, even if it was only a fleeting moment, so that he could bring into play other Ninjutsu techniques that would ensure his safety..."

The technique of metsubushi (sight removers) involves a very wide range of eye blinders, not just powder-like substances thrown at attackers: dirt, mud, gravel, sand, pebbles, stones, ashes, ground pepper, nettle hairs, oil, water, poison liquids, smoke and explosives are just some of the many ingredients that may be used. Equally wide-ranging and diverse are the containers which these sight removers were carried in...

...One particularly interesting and ornate container is called the sokutoku. Often worn around the neck like a decorative pendant, it would not arouse undue suspicion; but in an instant it could be a most effective means of subduing an enemy with a single breath. The hollowed out device is usually filled with ground pepper then plugged with a pencil-thin stopper attached to a thin line. When attacked the Ninja merely brought the sokutoku to his mouth, removed the plug and blew hard into the mouthpiece.

[Other methods of metsubushi] ...These would include methods of headbutting your opponent, poking your finger or snapping a towel in his eyes, or the use of neko te iron claws. Even reflecting the sunlight off a drawn sword blade into the enemy's eyes is a part of this."

Hatsumi Sensei also mentions that punching the nose to cause uncontrollable lacrimation is metsubushi. Cutting the forehead so that blood runs into the eyes, or cutting/thrusting directly to the eyes, these are metsubushi. You're beginning to see the Big Picture, yes?

Enter The Dragon

So, I had a copy of Sifu Bruce Lee's "Tao of Jeet Kune Do" from the local library and I began to study that. I began to understand from being in fights, that a lot of things that were taught in Jujutsu you could see coming from a mile away ["Telegraphed"] and people could dodge them. And I knew Shotokan had the same problems, and then after I hooked up with a guy who was taking Isshin-Ryu [forgive me if the spelling is incorrect, it looks wrong] and even that Martial Art suffered from the same illness.

Sifu Lee's eye jab was used a lot and the more I worked it, the smoother and faster it became. It was great, you just shot the hand out with the fingers extended and boom! You were in someone's eyes! Even if you missed, you created the opening as the person flinched. Like the Fencer's direct thrust that Lee was inspired by in part, it almost always lands...

The Finger Jab [Thrusting Spearhand, etc.] existed in Jujutsu, but the whole concept as taught was not as "scientific" and focused on...therefore, it often did not work.

The Concept Expanded

So, what exactly is "metsubushi?" Well, it is a concept as I understand it. I've given you a few examples. Literally striking the eye, as in the infamous and effective JKD Eye Jab, that is metsubushi. Throwing some powder that is purposely carried for that reason, that is metsubushi.

What else? If you are walking out of the 7-11 and someone pulls a knife on you and screams at you, "Gimme your wallet!" And you then fumble with one hand like you are grabbing your wallet, and you pop the lid on the coffee cup quietly and easily with a fingertip and project the hot coffee in their face, that is metsubushi.

MACE, CN/CS "Tear Gas," O.C. Pepper Spray, these things are metsubushi and are about the best things the person interested in this method can carry. They are ready-made and they are accepted in most areas. Check your laws, in some areas, they are highly illegal.

So, in areas where you cannot carry a can of O.C. Pepper Spray, how can you utilize the projectile concept of metsubushi? Simple, you can carry a container of salt even on an airliner, right? It's for food. Baby Powder would raise some eyebrows if you were searched on a city street, given the every day hysteria we live under with regard to everything...some idiot would probably arrest you for a controlled dangerous substance. Then, when the tests came back negative, any folding knife or whatever else you were carrying would be held against you as additional charges so you did not sue them for the "Baby Powder Arrest." That's the way that works, you see...

So, we have salt and we have pepper as legal alternatives. Pepper is lighter than salt, both will work, I just think salt is better. The baby powder and flour, they most certainly are more "visual" to the bystander, more dramatic in effect, but they are not practically superior. And you can carry them in your "off" or "weak" side pocket in a 35mm film container. You can pop the lid off with your thumb while the container is still in the pocket.

We're not done yet, however...

Michael D. Echanis and The Infamous "Black Book."

Michael D. Echanis' "Black Book," otherwise known as, "Knife Fighting/Knife Throwing for Combat" has an excellent section on throwing edged weapons. Knives and Shuriken, to be exact.

Many do not understand the Shuriken. One group of people think throwing stars are "killing" weapons and the other group thinks they're trash, or in the immortal words of Bill Bagwell in a 1980s Soldier of Fortune "Battle Blades" article on them, "metal confetti."

In the proper context, Shuriken, both "star" and "spike" forms, are effective. They are distractions, and in a way, they are a form of metsubushi onto themselves. Human Beings have a natural fear of having their eyes put out. Used properly, thrown items work extremely well, and a multi-pointed Shuriken could too. It is common sense. The spike forms of Shuriken are like very small throwing knives and they require a greater degree of skill...learning how to throw multi-point "star" and spike Shuriken can carry over to throwing other things accurately. See the connection?

The end of this book is very good (the entire book is worth having on your shelf too) and the very last set of photographs depict a scooping of the foot on the ground to obtain a rock to throw.

Now, some folks will scoff at this. Some will say it is delving into utter nonsense, but there is some serious food for thought here. The toe of the shoe can be used to "scoop" some dirt or sand as well, and this can be flung into the face of an attacker... It is not as outlandish as it might seem.

Other portions of the book depict various rolls and during the roll, retrieving a weapon and during the completion of the roll, coming up and throwing. This is equally applicable with a single rock as a projectile or for a handful of dirt, sand or gravel.

Other Projectiles

Some people have suggested defense-minded people should carry some medium to large sized, steel ball bearings in their pocket for throwing. Guro Dan Inosanto has mentioned that in some parts of the Philippines and Indonesia, rock [and other projectiles] throwing is an art unto itself. Echanis mentioned this in the end of "The Black Book" as well.

A handful of coins, your keys and perhaps your wallet, all have been suggested as projectiles to be fired by a defender at an attacker's vision area.

Guro Dan Inosanto used a regular wallet to great effect in one training video on an unsuspecting subject. In a book, he once flipped the sheath off of a knife into the eyes of an attacker.

Vladimir Vasiliev advocates projecting your sunglasses into the face of an attacker, or your wallet, keys or a hat. All of these things will work. He has specific ways to do this that appear to be minor adjustments to the sunglasses...

Please understand, this is my personal, conceptual view of metsubushi and some may not agree.

Metsubushi and Shuriken Throwing

There are many ways to throw both. Hatsumi Sensei in the article cited above lists five basic methods:

#1 Forward with the palm up.

#2 Forward with the palm down.

#3 Backward [back-handed] with the palm up.

#4 Backward [back-handed] with the palm down.

#5 Spraying an area with an arcing motion of the hand as depicted in this photograph from the article.

Experiment on your own to find what works best for you. It is cheap and fun.

The parallel is obvious when throwing Shuriken. I have never been able to throw "star" Shuriken overhand or sideways. I can throw them with a great degree of speed, accuracy and power underhanded, palm down. This is possibly the best way to throw both Metsubushi substances and star Shuriken as the throw comes from "nowhere."

Why Chemical Irritants have a Bad Reputation

Part of the reason chemical irritants like MACE have a bad reputation for "stopping attackers" is, they were marketed improperly in my opinion and furthermore, people are taught to use them incorrectly. Especially women.

People should be taught four basic things when using even the most powerful chemical irritants like say, 10% O.C. Pepper Spray:

#1 Never overestimate the chemical or underestimate the attacker. These irritants do not work on all people.

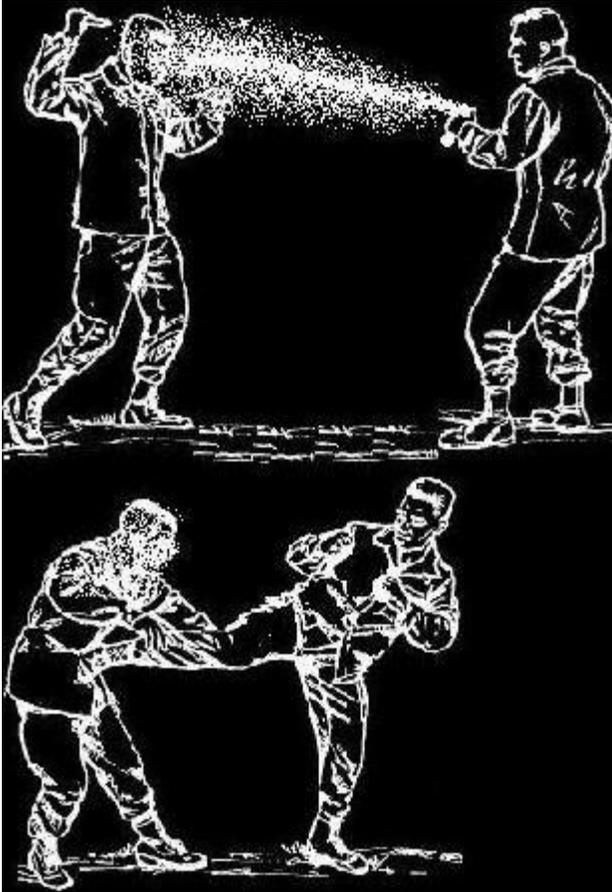
#2 Consider the irritant to be a temporary, one second blinder that allows you to do something else in your own defense. A low-line kick to the knee or groin, or some hand strike should immediately follow. There should be a physical strike immediately following any use of a chemical irritant because you never know when it will fail or not have the desired effect. You may only make the attacker flinch, make the most of that flinch.

#3 Remember even after spraying an attacker, you now have a can in your hand, it can be and should be used as an impact weapon, like a [Yawara](#) or [Koppo](#) Stick.



#4 Do not warn the person that you are going to spray them, try to conceal the can until it is activated. If you warn the person, they could try to dodge the attack, or turn their head, close their eyes, etc., meaning they won't get the full effect. Why give them a chance to make your defensive weapon less effective? Sure, people will say that you have to warn someone to "legally" defend yourself. If it has come to the point that you have to reach for the can of spray, we go back to the old adage among Gunfighters. "If the pistol comes out, it comes out smoking." If the can comes out, it comes out spraying...or you conceal it inside or behind another object until the moment of use.

Women are usually not taught this because many women find the physical encounter threatening and a lot of people would not be teaching Self-defense for a living if they told women they still had to punch and kick in order to survive. Some people want a remote control for a Self-defense device. Life is hard, it is much harder if you're stupid. Any Self-defense Instructor that is not teaching women to kick the attacker in the knees or groin while they are temporarily blinded by the spray have either overlooked this or they have are not qualified to teach people real, life-saving skills in my opinion. It's O.K. to overlook something and then correct it. It's not O.K. to hide behind myths and nonsense more suitable for a Daytime TV Talk Show than Streetfighting.



Make Them See The Light

No, not a recipe for making "Ninja Flash Bombs." Something very simple. Flashlights. Not just any flashlights, however. No, the best flashlights designed for "Defensive Use." There was a time when the MagLite brand flashlight was about the best on the market you could own. And they are still excellent Self-defense tools...but flashlights have become much more powerful and alot smaller. The MagLite is still the brightest and best flashlight of choice when you need to use the light for an extended period of time, and it is still the best when you need a bludgeon-flashlight combination. It provides alot of illumination and still has the capability to be used as a weapon if need be. It is a great companion to the smaller LED Flashlights in your vehicle and home.

Law Enforcement Personnel usually have the large flashlight in "The Bludgeon Position." Meaning, it is usually resting on the top of one shoulder, if the light is in the right hand, that would be the top of the right shoulder. With the lens facing the attacker. It is a very simple thing to blast someone with the light, into their eyes, and then simply strike them with the other end of the light. A one-two combination that will put someone out quickly, and if not, you have the light in your hand, you can hit them until they are no longer a threat.

The King of High-Intensity Flashlights are the SureFire Flashlights from Laser Products, Inc. I have owned a SureFire 9P for almost a decade now, and it saved me on at least a half dozen occasions from being attacked by burglars and easily a dozen or more times on the street. Along with an ASP-21 [inch] Baton, I was able to defend myself easily on a few occasions. I cannot say enough about them. They work on firearms, but they can work in your hand as well if you only do your own research and personal experimentation with the concepts.

They can give you the decisive edge when you need it. Most attacks occur in low levels of light, which means if your attacker is utilizing darkness [as smart ones will] to aid them, their eyes will be adjusted to the darkness. The SureFire 9P will make you see spots at 6 feet in a well-lit room, at night, the effects are much more effective. If the eyes are adjusted to the darkness, which takes anywhere from 15 to 25 minutes and an instant flash of white light to destroy...the effects are not only dazzling, they are almost painful. The eyes are sensitive, if they are adjusted to the dark, they are super-sensitive, to say the least.

When you flash someone like this, it is best to keep the Master Eye closed. In that instant that you hit the attacker with the light, close your Dominant Eye. That will save you from being dazzled by your own light and your Non-Dominant Eye will be able to keep everything somewhat in view...do not focus on the light that is blasted onto the attacker. Divert your direct vision from the wash of white light.

If you think I am kidding, let a training partner adjust his eyes to the dark, remember, anywhere from 15 to 25 minutes...and then have a training exercise in the backyard at night or in a blacked-out basement, etc. Let him have it, then reverse roles. That way, you know exactly what you are dealing with.

Another thing you can do in the "Metsubishi Realm" is to purchase inert training sprays to simulate O.C. Pepper, etc., and be creative with your training scenarios. Do this randomly so the person does not know when you will fog them with the inert spray. Do not use anything except those inert training sprays specifically designed for that purpose. The liability warning comes into view once again, don't hurt each other. If you cannot afford or otherwise obtain proper training equipment, don't train with this stuff.

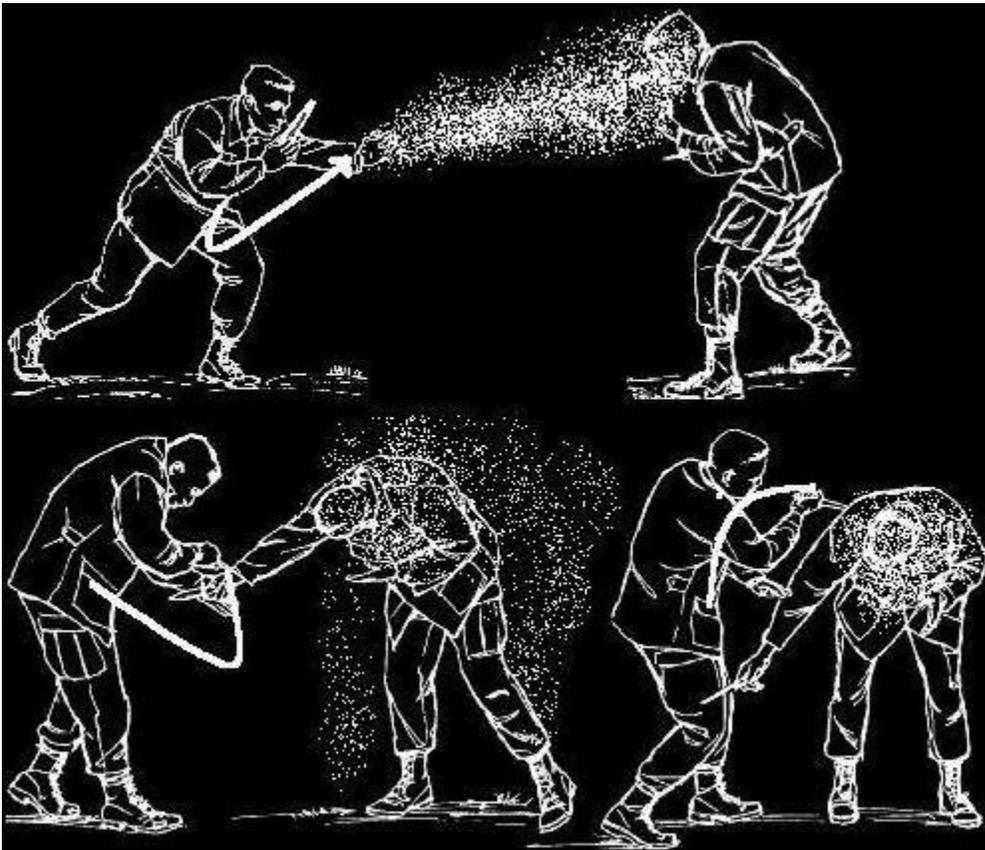
What you are going to find with the use of the SureFire Flashlights and inert training sprays in unpredictable training sessions (meaning the other person, or yourself, should not know which "drill" is going to contain the use of light or spray) is that these things work. They work very well. You will be amazed, you can then take that information and run with it. Create your own training scenarios without being bound by them.

What Else?

I think we should also include in this whole conceptual approach the use of regular, carried items. What if you are carrying your briefcase or one or two bags of groceries? These things can conceal a draw or an already drawn weapon, and they can be used as a projectile. Just like if an attacker screams, "Gimme your wallet!" Give it to him as mentioned earlier, or whatever else you have in your hand(s).

A coat or jacket whipped into the eyes or thrown over the head is delving into "Cloak & Dagger" methods, but is still in this realm. They are effective. The bag of groceries can either be dropped and the weapon drawn, or they can be thrown into the face of the attacker.

If you have more than one attacker, a bag of groceries or a briefcase/shoulder bag, or for women, their purse, these can be projectiles to distract one attacker while low-line kicking another, etc. Like I said, use your imagination! These actions can always be a segue to a draw or an exit. It all depends on the situation.



As I warned earlier, be careful and always train safely. Use eye protection, don't substitute safety equipment with substandard items. Don't use extremely hot liquids, etc. In other words, use your head! I'm not responsible. (Are you tired of hearing this yet?)

Low-Tech Knives in a High-Tech World

Low-Tech with a Euro-Flair...

The search for the Ultimate Lock on a folding knife marches on... The search for the Ultimate Steel in any knife...marches...on... I guess I should not complain because innovation is a good thing. What seems to really be bothering me is most people look at a tool as a savior instead of just another tool.

If you focus on the tools, you have to have those tools you are focusing on, generally speaking. If you're not careful, they become a crutch that you must rely on. Some crutches you must, obviously, possess in order to survive some situations.

If you focus on the skill, you can generally use anything.

What if you can't have your "newest and bestest" folding knife with the Space Age Steel and the latest Wiz-bang, slide-rule developed locking device that you can hang weight plates from, what then? Is everything lost?

How did men clean fish and game long ago or...just exactly how did men fight long ago with folding cutlery with no locking devices?

Go back one hundred years, you're not going to see Axis Locks and Walker Liner Locks and Frame Locks. Men knew limitations and worked around them.

People found ways to get around limitations and they found ways to get around the limitations of folding knives that were inherently two-handed openers (using nail nicks, etc.). ...Compared to the relatively spoiled knife community of today that is showered in all sorts of one-handed knives from Switchblades, Gravity Knives and Balisongs to knives with regular thumb studs, holes and other cutouts and discs on the blade that allow you to open them with relative ease.

So, just what do you do when you cannot have your new Wiz-bang "Tactical Folding Knife?"

I've been thinking about this ever since I read Pete Kautz's excellent article: ["If Jim Bowie owned a Spyderco."](#) Then I read of the deadly encounter Civil War General Nathan Bedford Forrest had with one of his Officers where Forrest used a folding knife after being shot by this Officer, to mortally wound this man... I thought on it some more.

The second generation of information that had me thinking was James Loriga's book, ["Sevillian Steel."](#) I know Loriga is a rather controversial figure and the book is too in some circles, no matter, that's not what this is about, this is a discussion of where ideas came from. The book is a good read in my opinion. I'm simply not qualified to have an opinion on the accuracy of the techniques in the book, etc. I am

not talking about that... I think what he puts forth as method is just as viable as a lot of other stuff I have observed in the past and the section on using scissors and jackets and coats is excellent.

While I'm at it, I would like to mention James LaFond's book, "[The Logic of Steel](#)." I really like it although I vehemently disagree with him on some things. The material in there about using a jacket/coat is excellent.

Through many conversations with Fred Perrin, I started to develop this whole idea that I did not have to leave good tools behind that were no longer considered "Modern." They did not have to be sentenced to the dustbin of cutlery history, no, quite the opposite.

Fred Perrin spends a lot of his time teaching various Military and Police Units in Europe and elsewhere how to do various things like fighting with knife and stick, hand to hand combat and he teaches them about various concealed weapons. He teaches much, much more and that is totally beyond the scope of this article, it would have to be a series of articles to cover it all. One of the most important things is how to survive in areas where you cannot get the "latest and greatest" equipment. Or, in places where if you did try to get the "latest and greatest" equipment, it might mean you draw attention to yourself.

You see, I was also bitten by the "Tactical Folder" bug for quite some time and with good reason. But I began to see a much larger world; I did not want to get so dependant on them to the point that I couldn't use other types of knives safely. That could happen. So, I started using the more simple knives again for every day tasks and I kept the "Tactical Folder" in reserve. (Which as of right now is an Al Mar Knives SERE 2000 and it is an excellent knife.)

See, it always bothered me that the knife community, for the most part, has discarded simple folding knives. They collect them, but many would never carry a high carbon steel blade with no lock and no way of opening it easily with one hand. To some, these knives are collectible but no longer practical. To others, they are simply junk from another era like a rusted out Model A Ford.

To those of you out there that still use these types of knives, good for you!

What I wanted to do was to write a small article about the Low-Tech Knives that seem to be an anachronism, stuck in a High-Tech World and they don't really get the respect they deserve. They don't get their due as tools of everyday living, or for survival, and...for fighting - defensive purposes.

This whole line of thought brought me to the place where I wrote the three-part article "Kid's Stuff" which you will also find on my website and I encourage you to read them.

Low-Tech Knives V. High-Tech Knives

Are they "superior?" That's not a very simple question really. What is "superior?" What good is a "superior Tactical Folding Knife" with "superior metallurgy and heat treating" or a "superior lock" when you can't get one and you can't take one with you but you have to find something to survive with?

What happens if, one day, the mere sight of a folding knife's pocket clip means an instant arrest? It could happen, look where we're going with laws. Look at the various lying mouthpieces in politics and the media beating the drum for banning everything they consider "dangerous."

What about a slightly slower opening folding knife that fits the hand very well or "good enough?" What if it does not have much of a locking device or none at all? What if it is simple, straightforward high carbon steel?

Yeah, "What if?" Indeed...

What if you get stuck in a Third World Country and you can't find some nice knife store? But you can find a place that sells tools that are common in that part of the world? Or they sell...table cutlery...

This article is just a glimpse of some cool stuff. Old Technology in a Modern Age.

Flick your Bic

Back before we became a "*Disposable Society*" where you simply throw away old shaving razors that have lost their edge or writing pens that no longer have ink, or cigarette lighters that ran out of fuel, people valued the more permanent counterparts to all of these items.

Ironically, the Bic Company has made cigarette lighters, shaving razors as well as ink pens. If you took all of the disposable garbage that Bic has made, it would probably fill one, massive landfill alone with no other items contained in it.

Think about this for a moment, a multi-billion dollar company that made its money on 100% totally disposable items, amazing, isn't it?

The disposable shaver and a can of foamy cream replaced the straight razor and shaving soap with mug and brush... Pens with ink cartridges that you could not re-fill replaced the pen and ink well. Later on, the entire pen became totally disposable. The various types of lighters, most notably the Zippo and Ronson, fell into disfavor with the convenience of the Bic and Cricket disposable lighter.

Part of that is because the old writing pens, well, you had to put ink in them, the older lighters, you had to put flints in them every once in a while and you had to fuel

them. The straight razor, a horrific fighting implement, you had to know how to shave with one and you had to know how to sharpen one and actually take care of it. Society is far too high speed for all of that now, it's perceived to be eccentric to know such things or do them every day. To put it bluntly, most people are too "busy" to do these things and the rest are too stupid and lazy to be bothered with such things now.

As a matter of fact, I am too busy to do ALL of that stuff!

Anyway, men developed little "routines" around these devices. Extra flints were kept under the pad in the fueling area of the Zippo lighter, you would never be without a flint if you kept a small supply of them in there. The Zippo is a lot like the knives I am going to discuss in this article; it is a holdover from another time. It has a loyal cult following, enough for Zippo to make little gasket-sealed fuel containers that can fit on your keychain...for those diehards that refuse to give up on the Zippo...

It's funny, years of Zippo lore and the snapping open of these lighters. Some people treat these things like Balisongs and Yo-Yos, they collect them and they perform tricks with them, etc. There is, in fact, a website dedicated to Zippo lighter tricks... just as there are websites dedicated to Yo-Yo tricks and Balisong knife manipulation...

After I finished this article, I went to find that website and learned it had been removed from the internet due to some liability concerns. Apparently, most people are no longer trusted with fire either.

Smoking is viewed as a big "NO NO" in our society. A friend of mine brought over some stuff for me to look at, the little sealed fuel unit for carrying Zippo lighter fluid on your keychain (how is that for hardcore?) and a small, portable, stainless steel ash tray that slides open and shut. Can you believe it? And of course there were the Ronson Brand flints and it was once common to see them in a multi-flint dispenser with a thumb wheel on the top, all of which fit on your keychain...

In the picture below, you see the Zippo fuel container and you will notice there is a small plastic piece and a metal piece on the keychain as well. The small piece of plastic will hold an extra flint and the small piece of metal can be used as a screwdriver tip to access the flint well in the Zippo, to change the flint. Pretty nifty, huh?



Douk - Douk

The Mighty Douk - Douk, the little knife that can do a lot. The little knife that no one thinks much about, some even think it's just a piece of junk that has a cult following among some people. Good! That leaves more Douk - Douk for those of us that know the secrets!

In the picture below you see the medium and small sized Douk-Douks.



What are the secrets of the Douk - Douk? Read on...

Let's start out with a nice attribute of the Douk. The blade is high carbon steel. What that means is, you have to take care of it or it will surely rust. But Men have been carrying knives like this for years, with these types of steel in them. They take

an edge like no other and they tend to hold that keen edge a lot longer than most of the newer, "better" steels. You can make a good knife out of stainless steel; it will take some abuse or neglect and won't rust too badly. It may hold an edge for quite some time, and then it will be a perfect pain in the ass to sharpen. High carbon steel is not like that - but you have to take care of it.

Everything is a trade-off in life, isn't it? If you want the extra keen edge that high carbon steel offers, you are going to have to take care of it. If you want the ease of sharpening, you're going to have to take care of it. I keep repeating this over and over so you understand that you have to take care of your tools if you want your tools to take care of you when you need them the most. If you want to get the most out of a firearm, you have to take care of it. I don't know why people don't understand this about knives as well.

Fred pointed out in his article on the Douk - Douk that you can turn it into a fixed blade by simply striking the steel body of the knife with a hammer (or other appropriate tool) right behind the tang, crimping the steel and causing the knife to lock in the open position.

He also pointed out that the Douk-Douk is basically internationally legal because it does not have a locking blade. This will vary from country to country, of course, but it is something to consider.

In some countries, it is also illegal to have a knife that you can open with one hand like a common Spyderco. The Douk-Douk does not have a thumb-hole, stud or disc for this type of one-handed opening either. This means you have to use two hands or your teeth and you have to practice opening it with two hands.

I have a wonderful book titled, "*100 Legendary Knives*" and it has a nice article on the Douk Douk, it echoes what Fred has told me about the Douk Douk being currency in some parts of the world. A lot of people in the United States may have lost sight of the fact that a knife is a tool for life but other people in diverse places have not. A knife is still a very valuable thing to have and a part of not only their every day life, but their very survival.

While your average Cubicle Slave here in the United States might wet their panties at the thought of someone carrying a pocketknife every day, a lot of the rest of the world just thinks we're weak.

Mercator

When I finally examined the Douk-Douks, Fred Perrin turned me onto is the German K-55, also known as the "Mercator" or "Black Cat." Sometimes called the "Running Cat" or "Jumping Cat," sometimes with Cat spelled with a K. It usually has K55 then right after that second number five (5) it will have a backwards K.



We were talking about the Douk - Douk and Fred advised me to get one of these interesting little knives that have been around for years. The "Black Cat" is another knife that no self-respecting member of the various knife cults would brag about.

But what is wrong with it? Really, when you look at it, it's a fine pocketknife. It has a bail for a lanyard, high carbon steel blade and an almost indestructible steel body. Much like the Douk - Douk. Unlike the Douk-Douk, the Black Cat has a locking mechanism.

People see the leaping cat on the side of it and think, *"That's flea market garbage."* Perhaps it is to them; maybe they cannot see how rugged the knife is. *They would be in good company; I didn't see it for a very long time, either.*

Anything can be destroyed; you can break anything if you want to. But the Douk - Douk and Mercator K55 are very, very good knives to have on hand and in your packs and kits. The Douk - Douk has a tough spring that you have to get by to open and close but it has no lock. The Mercator K55 has a lock and a nail nick to open it.

Both the Douk-Douk and Mercator Black Cats are incredibly thin bodied knives and they can be hidden, slipped, slithered and sewn into a multitude of places on and about your person, clothing or carried gear.

Laguiole

With the fine lines resembling a Spanish Navaja, the Laguiole is the hidden fighter in this article. I know this will be controversial, but that's A-O.K. with me. Knives like these have been used as fighters for years. Remember, "knives like these." I'm talking about the Low-Tech Knives, L.T.K.



The last 20 years or so of "tactical folders" have a lot of catching up to do in this department, the fact remains, these knives can be used for defense. They have been used for years, probably much more than what we know as "tactical" or "fighting" knives of the past 20 years.

These types of knives *were* the "tactical knives" of their day.

Some people are going to bellyache about no locks or whatever else they want to gripe about...

You can use these knives for defensive purposes or...simply to cut your food, cut anything you need to cut, it doesn't matter.

The knives in this article are very simple and rugged tools. But the Laguiole is probably the gem of them all. It's not only the way it feels in the hand, you know you can fight with it if you have to, but it's just a very fine knife, period. It's a quality item; it has the appearance of quality and feels the part as well. The high carbon steel blade to the mouche on the top with the bee on it and with fine brass bolsters and equally fine horn scales. It is a knife that can be handed down from Father to Son and so on and so on. Or...maybe you need to throw it in a storm drain if you have to use it.

It's at home on the table of a restaurant or in the alley behind the restaurant if need be.

Opinel

This particular Opinel feels like the Laguiole above, that's why I like it. Most Opinels do not have these fine lines but are simpler in appearance. This Opinel, like the Laguiole, is lightning fast in the hand and small enough to disappear quickly.



The Opinel has a wonderful lock, a simple ring that you twist and that's it. The lock is as simple and elegant as the knife itself.

This Opinel could be a fighter or a steak knife; the situation will dictate that.

The overall appearance of these knives is one of innocence. They don't look "evil" or "bad" and they can pass for true utility knives or even implements that you use to cut your food. They're totally legitimate no matter what your intent is. If someone

should attack you, you can still have these as totally legitimate tools and eating utensils.

"Why are you carrying this type of knife?"

"I use it at restaurants to cut steak with."

"Why would you do that? They give you a knife to cut your food with at the restaurant."

"No, they give you something that you use to rip and tear the meat apart with, they're always dull. I'm not carrying this for any other reason except to cut food and open boxes."

You can say that with 100% honesty. It is true, most places that give you a knife and fork are giving you something that they call a "knife" but it's really a bad excuse for a knife. A hacksaw blade would be a better choice for a steak knife than a common steak knife found in, at least, American restaurants. They're usually not sharp and they just mash, rip and tear meat apart.

In the past, Cold Steel, Inc., manufactured a line of Opinel-type knives and they were simply excellent!

Another type of Opinel - "Robinson"

This is a rather interesting example that Terry (and thank you T.T.!) sent to me along with the Opinel and the Laguiole up above. This one has two blades and dual locking rings, one on each end.



Survival

What exactly is "survival" to you? Next to a firestarting device and a device or tablets to treat water, there is probably no other tool as important for basic survival as a knife. From the mundane to life threatening, nothing else will do.

If you read my three-part article on "Kid's Stuff" a whole new world of knives as tools will open up to you. It's not for everyone, but you might get some value out of it. Ken is going to write a companion piece to this article on "Low Cost - High Value" knives and it is in the same vein as all of these articles. Call it "Survival on a Budget" or whatever you wish, it's all important, for those smart enough to realize it.

I've brought you the exotic, the strange, the obscure and now it is time to go back to Square One and examine all of the things around you that you may have ignored or discounted in the mad rush to get the latest and greatest "Tactical Folder."

There is a very good possibility that the "Tactical Folder" as we have come to know it will perish under the boot-heel of oppressive law in the not-to-distant future.

For over two decades now, we have heard the control-freak gun-controllers preach to us about how we should be more like "Britain" when it comes to gun laws.

You better believe if they set their sights on knives, we're going to have a battle on our hands and I don't think we're going to win that one. The only "knife people" in this country that are going to speak up are the ones who wish to appease the control freaks and even the most cursory examination of the control freaks shows that their appetite to ban, regulate and control is never sated.

Learn to use anything and as long as we can keep the more advanced stuff, that's icing on the cake. Prepare for the day when you cannot have those things and learn now. Prepare for the day when you might be rooting around in a junk pile trying to find things to survive with. That might be a reality one day as well.

The Escape Artist - The Magnificent Rebel

Some thoughts on the writings of Henri Charriere, a/k/a, "Papillon."

[Beware! The following contains content that is not suited for children, it is violent and explicit in other ways as well.](#)

Thank you, Brother

First of all, I really have to thank my Brother, Ken Cook, for suggesting Henri Charriere's two books "Papillon" and "Banco." Ken knows I love to read and he advised me to purchase these two books. He also knows my interests and he was 100% correct, these two books are golden literary works, in my opinion.

If you enjoy really good storytelling without the stilted and cold prose that so many books contain, you will love these two books.

Now, your opinion might vary, so be it. Perhaps you have already read one or both books and you did not like them or you don't quite find them as interesting and informative (as well as entertaining) as I do. That's fine. Different strokes for different folks, or, perhaps you need to revisit both books and read them again in a different light.

Anyway, I wanted to thank Ken for casting some light into a dark corner by suggesting these two books. A few years ago Ken and I were discussing various survival books, primarily military fare, Former British SAS Gents (Wiseman and Davies) who have written manuals as well as the ever-controversial Tom Brown. Then Ken told me about these two books...

After I read them I discussed the possibility of writing an article on the books for my website, dedicating them to the Memory of Henri, as there is precious little on the Internet about him. It seems rather sad, actually, that this is the case.

The Concept of Justice

I guess what I have to say next is just as important and I need to get it out of the way right now.

I am a big believer in Justice. Justice with a capital "J." Part of Justice is making sure innocent men are not sent to prison. It seems impossible to do just that when you use either paid informants or you arrest one person and then they roll over and rat some other person out so they, in turn, receive a lesser sentence.

Think about that for a moment. I know there would be fewer convictions if this "system" was not used, but what exactly is gained by allowing a real-deal thief, rapist or homicidal maniac back out on the streets just because he was a better liar or a faster one?

O.K, so, on paper, you put a bad guy or two, maybe three away, but the really bad one? He is back out, so in reality, it's only "progress" on paper and it's really an illusion. We're not safer and in some cases, we're demonstrably less safe from this system. The better liar, or the faster liar, sometimes the really evil one, he gets away. But, hey, what does that matter when it's all about career advancement and numbers on a piece of paper, ever attractive numbers to bean counters, right?

I know there are "safeguards" in place and I know that stories get checked, there is a method to the madness. I also know that no matter what type of safeguard you put in place, innocent people can still get placed in the jackpot for something they did not do, or, for something they had a lesser role in while the main players get off with nothing or get off lightly. I don't care what you say or what excuse you give, that's not "Justice," it's not "public safety," I don't know what to call it. I guess it's best just to refer to it as, *"the way it is"* and the way it is going to be for the rest of our lives.

While some might consider this a "necessary evil" to get the job of Justice done, it should never be confused with real Justice. While I don't have an answer as to how to fix the ills of the system, I think this sort of thing should be done away with in the future as the potential for destruction far outweighs, in my personal opinion, any real societal benefit. Letting the best liar off with a lighter sentence (or none at all) and hoping like hell you did not let the more violent of the two offenders off is pretty sad.

All of my friends know that I believe in the proper (Just) application of Capital Punishment, the use of the death penalty, for certain vicious crimes like first degree murder. With the power to take Life, there comes a great responsibility to make sure that no innocent people are executed for crimes they did not commit. I think with the advances in technology (DNA testing, etc.) we are now at a point in our development as a society that we can execute the guilty and not the innocent in the vast majority of cases.

We can also go back and release innocent people through DNA evidence and this has been done as well. And the terrifying thing about that is, there was a great amount of obstructionist activity going on. Early on, "The powers that be" were against releasing people cleared by DNA evidence even though the same system was proclaiming that they could now incarcerate and execute criminals without the nagging questions of guilt or innocence because the DNA evidence is so good. They wanted it both ways, they wanted the powerful new tool to "fight crime" but they didn't want to release people that were cleared of their crimes and this points to a rotten system. I think much of that obstructionist activity is over with now, at least I hope so.

I am writing all of this so that you know I don't believe in coddling criminals. I think it is the absolute worst thing that we, as a society (in the United States), have ever done to our own society. We have, in a very real way, soiled our own nest because we voted for certain people in the past and they, in turn, "reformed" the criminal justice system and the prison system.

By coddling criminals we have emboldened them. By selling the false promise of safety through utopian dreams like gun control, banning pocketknives that have springs in them and the so-called "rehabilitation" of violent criminals to the masses - we have made some of our streets a very dangerous place to be when the sun sets. Sometimes in broad daylight.

So, my friends who know my beliefs might find it quite surprising that I would be such a fan of Henri Charriere's "Papillon" and "Banco." Henri was, after all, a murderer, right? Why would I be a fan of a murderer? Read on...

The Story of Charriere

Henri stated in both of his books that he did not murder the pimp that he was accused of murdering. He claimed he was caught up in a situation where he was a criminal, a Safecracker, and someone else sold him down the river, so to speak. There is no doubt that this could be the truth. I certainly don't know... although Henri knows...but he is dead now.

I also take into consideration "underworld" criminals killing other "underworld" criminals. No matter what you say, it's not the same as one of them killing a totally innocent person anyway. It's like "murder" in prison is oftentimes not so clearly defined or easily compartmentalized as "murder." In the "underworld" of Paris, France, Henri had to live a certain way as all "underworld" figures have to do and that is a very different life than that of a regular Citizen.

Likewise, the person in prison has to survive in a different world with different rules and regulations imposed both by Prison Officials and criminals alike. The Bagne of French Guiana was so utterly corrupt and violent that it would make our worst prisons appear to be after-school detention.

So, I am trying to carefully navigate the murky waters of a very dark sea. I believe in Justice and I think Justice should be fair.

Another thing, idea, that I want to get across is, I don't think prison should be like playtime for Kindergartners. But it should also not be like the French prisoners had to suffer through in the Penal Colony at French Guiana. While some would say, *"To hell with them, they are animals anyway..."* Well, I can understand the passion behind that as well. I just don't believe in State-sanctioned torture. And when you treat even the most vile criminals like this, it is torture. We're above that. I am in favor of the proper use of Capital Punishment, but I believe prisoners should be treated fairly and they should be treated well and not tortured. They should not be sent to a slow death, Capital Punishment under the guise of "hard labor." Or, as the penal colony of French Guiana came to be known, *"La guillotine seche,"* or *"The Dry Guillotine."*

I could not blame any human being for wanting to escape a place like the now defunct Penal Colony of French Guiana. In fact, it is hard to blame human beings for wanting to

escape some of the prisons we have now, even though they are "country clubs" compared to the French Bagne.

So, in reading Henri's adventures, I place myself solidly in his shoes and I make the assumption that Henri is innocent. *The greatest intellectual freedom and escapism can then envelope the reader.*

On another level, so what if a Safecracker killed a pimp? Who brings more misery to society, a Safecracker or a pimp? Pimps are involved in the buying and selling of women and children. So, to be perfectly blunt and honest, I really don't care if Henri had a dispute with a pimp and killed the pimp. A Safecracker is a Saint compared to a pimp in my book.

So what is all of this about?

Getting back to Ken's suggestion that I read "Papillon" and "Banco," Ken said something very interesting and it put the hook in me. He said something like, *"They are survival manuals, but they are not written like survival manuals."*

I found that quite interesting and had to investigate further. I was lucky enough to find a paperback copy of each book in a used bookstore locally. They were dirt-cheap at about a \$1.25 each. Both printed in the 1970s, old enough to have cigarette ads placed in the middle area of the book. Now, if you have read enough of my writing on this website, you will know that I am quite a fan of old stuff like this. This was a really pleasant surprise at the bookstore.

Now, Ken was absolutely and wonderfully correct when he said that Henri had written a survival manual without even trying. This applies more to Henri's first book, "Papillon," than his second, "Banco."

"Papillon" is a smorgasbord of survival information. Survival in prison as well, even though the French Bagne is much different from our prisons today. This carries over into both wilderness survival as well as "urban" or "street" survival. French Guiana was a real wilderness back then and I assume not much has changed when you step into the jungle even to this day.

The book "Papillon" has tons of information about various survival topics, including the use of the knife in prison. *Ooohhh, not the dark side!*

Why on Earth would anyone want to learn anything from the violent culture of prison, especially how to knife someone? That is elementary. Although many will scoff, especially the more genteel among us...we have a horribly high recidivist rate in this country, the convicts walk among us. That being the reality of life in this country, as well as other countries, you have to know how it's done in order to, in my opinion, successfully defend against it.

Some now say that Henri Charriere did not actually escape from Devil's Island, even though they concede that he was a prisoner and did escape from some other prison in French Guiana. No matter. I am certainly not trying to create any more "mystique" around Henri, certainly no more than He and his Agents and/or Publicists created around himself.

I have asked Fred Perrin about Henri Charriere and Fred said that the stories in both "Papillon" and "Banco" were actually the combined stories and adventures of a few men, say three or four, and not just Henri Charriere. He also stated that Henri was a very tough man to have survived the Bagne...

I am not even concerned so much that Henri told the "truth" about everything, I don't care. Let me clarify that, I don't care if Henri Charriere's exploits were actually that of a few men, himself and others, it does not matter to me really. What really matters to me is the rest of the content.

I have found something interesting (intellectually stimulating, if you will) and it has some value to me personally. I am writing about it because I write about things I find interesting and...hey, you might feel the same way. If you do, great! If you don't, hey-hey! See the little X in the small box in the upper right hand corner of your browser? If you don't like it, you can choose another article or just click that little X and all of your worries will go away...

A Tactical Tidbit from the Bagne

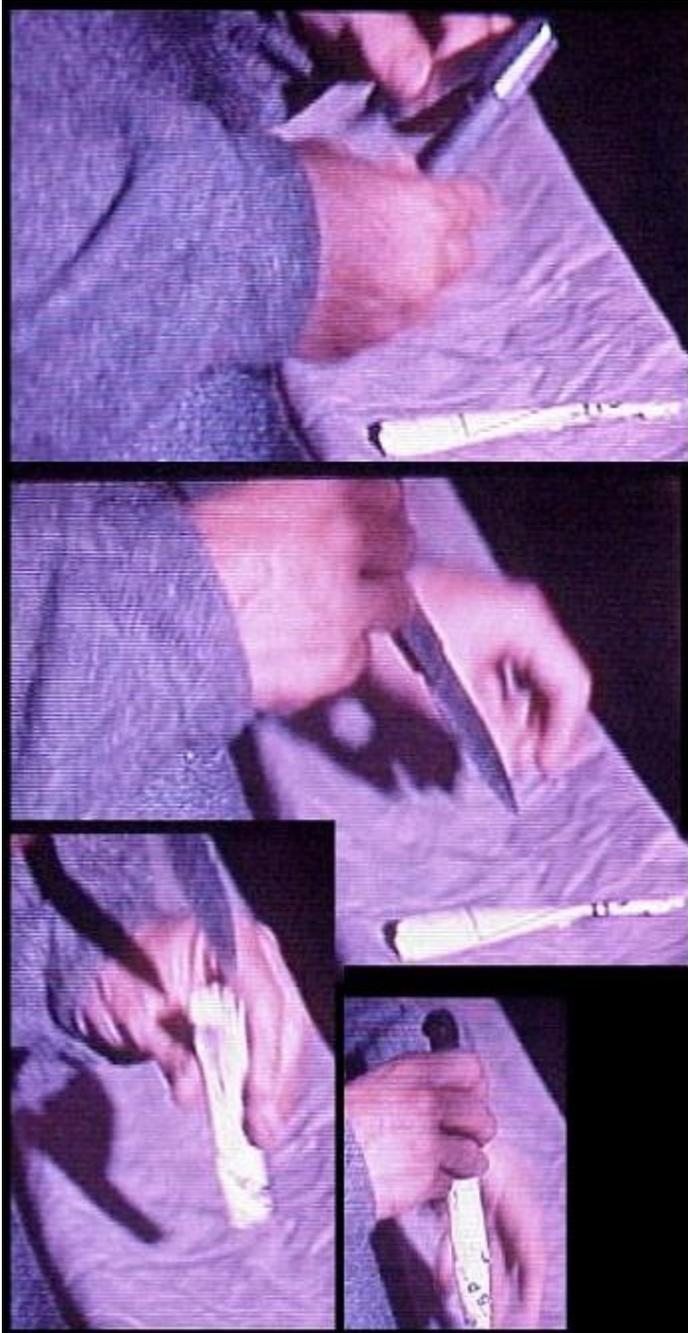
Here is one little nugget of information that you can find in "Papillon." This is not merely "prison survival information," it is universal in principle. It is a lesson from a fatal mistake and it applies today as much as it did in the 1930s when it happened in French Guiana. It shows certain interesting things, like (folding) pocketknives being used as serious offensive and defensive weapons of the street and prison, etc.

"Yesterday my friend Matthieu Carbonieri was stabbed to death. His murder set off a whole series of other murders. He had been in the washhouse, naked, and his face was covered with soap when he was hit. When we showered, we were in the habit of opening our knives and hiding them under our clothes so we could reach for them quickly if a suspected enemy appeared. Carbonieri forgot to do this and it cost him his life."

Papillon, Page 348

You will notice that Henri is referring to a folding knife. It is common today to claim that fighting with folding knives is something "new" and that fights with knives years ago was always a fixed blade affair. Interesting, isn't it?

The "[Newspaper Sheath](#)" for a folding knife is a trick that has been around for a long, long time. It was in the movie "Papillon," but most people probably missed it or thought it was nonsense.



Using a tightly rolled newspaper as an impact weapon is another old streetfighting trick, especially well-known in Baltimore City. Pete Kautz has also addressed this in an article and Pete always has some of the most interesting stuff to read. I suggest you devour his Website, it is one of the greatest around.

Here is a link to that article, please click [here](#).

Getting back to folding fighting knives...

Do you think those folding knives back in the 1930s had a new, wiz-bang locking system?

Here is Henri's friend describing a double-killing in retaliation for the murder of Carbonieri up above:

"I wanted to have it done before you [Henri] got back so you wouldn't be involved. With your record, if things didn't work out right, you'd get the maximum. Jean put out the light at one end of the room, Gravon at the other. It was almost dark, the only light coming from the gas lamp in the middle. I had a big flashlight that Dega had given me. Jean moved forward with me following. When he reached the two men, he aimed the light right in their eyes. The Armenian was blinded and raised his arm to protect his eyes - it gave me just enough time to plunge my knife into his throat. We did the same thing to Sans-Souci. He pulled out his knife but couldn't see to aim it. I gave it to him so hard the knife came out the other side. Paulo threw himself on the floor and rolled under the hammocks. Jean had turned off the flashlight, so I couldn't see Paulo. That's what saved him."

Henri then asks:

"Who pulled them into the can?"

And the answer:

"I don't know. I suspect it was the men in their gourbi who wanted to get their plans out of their gut."

Papillon, Pages 348-353

(A "gourbi" is prison slang and the word is Arabic for "primitive shelter." It was your personal area in a prison barrack in French Guiana. You will understand the "Plan" in the "gut" in just a little bit.)

Continuing on about the use of the flashlight and knife, the concept emerges. Remember, tools can change, concepts do not, clearly shown in the next excerpt:

"The idea of using the flashlight came to me when I was preparing my knife..."

...And I have nothing to be sorry about. They killed our friend while his eyes were blinded by soap; I killed them when their eyes were blinded by light."

Papillon, Page 353

Don't focus on the "why" of all of this or if it was "murder" or simply self-defense in the incredibly violent environment of a prison, look at the principle(s).

Identify the principle(s), examine the principle(s), and apply the principle(s).

"The Zodiac Killer" is another example of the criminal world utilizing something we consider "state of the art" when it comes to gear. Having murdered one victim on the run, in the dark while he, the killer, was running as well. He had taped a small penlight to the barrel of a semiautomatic .22 caliber handgun. This was in the late 1960s. The police could not understand how he could hit someone running away from him in the dark. The murderer explained it to them in a letter some time later. This serial killer taunted the police with letters he would send to newspapers.

More on knives in French Guiana

"I sought out Francois la Passe and asked, 'Is your brother still an orderly?'

'Yes, he's a relegate.'

'Go see him as soon as you can and ask him to give you a lancet. If he wants money, tell me how much and I'll pay him.'

Two hours later I was the owner of a lancet with a very strong steel handle. Its only drawback was that it was a little too long, but it was a fearsome weapon."

Papillon, Pages 32 & 33

Henri then describes how he transferred his lancet from his cap to up his sleeve with the handle of the lancet in the palm of his hand. In the next excerpt, he explains how he hid it during a stripsearch that wasn't very thorough:

"We all undressed. I assumed we were going to be searched. I put my lancet under my bare right foot and bore my weight on my left. The steel cut into me, but the weapon was well hidden..."

...The search turned up three knives, two sharpened nails, a corkscrew and a gold plan."

Papillon, Page 39

That plan, made out of gold, contained three hundred English pounds, two hundred dollars and two five-carat diamonds.

Plan d'evasion

This is sure to get some stomachs churning in disgust. It was apparently common to retrieve your victim's "Plan" from his "gut" after you or someone else killed him.

That is because the "Plan" was a small, smooth, metal cylinder that either had a screw-on lid or screwed/unscrewed in the middle and this is where you kept your money and other valuables.

"I got my plan. It was a highly polished aluminum tube, that unscrewed right in the middle. It had a male half and a female half. It contained 5600 francs in new bills. When I got it, I kissed it. Yes, I kissed that little tube, two and a half inches long and as thick as your thumb, before shoving it into my anus. I took a deep breath so that it would lodge in the colon. It was my strongbox. They could make me take off all my clothes, spread my legs apart, make me cough or bend over double, for all the good it would do them. The plan was high up in the large intestine. It was a part of me. Inside me I carried my life, my freedom..."

Papillon, Page 7

If a man (or men) thought you had a "Plan" in your "gut," it might mean your Death Warrant because they would assassinate you at first opportunity and then gut you like a deer to get your "Plan."

Nice huh?

So, you never wanted to let on that you had a "Plan" because you could get killed for it. Many did.

Rene Belbenoit writes in his excellent book, "Dry Guillotine:"

"Hespel's story was discussed and repeated in the blockhouse. I heard it time and again before the day arrived on which he was scheduled to die. He had been the executioner at Saint Laurent for several years. In 1923 he, a libere, had escaped into the bush with the intention of making good his escape and it was then he had gained for himself a dreaded nickname: 'The Vampire of The Maroni!'"

For, at this time, he owned a dugout, and he made a business of taking escaping convicts over to the Dutch side of the [Maroni] river for 25 francs. But many of these e'vade's had been found dead by the edge of the river: they had been murdered and, in every case, their abdomens had been cut open. These crimes had all been pinned on Hespel, who was suspected of having killed them, and then cut them open to grope in their bowels for their suppositories which, without doubt, contained money."

Dry Guillotine, Page 106

In the movie "Papillon," Steve McQueen played Henri Charriere. Sitting on a hammock and speaking with another prisoner on the (ship) voyage on the way to French Guiana, he sums it up succinctly:

"We're really something, aren't we? The only animals in the world that will shove things up their ass for survival."

The picture below is McQueen stuffing the (movie prop) Plan with money.



Henri carried two Plans at one time, one belonging to another man who was terrified of being killed for it, here is an exchange between this man and Charriere:

"I can't carry my plan anymore. I've got dysentery. I don't know who to trust and I'm scared someone will steal it or the guards will find it. Please, Papillon, carry it for me for a few days.' And he showed me a plan much bigger than mine. I was afraid it was a trap, that he was asking me this to find out if I had one. If I told him I wasn't sure I could carry two, he'd know. So I asked him coldly, 'How much is in it?'"

'Twenty-five thousand francs.'

Without another word I took his plan. Very clean it was, too, and right there in front of him I pushed it up my anus, wondering if it was possible for a man to carry two. I had no idea. I stood up, put my pants back on...it was all right. It didn't bother me.

'My name is Ignace Galgani,' he said before leaving. 'Thanks, Papillon.'"

Papillon, Page 29

In the movie "Papillon," Henri's friend, Louis Dega, being handicapped without prescription eyeglasses, found a pair small enough to be disassembled and placed in his own Plan.

The character in the movie "Papillon" who asks Henri for his knife so he can cut his own leg and then fakes a hard fall so he can get to the hospital actually had his own small folding pocketknife in his own Plan in the book "Papillon."

"[Julot] He also had a very small, very sharp knife, really a penknife, in his plan. As we docked, he planned to cut his knee open. Then, as he was leaving the boat, he would fall off the ladder in front of everybody. He hoped he'd be carried from the wharf directly to the hospital. And he was."

Papillon, Page 42-43

Rene Belbenoit, survivor and escapee from French Guiana and author of *"Dry Guillotine,"* wrote extensively about the Plan and Plan d'evasion.

The Movie Starring Steve McQueen, Papillon

On the DVD for *"Papillon,"* in the special features area, there is a Featurette, a short documentary, about "The Making of Papillon."

In this short Featurette, separately titled, *"The Magnificent Rebel,"* Henri Charriere says something interesting through an interpreter, you may find it interesting as well:

"Society does not want free men. They talk freedom, democracy, anything they want. But they don't want free men. Society wants conditioned men...men who march in step."

In this short movie, a behind the scenes look at the making of the movie "Papillon," you actually get to see Henri Charriere, just a couple of years before his death. Hamming it up a couple of years before cancer would end his life with a man that had less than a decade to go before cancer would end his life as well - Steve McQueen.

I think I was lucky. I was able to read "Papillon" and "Banco" before I ever saw the movie "Papillon" or the "Making Of" short movie.

The book is so much better than the movie. Dalton Trumbo (Of "Johnny Got His Gun" fame - Metallica fans will know this movie as the basis for the video for the song, "One" on the "...And Justice for All" album.) had to compress and smash this wonderful book into a fast-paced movie. He did OK. He could have done a lot better.

Steve McQueen definitely saved the movie with his presence. As a related sidenote, I always thought that McQueen did his best acting in the movie "Tom Horn." That is until I watched "Papillon."



McQueen's acting in "Papillon" far surpasses anything he ever did, in my opinion - including "Tom Horn." (Another man, Tom Horn, I should write an article about one day, perhaps.)

The "Thousand Yard Stare" that McQueen musters for the camera in one of the scenes where Henri was in solitary confinement...is haunting.

The look on his face after biting into half of a coconut is amazing. You would think that he really had to eat nasty, watery broth with a chunk of fat (if you were lucky you received a nasty piece of fat-meat...) in order to get him to like a piece of coconut that much.

The fear on his face when he pulls a tooth out of his head, knowing he is dying from malnutrition, you can feel.

Steve McQueen was a talented man indeed. No one acts like that anymore.

Argosy, March 1970

Argosy was a rather strange magazine for men. Adventurous men. Daring men. So, Henri's story was right up Argosy's alley, so to speak.

When I found a copy of the March 1970 issue, I was talking about it with Ken and he said, "*Yeah, they ran stories about sharks all of the time.*"

Lo and behold, on the front cover of the March 1970 issue there was a Diver about ready to deliver the bang stick to a shark. The story, "**The Sharkbusters.**"

Being attacked by a shark is more adventure than I care to be involved with. I've caught a couple of small sharks years ago. I like to eat them actually. Mako and Black Tip are my favorites, I just tell me Son, "*think of it as revenge for them eating us humans.*"

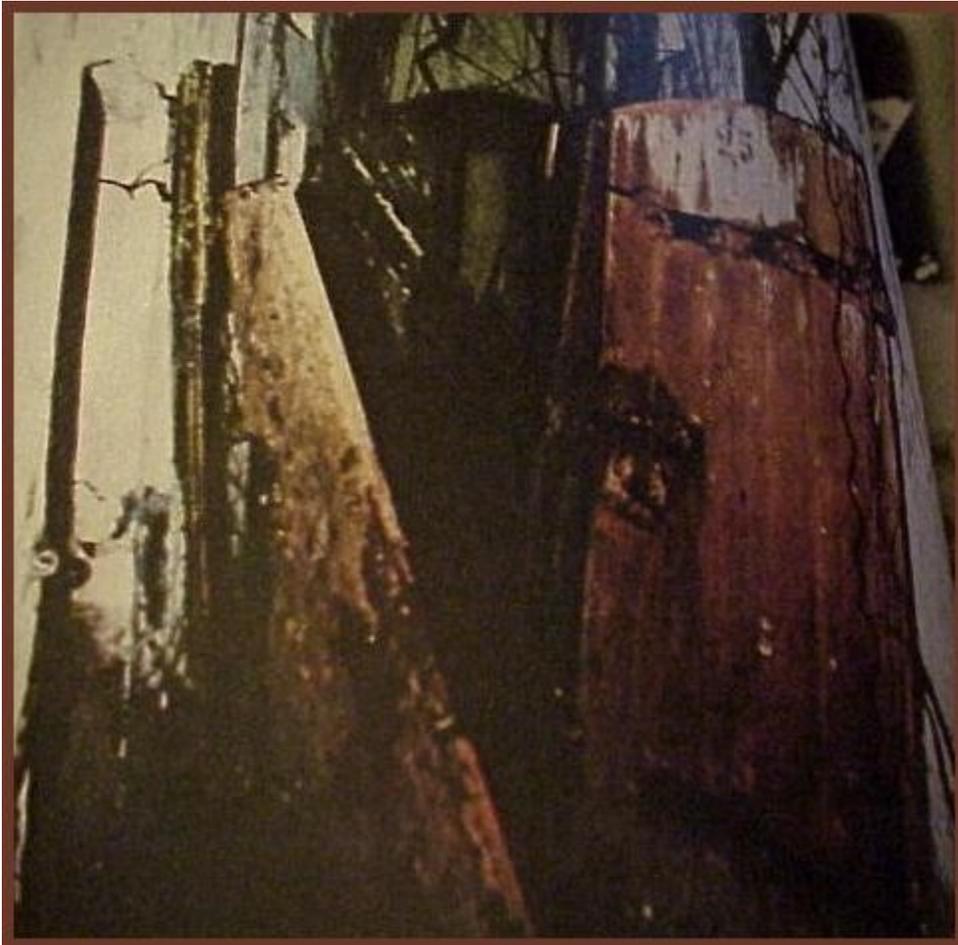
Shark is the steak of the sea.

Anyway...

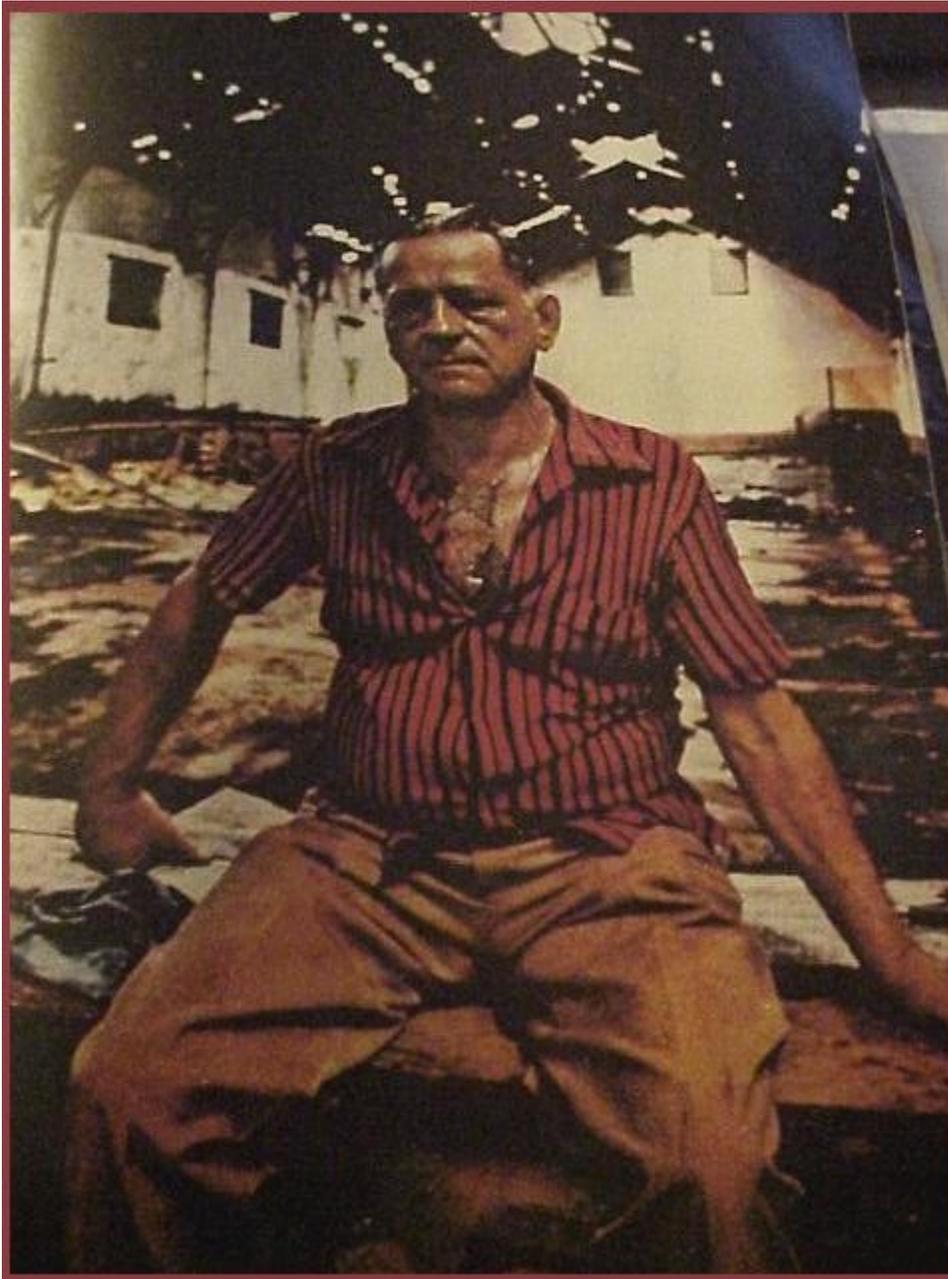
Without copying a bunch of text, the pictures in this article on Henri and Devil's Island are really surreal. Argosy Magazine took Henri back to French Guiana about 26 years after he escaped. One can only imagine what was going on in his head when he went back there.

I have to apologize as my scanner does not work with this computer. The pictures that follow were taken with a Sony Mavica. Pictures taken of the pictures in the magazine. I'm amazed they turned out this good.

In the picture below, you see some of the broken down doors of the prison.



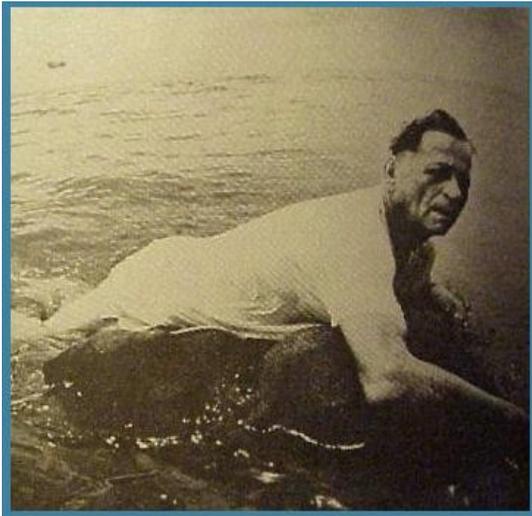
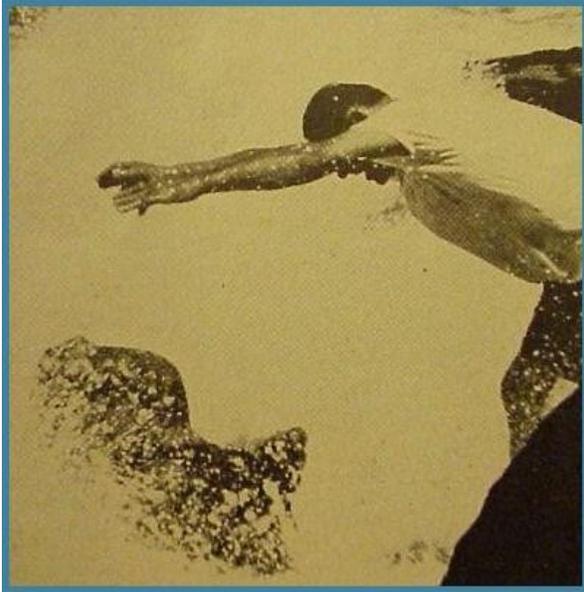
Henri in one of the prison buildings. (below)



In his isolation cell in Reclusion. (below)



The next two pictures are Henri throwing a bag of coconuts and then floating on a bag of coconuts, this is how he made his final escape from Devil's Island. A reenactment for Argosy Magazine.



Closing

Papillon is a story about rehabilitation. Self-rehabilitation. You cannot "correct" a criminal and you cannot rehabilitate them as the word has come to be known.

The French Penal Colonies were not designed to rehabilitate, they were actually designed to break men down and to kill them. That's why Rene Belbenoit referred to French Guiana as "*The Dry Guillotine.*"

It is also a story about survival in an environment that is so harsh that it defies reality. It's all wrapped up in an adventure and you will enjoy it immensely if you read it.

If I wrote anything else about it, you wouldn't go out and buy the book, would you? That's why I'm going to bring this to a close now.

There will be more to read about French Guiana very soon, an article about Rene Belbenoit, for example.

The
American Bowie Knife
Proud Symbol of Freedom and Power
Part IV

The Traveler's "Take Anywhere" Bowie

As I have traveled and taught seminars on the Bowie knife across the country, many people have asked about the practicalities of carrying such a large weapon. Some have felt that it was impossible or impractical to do. While I do not advise anyone to carry any weapon (that is a personal decision), I can say that it is certainly possible to do so.

One answer to this problem is to find a sheath maker who understands the big knife and how a proper carry system can make it possible for even a small woman to conceal a large knife. One leading expert in this field is Mike Sastre of [River City Sheaths](#). His rigs can make even a large Hell's Belle or Southern Comfort Bowie disappear under a T-shirt and shorts, as improbable as that might sound. If you carry any kind of blade, then check out Mike Sastre's work - you'll be glad you did!

Another answer to the problem of carrying a Bowie knife is simply to look beyond the rigid definition of the weapon, and seek other objects which may be used to accomplish the same goals. Remember, the True Art is conceptual and not limited to the weapon. There are many objects in the environment that can act as a substitute Bowie in the hands of a skilled warrior, some obvious and some less so. Here we will describe a simple Bowie knife "stand in" that could serve in a pinch perhaps for today's worried air traveler.

To create our "Faux-Bowie" we will use simple, invisible items. In a time when people are on such an alert, there is no reason to cause yourself problems by the carry of an illegal weapon, such as when traveling by air. The guard at the gate doesn't know you from Adam, and just because you know you're a "good guy" he has no reason to believe you are anything other than a dangerous nut! People who tempt fate by sneaking along weapons are only asking for trouble, and I do not mean at the hands of terrorists.

The two things you will need to have are a magazine of some kind (preferably one with a square spine, not a folded and stapled spine) and a few dollars in quarters. On a plane, they give you 2 suitable magazines in your seat-pocket (you know, that "Award-winning Attaché magazine") so if you forgot your own, you are still in luck. The one thing I would recommend for you who bring your own is not to bring along a military, gun, or martial arts magazine. If your carry-on is searched, you will have a lot less explaining to do with a copy of "Women's Sports and Fitness" or "Wired" than with the latest issue of "Combat Handguns", "Soldier of Fortune", or "Knives Illustrated."



Send the right message - to the general public, a pretty girl is a better "message" than violence!

Next, open the magazine to the middle, and lay a row of quarters along it. If the magazine is the stapled type, go over a page or two and the quarters will hold in place better. You can get away with as few as 4 quarters or as many as the magazine can hold. The more you add, the stronger overall the magazine becomes. If you load the whole length of the spine with quarters, you will be amazed at how strong it becomes (try and bend it!)



Experiment on your own with longer magazines. How could this be adapted to a newspaper?

Now, roll the magazine tightly from the spine (or "fold" as the case may be) and you are ready to go. You could tightly wrap a rubber band or hair-tie near either end for more strength, or tape it if you had time. This is a powerful thrusting weapon that can also be used for some impact applications. You will find that it is quite easy to break a pine board or two with a thrust from this simple tool. The end of the magazine can give a large oval shaped "paper-cut from Hell" so as always, use discretion in self defense. If force was unwarranted, it would be considered against you as a weapon.



Wrap the other arm for protection or grab a seat flotation cushion, and fight from there!
Wear a backpack "backwards" (i.e. on your chest) for an improvised body armor.

Though this is clearly not the kind of fight stopper that a large Bowie knife (top) or even a small folder (bottom) are, in expert hands this "paper knife" can be quite effective. Remember, you are not like a cartoon character hitting a bad guy on top of the head with it, which would be ineffective. The skills and strategies with the Bowie knife remain, just modified as need be for the tool.

One simple test I have for anyone who doubts the effectiveness of this tool, is simply to put on a fencing mask and spar with a pair of these. You will quickly learn that they just are bad news to be hit with, though clearly less deadly than a real Bowie knife. They will cut up exposed flesh and their weight and leverage enable them to pack a wallop on the edge which can break bones in the hand and cause a disarm; they are also quite "stout" on a thrust to any part of the body. These are "not a toy", and should be treated in a professional manner, with respect.

Brass Knuckles

Brass Knuckles [In the generic grouping of "Knuckledusters."] have a long and bloody history in both Europe and The United States. Probably a lot of other places as well. Carrying them on your person in virtually any State in this Country would amount to an instant arrest if searched. You would be very lucky to get away with a confiscation and a verbal warning...very lucky.

In my youth, there were many people in the neighborhood and in Baltimore City that packed a pair of "Knucks." They are sold to this day in the same places they were in my youth. Flea Markets all around the area have "Brass Paperweights." Some of them are supplied with a tiny little piece of threaded metal that screws into a matching hole so they can be picked up easily off of a stack of papers on your desk. Makes them a real cool paperweight in fact! They are neat and a great conversation piece.

I think it is safe to assume that wherever there are Flea Markets or Swap Meets, etc., you are going to find dumptruck loads of brass knuckles, various flat and round blackjacks [saps] and cheap overseas rip-offs of ASP Telescoping Batons. I've watched a lot of punks and wannabe gangbangers buying them...so beware. They ain't collectors, they're *users*...

The bloody world of pummeling people with Knucks has a long history as I said before. These things are brutal weapons and have a sinister reputation.

The reason they were banned is because we have a problem, as a society, of blaming inanimate objects for the acts of predatory or stupid human beings. That is primary. More than that, they were banned because they are effective at what they do, which is damaging people.

The way I was taught by a Jujutsu Instructor was to punch in a tearing and glancing manner and not necessarily straight on. In other words, you would hit with something similar to a vertical, rolling punch instead of something like a reverse punch.

But that is with Brass Knuckles as we have come to know them. Most "Classic" Brass Knuckles have smallish holes for the fingers. To punch straight on could lead to broken fingers, which is why he suggested a slightly different method of punching with them. It really depends on how your hand is shaped, finger size and some other things...but in general, with the "Classic" pattern, it's probably best to hit with a rolling, glancing blow.

BC-41 Knuckles

Other patterns of Brass/Metal Knuckles do not have to be used in that manner and you can punch straight on with other types. These other patterns had ovals instead

of round holes for the fingers. The patterns that come to mind are the World War Two SOE/OSS Pattern for Brass Knuckles. This is an excellent pattern that gives the fingers a bit more breathing room and will prevent some of the damage to the fingers that Brass Knuckles are somewhat known for.



**"Classic" Pattern
Metal Knuckles**



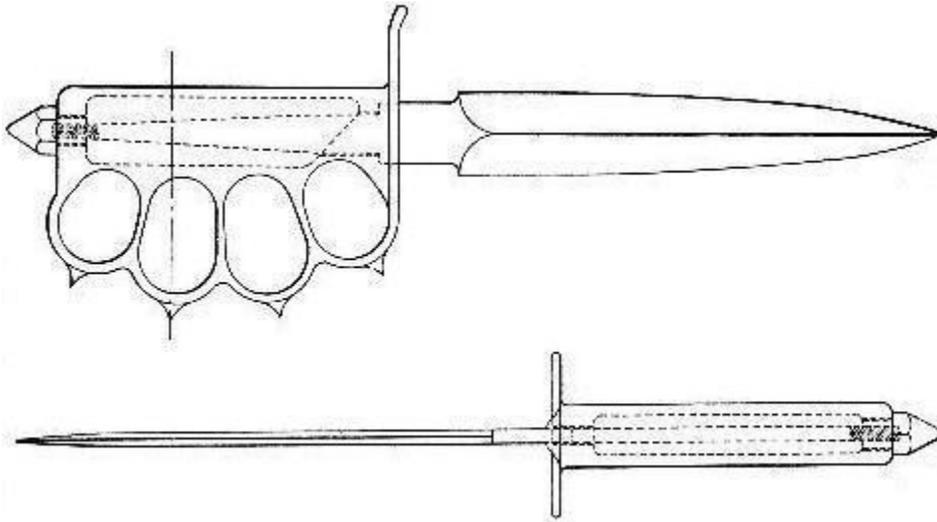
**World War I & II
Pattern Knuckles**

This pattern of Brass Knuckles was taken from a specific knife. That knife is the World War One Clements Knuckle Knife. This knife usually had Aluminum Knuckles. This knife was produced and used again in World War Two by Clements and the Knuckles were marked "BC-41" just as the Alloy Knuckles [without blade] were. My understanding is, Aluminum in World War One was the most common Knuckle material with brass second. In World War Two, I believe they were mostly an Alloy. In both World Wars, brass became scarce quite quickly as firearms ammunition cartridges are made of brass. When I say "Brass" in this article, know for the most part I am speaking generically.



The World War One & Two Trench Knife

The U.S. 1918 Trench Knife is a Classic. Col. Jeff Cooper remarked recently in a magazine article with regard to fighting knives that this would be his choice. Some people hate it because it is rather heavy, but it leaves little to the imagination as to the sort of savage mayhem that could be brought on an enemy in Close Combat with it.



The type of Brass Knuckles that form the entire body of the knife have elongated ovals like the BC-41 Pattern and are better for striking, better than the "Classic" Pattern of Brass Knuckles.

There are variations that have a triangular or round spike instead of the double-edged dagger blade and they have more of a "D" shaped Knuckleduster Guard on them. There were also Bowies made that had similar Guards! The "D" Guard Bowie is a particularly vicious fighter in skilled hands...different methodology, but quite effective as well!



"Death's Head" Knuckles, Knuckle Knives and Push Daggers

The British Firm of Robbins & Dudley should have been known as "Damage, Incorporated" in the last World War. I mention these knives in passing because they are unique and at a glance, you can tell they would be effective for Close Combat. They are just another piece of a historical puzzle.



A couple versions of fighting knives made with "Death's Head" Pattern Brass Knuckle grips and one Push Dagger with a nice Brass Knuckle grip.



They're rather neat, aren't they? It's quite obvious why this pattern of Knuckles is referred to as a "Death's Head," it looks like a skull.

Enter the Tekko

Some people in the Martial Arts would scream bloody murder if you suggested that a pair of Brass Knuckles was a "legitimate" or "Martial Arts" Weapon. Others would scream if you suggested they could be used for Self-defense.

"But they're OFFENSIVE!!! Criminals use them!!!"

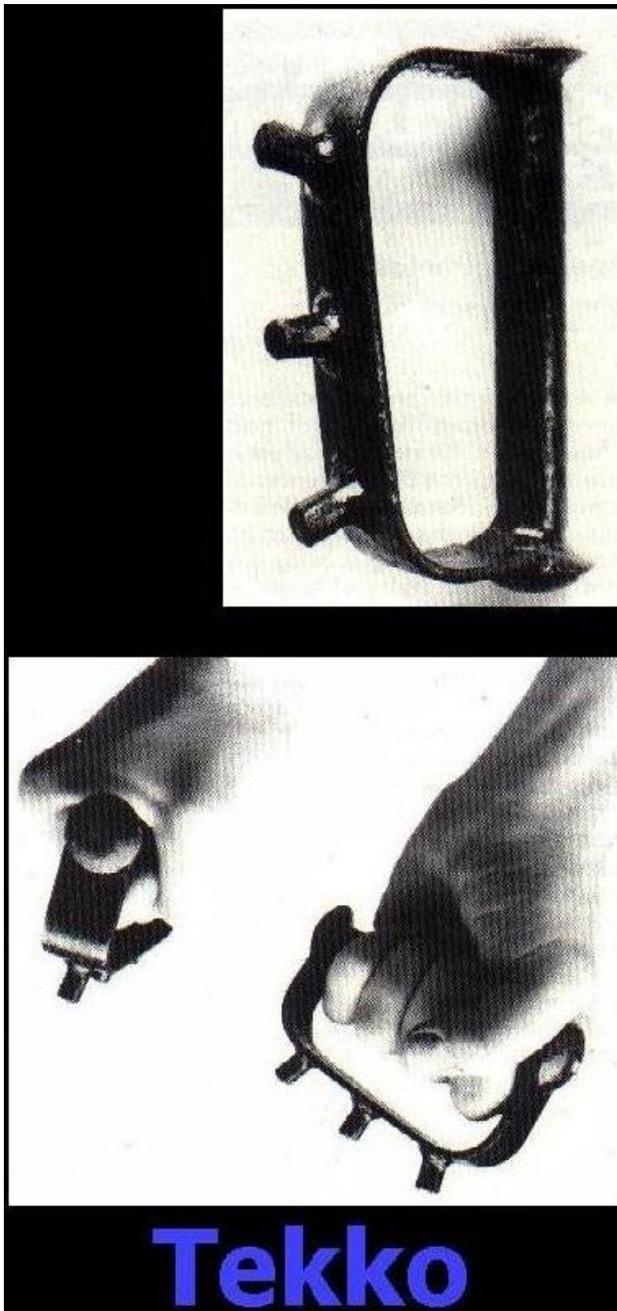
Criminals use motor vehicles as getaway cars, ban them too. Eh? Well, the point of this article is to give some information about the brutal world of the Knuckleduster, the nefarious "Knucks." And...to make a point that they are, in fact, a modern day version of a Martial Arts Weapon.

Yes, prepare to cry. I'm not taking the time to research, scan pictures, type all of this out into some sort of interesting article merely to be controversial. I'm doing this because I enjoy it and I believe what I am typing has some truth to it. I believe certain things and the fact that they are controversial to some people is a non-issue to me. I do chuckle at them, however...

Without listing every possible Martial Art that may have used Knuckledusters, let me focus on two that I have confirmed. One is quite popular although the weapon is not and the other is very obscure.

Below is a neat picture from a very old Martial Arts Magazine, a Tekko!

Notice the similarity to the "D" shaped Knuckleduster Guard on the 1917 Trench Knife? I think things like this are great, really delving into the concepts of weapons. I enjoy it immensely and I hope you do as well.



The first is the Okinawan Tekko. This Knuckleduster is similar to that found on "D" Guard Fighting Knives. Very interesting indeed. This is a picture of two variations of the 1917 Trench Knife with triangular blade.



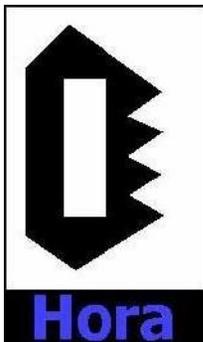
The interesting thing is, in some forms of Karate from Okinawa [I'm not an expert on that and I am speaking in the most general terms and offering tidbits of information that I have found] there is a Kata specifically for the Tekko. Maybe more than one, but this one I have "found" online. It is called, Maezato no Tekko.

Cool, huh? I think so!

The first mention of the Tekko in Okinawan Martial Arts was in a book written in 1824 or 1825 according to one online source.

Vajra-musti, Martial Art of India

Please, make no mistake. I know next to nothing about the Martial Arts of India. I do know they have a very hardcore reputation as being effective and tough! I have traced down a Knuckleduster from India called a *Hora*...they were made out of animal horn.



I'm sorry I cannot provide any specifics as to the use of the Hora, I'm sure that it is basically used like any other Knuckleduster weapon, but I was hoping to find something rare and obscure about the Hora and I have not so far...

"Half Knucks"



Here is a rather cool pair of "Half Knuckles." There are a couple of people on the Internet who are making classic brass/metal knuckles as well as a variety of pointed/spiked metal knuckles. All the designs are as visually nasty as they are effective.

In Closing...

Get caught with them in your pocket...*Go to jail...*they are illegal damned near everywhere, I don't know of a State where you *can* carry metal knuckles. It seems as though they have been illegal forever...

Now, has the "question" been "answered?" Are these things "legitimate" Self-defense weapons? Are the "legitimate" martial arts weapons?

I believe so. I believe they are legitimate and they should be legal, unfortunately, they are not. If they are legal to simply own where you live, by all means, get a pair of them and work with them on a focus mitt just to familiarize yourself with them.

While I think about it, stay away from the folding knuckle knives. No one reputable ever made a pair which means you cannot trust the locks on them. Unless you want to have the nickname of "Stubby," avoid them like the plague. They have been sold for two or three decades now. Cool idea, poor materials and craftsmanship.

You're In Complete Command Of All Situations With The Hefty FURY In Your Hand.

Now! You Can Own

A FISTFUL OF FURY

ABSOLUTELY THE ULTIMATE DEFENSE WEAPON

Features include:

- Fast Thumb Trigger
- Legal Opening Blade
- Super Heavy Duty
- 440 Stainless Steel
- Full 5" Safety Locking Blade
- Hand Forged, Razor Sharp
- Safe Non-Slip Handle

This "SPECIAL FORCES" Weapon Of The Future Can Be Yours For Only...

Super Bonus Genuine Leather Heavy Duty Belt Pouch \$3.95

Folding Knuckle Knife

In the meantime, as people are banning Trench ["Knuckle"] Knives and Metal Knuckles, let them ban these.





The TID, which stands for, “Tactical Impact Device,” sure has created a lot of buzz in the knife community with lots of people buying them and mounting them on their Sure-Fire flashlights. The TID for the Inova LED flashlight seems to be catching on and becoming popular as well. Some people call it “The Cookie Cutter.” To me, it resembles a Hole Saw more than a Cookie Cutter.

The Inovas actually have a much greater utility, in my opinion, than the Sure-Fires. That is said with the full realization that the Sure-Fires are brighter than Inovas. I have been carrying Sure-Fires longer than Law Enforcement in my area. I remember one local County K-9 Officer borrowing my 9P Sure-Fire, way back when, to check it out on the range with his Sig-Sauer P-226 duty weapon.

Back to the TID...

From the G, G & G literature:

“...the new Tactical Impact Device (TID) fits easily on the bezel of the flashlight and is secured from removal by four small socket-head screws. Manufactured from 4140 steel, it has a manganese phosphate finish...

...Its sharp, 5-teeth-per-inch pattern surrounds the entire bezel and provides an aggressive, and extremely effective, alternative to lethal force.”

Here are two pictures, two different angles to show you the TID on a Sure-Fire E2e and an Inova X5-Tactical. Another Inova X5-Tactical with the newer body style is shown for comparison.





Light as a Weapon: Modern Metsubushi

I think that people devalue lights like the Inova, how much light do you need to blind a home invader when their eyes are adjusted to the darkness of your home? I have used a 9P Sure-Fire flashlight to blind someone and then strike them with the flashlight and I have used them so I could strike with a 21 inch ASP Baton. (Both legally on the job) Anyone that thinks that is “stupid” or “nonsense” has never been on the receiving end of such an offensive defense. It does work, works like a charm as a matter of fact.

(I remember Andy Stanford catching grief on an Internet forum for the mere suggestion that you could use a Sure-Fire and an edged weapon together.)

The flipside to that is, Sure-Fire has one hell of a marketing machine and they have some very vocal fans. They have also really pushed the envelope with their flashlights, they keep getting brighter and brighter and that’s a good thing. I don’t think it would be fair to say that they (Sure-Fire) have insisted that light *alone* can be a weapon. I think it would be more than fair to say that a couple of people closely associated with them and/or employed by them have. Some of the most vocal fans have.

They are incorrect. When light is a weapon, it is a weapon that has to be used in tandem with a real weapon, even a chin jab or kick.

I see “Light as a Weapon” differently. I see it as an aid to using another weapon, as I wrote about in the “Metsubushi” article on this website.

(I know that it might appear that I am contradicting myself, bear with me. I’m not condemning the use of light, I’m just saying you need to rely on the whole spectrum of skills and equipment and not merely light.)

I am not paid by Laser Products, Inc. (this should be obvious) which happens to be the manufacturer of Sure-Fire flashlights, nor should any of this be viewed as a

criticism of their products. I love their products and value them greatly! This is just a little discussion about some of the craziness that can surround an excellent product when the ball gets going.

I am also not employed or paid by the folks that make Inova flashlights.

People are coming out of the woodwork on various forums and they are saying things like, “No, THIS light (Sure-Fire) is a WEAPON! It will make someone fold or run away!” If this did happen, I’m betting that the guy you flashed did not really want to fight at all. Or, he might think you are a Police Officer and he’s about ready to get the maximum damage brought down on him (being shot) and he bolts. People that say these things have probably never fought a real hardhead.

I’m talking about the sort of hardhead that will fight three Police Officers over relatively nothing at all. One Citizen with a bright light is of very little concern to them at all. They are dangerous and they’re not easily scared nor spooked.

Real hardheads don’t crumple or shrink away from a bright light and when they do, they will usually crash back in on you. They might see a big, colored spot in their center of vision from the light, that is just a bull’s eye to them.

Between the TV Show “COPS” and the current barrage of war news as of late, everyone knows about Police and Military use of flashlights, they know they are handheld and mounted on weapons. They know they are used...a lot.

Here is the reality: If you are going to use “Light as a Weapon,” do not ever think for a moment that this is going to save the day. No, be prepared for battle. Do not pay this lip service and say, “Well, this light is bright, I’ll deal with whatever else happens.”

No, going into this, know that you have solid skills and weapons to back the light up to begin with. Understand that you are not a SWAT member (unless you are!) going into a room to shoot a barricaded suspect or whatever. A street attack and use of the flashlight during same is very different than entering a room with a Sure-Fire equipped H&K MP-5.

As with knives, you will usually not have the luxury of long range during a street attack. It will be in your face, that’s how rapes, assaults and robberies take place.

If you blast someone with your dandy flashlight on the street, don’t just stand there admiring what the light did, defend yourself. If you blast the person who approaches you after you warned them and they are at a distance, you better be moving because if they have a firearm, even if they are dazzled, they can shoot for the light.

This is why Police used to be taught the now antiquated technique of holding the flashlight up above your head and away from your body. They were drawing hostile fire. (Is there any other kind of fire? I think not!)

Criminals saw this so much, or other criminals informed them of it, and they started shooting low and to the side to hit the Officers. (Source: Ayoob) Criminals can fire at the light. You use your light intermittently, even if you have it mounted on something slick like a Benelli Shotgun and you are defending your home.

If someone flashed you with a flashlight and then tried to take your child out of the shopping cart in the parking lot of your local grocery store, would you run away being “injured” by the light? Of course not, you would fight!

Well, most hardcore criminals are like that too; they are serious about their goals just as you are. Remember that the next time you read about someone saying that light is an effective weapon all by itself.

Light will dazzle and temporarily remove someone’s ability to see you. It can disorient you and this is directly proportionate to the degree their eyes have adjusted to low levels of light in conjunction with the power of your personal flashlight you are using to dazzle them.

The light is not a “weapon,” but it is a really good way to get the drop on someone and give them a terrible deficit in a fight, there is no debate whatsoever about that. But it is not a ray gun, OK? Please, don’t buy into all of the marketing hype. If you do, you run the risk of some crafty criminal who is used to being flashed and smashed by Police Officers and he is going to look away or close his eyes. When he does not see bright red, yellow and blue stars through his eyelids, etc., he is going to stick a knife in your face. Don’t buy into “Light as a Non-violent Panacea.” A streetfight can shift in a split second and what you thought was going “right” can go terribly wrong, very fast.

Buy into this fact, if you have a good flashlight, it is an excellent way to draw another weapon or employ unarmed combat. The light is a window of opportunity that you open upon depression of the tailcap or other button, that is all.

Do not repeatedly flash them, they will adapt to that and then you have a problem. If someone is hostile and they are in close proximity, you must Flash & Smash right then and there.

Understand that even very powerful flashlights are basically “One Trick Ponies” and you get one chance that you can bet on in order to do something. If you get another chance, that is because the attacker does not have his game together. As you frustrate a homicidally aggressive human being, they will get even angrier. Understand that they believe they have a right to victimize you and you have no right to protect yourself. They’re twisted that way.

Quite frankly, I don't understand why people say some of the things they do; it's not like they won't fight if some criminal gets their hands on a powerful flashlight. It's not like you are going to go fetal and start urinating if you get flashed by one. (Are you?)

One word on pain compliance, as many of you might already know from reading some of the articles here on my website, I am not a big believer in pain compliance techniques because of the alarming number of people who ingest mind altering substances for personal amusement. This happens to be the same sorts of people that launch violent attacks for no reason or in any event, very little provocation. ("Why are you looking at me man!")

There are also people that will let you damage them as long as they can damage you more. Yubi Tori, fingerlocking, is incredibly painful and just as effective in a wide range of defensive scenarios, but it is not a panacea as some people will let you break their fingers as long as they can stick you with a knife, etc. This is a reality that some people ignore constantly in the blind worship of some martial arts and utilization of some defensive tools.

But it is a reality and these people are not rare either.

All of that having been said, if something is going to make someone fall under the umbrella of pain compliance, a flashlight equipped with a TID will do it where other devices, even applied vigorously, might fail.

I guess we need to get the ugliness and negativity out of the way first. That's usually best.

Legalities

This is the hot button with the TID. It is with most things in the Self-defense realm, isn't it? What is legal? What is not? What might pass muster in a Court of Law as "reasonable" or "justifiable?"

You have to understand that in some jurisdictions, the TID might be considered an edged weapon because it has points. If you cannot understand that or you simply want to ignore that, do so at your own peril.

I'm not saying that the TID is a "lethal force" weapon like almost anything in the "edged weapons" category, I'm just saying that it is sort of falling into that zone of instruments. It's obviously not a knife and it has no "edge" in the classic sense of the word, but it has points and points can be enough to place it in another category of tools and weapons. It can be used to maim and that is the problem, hitting someone in the face with a TID is going to ruin their day and probably their face as well. So I

would not advise you to target the head, neck or face unless you are justified in using an edged weapon.

The whole "It might be an edged weapon" angle is troubling, but then almost everything is a "weapon" now.

I think a TID on a Sure-Fire dedicated to the nightstand is most certainly something to consider. What you can have and use in your house in Close Combat is alot different then what you might carry - as a regular Citizen - on the street. You may be scrutinized for what you use in your home, but not to the degree over something like this, using it on the street.

I think the main thing I don't like about it is it takes away the "clean" element of using an Inova or SureFire as a Pocket Stick and you automatically jump to maiming the person. It is true that if you hit someone in the face with one of the aforementioned flashlights, it might very well cut them, which has been my experience on one occasion with a 9P. But the cut and tear is not going to be as bad as using a TID and someone could make a lot of noise in a Courtroom over that as if you were carrying it to deliberately maim someone during simple Self-defense.

So, you basically have these situations where you cannot use your light as a Pocket Stick anymore because it does not require the degree of force that the TID will give it.

Because of these realities which I feel are valid criticisms of the TID, I sort of placed it in the category of devices that were well thought out but not really a great idea to bring into play.

Until my good friend Seth clued me in on something important.

The TID gives you the ability, when striking limbs, of penetrating heavy clothing and getting some impact into the target. He also pointed out that there would be no slipping because of the points digging in. This is some definite food for thought and because I routinely carry more than one flashlight...I gave it some heavy thought for a couple of months.

I am now of the opinion that the TID does in fact have a solid, legitimate place in the Self-defense tools you carry. You are just going to have to exercise the discipline required to not go smacking someone in the face when the situation does not warrant that degree of force.

In the home

Using a Sure-Fire flashlight (with a TID mounted on the end of it) in the Harries Position might very well give you a force option in close combat in the home. If you

make a mistake, and no matter how highly trained you are, you can make a mistake... If that happens, the TID can definitely be applied in a vicious manner on the home invader.

Your flashlight now has steel dentures mounted on the front of it and you don't have as many problems explaining the TID to a responding Officer because it is in your home and it is not a prohibited thing to have. On the street, it might be determined that it is in the edged weapons category and you might be in hot water over it.

Let's say you carry an Inova X-5 Tactical and something like a Sure-Fire E2e, as long as you did not get them confused, yeah, it would be a good force option to have a TID on one of them.

Simple Drills

Always use eye protection when using training knives; don't let an endeavor designed to save your life end in a tragedy.

With a training partner, use an Inova X-5 Tactical LED Light, preferably with white LEDs and use a Sure-Fire E2e. You will need eye protection, the flashlights and a focus mitt. Use a small training knife like a Spyderco Delica Trainer (Drone) or a LaGriffe trainer from Fred Perrin.

A little light pollution in the area is OK, things like streetlights are OK, working in and out of shadows cast by walls and vehicles, etc., because this is the type of environment that you are most likely going to have to fight someone in.

Don't look directly at the streetlights. Allow your eyes to adjust to that degree of low level light and then begin. Test the Inova first, if you use the Sure-Fire first, it can lead to skewed results because it is indeed an incredibly powerful flashlight, even in the small E2e configuration.

I'm telling you this so you approach everything with an open mind.

Once your eyes are adjusted, start out at a long distance (in a street attack, it's different from gunfighting), about twelve (12) feet which is confrontation distance to me, the distance where someone might start giving you some eyes, hands and mouth.

The training partner walks in and you guys/gals have to be honest with each other or you will not get the desired result. If you cover up from the light, you are not going to understand the effect.

Start at that "long" distance confrontation and the attacker walks in to menace and give some face or actually assault.

DO NOT flash them on the first time and the attacker must be honest and not cover up. Do the walking confrontation a few times and when it is unexpected, THEN flash them with the Inova. When you flash them, move, use footwork to move and take their flank or...retreat on 45-degree angles...

Do this upwards of a couple dozen times with the engagements and confrontations... the lack of the flash as well as the flash and then reverse roles and do it all over again. Don't have a set pattern to flash or not to flash, be random.

Sit down and discuss that for a bit and then let your eyes adjust again, let the "spots" fade from the Inova, then go through the whole thing again with the Sure-Fire.

Now, there is no doubt that you will find the Sure-Fire more powerful. What we are looking for is information through honest experimentation and feedback.

TID: Inova X-5 Tactical vs. Sure-Fire E2e – Head to Head

If you are the type of person who thinks, "more is better," you're probably going to opt for the Sure-Fire flashlight. And there is absolutely nothing wrong with that decision, whatsoever.



We're talking about the power range of temporary blindness – sight impairment.

I believe, through my own experimentation in the aforementioned low light environments, that the Inova X-5 Tactical will do the job well. That is not a criticism of the Sure-Fire E2e at all.

The strong points of the Sure-Fire E2e are:

- **Very powerful, more powerful than the Inova X-5 Tactical**
- **Has a pocket clip**

The pocket clip is excellent! However, with the TID mounted on the E2e, it orients the teeth on the TID in the up position, which could bite you as you slam your hand down to access it under stress.

Some Kydex Sheathing might be in order because of this for some people.

The strong points of the Inova X-5 Tactical are:

- Although it uses the same expensive batteries as the E2e, they will last much longer.**
- The LEDs are probably more shock-resistant than the Sure-Fire's lamp assembly. Although the Sure-Fire lamp assembly is indeed tough.**
- When using the Inova X-5 for non-fighting tasks, you won't dazzle yourself during some tasks like you will with a Sure-Fire.**

Yes, using a Sure-Fire for simple tasks where the light is striking a lighter background can dazzle you. The degree of light you will get off of a light colored object is amazing. For example, I had to read maps and whatnot all of the time and although I used a Mini-Maglite for such tasks usually, I would sometimes use the Sure-Fire with a flip-up red lens cap mounted on it because I would impair my own vision using the Sure-Fire. When I was sneaking around inside buildings making sure they were clear of any burglars, I often flipped the cap down so I had red light. Sometimes inspecting a point of (forced) entry...

So, I consider the Inova X-5 to be a light with a wider range of utility than a Sure-Fire and it won't eat batteries so quickly either, both a monetary and tactical consideration as well.

I think a well-executed pocket clip would be an excellent addition to the Inova. It has a lanyard hole already which some might find more useful than a pocket clip. A removable pocket clip on the Inova would be great.

Now we are at the end of the article and I really cannot recommend one over the other if you have the funds for both, buy both. If not, then I would shift my opinion over to the Inova X-5 Tactical with the TID because it would be more useful in a wider range of situations.

Both lights have a great value to anyone interested in Personal Protection and the TID is a valuable addition as well.

G, G & G should receive praise for making something this radical and Professional Executive Protection Specialist Lance Harris should for designing it. If the TID is ever discontinued, it will be one of the most sought-after items for some people who passed it up when it was available.

Closing

One more point about the legalities. Some would say it is unethical or immoral to not inform people that they might get in trouble for using something like a TID...or whatever device you are discussing.

They have a point, in a way. However, I don't feel that it is "moral" or "ethical" to tell you to NOT use something because it might be illegal or might be considered illegal.

The reason I take that stance is incredibly simple.

I don't believe it is "ethical" or "moral" to tell people that something like this is "unreasonable" for them to defend themselves with, the reason for this way of thought is...what happens when everything is legislated against? What then? Will it then be "immoral" or "unethical" to tell someone they should not be carrying anything to defend themselves with? That's the destination of the train you ride when you start preaching to people about this sort of thing.

The Ju-jo

When I was taking Jujutsu in my teenage years, I would aggravate the hell out of the Instructor to show me any Knife, Chain or Yawara Stick he knew...

And the love of these things for going on about twenty years now is seen in little glimpses in here.

I was making oak dowel "Koppo Sticks," copying them out of Hatsumi Sensei's book, "Stickfighting" since about 1987 or so. That reached the apex of the design with James Piorek [JSP "BladeRigger"] . I believe there is no better Koppo Stick-type of weapon in existence. There are many that can do the job, it's just the best of breed in execution.

To me, the Koppo Stick is everything the Yawara Stick should be and more. It is so versatile and there are more things that can be done more effectively, effortlessly and securely with a properly executed Koppo Stick than a Yawara. The Yawara is still a favorite.

When the "Keychain Koppo Stick" became a reality, I retired the regular Kubotans, the Original Kubotan™, the ASP O.C. Kubotan (It discharged on me once, I don't trust it anymore) and the ASP P-9 Keychain Baton.

My love for the weighted Japanese Fighting Chain has evolved into a love for the JSP Bandando™ and V-Gar System's ManrikiGarrote™. I still play with Manrikigusari/KusariFundo, and Improvised Flexible Weapons, Garrottes and such, but they all sprang from the childhood/teenage interests in the Martial Arts.

There was something unique on the scene in the 1980s and for some reason, I never got around to ordering one. I have been searching for one, literally, for years. Prowling Pawn Shops, Gun Shows, Knife Shows, Martial Arts Stores...Flea Markets, Yard Sales, anywhere I could. I put the word out through about a dozen people on the Internet. No luck.

Then, in a flash, one fell into my lap from a fellow on the Internet by complete luck. This was not one of the people that found one for me, he was unaware of the search. He just happened to have one in excellent/mint condition and was willing to trade it.

I called James Piorek the other day and he said, "You got WHAT!?!?!!" Hahaha...

Yes indeed, I found an elusive ParaCombatives Ju-jo™.



What more could a guy who loves the Yawara Stick and Manrikigusari ask for? It's both wrapped up into one.

Usually when people combine things, effectiveness is lost and it ends up that both things are done badly. While this is a far cry from a weighted chain or a Koppo Stick, it is indeed the best of both worlds with a hefty set of keys on the flail end. You could tie someone up Yo-Yo Style as Tuhon Bill McGrath [Pekiti-Tirsia] described Guro Inosanto's Yo-Yo techniques...[*] or it can be used for any number of things.

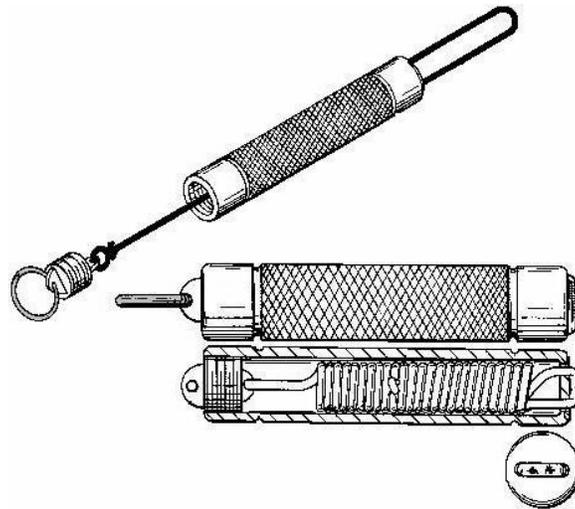
I'm still waiting to try it out. But I really wish these could be produced again by Choate Machine & Tool, Inc. This really is a great Self-defense Weapon even if the cylinder is a bit more bulky than it had to be. It's diameter could be trimmed by one-quarter of an inch and you might have to use your pinky or a pencil to push the cord back in, but that would be no problem at all...it would ride easier in the pocket though...the Ju-jo is thick.

In the September 1985 Issue of Soldier of Fortune Magazine, Page 18 "Adventure Quartermaster," there was a short piece written on it, after that, I saw it appear in Brigade Quartermasters' Catalog and I was hooked;

"Tested by Special Forces, the SERE (Survival Evasion Resistance Escape) Committee, Fort Bragg's Military Police, Rangers, Force Recon, and British SAS, the Ju-jo is constructed of Zytel plastic and manufactured by Choate Machine & Tool Co."

There was mention of the Inventor, "Dr. John J. Lewis" in the small piece written on the Ju-jo. When I knew I had secured the elusive ParaCombatives Ju-jo, I decided to research it as thoroughly as possible (God bless the Internet folks, it really is a remarkable tool) and I found some very interesting information about the Ju-jo.

With the help of my friend and Webmaster Jay, I was able to obtain the Original Patent Document on the Ju-jo. I found it, I had the Name of the Inventor, but could not open the file because the U.S. Patent Office uses a funky picture viewer program and even though I went to the MS Site, I could not figure out what the hell I needed to view them. Since then, Jay has been an invaluable resource and friend in my hunt for oddball weapons that have been patented.



Once he sent the files back to me in Giff format, and I could read them, I was very impressed at the mechanical drawings. A lot of patents do not have drawings this good, some are better, but this one is really great. It is more for historical purposes.

Then, I started searching elsewhere on the Internet, searches for "John J. Lewis." And then I was surprised to find out that he was once a member of U.S. Army Special Forces. All too often, Special Operations Units are used as a Hot Link to Success from people who make knives, etc., and it was refreshing to see that the Ju-jio apparently made its way into the hands of S.F. people because it was made by a former member.

During his Army years, Mr. Lewis studied Judo and I do not know what else, he then rapidly rose through the ranks of Miyama Ryu Jujutsu because of prior experience in Martial Arts. On one website it was stated that he reached Black Belt in Miyama Ryu Jujutsu in one year, due to his background in Judo and I do not doubt that could be done legitimately. Since a firm foundation in Judo would make for a firm foundation in Jujutsu. There are a lot of things that cross...Judo came from Jujutsu.

He then began his own "System," ParaCombatives Jujutsu at Northwestern University, Illinois.

He geared the Martial Art for the Street, Streetfighting Martial Arts have my utmost respect. I have never been exposed to ParaCombatives Jujutsu, but if the thought he put into the Ju-jio is any indicator of his Mindset (and I believe it is), I'm sure the System as he taught it was good.



Sadly, Mr. Lewis died in 1996. Sadly, James Keating's Bandana work was not around and popular in 1985 or Mr. Lewis would have probably made a mint off of the Ju-jo.

The thing is constructed like a tank. It is idiot proof, there are no buttons or anything. Yet, for all of its' simplicity...it would take a firm understanding of Flexible Weapons to get the most of it. It is truly a weapon for those who understand it and less than useless for anyone who does not understand it.

It was truly a Self-defense Weapon before its' time...a damned shame it is still not being produced for those that can appreciate it and are willing to dedicate the time to Master it.

Can you tell I'm thoroughly impressed with it?

I was saddened to learn during my search that the Inventor had died. He obviously had a keen eye to what was needed, but maybe the weapon was so complicated in application, yet simple in construction, that it never caught on and seemed like a "gimmick."

Jim Keating and Robert Langford have proven that the Bandana* is viable, and these techniques make the JSP V-Gar System viable, as well as the Ju-jo. It seems that Mr. Lewis had his finger on the button of reality a long, long time ago. Maybe the methodology differed, but he most certainly was on the right track.

Here's to John Lewis, a great Martial Artist, Inventor and Innovator. A Man who had vision.



*McGrath's comments on Guro Inosanto's Yo-Yo Methods was very interesting indeed. Attaching the free [fingerloop] end of the Yo-Yo to the end of a knife and using it like a

garrotte, or using it in the off hand to throw at an attacker's forearm/wrist area to allow the natural weight and momentum of the Yo-Yo to wrap and secure around the limb to somewhat entangle the attacker, giving you time to take countermeasures, draw your knife, etc.

****Before James A. Keating launched his Bandana Material on the Martial Arts Community, there was material from GMs Sulite and Illustrisimo on the "panyo." Unfortunately, even alot of people in the Filipino Martial Arts Community stood up and claimed Keating was making things up as he went along, when in fact, the material did exist. Keating/Comtech may have added some things, but the basic concepts are universal and they can shadow Japanese Bujinkan or the other way around, they compliment each other...but make no mistake, Keating did not simply make things up in this instance and call it "Filipino." All of these things most certainly have their place as improvised weapons, the Yo-Yo [Tapon-Tapon], Bandana [Panyo], Whip, Belt [Sabitan] and Rosary.**

This longtime Ju-jo Owner E-mailed me about the Article and took the time to photocopy the original manual for the Ju-jo and mail it to me. This was incredibly generous of him. I asked him if he would write something short about his experience with the Ju-jo and here was his response:

"I have always respected the Ju-jo and the maker for a long time. I purchased mine back in the 80's and learn about the item as I grow in my studies. I study Budo Taijutsu and find the Ju-Jo a very well designed item that adapts well for my art. I have trained with the Ju-Jo in our Kihon Happo patterns and it adds a great deal to these fundamental movements. An item like the Ju-Jo is a great addition to any martial system because it allows grappling and striking components in a unique package, it can be used as a eda koppo, kubaton, and kusari fundo. I would recommend that people work with the Ju-Jo very slowly so that they can see doorways and possibilities within the movements between tori and uke. Applying the uses of the flexible and impact qualities when it is warranted will aid any system.

It is a nice equalizer to be used against would be attackers because of the versatility contained within it's design. I find that in conjunction with awareness and training (understanding the weapon) the Ju-Jo is a very effective item for self-protection."

Two people who studied under Dr. Lewis in ParaCombatives Ju-Jutsu had E-mailed me and told me of their experiences. Unfortunately, on America Online, sometimes when you save mail to the Personal Filing Cabinet, it is either lost or you get the message, "That message is no longer available."

I lost them over time because I wanted to keep them fresh in the E-mail and then cut and paste them into this article. I've long wanted to do this article but needed to assemble more information about the Ju-jo in order to do so. Regrettably, I cannot find their E-mail addresses or anything. The E-mails were positive about everything

involved and had a unique insight as well. I'm sad they have been lost and I have been unable to make further contact with them.

Another Gentleman, just a few weeks ago now, sent me a goldmine of material with regard to the Ju-jo and the whole intense and in-depth amount of thought that Dr. Lewis put into the Ju-jo and the Ju-jo's place within ParaCombatives Ju-Jutsu.

This fellow, a Federal Agent who wishes to remain anonymous, sent me not only a Ju-jo, but the original manual and the original packet of information Dr. Lewis would send out to certain individuals which contained magazine articles and advertisements. He also sent the complete Program of Instruction for Instructor Certification for the Ju-jo, which adds further to The Big Picture.

Perhaps most important, I was able to see some of the personal insight of Dr. Lewis as this Gentleman also gave me personal correspondence from Dr. Lewis. Letters, when you actually had to write them and E-mail was unheard of. What a generous fellow.

He also sent me a wonderful Safariland/Kel-Lite [Yawara Stick](#). What a find. All he wanted to do was E-mail about the [Ju-jo](#) and [Koppo Stick Articles](#) and things developed from there. He has a titanium JSP Koppo Stick coming from me.

I asked this Gent to write a little piece about the Ju-jo and possibly from the Law Enforcement angle as well. Here are his thoughts on the matter.

"While I was assigned to the [deleted] Agency, [deleted] CA (circa 1985-1987) as the Assistant Special Agent in Charge, I had the good fortune of associating with one of the most accomplished martial artists I've ever met: Special Agent [deleted]. To give you some idea of his abilities, he was (when I knew him) a nidan of Prof. Wally Jay (of Small Circle Jujitsu fame). No one (and I really mean no one) was ever able to choke him out. As his legend grew, people from all over tried, but none were successful. Conversely, he could put you out in about 7 seconds with a neck strangle. You could hit him anywhere – no effect. I recall it was kind of like hitting a fire plug – same overall effect. He did have two weaknesses though – toe locks and "shark bites" (where you grab the skin of the inner thigh or stomach between your fingers and pinch hard. He'd jump away if you'd try these on him. 'Course you'd only get one chance and then he'd clean your clock....

Anyway, he and I would work out at the base gym virtually every day- we'd either do free randori on the mats, practice locks or throws or fence. Occasionally we'd toy with new hand weapons as we were both Unarmed Self-Defense (CQB) instructors for the agency. Since we were federal law enforcement the issue of the excessive use of force and scaleable control were of great consequence to us. We did the kubotan thing, the telescoping baton (ASP), various other weird little things, until I came across an article on the Ju-jo. It looked sufficiently intriguing that I called the inventor, John Lewis, and explained what type of device I was after. He opined that

the Ju-jo would probably fill the void that we needed and agreed to send me a demo tape and a device.

As it turned out he sent a whole lot more (all of which you have, save the tape which I returned to him after viewing it with my training partner). After it arrived he and I played around with it on the mats for a couple of workouts. We both felt that while it had potential, in actual practice it took too much finesse to really be effective. I should add here that both he and I felt (and still feel) that for any martial art or device to work, it had to be effective on Hawaiians or Samoans. That was always the real test of a technique for us (I suspect this was a holdover from Prof. Jay's influence!) After a while we continued in our search for something else. Ironically, the Kerambit is pretty much what we thought of as the ideal weapon – you can do all sorts of neat stuff with it (to include finger locks), but it can be employed quickly and it *hurts*! It's also pretty intuitive once you've played with it for a while. The agency took one look at the strangulation aspect of the Ju-jo and wanted nothing further to do with it. I suppose in retrospect they were right – the legal liability of the choke holds pretty much doomed any device of this type from being considered a "viable" police-type weapon." [end]

I think this more or less agrees with what I stated in the [first Ju-jo Article](#). Here is the quote:

"The thing is constructed like a tank. It is idiot proof; there are no buttons or anything. Yet, for all its' simplicity...it would take a firm understanding of Flexible Weapons to get the most of it. It is truly a weapon for those who understand it and less than useless for anyone who does not understand it."

In my opinion, [Flexible Weapons](#), that entire category, are the most difficult to learn and to be really proficient at. Hand a person a CaneMasters Cane and spend 30 minutes with them. You have armed them for a lifetime as long as they keep their cool on the street and they actually learn what you taught them that day. Will they be able to defeat anyone they come in contact with? No, there are no guarantees with anything, but they will have a much better chance on the street. Hand them a knife and spend about 16 hours with them and they will have a firm grasp of the hit-and-run use of the Edged Weapon to counter grappling and whatnot on the street... And they should have a firm understanding of the basic dynamics in knife to knife confrontations. No guarantees...just a grounding in the basics.

With the Ju-jo, in that same amount of time, you would have a great understanding of the use of a [Yawara](#) and it would take many, many more hours to truly understand the [Flexible Weapons](#) aspect(s) of it. In other words, you could get the Atemi-waza, the striking, as well as Shime-waza, the choking, down in that amount of time with an intense program. But all of the deflections and other things would take many hours for the student to become anywhere near "viable" in a violent altercation.

Dr. John Lewis would obviously disagree as I have read the material. I still believe it would take some serious dedication and time to understand the flexible weapons portion of the Ju-jo Program.

I think this is what doomed the Ju-jo in the Law Enforcement Arena. Even more than the choking aspects of the Ju-jo which some Administrators ran from in terror from this particular Agency. It would simply take a long time to learn how to use the device well and the refresher instruction would have to be yearly and more intense than a Baton refresher during In-Service. I don't see any other way. Then, there are so many things people in Law Enforcement have to intimately know and they have to be able to perform. The Ju-jo would have not been cost-effective and it would have been rather time-consuming to teach Officers to the degree they should be taught.

Mr. John Lewis, however, is still to be commended for this design and for attempting to do something that was interesting, innovative, and it was effective if you were willing to put the time into it. In the grand scheme of things, there have been many implements sold as "Self-defense" weapons and the vast majority of them are absolute garbage.

Perhaps the Ju-jo was something that was more advanced than even Mr. Lewis realized.

This leads us into a small discussion on some of the Ju-jo methods in the Owner's Manual...

ParaCombatives Ju-jo Methods

One of the beautiful things about the Ju-jo Manual is, you get a really good Yawara Manual as well! In the striking section of the Manual, you get a rundown of basic strikes:

- **Thrust – a compact, vigorous straight strike.**
- **Roundhouse – a swinging strike with a wide arc.**
- **Jab – a short hooking strike with a tight arc.**
- **Uppercut – an upward strike thrown from the waist.**
- **Uraken – a compact, spring-like strike directed over the shoulder (the striking arm is bent in an L-shape).**
- **Reverse – similar to Uraken except the strike drives straight backwards from about waist-high (the striking arm is bent in an upside-down L-shape).**

To save some space, I'm not going to create an illustration for this. Just listen carefully. The two strikes you might have a problem envisioning are simple to describe. Uraken is almost a spear-throwing position. It is designed to hit someone in the head or face that is standing behind you and slightly to your right. Almost as if you were drawing the arm back to throw a spear. But you hit with the Stick.

Reverse Uraken is a rearward strike to hit the torso or groin with the Stick. Imagine just reaching back and hammerfisting someone in the stomach or groin. That's how easy it is.

On the next page, it covers hammerfist strikes, vertical punches with the Ju-jo as a [fistload](#). And a good deal more. But the strikes above are the distilled basics. Like I said before, it is a very good manual and a lot of it applies to any Pocket Stick or small flashlight, etc.

In the pages that follow, we see the squeezing and pinching techniques of pain compliance, which will work on some people, but in cases of extremely combative attackers...I think you know my opinion on pain compliance techniques.

Throat Constriction, choking, blocking, throwing and locking...all of these things are covered quite well and the reader is then introduced, in the section on blocks...to some of the flexible weapons aspects of the Ju-jo.

Deceptive Power

A lot of people do not realize how powerful something so simple like a belt or a bandana, when properly used, can be. Truly...someone can throw you all around a room with a short length of rope if they know what they are doing. The flexible weapon has some power and if you are unlucky enough to get one of your punches snagged by someone who knows how to use a short piece of rope or some other flexible weapon...you will find out quickly.

In one of James Keating's Fighting Bandana videotapes, he shows a simple pull with the bandana, snagging a punch and then giving a pull that works extremely well. It is basically an Arm Drag in wrestling but the bandana gives it so much more, effortless power, it's all a matter of leverage. People do not understand that at all. A lot of people are prejudiced against that sort of thing. They just cannot imagine something so simple being so strong.

The blocking movements that Mr. Lewis demonstrates in the Ju-jo Manual would have more power than many people think. A block with a flexible, if you know what you are doing, has an effect almost like that of a trampoline. It can repel the attacking limb to a great degree. As James Keating points out in the aforementioned material, this can also cause the attacker's upper body –the head– to be impelled into another strike, etc.

This is excellent, basic material in the Ju-jo Manual. The advanced material can be found in Filipino and some Japanese Arts as well. Use of the sarong in Pentjak Silat is also applicable, obviously.

The Manual then goes on to outline some techniques geared specifically towards women because sometimes women are attacked in specific ways...mostly grappling

types of attacks. The use of walls and other structures is also included, how to smash the attacker into walls, chairs etc. Self-defense scenarios while seated... When you consider this Manual is all of 20 pages, it gives a great idea as to the depth of the System Mr. Lewis created. I wish it were 100 pages.

Personal correspondence from Mr. Lewis

As I said before, the Gentleman who sent me the Ju-jo and Safariland Yawara also sent me the packet of information regarding the Ju-jo.

This is one portion of what Mr. Lewis wrote back to him and it is quite interesting:

"As to your comment on the joint-locking (kensetsu waza), your impression is somewhat correct in that the use of joint-locking, without Ju-jutsu breaking, is merely designed as a temporary control measure to cuff or otherwise control an assailant who has generally given up. My experience has shown that unless the user of the Ju-jo or unaided using only the hands is skilled that kensetsu waza in the control mode will not be effective against a powerful, resisting individual. If, on the other hand, a break or trauma to the joint is added once the lock is secured then the technique is highly effective against even the most severe resistance. Simply, I train on the lock because law enforcement wants it to assist in passive resistance situations or for cuffing. I do not bother to teach it to civilians with the Ju-jo in my regular courses.

Your analysis of the tape in terms of cord employment and immediate response techniques is on the mark. The original taped session was two hours, eighteen minutes long. Much of what you commented on was deleted in order to fit the material onto a standard video cassette. *There is no question that the cord is the key to the system, however, there was only so much I could do on a single tape designed for the 'general' public. This is why I tell various agencies that I can produce a specific tape tailored to their individual needs and training...*"

Interesting, huh? It's gold.

The Instructor's Program of Instruction

This gives a more in-depth look at this whole System that was devised, using Ju-Jutsu to power the Ju-jo Methods. You also see another side of Mr. Lewis and the multiple tasks he wanted the Ju-jo to be able to perform in a military context.

Part I.

"History and introduction to Ju-jutsu. Principles of Self-defense. Discussion of human anatomy as relevant to biomechanical aspects of force, motion and stress... Efficacy of the Ju-jo in personal defense, law enforcement, unconventional warfare, military (SERE) and marine (SCUBA) special operations, private security and in conjunction with martial arts training and cross comparison to seventeen other self-

defense devices. *The Ju-jo as an expedient first aid tourniquet, splint and in rescue operations. Construction of a field expedient Ju-jo.* HANDS-ON training in modes of carry, types of grip, draw, stances and twenty-five forms of striking."

It is that one line, the thought...

"Construction of a field expedient Ju-jo..."

This set me on a path of thought that perhaps Mr. Lewis was exposed to the Te no uchi, especially since he was exposed heavily to Judo and Ju-jutsu...

I am *not* saying that I am correct, I simply do not know. Perhaps Mr. Lewis knew of the Te no uchi and *improved* it and when making a field expedient for [garrotting](#), etc., one would basically make a Te no uchi as described later in this article. I just don't know. God rest his Soul, he is gone now and I cannot ask him.

In any event, if he did in fact get the idea from the Te no uchi, *the Ju-jo and the techniques that drive it are much more realistic for street application* than most of the Te no uchi movements that I have watched on the videotape. It is simply a no-brainer; combative people will not allow you to do certain things...

Another thing that sort of points to this, or something similar to this is found in this passage:

"...cross comparison to seventeen other self-defense devices..."

Perhaps one of those devices was the Te no uchi...

Where did the Concept come from?

I used to just think, as many others have, that the Ju-jo was simply a combination between the Yawara Stick and something like the Manrikigusari/Kusarifundo weighted chains. And maybe it was. But I have found something very interesting indeed...

Thanks to my buddy Ray, I have been able to view some terrific Japanese Martial Arts Videotapes. One covered Koryu Jujutsu; some were Aikijujutsu...some on the Jo. Three of the most interesting were videos from "BAB" in Japan and covered the *Kusarifundo*, the weighted fighting chain; another covered the *Suntetsu*, a close cousin of the Koppo Stick and covered in [Koppo II](#) on this site.

The third videotape was on the *Tenouchi* or *Te no uchi*. "Te no uchi," from what I gather, means *"hidden in the hand."* While it is hard to "hide" a Te no uchi in the hand...like most things Japanese, there is a deeper meaning to it. Something can get lost in the translation as well.



If you look closely at the picture, you will see a Te no uchi in the middle.

The Te no uchi consists of a Pocket Stick, a Yawara if you will, that has one hole drilled through it at the center of the stick. Through that hole is a length of cordage. It is tied in a specific way. If you tie the cord correctly, and you were to lay it flat on the floor and spread it out, it would resemble a Figure Eight (8 or  - the infinity symbol).

The Figure 8 is formed by two loops. In one of those loops is attached this Yawara Stick for the Te no uchi.

I cut a very simple Pocket Stick out of rattan and drilled the hole in the center just to try out some of the techniques on the video. This picture should clearly illustrate how the cord is tied and its relationship with the Stick.

[insert pic of homemade te no uchi here]

The Te no uchi movements

The videos are in Japanese, I do not speak Japanese but having been involved with various Martial Arts for quite some time and with a basic understanding of the terms in Japanese, viewing the videos from BAB has been no sweat. A careful attention to detail proves to be very rewarding.

Let me first say, rather bluntly, that a lot of the techniques shown could never be performed on a resisting attacker. It would simply prove impossible to be able to perform some of the intricate trapping and tying movements with the Figure 8 cordage on a resisting opponent.

There are, however, some very interesting movements involved with this weapon and there is some definite food for thought when you examine the Kusarifundo, Suntetsu and Te no uchi material one after another.

I am not saying anyone could pull off some of these movements for real. Some of them are simply impossible to do no matter what your skill level. This is a truism because no matter what your skill level, you cannot guarantee that the attacker will stand still for it. I know this is an unpopular opinion to many people in traditional Martial Arts, but I've been in enough confrontations to know that when people are combative, it's hard to do intricate things to them.

Even in the video, body shifting is used, footwork, to avoid a knife thrust and the hand is struck with the Pocket Stick portion of the device. Then a loop is dragged over the hand after the knife has fallen to the floor and then the loop is tightened through another maneuver.

This is simply not going to happen in real life. *There is no way that someone who has a knife and they are combative and want to stick it in you...there is no way they are going to stand there after you knock the knife out of their hand, with their arm outstretched, while you perform this.* It is fantasy. As skilled as the practitioners were on the videotape, there was approximately one half dozen minor fumbles of the cord when securing it on a limb. That's a hint as to what we are dealing with here...if there is a fumble on a compliant subject, just what exactly do you think will happen when someone is not only being non-compliant, but they are being combative?

The only way these things would work, the standing techniques performed on the arm is if the attacker's arm did not have to be ensnared in the manner shown. There are other ways to quickly ensnare limbs with flexible weapons. It is the fact you have to drag a loop over the limb via the fist or open hand...that is the problem. No one is going to stand still for that sort of thing on the street. They would have to be knocked unconscious or nearly so in order for that to happen and if that happens, they are in the process of falling straight down or backward or they have already done so. They do not stand there and let you do these things.

Added to the frantic nature of combat is the unpredictable nature of the cord flying all around. This appeared to be a part of the fumbling on the videotape along with the Pocket Stick being long enough to get caught up on some of the movements as the snare was pulled taut around the attacker's limb.

At this point, some of the techniques become superfluous in the extreme and I am being *very kind* with that assessment.

Experimentation

So, I made this Te no uchi out of a slim piece of rattan and some 550 ParaCord. I have been using this weapon in some training and I have to say, making the Stick portion of the device shorter has helped to slick up some of the movements/techniques portrayed on videotape.

Has this made me a believer in this weapon? No, not really, but it did give me another view as to how the Ju-jo and other flexible weapons and garrottes could be employed.

The Te no uchi's strength is in the fact it is half Yawara Stick. Pocket Sticks of all types are incredibly powerful hand weapons.

Shortening the length of the Stick has made quite a difference when pulling the "noose" taut using the Stick. It has made some movements, shall we say, more viable in that the Stick does not "hang up" within the noose during the tightening of the noose.

Think of the Te no uchi as half of a [garrotte](#) (compared to a garrotte with two handles, one on each end of the cord). There is a lot of potential for this to be a very powerful garrotting device. Much along the lines of the Thugee Garrotte like Colonel Rex Applegate wrote about in "Kill or get Killed."

It is quite apparent that if this weapon was used to any measurable degree, it was probably by someone in a law enforcement capacity, the Feudal equivalent of a police officer. There has to be some preparation of the device. The arm has to be placed through one of the loops, not a "Quick-draw" device at all, remembering that this is basically a [Yawara Stick](#) anyway, it could always serve instantly in that capacity.

The Snaring Position of the Te no uchi

There are two loops of cord. The cord of one loop runs through the Yawara portion of the Te no uchi. This is done by taking a length of ParaCord, you run the cordage through the Yawara with the drilled hole in the center, and then you tie the ends off. This makes one, large loop of cord that is tied off.

Now, to form two loops, simply tie a knot in the center of the loop, using both strands of cordage. You now have two loops with the Yawara contained in one of them.

You place your hand through the loop that does *not* have the Stick as a part of it. That would be the loop farthest away from the Stick. You then place the cord almost at the inside of the elbow joint and you grasp the Stick in your hand. You now have a large piece of cordage that is hanging off of your arm.

The cord directly attached to the Yawara portion of the Te no uchi exits the hand hold the Yawara from between the index and middle fingers, the hand is in a clenched fist position.

Against a straight thrust with the knife, as depicted in the videotape, you use body positioning to evade, strike down with the Yawara and immediately drag the loop over the attacking arm.

You then check the attacking arm with your other hand, this stabilizes it to a degree and you then pull the Stick rearward and this snares the limb. You can then simply backpedal and drag the person to the ground.

That's the way it works on the video anyway...but we already discussed the virtual impossibility of ever being able to pull this off against someone who is really combative.

But there are some gold nuggets in there...here are some of the variations that are very valuable...

Variations of the Snaring Movement above

In one variation, the defender uses body positioning (tai sabaki) to evade and strike against a knife thrust. The knife hand of the attacker is struck with the Yawara (hammerfist) and the knife arm is checked slightly above the elbow. The Yawara is then used in a straight thrusting manner to the face/head of the attacker. This movement of dragging the loop over the extended knife arm leads to the strike in the face with the Yawara and then the cord pulled taut via the Yawara.

In another variation, when the snare is pulled taut, the defender steps back out of range and pulls the Yawara low and then using the foot on the other side of the body, steps on the cord and slams the attacker face first into the ground.

All of the techniques are fueled off of proper body positioning (tai sabaki) as well as Atemi waza. Striking vital points.

There is a heavy emphasis on Atemi waza.

There is an equally heavy emphasis on finishing blows to incapacitate the attacker.

The Snaring Movement on a Choke

Where the snaring of the limb could flail on the street, you *could* stun someone with the Stick portion of the Te no uchi and then as you move by them, snare the neck and pull everything taut. That could work. It is a different movement altogether.

If you strike someone in the hand with a Yawara Stick hard enough to disarm them, it is almost a certainty that their hand will not be there when you attempt to snare it by pulling the loop over the hand.

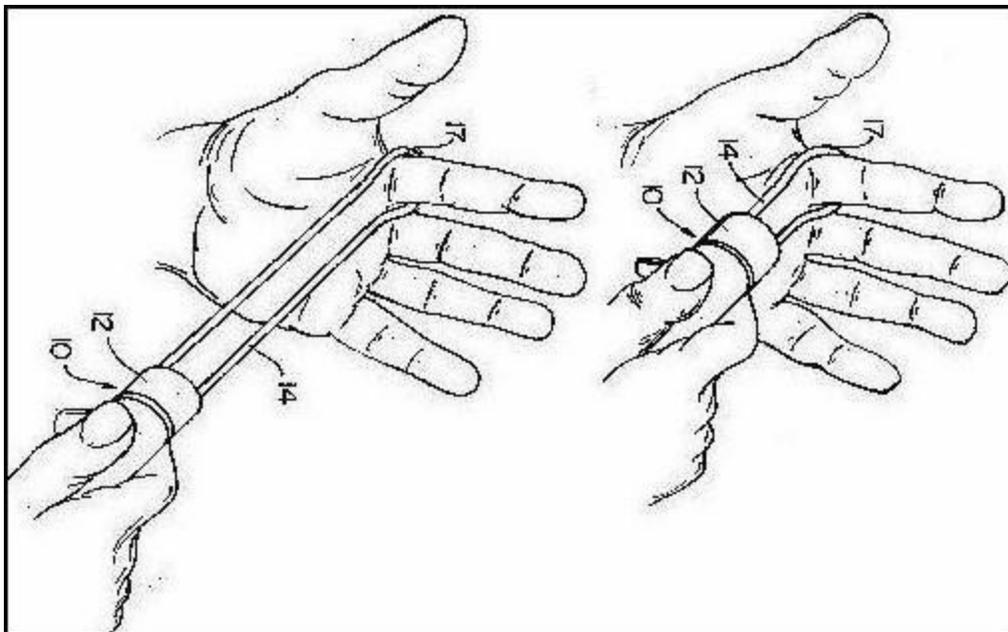
The head is altogether different. The hands might rush up to the face when the face is struck, this is a window of opportunity to act and snare the head, move behind the attacker, pull the cord taut and drag them to the ground backwards, etc.



Second Position

The second position is basically the same way one could grasp the cord for the Ju-jo.

The loop of cord is placed over the index finger and the cord lies across the palm and then you make a fist, securing the cord in place. This is illustrated in the Ju-jo Manual as well as the Patent Document.



This is also a much faster position to get into on the street.

On the Te no uchi videotape, the hand that does *not* hold the Yawara is placed through the far loop and then the cord goes through the hand and a fist is made...or the hand can be open and a shuto (edge of hand) strike can be performed.

Sometimes, the hand that is through the far loop also holds the Yawara Stick. In another variation, *the Yawara is thrown into the facial area (eyes)*, which is [Metsubushi](#) and this is mentioned by name on the video. This is the segue, the entry, to then come in and strike with a hammerfist or shuto to the knife hand, then the attacker can be finished in a number of other ways, primarily hammerfist strikes using the Yawara.

The hand holding the cord and *not* the Yawara, is sometimes the first hand to strike. This is where the video material is excellent, in my opinion. Using tai sabaki, the thrust is avoided and the shuto or hammerfist, using the other hand holding the cord, is used to strike the knife hand as the [Yawara Stick](#) strikes the attacker's facial area or throat.

What does work with the Te no uchi?

Deflections and then snaring, that works! As long as you do not rely on the fine motor skill and the compliance of the attacker and you use the Te no uchi like a bandana or belt, it would work well. It is the intricate nature of this double loop and the over-complication of the movements where they do not have to be that would make a lot of the Te no uchi movements unrealistic and ineffective, if not dangerous, to perform on the street.

Some of the movements are very street-real and viable.

If you stick with the concept that you have a Yawara Stick in your hand and the added benefit of the cordage to exert more leverage and power on the attacker, then the Te no uchi is as impressive as it is simple.

Just leave the most intricate of movements requiring compliance in the attacker and fine motor skills to the folks in the Dojo who are keeping the tradition of it alive.

I have just attempted to describe that which cannot really be described. I hope that the text along with a few illustrations will give you a firm idea of what I have been writing about. I have no program to "capture" video into still shots. A few digital camera pics in sequence must suffice to give you a few ideas...

Thugee Garrotte, Kusarifundo and the Ju-jo?

If you have not read all of the articles on my site, you are probably wondering what I am babbling about Thugee Garrotting for now in a Ju-jo Article...

The Thugees of India were rumored to have placed a Rupee in their Rumal strangling scarves. Just another way of getting the Rumal over the head and around the neck. Or simply project it around the neck for the choke. The other hand would be waiting and would grab the weighted end of the Rumal and the choked would be executed.

In the BAB video for the Kusarifundo, we see the same movement with the chain.

In the BAB video on the Te no uchi, we see Metsubushi. Projecting the Yawara Stick at the eyes, striking them, and then the Yawara Stick (weighted end, like the Rupee in a Rumal or the weight on a Kusarifundo) is swung via the cord retained in the hand, around the neck of the attacker. The neck is then controlled and the attacker taken to the ground and finished.



(The pictures above are blurred. The throw to the eyes, metsubushi, followed by throwing the Stick around and catching it...then finishing...)

There are only so many ways to do something correctly and effectively. This should be viewed as a large puzzle and these are pieces. The assembled puzzle is effectiveness and realism. Leave the other pieces out that do not work for you.

These same movements could be performed with keys attached to the Ju-jo, the keys would provide enough weight to propel the cord around the neck so that these movements could be executed.

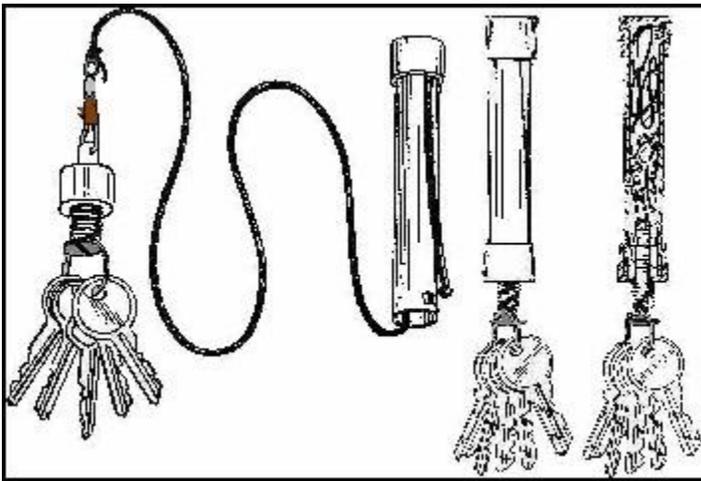
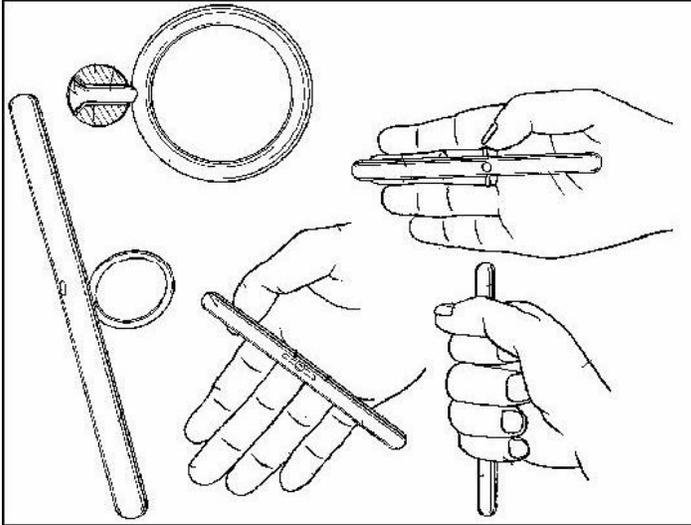
This is one way the Yo-yo (tapon-tapon) is used in Filipino Martial Arts, as per my understanding.

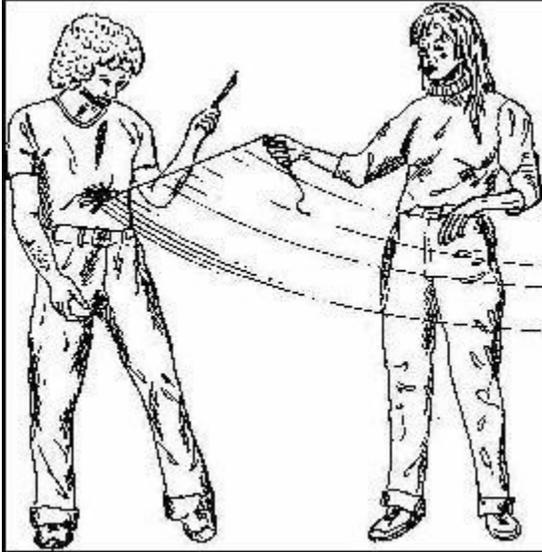
Patent Search and Various Self-defense Weapons

The Patented version of the Japanese Suntetsu was found thanks to the search for the Ju-jo online as well as another "Self-defense Keychain."

Below is the Patented "Suntetsu" type of device and then below that picture follows a Key Flail Self-defense device as well...and an interesting little drawing from the

Patent showing a woman striking a "mugger" armed with a knife with the keys. She's attacked by a mugger and casually slaps at his gut with the keys...he looks down at his midsection...yeah...OK. Lots of realistic thought put into that... although the device is sort of neat and looks to be easily improvised...





More on Keating

I always like to cite Keating when speaking of Flexible Weapons. The reason is simple. His material is simply excellent. With the Keating-COMTECH Bandana Material...let's just say that the Ju-jo then becomes incredibly effective. The movements are quite a bit different from the original movements designed for using the Ju-jo. Keating puts forth movements that are simply fluid destruction, in that, the deflection happens with the flexible, then using a hammerfist (both hands will be clenched because both hands are grasping the bandana, etc.), the hammerfist comes down to blast the arm. The hammerfists, clenched fist, forearms, and elbows along with low-line kicking all become an intrinsic part of the method.

With the Ju-jo in your hand, you have the power of the Stick, the concentration of force, in one hand, which will make it even more effective. You have to purchase the Keating material if you are really interested in these things. It's impossible to describe how fluid the movements are...how fast and powerful. Also going into chokes, etc.

Deployment

Most people pop the cap with the keys on it when they want to deploy the cord from the Ju-jo. Even I thought that was the way it was done when I first got one. Even after reading the Patent!

But the cord is deployed from the bottom, quite easily. And if you are practiced, it could be done under stress. It is no more of a complicated movement or fine motor skill than opening a folding knife.

You can place your index finger through the loop and pull then make a fist with the cord across your palm as is depicted in the Patent Document. Or, you can place the

entire hand through the loop if it is large enough...and then the cord goes through the hand and a fist is made...

The Ju-jo's dark side, the spike plug



I have been unable to obtain one of these, so far, for my Ju-jos. There is basically nothing written about this portion of the System. But I have a pretty good idea how it came about and what purpose it would serve.

Of course, you could just use it to hammer on someone! And in doing just that...the Ju-jo would be transferred into another category, into the edged weapons category. The wounds would not have been very deep at all because the spike is not large. There would have been little to no cutting capability at all...just a thrusting implement.

But I think this spike device was originally aimed at the Military Sector. The reason is painfully obvious.

Mr. John Lewis spoke repeatedly about wanting this device to be adopted within U.S. Army Special Forces as well as by other Special Operations Units.

Using the Sentry Removal Section of the now defunct U.S. Army Combatives Manual, FM 21-150 (1992), I have altered another illustration from that manual to attempt to explain what I believe could have been an application. Remember what Mr. Lewis wrote, he wanted this device in the hands of SERE Instructors, SERE being, "Survival, Evasion, Resistance and Escape."

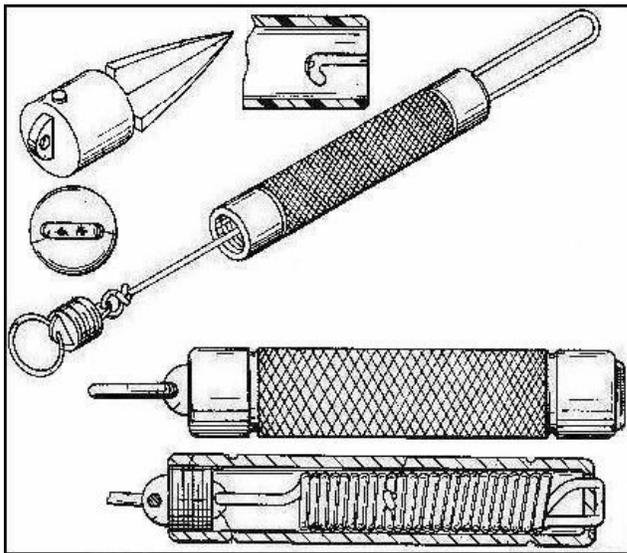
There are a few different ways that the Ju-jo could have been utilized as a garrotte, obviously, but with the addition of the spike...more techniques could have been possible.

Remember that people who are trained in SERE are taught to kill the enemy by any means at hand, if that enemy stands between them and continuing to E & E, Escape and Evade. Mr. Lewis also wanted it to have multiple uses to increase the versatility

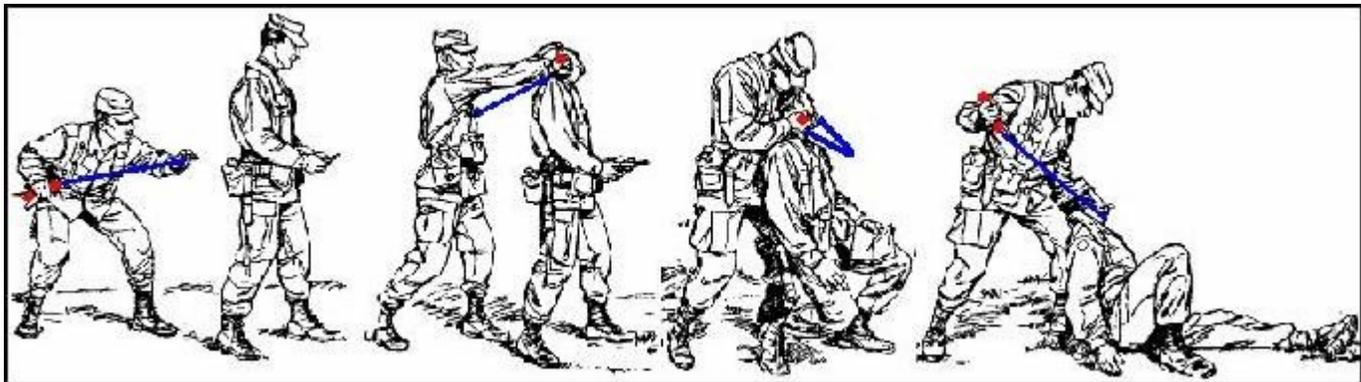
and to justify the injection of another piece of equipment in the already burdened Soldier's Kit.

The Ju-jo could have been used as a Yawara to stun the enemy like the pommel of a knife...using the end of the Ju-jo where the cord is deployed. The cord could be deployed beforehand in anticipation of having to eliminate a Sentry, etc. The stunning shot using the Ju-jo as a Yawara, striking the temple, then the thrusting of the spike to ground the Ju-jo into the enemy...and then the cord looped over the head and the enemy garrotted...is a very real scenario for the use of this tool.

The Ju-jo could be used to perform this task with or without the Zytel spike.



The enemy could have been stunned with one end of the Ju-jo and with the spike attached. The spike could have been plunged repeatedly into the side of the neck, more to the front, in an attempt to puncture the external and internal jugular veins as well as the carotid arteries. Then the cord could have been used to secure the enemy until expiration.



For more on the Army's Sentry Removal Concepts from that Manual, see the [Articles on](#). All of those techniques ([Garrottes](#) and Flexible Weapons) could have been performed with the Ju-jo.

What was wrong with the Ju-jo?

First of all...it is most certainly very tough. It's just a big piece of DuPont Zytel after all. What could be more indestructible than a thick-walled tube that is closed off on one end...constructed with Zytel?

We all want things that are built extremely well because we don't want things to break. We want more bang for the buck. The Ju-jo is overbuilt in the extreme... really. This thing is just about indestructible. Everyone that I have discussed the Ju-jo with that actually owned one and every single person that has examined mine has stated the same thing. It should have been made a bit thinner because it is not as convenient to carry in the waistband or pocket like a regular Kubotan is.

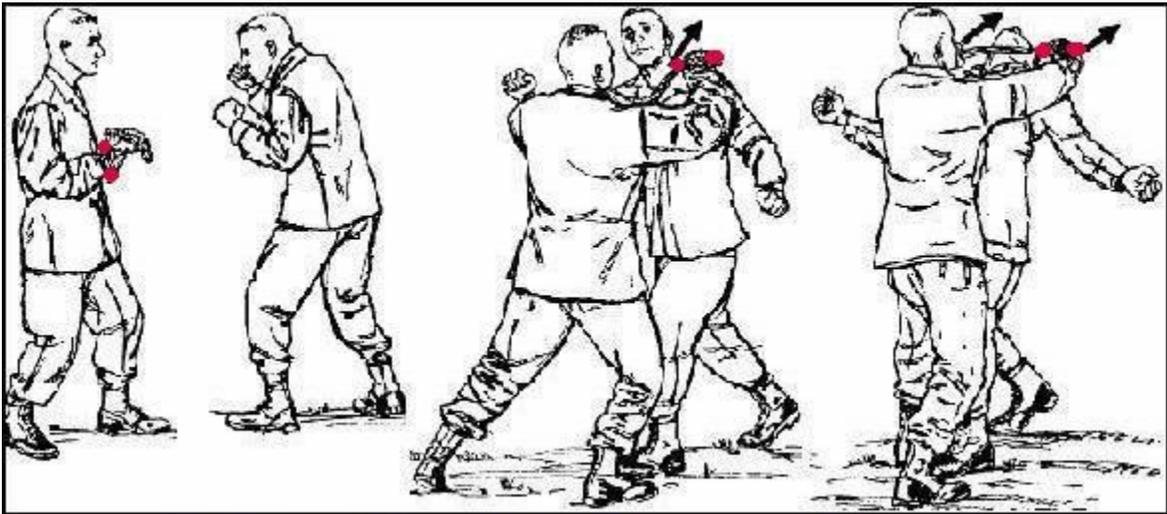
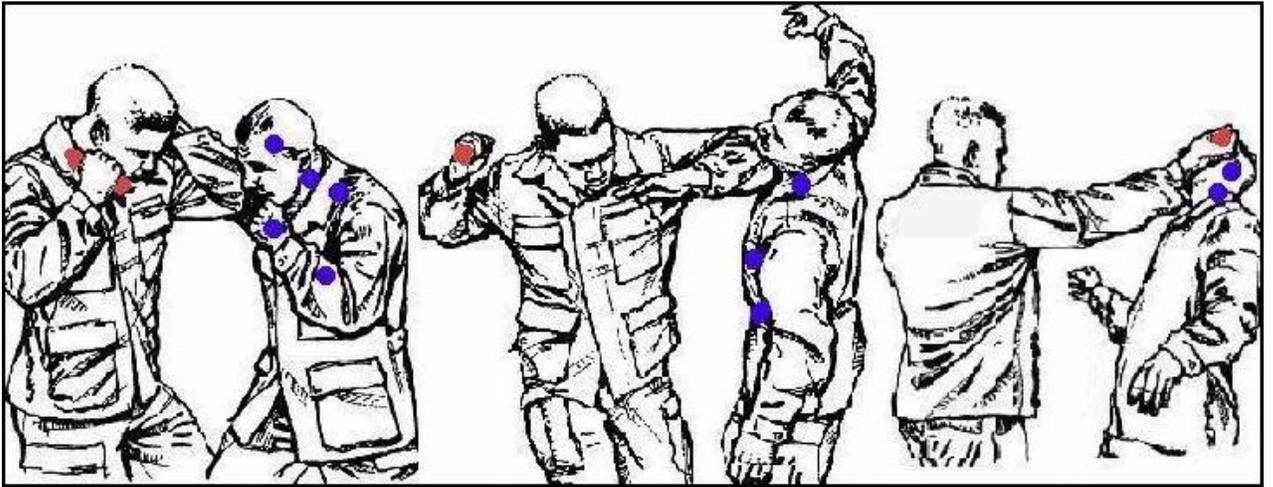
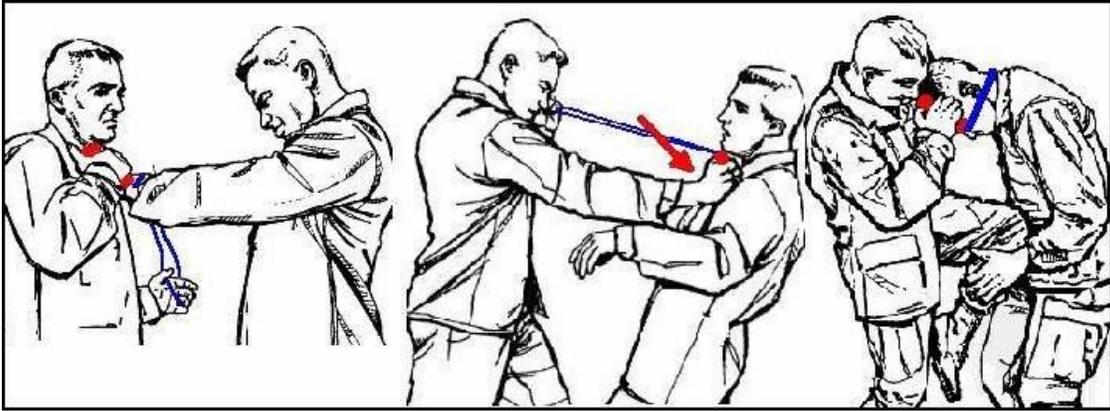
It is a valid criticism because it could have been made thinner and it would have probably still been more than strong enough for the task at hand. The outside diameter could have been shaved down a bit and made thinner and then the interior space where the ParaCord is stored could have been a bit smaller. This would have possibly helped the popularity of the Ju-jo even more. It is a slight flaw, but it is one that possibly caused the Ju-jo to never really catch on with the general public.

Other than that, I really don't see a "negative" to the Ju-jo except that it would take a good deal of training to get the most of the flexible aspect(s) of the tool.

If you examine a small Mini-MagLite Flashlight from MagLite, you would see how strong aluminum can be. Perhaps instead of injection-molded Zytel, the Ju-jo should have been made from thick-walled, aircraft-grade aluminum. It would have weighed approximately five ounces or so...a best guess...but it would have been more than strong enough to get the job done.

The Ju-jo's walls could have had a thickness much greater than the Mini-MagLite from MagLite and it would have been incredibly strong like that. It would have still been very light and would have been almost half as big in diameter. This would have helped the Ju-jo immensely I think. But in the end, I don't really know why it did not catch on, especially when you examine other things that have caught on that were stupid. If it were made from aircraft-grade aluminum, it would have been about as thick as a fat Kubotan instead of being the huge device it is. I still like it though.

Random concepts...



Improvised Weapons

"The Pen is mightier than the sword" There are thousands of uses for pens besides writing. A good heavy steel pen can be used for stabbing (in self defence of course) Where you stab can make the difference between a wound and a fatality. I won't go into details because most of you know critical points. But even in a removal situation, one can use the pen like a pair of pliers in order to control the person to remove him or control him as such. You hold the pen as you would a lighter and simply grab the persons skin between your thumb and the end of the pen (donest have to be the pointy side either). Try grabbing a finger the same way! Where your fingers can bend other's fingers, the pen also adds a solid surface that, against bone, really hurts! Eg, if the bending action doesn't take'm down the sheer pressure of steel against bone will drop the biggest of men. Study, Pens and Pressure points and you will soon become handy with the pen.

Credit cards: Besides draining your account, you can use them for illegal access to doors (so Im told). With some practice, they can be thrown with such intensity they can stick in wood!! This take much practice. By themselves they can cut readily but it you want to be sure, you can sharpen the edges just to be on the safe side! Again, works best on pressure points. You also get a phycological advantage if you cut above the eyes. Blood runs over the eyes and the attacker doesn't know how bad the injury is. Plus he cant see as well. Life or death situatioin, maybe your aim wouldnt be so good (as high). If someone is grabbing you, a sharpened credit card across the knuckles will open them up like a Turkey on Thanksgiving. I found Airmiles works best! They make a good card and you might not be able to redeem the points now anyway!

You wouldnt believe what you can do with a magazine! Here's the senario; You are reading your favorite Cosmo article in the subway. Buddy comes up to you and asks you for some change. You say you don't have any which is a big insult to most muggers. He shows a knife. You roll the magazine up (fold the page so you know where you were). Parry the knife aside, hammer him in the face with the rolled end of the magazine. Try this lightly on yourself. Just below the nose works well. Lips work, even eyes. Remove the knife with your free hand. You can also use the magazine to shield you from the knife. You average magazine is thick enough to avert a knife strike but you have to be "in the movement" EG, if its held still, probably the knife will go through but if you move both knife and magazine get moved to the side.

Use your surroundings: If hes still giving you problems (or if you were already having a bad day) use those poles used for holding onto. Bend his arm backward across those poles, across a seat back etc. If he's bent a little, you can grab his hair from behind the pole and attempt to bend his neck around the pole. What did you think those poles were made for anyway? Of course, if he isn't yet bent, use you magazine to smack him in the balls in order to get him to bend so you can trap him against the pole.

Different Scenario: You are near a wall. Any building will do. Heck, lets open it up. You are near ANYTHING! A tree, a car, garbage pale, an obsolete telephone booth. USE these surroundings! Push the opponent against them. Smack their heads against them. Do you know how you can choke a guy using a garbage can? You bend him, stick his face in the garbage can and push his neck to down onto the edge. That way if he hurls, it will be in the right place, not on your suit. They go to punch you or

stab you, use that wall so they hit their hands there or better, the knife stops and their hand slides over the blade! If it's a gun, you can swing their arm sharply against the wall. (making sure you are not in the possible line of fire) Holding a steel gun and hand being smashed against the wall will hurt, break the knuckles or at least cause him to let go of the weapon. Of course, in the case of all moves, practice makes perfect. You are not going to save yourself by reading one article here or in BB magazine. It has to become natural.

Imagine for a minute; A beer bottle in a bar fight. A heavy ashtray. A chair! The kewl thing about chairs is you don't have to throw them! Vlad showed how to use the legs as grappling tools. Eg guy has a knife, the chair not only shields you but also you can rotate it, tying up his legs and arms, rotating in the direction that his limbs don't go. This can break him or take him down and you are still at "arms length from the blade" Once down you can pin him and sit there enjoying your drink while authorities come (of course you might also just want to "buggeroffski") Bottle opener gives you great leverage on the fingers! A coffee mug to the fingers or face. The beverage itself. (ask for HOT HOT chocolate or HOT HOT coffee if you are in doubt of the scene and stuck in a situation where leaving would be bad)

An umbrella can distract the opponent, mask your intention etc. Closed, it can be used like a cane, as leverage to arm lock, choke or just straight smack to the vital points. Cane – the same only possibly better because you are viewed as a "non-risk" (A guy carrying an umbrella is usually viewed as a non risk as well – least where I come from).

Always carry some WD40 and a lighter in your car. The WD40 is good for leaks and makeshift flamethrower as well! Even Unlit, WD40 make a great dog repellent! If you attach the little straw they give you with it you can increase the range up to 15 or so feet!!

Duct tape is a must for any vehicle!! It does everything from hold things down to submit opponents! Imagine how silly the bad guy looks after trying to rob you, you duct tape him to the lamp post, call for assistance and buggeroffski?

Mirrors, glass, etc just like a knife. Use some clothing to hold it with. Throwing glass (like the credit card) is very brutal. And you are not worried if you don't get it back.

Now, if I'm ever in an area of lots of people I'm watching for chair legs, how heavy are the tables? Can they be moved? Are they bolted down? Where's the nearest exit? Are there windows in the bathroom (usually not – to avert possible dine and dash scenario) Is the floor tile (slippery when wet) or carpet?

Using your creativity, you can come up with endless possibilities of how to use your surroundings and articles around you in case of attack.

Yes, there are unlimited scenarios and unlimited resources available to you to deal with each. The key is to be able to act naturally, on the spot when the attack comes! It comes with being aware of your surroundings. Avoid confrontation whenever possible. Avoid possible scenarios that could lead to such a predicament.

Five Weapons used by Jason Bourne (Matt Damon) in the Bourne series of movies.

1) Hardcover Book



Just because you can use a book to educate yourself doesn't mean you can't use it to brutally injure someone.

2) Pen - (Bourne Identity)



If you're Jason Bourne, you grab a bic and cram it into the guy's fist. Because nothing says "deadly weapon" like a \$.07 bic pen:

3) Magazine - (Bourne Supremacy)



I never thought I would see a magazine used as a weapon in a fight scene, but Bourne doesn't just use it to beat the guy senseless

4) Electrical Cord - (Bourne Supremacy)



Bourne barely pulls off the win by grabbing a nearby electrical cord and depriving his enemy of life-giving oxygen.

5) Vodka - (Bourne Supremacy)



Jason Bourne utilized a bottle of vodka to do two things: 1) Disinfect a gunshot wound, and 2) temporarily blind a Russian policeman.

Who says you can not learn anything for T.V