PALEO-POCALYPSE

A Compendium of Ancestral Technologies for Survival During Industrial Collapse & the Post-Apocalypse

– OR –

Using Scavenged Shit for Primitive Skills

by Rowan WalkingWolf

INTRODUCTION

Like many others of its kind, this text is primarily a manual of survival. However, unlike most such manuals – which are written by civilized people, for civilized people, and rely on the use of civilized technologies, methodologies, and mindsets – this survival compendium is entirely dedicated to re-learning ancestral and landbased technologies with the materials at hand during Industrial Collapse and the subsequent "post-apocalyptic" world. Whether it be knapping broken glass jugs to create arrowheads and knives, or reverse-wrapping strands of plastic bags to create cordage, there are hundreds, perhaps thousands, of such uses of the waste and leavings of industrial urban society.

The purpose in compiling this information into a coherent text is multifaceted. First, unlike the authors of many other survival books and manuals, this author is expressly and vehemently anti-civilized and pro-indigenous. Most survival manuals take it as a given in any disaster scenario that civilization will inevitably be rebuilt; or, if they don't predict rebuilding, they at least lament and decry the collapse and destruction of civilization. This manual is written from the perspective and understanding that the Civilized lifeway is inherently unsustainable, hierarchical and dominating, extractive, destructive, and ultimately undesirable. Thus, it is in the interest of "rewilding", or returning to a feral, landbased way of life, that these skills and knowledge are presented.

Furthermore, whether one holds with anti-civilized politics or not, the methods presented herein are sound. The apocalyptic world following the collapse of civilization will be literally overflowing with the rubbish, discards, and detritus of the civilized world; glass, plastic, metal, cloth, rubber, and every conceivable bauble concocted with these materials will continue to litter the world well after civilization eats itself. For those in the post-collapse world who are in towns, cities, or other urban settlements simply won't have access to primitive and ancestral materials such as plant fiber, hides and fur, plant and animal based glues, flint, chert, and obsidian for cutting tools, and so on. And even those who survive into the apocalyptic world who *are* in wilderness areas and *do* have access to such materials, they too will likely have access to civ trash as well. In many cases, sad to say, it will likely have less impact on one's immediate landbase and be more sustainable (in the short term) to scavenge and repurpose civilized garbage than to wildcraft plant, animal, and mineral resources.

Finally, many contemporary primitivists and other wilderness living enthusiasts who come from the civilized world find it a difficult and daunting task to leap into ancestral skills using all landbased and ancestral materials. In the modern, heavily privatized and policed world, it is often very difficult or impossible to access landbases and their resources, unless you're a powerful, wealthy landowner or a government employee. Those of us who wish to return to our ancestral lifeways are forbidden to harvest materials we need and travel where we will. Most wilderness areas are off-limits or government-regulated and most land itself is privately owned and inaccessible, traditional hunting is essentially both illegal and impossible, collecting many wild plants and mineral resources (like obsidian and chert) is illegal and difficult due to privatization and land ownership – the list goes on and on.

And so, with just about every aspect of returning to our ancestral lifeways made illegal and punishable by hefty fines, jail and prison time, assault, and even death, we are sometimes forced to turn to non-traditional materials for our primitive pursuits. Just so, the knowledge and skills within this text are intended to be powerful tools for those in the pre-collapse world who wish to rewild and relearn their ancestral skills, but find great difficulty in accessing landbases and traditional materials.

Before we delve into the individual skills, a brief note of clarification is needed. Before reading this text, to

better avoid expectations and grave disappointments, readers should understand that this compendium is NOT a primitive skills manual or primer. This work does not and will not focus on teaching readers fundamental and complex ancestral skills; rather, this work expounds and expands on such skills and demonstrates their multifarious and flexible applications to post-industrial materials. There is a huge body of extant literature concerning the basics and the intricacies of ancestral skills; a list of such works is provided toward the end of this text.

PREFACE TO THIS EDITION & DESIRES FOR FUTURE EDITIONS

This is the first edition of this manual, but I certainly hope it's not the last. The information included herein is based almost entirely on the author's direct experience and observations. By presenting this information to the world and opening dialogue about this particular realm of primitive skills, I hope not only to educate other wilderness enthusiasts and anti-civilized dissidents, but also to learn more myself. Once this text circulates and gains some notoriety, I truly hope that readers will contact me with additional information, methods, and skills that are not discussed herein. When I have accumulated sufficient reader contributions, I will create a second edition of this work as a collaboration between myself and the wilderness skills and primitivist communities.

Readers who have comments and contributions are encouraged to get in touch:

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CUTTING TOOLS

Besides fire, blades and cutting tools are perhaps the most necessary, vital, and fundamental human tools. Based on my personal experience, I would argue that human animal life is impossible without them. Of course, in the context of apocalyptic societal collapse, there will be plenty of steel knives floating about. However, for those unfortunates who don't have a knife or other cutting tool in the apocalypse, there are a variety of civilized materials that can be scavenged and turned into blades.

SCAVENGED METAL BLADES

The easiest and most accessible of these will come in the form of scrap metal knives, daggers, machetes, kukris, etc., which can be constructed from repurposed metals of many kinds. Lawnmower blades and leaf-springs (the "shocks" that absorb the jostling of cars, found beneath the undercarriage), both made of extremely durable steel and able to hold a sharp edge, are optimal materials. Railroad spikes, also made of tough steel, can likewise be hammered into excellent blades. I've also seen a handful of amazing knives made of hammered down old rasps and files. Really, any high quality steel that holds an edge when sharpened will do.

For lawnmower blades and leaf-springs, it's a simple matter of honing an edge onto one side then wrapping the steel with paracord, duct tape, leather, a cloth rag, or any other shock-absorbing material as a handle. For railroad spikes and rasps/files, however, a little improvised blacksmithing is necessary. This is done by heating the steel red hot, hammering it into shape (anvils are ideal, and can be made from repurposed railroad tracks!), and tempering in cold water and/or oil. Once hammered and tempered, an edge is added by grinding or filing down, then a hand-hold or handle is attached. Note: it's not my purpose here to explain the rudiments of smithing; ample materials and teachers are available to those who wish to learn.

Following below are pictures illustrating the above techniques:

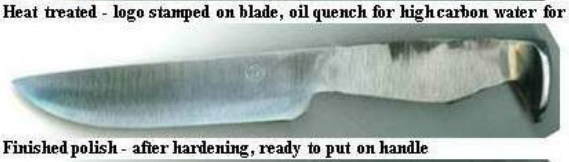
Railroad Spike Knife, complete process

Raw spike

Spike rough forged

Rough shaped – ground down to 80 grit

Heat treated - logo stamped on blade, oil quench for high carbon water for med carbon



Finished polish - after hardening, ready to put on handle

Rough handle attached

Rough handle top view

Finished knife

Leaf-spring Machete with leather wrapping

Lawnmower Blade machetes

KNAPPING BLADES FROM GLASS BOTTLES & TOILET CERAMIC

Although metal knives are certainly more durable and longer-lived than traditional stone tools, they are no doubt more difficult to craft, requiring not only specialized knowledge for their manufacture but also a number of other tools. Another option in the apocalypse is the re-purposing of glass bottles and ceramics into edged tools. Glass bottles, glass carboys (brewing vessels), glass and ceramic jugs, toilets, and ceramic tiles and pavers can all be used for this purpose. The making of knives out of these substances is identical to traditional paleo methods of knapping, using both percussion and pressure flaking. Again, this document is not meant to be an in-depth tutorial. For those who want to learn the techniques of knapping stone tools, there are ample resources and teachers. Following below are some pictures of scavenged glass and ceramic knives:

Knife knapped from fiber-optic glass

Knife knapped from toilet ceramic, toilet parts intact

Toilet blades

Knife knapped from glass jug

Knife knapped from ceramic floor tile

Giant blue glass knife, knapped from a large bottle

CORDAGE, WEAVING, & FIBER ARTS

CORDAGE

In addition to cutting tools and fire, cordage is a crucial human tool, necessary in almost all wilderness situations to thrive rather than just survive. Because it is imperative for human existence, and perhaps because it's a relatively easy skill to master, many primitivists and bushcraft enthusiasts learn to make cordage before exploring other skills. It seems obvious that cordage will be as vital in the post-apocalyptic scrum for survival as it is in primitive living.

For those living in such a scenario, they may not always have access to traditional plant fibers (yucca, New Zealand flax, European/American flax, dogbane, red cedar inner bark, etc.) or animal products (sinew, tendons, rawhide). However, it's likely that all people living in a collapse situation *will* have access to civilized detritus. If so, they're in luck, because cordage can be improvised from a plethora of civ rubbish. Among other materials, cordage can be twisted from plastic bags, scrap fabrics and clothes, leather scraps, strips of sofas, comforters, blankets, paracord, ad infinitum. I myself have made cordage from plastic bags reverse-wrapped together, and can testify to the efficacy and tensile strength of said cords. Moreover, though it is not civilized waste, another universal cordage material – one used by many indigenous groups the world over – is human hair (apologies for being ableist toward bald folks). Following below are pictures of various forms of post-apocalyptic cordage:

Plastic bag cordage

Human hair cordage

WEAVING WITH SCAVENGED MATERIALS

As with cordage, so too with traditional weaving. All of the above-mentioned materials, especially plastic bags, can be woven into a huge variety of containers and clothing items using the traditional coiled pine needle method of weaving. This is nearly identical to the southwestern Turtle Island tradition of coil-weaving yucca fibers into sandals and mats. Using these methods, it's possible to make footwear, baskets, bowls, backpacks, and so on. The following pictures demonstrate these methods:

Plastic bag shoes

Plastic bag sandals

Plastic bag basket

Plastic bag burden basket/backpack

BOWS, ARROWS, & OTHER MISSILE WEAPONS

Missile weapons, especially bows and arrows, are nearly universal. Indeed, almost every human culture that's ever existed used bows of some sort, ranging from simple self-bows for primitive hunting, to short recurved horse bows for mounted warfare, all the way to the whopping 150 lb. English warbows, capable of piercing platemail. In an apocalyptic scenario, industry and its many products will have stopped. And in such an event, bullets will become increasingly scarcer as the days go by, as people vie for survival and fight to get by. Just so, knowing how to fashion bows and other ranged weapons from civilized trash may spell the difference between life and death.

Of course, I wholeheartedly encourage everyone interested in thriving in the wild and outside of civilization to learn traditional and primitive bowyering techniques, as the materials are nearly universal, the tools for such crafting can be gathered and hand-made, and the methods are far more in-touch with the land and more empowering to the individual. However, as these methods are difficult to learn, voluminous to explain, and are not post-apocalyptic re-invisionings of ancestral methods, their practice will not be discussed herein.

APOCALYPTIC BOWS – PVC

Perhaps the easiest method of fabricating a bow from scavenged materials is the PVC bow. PVC pipe can be made into a variety of bows in a variety of lengths and forms, but the basic concept is always the same: PVC is strong and flexible, and all it really needs to become a bow is a string slit an inch from the tip on either end. Strings for such bows can be fashioned from paracord or any other civ-string, and should be roughly 3-4 inches shorter than the bow length itself.

A typical PVC bow should be roughly 5' in length, and can vary above or below this mark by a few inches depending on the height/size of the archer. ¾" Schedule 40 white PVC pipe is the optimal material for this use, though the slightly weaker and less springy gray pipe will also work in a pinch.

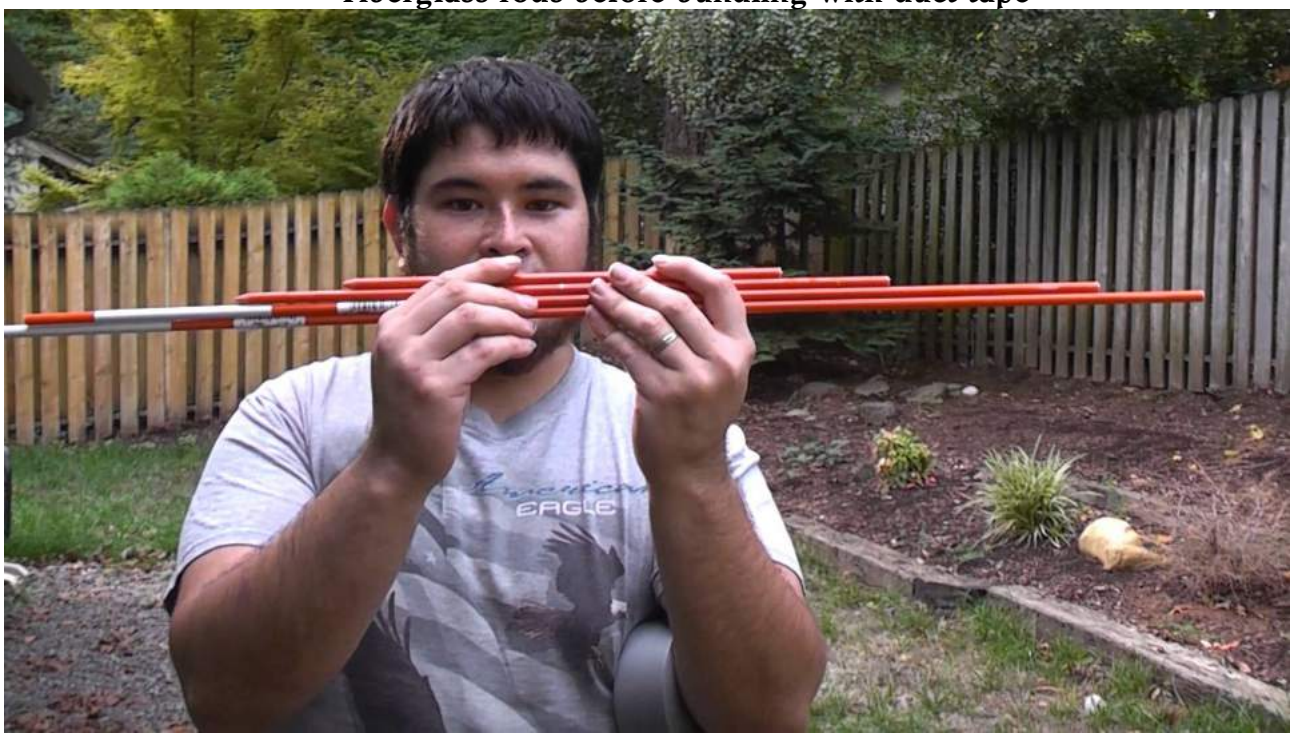
On its own, a PVC bow with no other materials is relatively weak. For added poundage and explosivity, additional material can be stuffed into the PVC cavity. Though this can be as simple as a smaller-diameter PVC pipe, the optimal material is 5/16" thick fiberglass rods. You'll need 2 of these at 48" length (or more), which are then cut into 4 pieces (one each) of 12", 18", 30", and 36". These four pieces are arranged as pictured below and wrapped in duct tape, much like a primitive bundle bow. The completed bundle is then shoved into the PVC's hollow cavity and pushed to center. Completing this process makes a snug bundle of high tension rods that adds quite a bit of strength and poundage to the bow. In fact, with a fiberglass bundle inside, an otherwise lackluster PVC bow pulls almost exactly 40 lbs., adequate for hunting and self-defense alike. Although I have no experiential knowledge in this regard, I assume dowels or wildcrafted hardwood sticks can be bundled together inside the PVC in place of fiberglass.

Furthermore, for those in the apocalypse with access to a blowtorch or even a firepit, PVC can be heated to the point of malleability and bent into various shapes. The best use of this method is flattening out the PVC into a standard flatbow shape, recurving its limbs, and leaving the central handhold rounded. Doing so markedly increases the draw weight and performance of the bow.

Following below are pictures of all the previously mentioned techniques. For those wanting more in-depth tutorials, check out the Nicolas Tomihama's Youtube channel, Backyard Bowyer: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC_U6Yek0YgKHN_A-iTAwZbg. He's an amazing bowyer who possesses a vast skillset and extensive knowledge about making a variety of bows, including traditional bows and bows from scavenged materials.

Simple PVC bow and paracord string

Fiberglass rods before bundling with duct tape



PVC bow made from two PVC pipes, one inside the other

PVC bows with flattened and recurved limbs

APOCALYPTIC BOWS – BICYCLE RIMS

Another amazing re-purposing of civ trash into a functional bow is the Bicycle Rim Bow! This simple tool requires a bike wheel (any size 26" and above), a hub from a rear wheel with 1 spoke intact, some duct tape, some eyelets and wingnuts or washers, and a black surgical/slingshot tube (the yellowish ones work too, but they're weaker). Basically, the rim is cut in half, eyelets are attached through the spoke-nipple holes, the hub and spoke are attached to the front of the contraption, and the tube is wound through the attached eyelets. Any arrows or other projectiles can be utilized with this bow, and it should be suitable for small game.

The following pictures depict this build from start to finish.

Bicycle Rim Bow, in action

Arrow rest made from hub and spoke taped to front

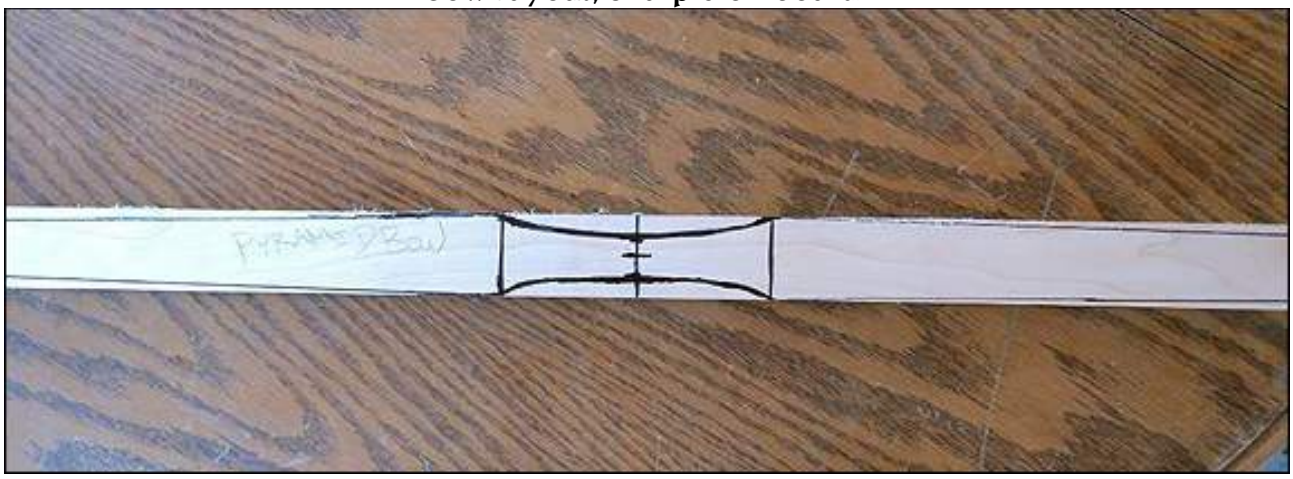
Eyelets inserted through spoke-nipple holes, holding surgical/slingshot tubing

Finished product, holding arrow between tubing

APOCALYPTIC BOWS – SCRAP WOOD, LUMBER, PALLETS, ETC.

Much of the wood used in industrial and civ building applications is hardwood, well-suited to the making of traditional flat bows. Any hardwood can be used, but the best woods that are likely to be found in lumber yards and on pallets in an apocalyptic scenario are: red oak (any oak, really), ash, hickory, black walnut, some maples, ipe, cherry, and apple (and other fruit tree woods). Construction is nearly identical to self-bows made from wildcrafted materials. See pictures below:

Bow layout, sharpie on board



Bow, cut out from board

Shaping the limbs with a planar

Tillering the bow

Finished red oak board bow (not from the pictures above)

APOCALYPTIC ARROWS – ARROWHEADS, SHAFTS, & FLETCHING

As with bows, arrows can also be cobbled together from piecemeal civilized rubbish. Shafts can be crafted from wooden dowels, tent poles, walking and skiing poles, or any other straight, durable, lightweight material. For fletching, duct tape, masking tape, and of course scavenged feathers. Arrowheads are perhaps the most versatile, and can be made from knapped glass, knapped ceramic (including tiles and toilets!), flattened, tapered, and sharpened spoons, flattened nails, flattened coins, bullet casings for blunt points, and any scrap metal materials. Following below are pictures demonstrating these applications:

Improvised arrowheads & duct tape fletching

POST-APOCALYPTIC BLOWGUNS & DARTS

BLOWGUNS

Due to the abundance of hollow pipes and tubes within civilization, the manufacture and use of blowguns during the collapse and aftermath of civ will be a certainty. Really, fabricating a blowgun from scavenged materials is as easy as cutting a piece of copper pipe, PVC, steel pipe, or any other firm, hollow tube to the desired length. Pipes up to ½" in diameter are ideal, and varying sizes can be used for varying sizes of game animals. Blowguns made in this way tend to be reflective (if metal) or brightly colored (if PVC), and can be camouflaged with paints, pigments, and camouflage or Real-tree duct tape.

DARTS

Darts to accompany an apocalyptic blowgun are just as easy to craft as the weapon itself. Dart shafts can be made from bamboo skewers, small nails, sewing needles (for use on tiny game and/or with poison), bike spokes, metal skewers, pencils, awls, and, of course, scavenged wood/twigs/natural materials. If feather-like fletching is the desired backing for your darts, you can utilize feathers, yarn, frayed cigarette filters, wadded up cloth of any kind, and a huge array of natural materials, such as thistle down, down feathers, clematis fluff, usnea wads, fur wads – really, any plant or animal material that is light, fluffy, and easily compacted into a blowgun. If cones are desired rather than fletching, materials include thimbles, duct tape cones (super easy and very durable), paper cones, or, a third option is the type of dart whose body is the exact diameter of the blowgun and which requires neither fletching nor a cone to propel it. For this type of dart, one can use small pieces of glue stick with needles or nails shoved through them, pencil erasers with needles embedded in the rubber, wooden dowels cut into small pieces with a nail or other stabbing implement attached, and so on. If broadhead darts are desired in place of simple straight points, one can use X-acto knife blades, razor blades, some dremel attachments, or any of a thousand other small, broad, sharp civ objects. See the pictures below for a better understanding of these materials and their construction.

Duct tape blow dart cones

Bamboo skewer with thistle down fletching

X-acto blade darts

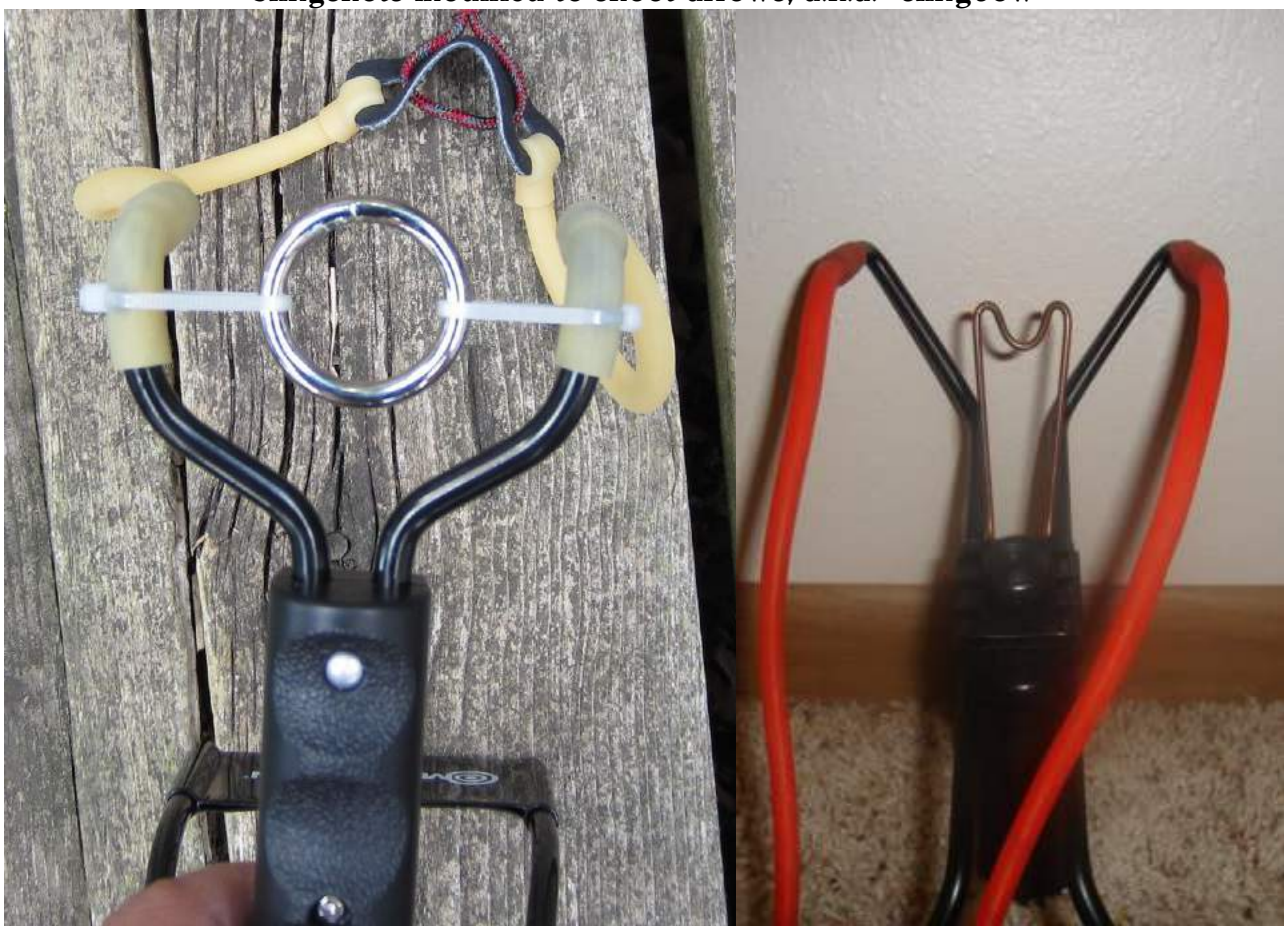
Cigarette butt fletching, eraser, needle

Homemade darts w/ paper cones

MODIFYING SLINGSHOTS TO SHOOT ARROWS

Almost all designs of contemporary slingshots ("catapults" in the UK) can be easily modified and outfitted to fire full size arrows, and, thus, to allow the hunting of larger game with a weapon generally reserved for small animals. This mod is done by first finding a metal (or plastic, or whatever) ring or a large enough diameter for an arrow to pass through. The ring is then situated and fixed in place in the center of the two forked arms of the slingshot, using either rubber tubing, strips of bicycle innertube, zip ties, several rubber bands, stiff cordage, or any other binding material that allows the ring to sit in the center of the slingshot. The ring then acts as an arrow rest, allowing the user to draw to an arrow's full length without dropping the arrow. Arrow rests of this sort can also be fashioned out of thick, stiff wire, coat hangers, or other pseudo-flexible wiry material.

Slingshots modified to shoot arrows, a.k.a. "slingbow"



RABBIT STICKS & ATLATLS FROM SCAVENGED MATERIALS

Because the throwing or rabbit stick is one of humanity's earliest and most effectively simple hunting tools, it bears mentioning here that throwing weapons can be made from all manner of civ rubbish. Chair legs, table legs, discarded planks of wood, metal pipes meant for plumbing, and so on. Likewise, any such materials made of wood can be carved down, fitted with a notch, and re-purposed into an atlatl ("dart-thrower").

SLINGS & SLING AMMUNITION FROM RUBBISH

Almost as ancient as the throwing stick and atlatl is the sling, one of humanity's most effective early hunting tools. While traditional slings are made of leather or rawhide, post-apocalyptic slings can be fashioned from a variety of garbage materials. Simple sling pouches can be made from clothing scraps, couch fabric, shower curtains, *ad infinitum*. Basically, any fabric-like, flexible material can be made into a pouch and can have arms and finger loops attached to it. More complex and durable sling pouches and arms can be woven from paracord, twine, or any other civ cordage. For ammunition, nuts, bolts, ball bearings, and river rocks from landscaped lawns are all suitable and deadly projectiles.

Paracord sling

Leather pouch sling

BAMBOO WEAPONS

As detailed in the Yggdrasil Distro release *Bamboo*, the titular plant of that publication is absurdly useful. A staple of southeast Asian indigenous cultures, and now found in landscaped lawns, parks, and gardens worldwide, bamboo is a powerhouse of utility in a post-apocalyptic scenario. Spears, gigs, bows, crossbows, arrows, blowguns and darts, and a variety of primitive traps can be made with this superb plant. For detailed instructions on how to contruct each of these individual tools, please reference that zine, available for free at: https://yggdrasildistro.files.wordpress.com/2015/08/primitive-uses-of-bamboo.pdf.

FIRE & COMBUSTION

FRICTION FIRE WITH SCAVENGED MATERIALS

While lighters, ferro rods ("metal matches"), and other civilized methods of fire lighting will certainly remain viable in a collapse scenario, there are other options for those wishing to both rewild their survival skills AND utilize the rubbish and discards of civilized society. For example, wood from a variety of civ sources – e.g., desk drawers, furniture, cabinetry, planks, pallets, etc. - can be used in place of a hearthboard of wildcrafted material when practicing friction fire. These scavenged materials are viable for use with hand-drill, bow-drill, and fire-plow methods. Likewise, spindles for bow-drill and fire-plow can come from civilized sources as well, including drum sticks, wooden dowels, dismantled Ikea racks and furniture, spatula shafts, and on and on. Hand-holds for bow-drill include upturned mason jars, small crockery, egg cups, metal and plastic ladles, ceramic and glass bowls, and many other options. The best civ hand-hold options by far are skateboard wheels, pulley wheels, bike wheel hubs, and any other device that can accommodate a spindle AND that has essentially frictionless internal ball-bearings. Cordage for any fire method that necessitates a string can be paracord, shoelaces, reversed-wrapped cloth scraps, duct tape cord, etc. And for the bow element of bow-drill, utilize firm wooden coat hangers, "tire irons" (i.e., lug nut wrenches), bicycle rims cut in half, wooden arches on the backs of chairs – really, anything rigid with a slight curve to it will work.

These materials and methodologies might sound unlikely to produce a coal, but I've personally achieved fire using a set composed of a coat hanger bow, shoelace cord, drum stick spindle, mason jar socket, and a cedar desk drawer. Combined, these elements produced one of the easiest and most ridiculous coals I've ever achieved. For an amusing and visually instructive example of one way to achieve primitive fire via civilized trash, visit the following link to watch a video of a dude making a bow drill kit and fire entirely using Ikea materials. Like, seriously EVERYTHING he uses in the video – the knife, the bow drill kit, the kindling, the tinder, *everything* – is made from repurposed Ikea crap. Watch it, and despair!

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rzXOVbYUamc

FIRE WITH LENSES (MAGNIFYING GLASSES & SPECTACLES)

Any child who's scorched leaves and small insects with this method knows its usefulness. Though not truly primitive, in any apocalyptic scenario, the convex lenses of magnifying glasses, corrective lenses, and other reflective civ trash will be readily available. Suitable tinder and direct sunlight are the two largest obstacles to achieving fire by lens, but, when both are available, this method is leagues quicker and easier than fire by friction.

CHARCLOTH & CHARCLOTH TINS

Although not an entirely primitive practice, the crafting and usage of charcloth is a viable apocalyptic fire method. As far as containers are concerned, any small tin that stays securely shut can be utilized to make charcloth. Altoids tins are widespread and accessible in most western civilized nation-states. In terms of material for the charcloth itself, old t-shirts, jeans, cotton pillowcases, cigarette butts/filters, flannel shirts,

cotton balls, washcloths, and any other civ material made of cotton (i.e., not synthetic) can be used.

TINDER & KINDLING MATERIALS FROM CIV TRASH

In urban and apocalyptic scenarios in which wildcrafted tinder and kindling aren't available, a variety of civ materials can be scavenged and repurposed. Tampons, cigarette filters/butts, cotton balls, coffee filters, paper, paper towels, drier lint, pocket lint, q-tip cotton, menstrual pads, and any other fluffy civ material can be used as tinder in all fire making methods. Tinder is even easier to come by, in that any civ commodity made of wood can be chopped and batoned in small, flammable pieces.

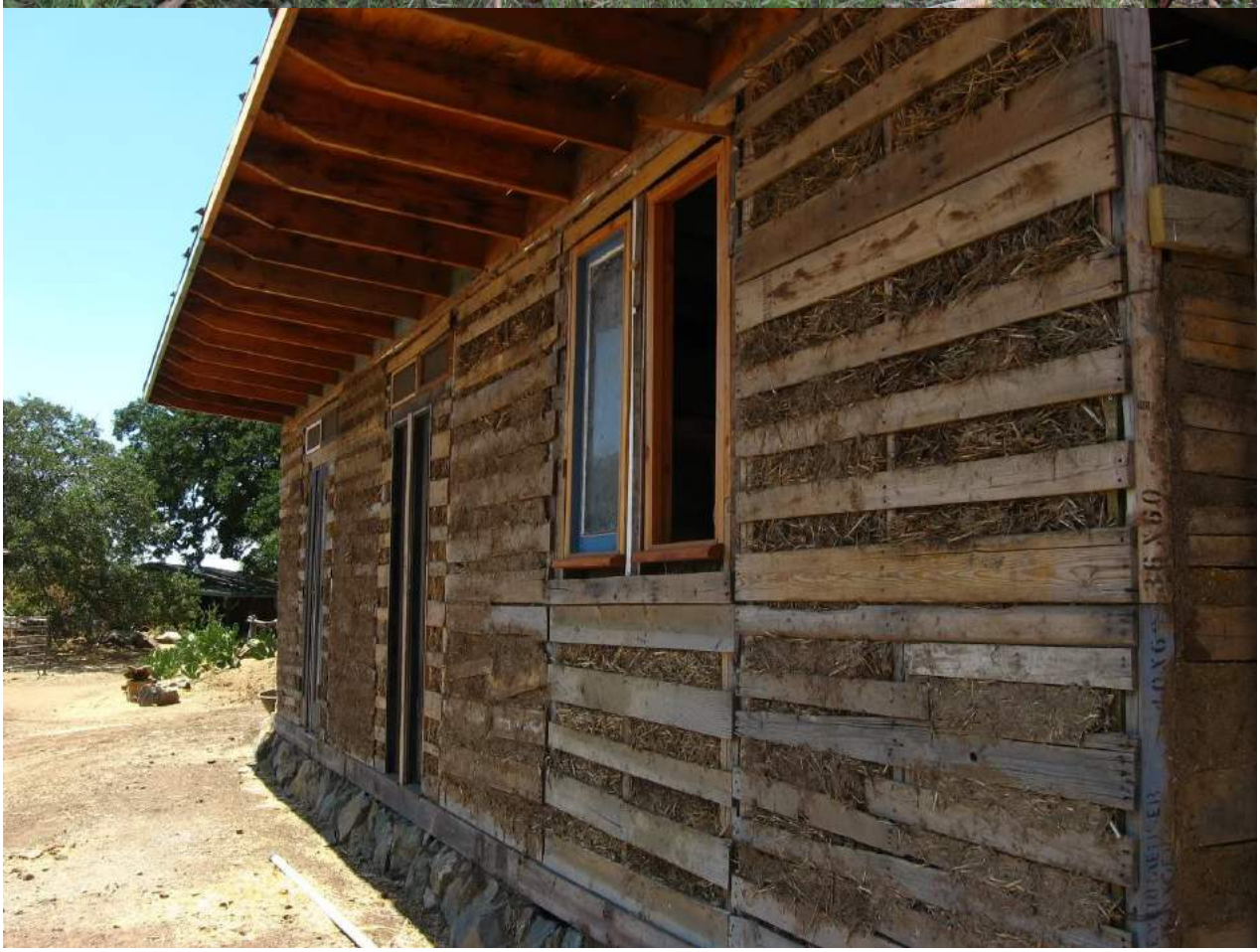
SHELTER

TARPEES

Besides the ubiquitous squatting-derelict-civilized-ruins method of finding shelter, a number of pseudo-primitive shelters can be cobbled together from scavenged civ materials. The easiest of these is the "tarpee", or tarp tipi. It is constructed exactly as the name implies: it's a tarp that is strung up or wrapped around supports like a tent or tipi. These shelters take practically no time to construct, can be set up in almost any landbase, and are lightweight and require little space to carry when dismantled.

Tipi-style tarp shelter

Top: Tent-style tarp shelter; Bottom: pallet wood & cob shelter, Oglala-Sioux res



WOODEN PALLET SHELTERS

In lieu of wildcrafting wood for wickiups and cabin-style wooden shelters, an abundant building material is available in the form of a truly omnipresent contraption: the wooden pallet. These flat, wooden shipping devices are found in every industrialized nation in the world, and, even in a pre-apocalyptic state (i.e., the world at present), they can be found and expropriated behind most every business across the globe that engages in shipping and/or receiving. In a post-collapse survival situation, pallets can be repurposed into a variety of shelters, ranging from simple shelters like wickiups, lean-tos, wigwams, and debris huts to more complex wood cabin-style structures. See preceding page for pic.

FOOTWEAR

TIRE TREAD SANDALS

In place of thick hide soles or wooden clogs, clever scavengers during and after the collapse of civilization can instead fashion sandals out of old tire treads. This can be done with tires that have or do not have steel bead threads running through them, but the process is obviously much simpler using tires without bead. When using tires with bead, one must possess tools that can adequately bend and cut steel wires, such that the bead can be manipulated. Thongs and uppers can be created utilizing paracord, scrap leather, and a tremendous variety of scrounged materials. Whatever method one uses, old tires make durable, long-lasting footwear with excellent traction. See pictures below for crafting ideas.

Tire sandals with leather thongs

Civ sandals, resoled with tire tread

COILED SANDALS FROM SALVAGED MATERIALS

Another option for the discerning post-apocalyptic sandal enthusiast is the coiled sandal, a primitive skill employed by the indigenous desert dwellers of southwestern Turtle Island. Albeit less durable and more time consuming to craft than tire tread sandals, coiled sandals are easier to make and to work with and can be made from a diversity of materials. Whereas such sandals were traditionally made from yucca and/or agave fibers, post-apocalyptic coiled sandals can be made with strips of cloth, paracord, climbing line, leather scraps, and (my personal favorite) plastic bags. The technique is identical to the ancestral technique, and essentially boils down to making reverse-wrapped cordage using any of the listed materials, then coiling it into a circular sole and sewing it together as it is coiled. It's exactly the same technique used for making coiled pine needle baskets, for those familiar with that skill. Or, if the coiling method is difficult or undesirable, sandals can be made with any of the aforementioned materials by weaving or plaiting instead.

Plastic bag sandals

MISCELLANEOUS TECHNOLOGIES

IMPROVISED FISHING HOOKS & TACKLE

Fishing, a crucial means of acquiring food in a foraging-hunting lifestyle, can be enacted by various means, including weirs, traps, spear and bow fishing, and fishing with lines and hooks. For the latter most method, hooks can be fashioned with a variety of scavenged civ trash. Pull tabs from soda and beer cans can be clipped and sharpened, leaving one side an "eye" (onto which line is tied) and the other a hook. Safety pins are superb apocalyptic fishing hooks, being that one end is already an eye, and the other is a retractable stabbing point. Safety pins also come in a diversity of sizes, and can be scaled depending on the fish one desires to catch. Furthermore, tiny safety pins can almost effortlessly be transfigured into flies (for fly fishing, obviously) by wrapping plant fiber, sewing thread, or any other narrow diameter cordage around the safety pin's body in the pattern of a midge or other small insect. Paperclips can be used in a similar fashion. Pop tops from glass soda and beer bottles can be crimped onto improvised hooks to make a flashy-style lure, and will create both distressed movement and visual stimulus when deployed in the water. Wine corks and any civ rubbish made from styrofoam can be repurposed into floats and bobbers. For weights, use washers, nuts, and other dense metal detritus. Aluminum cans, from which tabs can be scavenged for hooks, can be used as makeshift reels for bow fishing (see attached pic).

Improvised hooks

Improvised hooks, bobbers, & fly

Beer can reel for bow fishing

IMPROVISED CANDLES

Where cattail heads and other primitive torch/candle materials are unavailable, two simple methods exist for creating post-apocalyptic candles. The first material, by far the less complex method of the two, is the humble crayon. In a collapse scenario, coloring crayons will most certainly be widespread and easy to scrounge up. In order to make a crayon a candle, simply cut down or burn away the wax up to the beginning of the paper sheath, then light it on fire. Because the paper sheath (a flammable paper product) is slathered in the crayon (a flammable petroleum product), crayons are actually perfectly functional candles in and of themselves, and will burn for upwards of 20 minutes with no alteration. For longer burning candles, crayons can be melted in a cooking pot, then poured into glass housing and fitted with a wick (like conventional candles). These are not only vivid to behold, but also burn much longer – and not to mention, are much safer – than simply igniting a crayon.

The other type of candle discussed here requires two components: an orange peel and any type of cooking oil or flammable petroleum product. To concoct the orange peel candle, first cut a line bisecting the orange peel, then carefully peel it off the orange in an intact half. It's also crucial in this process to ensure that the pithy fiber core that runs through the orange's center stays intact AND attached to the hemisphere/side you're removing. Completing this process properly furnishes a bowl-like basin (the peel) with a "wick" (the pithy core) attached. Then, all that's needed to finish the candle is to fill the orange peel with vegetable/cooking oil, lighter fluid, lamp oil, or any non-evaporating, thick fuel. Then, the wick (again, the pithy central fiber) must be coated and saturated in the fuel. Once fuel has been added and

the wick soaked, it can then be lit.

Each of these apocalyptic candles also provides an additional benefit, which is the psychological merriment they bring, an absolutely essentially component of all survival situations. I mean, what's goofier and more fun than lighting crayons and oranges on fire for the purpose of surviving societal collapse? If that's not fun, I don't know what is.

Crayon & orange peel candles

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