

TAP

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THE LEGEND RETURNS!

TRAVEL CENTER

Gasoline
Register

171

STARBUCKS
COFFEE

SUBWAY

POPCORNS

RVs

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Welcome to the reincarnation of
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technological underground
newsletter.



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***Principles of Secure
Communications***

by Mark O'Ryan

*"War is nothing but the
continuation of politics by other
means"*

-Carl Von Clausewitz

The means to communicate between operational elements is of greatest importance and the history of military, law enforcement and intelligence operations has evidenced this repeatedly. Communication between operational elements, individual or organizational, must be secured to prevent exploitation by the Opposition, to prevent compromise of operational activities and above all, maintain the security (anonymity) of the operator.

Advances in technology and legislation have greatly contributed to the effectiveness of the Opposition. The physical and legislative tools available to compromise your liberty, subordinate you to the state and prevent any meaningful change are well reported. National Security Letters, no-knock warrants, reduced legal thresholds for all types of surveillance, coupled to a judicial system that favors the Opposition and not the citizen, make it necessary that activists learn, understand and employ techniques and methodologies once reserved for clandestine intelligence officers and special military forces. These techniques

of the underground arts and sciences facilitate your liberty by preventing imprisonment and contribute to the success of any activity.

Employing clandestine tradecraft correctly keeps you free to conduct political activism and other operational acts as required.

To appreciate secure communications, the operator must understand the difference between overt, covert and clandestine communications. While the words clandestine and covert are popularly used synonymously, these are different modes of action and have separate definitions.

A covert act is one where the parties remain unknown but the act is known. A clandestine act is where the act is concealed, and an overt act is observably conducted between communicants.

Overt, Covert and Clandestine Communications

Overt communication is most familiar to all of us. We do this all of the time. The fact of communicating with other parties is not concealed, nor is the the message (voice, text, image) concealed. The meaning of the communication is not concealed.

Two persons speaking together in a public environment is an overt communication. For example, Bill and Alice are old friends and meet regularly at a

local park to converse about their lives. They make no attempt to conceal either their meeting or communication. Both the meaning and act of communication are not concealed.

When we talk with a friend via telephone or exchange text messages via computer, we are engaging in overt communication. Even if encrypted, the fact that parties exist and the fact that communication is taking place is known to all that care to observe. This is fine for our everyday usage, but sensitive activities that carry imprisonment, death or other harm require greater security.

We provide this security through the application of principles that deny some or all parts of the communications process.

A covert communication (COVCOM) occurs when the fact of communications is known, but the communicants are unknown. An example is the Blind Transmission Broadcast (BTB). The fact that a radio operator is transmitting is not hidden, but the identity of the communicants is not revealed.

An example of COVCOM is well known to most people. An allied intelligence officer in WWII sending a radio report from Germany to England makes no attempt to conceal the fact of the communication, but the sender and recipients are unidentified. In this case, the fact of communication is not hidden, but

it's contents are encrypted to obfuscate it's meaning.

From our previous example, Bill and Alice wish to communicate covertly. They both set up anonymous email accounts at one Internet access point and use another to communicate. They both use a popular encryption application to encrypt their emails and conduct their communication. The Opposition monitoring the servers at the ISP know that an exchange took place, but not who. The fact of communication is not concealed, only the communicants. If Bob and Alice were careful and applied good tradecraft, their identities should remain undiscovered.

A clandestine communication (CLANCOM) occurs when the fact of communications is unknown except to the communicants, but the act of communications is not necessarily hidden. An example would be the use of stenography to conceal a message between communicants. In this case, an seemingly normal file is openly exchanged (such as an image via email) between communicants, but the clandestine part is the communication hidden within the file. No attempt was made to conceal the fact that two persons communicated, only to conceal the real message.

Another example of CLANCOM is the visual signal one operative may give another to indicate some fact (such as to load a dead drop or to wave off a

personal meeting). The signal is some innocuous and normal gesture that is given openly and is visible to all, but carries some meaning for the communicants.

So, we find that CLANCOM involves denying an observer the fact that a communication took place, denying the meaning of that message, and giving communicants plausible denial that such communication took place. Fundamentally, CLANCOM prevents the Opposition from detecting and identifying the members of a group in order to frustrate network analysis and to deny and degrade an investigation.

Consider this application of CLANCOM: A group of persons is engaged in some activity of an sensitive nature. They have prearranged a plan whereby any group member who is visited by the police may place some object, say a potted plant, in the windowsill, to notify the group that the police may be surveilling the house, or that a corrupt judge has issued a gag order to preclude a group member from notifying his associates of police investigation.

Naturally, the person in the above case must have deniability regarding the fact of this communication (or risk the judge's ire), therefore such communication plans should be memorized.

In this case the message is concealed, not its transmission

and receipt. The plant is openly displayed in the windowsill and it's presence is the message. The communicants do not reveal their relationship to the message since they passively receive it.

Fundamentally, a covert act, such as COVCOM, hides the practitioners, not the act itself. A clandestine act, such as a CLANCOM, conceals the fact of communication but not the practitioners. Although the practitioners may be undetected.

A communication may be both clandestine and covert in some cases, where the communicants and the communication are all concealed. This is preferred, but difficult to accomplish regularly without thorough planning and resourcing. This is not a technique that lends itself to ad hoc improvisation or amateurs.

Cryptography

The use of cryptography is applicable to either of the above methods and simply employing cryptography is not itself an act of covert or clandestine communications. In fact, parties communicating amongst one another via encrypted media is a common overt act since only the message is obfuscated. No attempt to conceal the fact of a message or identities of the communicating parties is made.

As an example, it is a regular practice for an army unit to communicate to it's higher

headquarters using encrypted radio communications---no attempt is made to conceal the communicants or the fact that this communication is taking place. It is equally common that parties will intercept this message, these parties will know who the communicants are, but the substance of the message will be made incomprehensible through encryption.

Cryptographer facilitates communications security by frustrating the comprehension of the message by unauthorized parties.

Cryptography facilitates plausible denial of the substance of a communication. Ask yourself if it would be better to suffer some punishment being in possession of an encrypted message, or how much greater would the punishment be if the message contents were revealed and the operational act it contains revealed.

Cryptography must be used in all cases of communications, whether overt, covert or clandestine.

Encryption by itself is essential, but sensitive activities require protection of communicants which in turn often requires that the messages sent amongst them be hidden as well. Every communicant must have plausible denial that they have received some communication and a means to conceal the message.

While the Internet has provided the de facto communications network for many organizations, its nature, coupled with legislation and continuing, rapid advancement of technology, have provided means by which Opposition elements can monitor clandestine operatives. The media, acting for the Opposition, has provided several examples of successful Computer Network Operations conducted against criminal enterprises and such operations may also be thrown against resisters.

Digital Encryption

A PGP or GPG encrypted message is a ASCII text which means it can be transmitted via digital modes on High Frequency radio or placed on a USB drive, concealed in a dead drop or delivered in a brush pass.

One Time Pads

One Time Pads creating a message consisting of five letter code groups is a message that has historically lent itself well to transmission via High Frequency modes. There is no reason that messages of this type cannot continue to be used. While cumbersome, they require minimal equipment and the pads are easily concealed. The military continues to use these as a backup form of communication.

Steganography

Steganography hides a message in some innocuous matrix

(such as a poem or picture) to prevent its discovery and assists in avoiding closer scrutiny, by itself, it is weak protection-that is to say, no protection, but when used with the above means of message forming, then it prevents unwelcome attention to the transmission. It essentially hides the actual message in a message that give the communicants plausible denial. Techniques exist to extract steganographically concealed messages, so encryption of the actual message is important. The important attribute of this technique is that it prevents the Opposition from knowing that a CLANCOM took place.

Visual Signals

Visual signals are prearranged, simple communications that operatives employ to warn or otherwise communicate to one another some fact. Signals to terminate a personal meeting, service a dead drop or to indicate the fact of surveillance are all commonly used and should be included in a communications plan.

Visual signals may consist of gestures (e.g. cleaning ones eyeglasses), wearing an article of clothing or wearing that clothing a certain way can be used as clandestine communications. Other visual signals may be chalk marks on some object, parking ones vehicle in a particular manner or some

other activity that is common place, innocuous and known to the other operatives.

We are approaching a totalitarian state that makes full use of it's resources. The Opposition, particularly the FBI, must investigate and prosecute political activists of all stripes. Secure communications between operational elements, is paramount for any successful operation. Consider this, in Washington D.C. Everyday, the business of espionage takes place. The FBI only detects a portion of that---they are not all powerful and their investigation techniques can be defeated, denied or degraded through education, practice, planning and careful execution.

There are highly trained and experienced people that can help you. You may meet them one day. You are not alone.

▲
Packet Fun
by Lostbaka

It's 9:23 PM eastern. It's dark, raining, and cold. Just another December night in Fairfield county. There are laptops all around me, the bag full of random parts from Radio Shack, and a HT (handie-talkie) beside me. Why? Because I'm a Ham and proud of it!! About four months ago, I was standing in a room at the Hotel Pennsylvania, wondering if I passed my Technician exam. Well, that was

the best \$14 bucks I ever spent to date.

So why do it? One person put it as it is a legal way to really play in the RF spectrum. Hey, for \$14 bucks, why not? It's easy!! What else lets you communicate down the block and to space stations? The not-so-selfish reason is you can really help your friends and family in times of local and/or national emergencies. As the ARRL states very simply, "When all else fails... Amateur Radio." I've probably met more hams ready to roll out for an emergency than any other group of people. When you get to combine both reasons, then you have something good. Ever see the Red Cross ECRV? If you like radio gear and helping people, that's sure one way to do it.

With any subject learned, concentrating on one aspect happens. For me, it is packet radio. One would think that the Internet would just about do away with packet radio, but there interest is still there and it's a very useful medium. Sometimes, you don't want broadcast information in the open and it's amazing how far you can travel. Like most new hams, my first radio is an HT. A Yaesu VX-7RB (yes it has to be black, it just looks better that way). I came to find out that five watts is just plenty of power. Next, ditch the rubber duck. Ok, I didn't through the stock antenna in the trash. I still use it

while on foot. The addition of discone, which is in the attic, and small mag mount antenna of the car made a world of difference. To get into packet, I needed an audio cable and a TNC, of course. The audio cable isn't as easy as one would think. The VX-7 is a very rugged HT and any spot that's opened to the elements has a rubber cover. The mic/headphone jack takes it a step further with a threaded connector that has a rubber boot. Once it's tightened up, it forms a pretty good seal. Lucky for me, Lentini Communications had the special Yaesu audio connector, so I went for a drive. Sure, I could've had them mail it, but where's the fun in that? That was my first trip to Lentini and Newington. It probably won't be my last. (Pardon the plug. The service was great. They were patient and answered all my questions. I ended up leaving with my car antenna and cigarette lighter adapter for the VX.)

A math teacher once said you have to be good and lucky to get anywhere in life. I don't know about good, but I was lucky when it came to getting a TNC. A local ham had bought a bunch of TNCs and never got around to using. He was willing to let me use one as long as I helped him. No problems here. New TNCs aren't cheap. Ebay and ham fests can be great places to pick one up. I was lucky and ended up with a Kantronics MT1200. The MT1200 is 1200 baud TNC designed

for remote locations. It's still a quite capable TNC. It just lacks extras like a built in mailbox.

All that was left was the actual cable to connect the TNC to the speaker/mic input of the HT. Small butane soldering irons \ torches are an experimenters best friend. Most of the cable was using small Burnzomatic torches. All parts were included with the TNC except a resistor and a capacitor. These are needed to key up the HT (it has no PTT input). Planning out what wire to where made the assembly pretty easy. I think my biggest mistake was not putting the capacitor/resistor network in a project box. The components are in-line and only protected by heatshrink tubing. Surprisingly, it's held up.

I was shocked and damn happy when I made my first connection. It was to WB2CIK, a Flexnet node in Long Island. I couldn't believe a five watt HT was enough. My understanding is that an antenna above will help a signal travel. I'm by the water, near the southwestern tip of CT and Long Island is probably 20 miles away, straight shot.. I guess it shouldn't be that surprising, but still. I did get another surprise though. I was still able to reach WB2CIK from the Fairfield, CT I-95 rest stop. One station is all that's needed. The way packet radio and it's main protocol. AX.25 are setup, one node can link a user to another node. This call

digipeating. So from WB2CIK, I can reach any other node on the network.

This setup works pretty well from the car. I use a HP sub-notebook that has decent battery life. A cigarette lighter splitter and adapters help power the TNC and charge radio. All this easily fits into a knapsack or plastic shopping bag. With all this, it was pretty easy to get into APRS. That doesn't mean it was completely successful.

APRS, Automatic Packet Reporting System, was developed by Bob Bruninga, WB4APR, as a way to deliver local information in real time. It mostly gets used for position tracking but that's changing. My first step into APRS was position tracking. All that was added to the current setup was APRS software, to do the encoding, and a GPS receiver. Additional mapping software was added for access to better maps. For the APRS software, I settled on UI-View32. It's free, well known and well supported. The GPS receiver was the Microsoft GPS USB that comes with Streets and Trips. It was chosen because it was available and I saw no problems related to it. I've been told that the Garmin GPS 18x is a better choice. It's more sensitive and more rugged.

There are plenty of resources on the web that can guide one through setup and getting on the air. So first things first. Can I receive? I tuned my HT to the

national APRS calling frequency for North American, 144.390 Mhz, loaded the software and waited. Sure enough, APRS objects started plotting on my screen, time to take this on the road. The test was pretty simple, drive around and see if my APRS beacon gets repeated of the Internet on OpenAPRS or APRS.fi. The territory covered was New Rochelle, NY to Millford, CT, driving on local roads, RT-15 (Merrit Parkway \ Wilbur Cross) and I-95. I knew I could receive and transmit, so I wasn't too worry on my end. After several nights, I did see my car show up on the mentioned websites. The disappointment came when I saw how far i was tracked. I was only heard through Fairfield, CT. This pointed to something I had long suspected. Packet and APRS activity south of that area is basically doesn't exist.

So what does that mean? Time to play!! I think the greatest thing that has come through all of this is that one idea leads to another and you start experimenting. So there's a packeted dead zone, get some people and fix it. I can run from the car, can I carry a complete packet station on my back and have it run for 6 hours? You start noticing other radio networks and want to learn more about them. My trunking scanner and pocket wideband receiver have all come out of retirement.

Speaking of projects, remember that Radio Shack bag from the

beginning of this rant? I needed some serial cable adapters. I read a few webpages about using PDAs for packet and APRS and had to try. I had few Windows CE and Palm devices. I went for one of the WinCE as it had a keyboard and serial cable. Some new batteries and the mentioned adapters and I was happily catching up with news on the Fairfield county packet BBS, W1HAD-4.

Sites of interest:

<http://aprs.org/>

<http://www.arrl.org>

<http://wa8lmf.net/ham/index.htm> - Good source on APRS and mapping software

<http://www.kc2rlm.info/soundcardpacket/> - Using a sound card for packet operation

http://www.gsl.net/kc7gnm/packet_hpc.html - Using Windows CE as a serial terminal

<http://www.ctares.org/clide/> - CT ARES digital communication page

<http://northeastflexnet.org/> - Northeast Flexnet Homepage

DON'T LET THIS HAPPEN!



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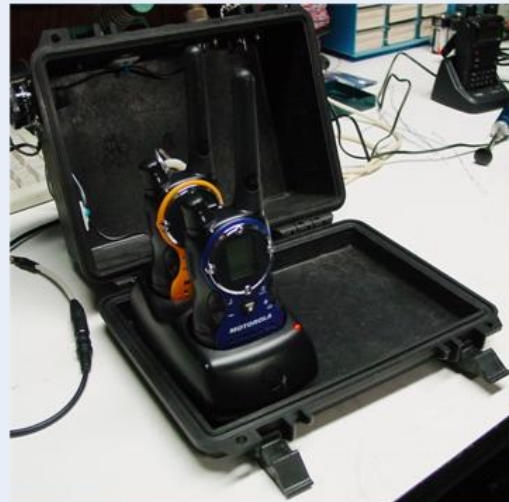


Figure 9. Finished Example.

FRS Base Charger 12Vdc Conversion

by Dr.Noxx

FRS radio's are convenient for quick tactical operations, however, one of the limitations of the radio systems is charging. Most charging is performed via 120VAC wall wart. The wall wart that came with the Motorola T8500 radio's stepped down 120VAC to 18VAC. A simple trace cut and several jumper wires will allow you to charge your FRS radio's in the charger base from any 12VDC source.

Basically, the mod cuts out the AC rectification and runs DC directly to the NiMH battery terminals for trickle-charging. This modification leaves the charging LED's functional.

On to the Mod:

Disassemble the charger base. Note, you will need a T8 Torx bit. Carefully remove the PCB assembly.

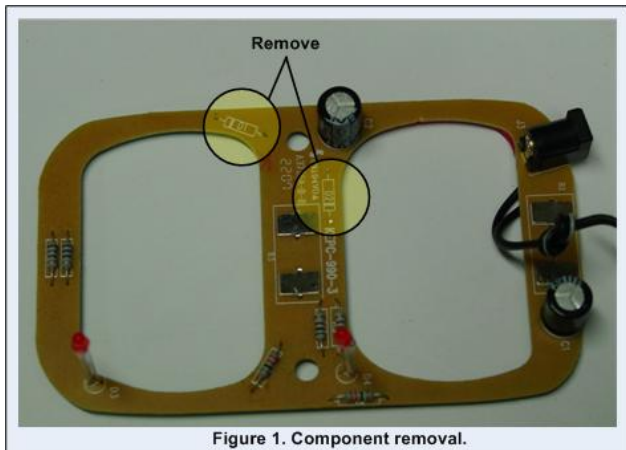


Figure 1. Component removal.

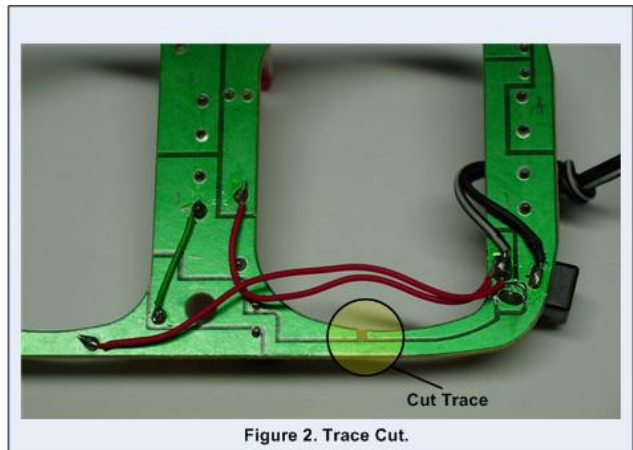


Figure 2. Trace Cut.

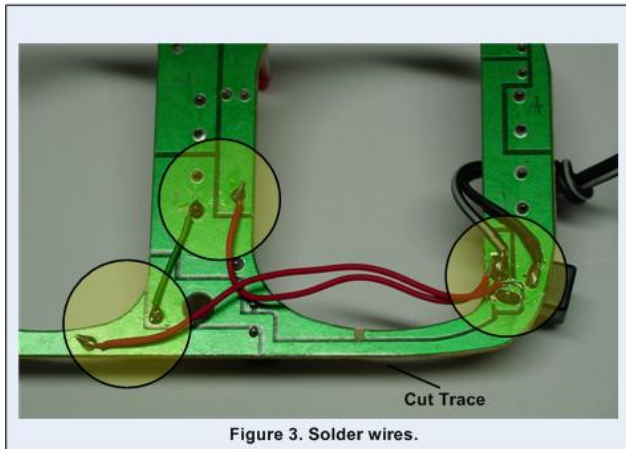


Figure 3. Solder wires.

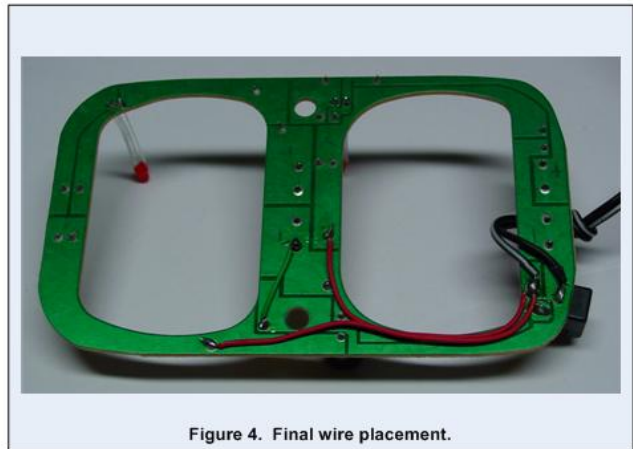


Figure 4. Final wire placement.

You will want to cut the trace between D2 Anode and the negative side of C1. You can see where I cut the trace on my PCB.

Cut out Diodes D1 and D2. No need for rectification any more after this mod. It would be interesting to install a jumper that would allow you to jump between one configuration and the other, but you can easily find 12Vdc 1A power supplies to charge your more versatile charger base.

The final step is to install the wire jumpers. Solder a wire between the positive center of the old AC power input jack and

run to the Cathode of D1 and run another wire from the positive center of the old AC power input jack and the Cathode of D2. Finally, run a wire from the negative side of the AC power input jack (or you can pickup the negative side of C2, or the negative pad on B3) to the Anode of D1.

Form the wires as shown in my mod, if you wish. Note: I knotted the DC input wire and cut a small hole in the charger base to allow the wire to exit the chassis. You can also re-use the AC Wall wart plug to run DC into



Figure 5. Case Modifications.

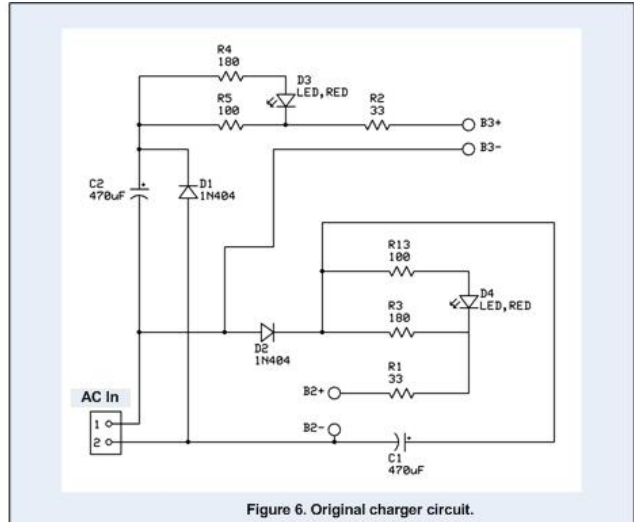


Figure 6. Original charger circuit.

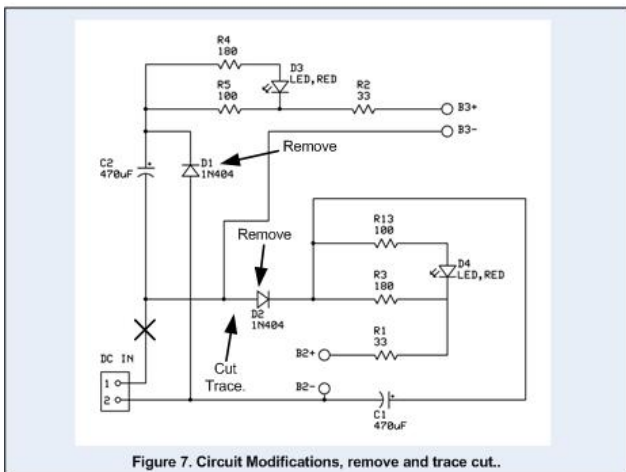


Figure 7. Circuit Modifications, remove and trace cut.

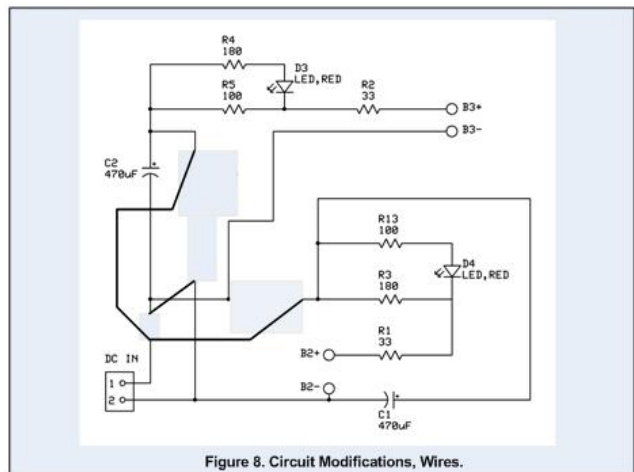


Figure 8. Circuit Modifications, Wires.

your box. I chose to run it separately for some now unknown reason. My carry case allows me to carry the two radios and the charger base easily. It was scrapped from some other now defunct project.

A reversed engineered schematic is provided for reference. You can use this to lay out your own simple charger to fit your custom needs.

You can now charge your FRS radio's easily in the field while running from any 12Vdc power source

Can America Fall?

by Corcceigh Green

If you haven't been paying attention to the news of late here's what you've been missing. America has a new Afro-communist president who is now assembling his regime's cabinet. On the international front, like it or not, the cold war is back on. Russia has taken exception with the United States for building a missile defense shield in Europe to defend Eastern European

nations from ICBM attacks. In response, Russia has resumed its bomber patrols in the Pacific, Arctic and Atlantic oceans. The bombers are of the obsolete Tu-95M Bears and the more modern (1980's-1990's technology) Tu-160 Blackjacks. The Tu-95M is a turbo-prop driven aircraft, easily detectable and a ready target before it can approach its objective. However the obsolete Bear bomber is capable of carrying and launching 6 Kh-55 air launched nuclear tipped cruise missiles. Carrying the Kh-55 which has a range of 1,240 miles, the Bear becomes a standoff weapon platform capable of launching nuclear warheads against 6 targets at long range with a reasonable expectation of accomplishing its mission.

The Blackjack bomber is a somewhat similar design as our own B-1. It is swing wing and designed for "low and slow" radar avoiding flight toward a target, then a quick dash to the target and deployment of its weapons. It is not as stealthy as the B-1 and is a less sophisticated design, but a design that can get the job done and presents a threat. The Tu-160 can carry 12 Kh-55 nuclear tipped cruise missiles or Kh-15P conventional or nuclear tipped guided rockets.

Both bombers are capable of reaching targets in the United States and capable of being refueled in flight. Aside from the capabilities of these bombers, the Russians have also taken

measures to secure the use of an airfield in Cuba for emergency landing and refueling of these bombers. The use of Cuban bases by Russian forces charged with the use of nuclear weapons harkens back to the Cuban missile crisis of the 1960's cold war era. Strategically, the Cuban bases allow Russian bombers to cover greater range, be re-armed and gives the crew greater confidence in accomplishing their mission and surviving. Put together, these advantages allow greater versatility in targeting American cities and military bases. Although America has not yet built a missile defense system for her own Citizens, should she come to her senses and deploy such protection on her own soil, a missile defense system is effective only against ICBMs and ILRBMs, not against bombers and cruise missiles. Bombers with access to a Cuban airbase will defeat the security of a missile defense by their ability to fly under the defenses of an anti ballistic missile system.



Russia has also deployed several Typhoon class ballistic missile submarines in the world's oceans. At one point in the 1990s, Russia was building these

huge SLBM submarines at the furious rate of one per month! The Typhoon class ballistic missile sub is designed to sneak in close to American shores and launch ballistic missiles carrying nuclear warheads to American targets. The submarine carries 20 SS-N-20 submarine launched ballistic missiles (SLBM) each SLBM is capable of carrying 10, 100 kiloton yield (KT) warheads in multiple reentry vehicles (MiRVs). This gives each submarine the potential of hitting 2,000 targets within America with a 100KT nuclear warhead in a sneak attack or as part of a vast ballistic missile launch designed to overwhelm a ballistic missile defense.

Perhaps the most dangerous threat posed by the Russians is the deployment of the SS-27 Intercontinental Ballistic Missile. The SS-27 was designed to defeat American anti ballistic missile defenses. A sell of nuclear technologies by the Clinton regime has allowed the Russians to further develop their early prototypes of anti-ballistic missile defeating warheads. In 1997 the Russians used a US manufactured super computer, sold to them via the Clinton regime, to develop the SS-27 ICBM and it's system of nuclear and anti-ballistic missile defeating warheads. The SS-27 is capable of launching "dummy warheads" able to distract, or scramble anti-ballistic missile sensors and

radar. Some of those warheads, however, will be the real thing. The SS-27 will also launch a 550 KT nuclear warhead. That's over one half megaton and is an ideal yield for both soft and hardened targets using modern accurate guidance systems.

The 550 KT warhead is not just mounted on any ordinary Multiple Re-entry Vehicle (MiRV). This warhead is being mounted on a Maneuverable Re-entry Vehicle (MARV). This allows the re-entry vehicle carrying the warhead to maneuver within the atmosphere, avoiding missile defense systems that would destroy ordinary MiRVs.

Russia's objection over American missile defense systems seems to have recently turned toward armed conflict. Speculation has been raised as to Russia's invasion of the Georgian Republic. Speculators are raising a point that the U.S. backed Georgian Republic may have been about to receive a missile defense system and the Russians invasion was preemptive to halt the deployment of a missile defense shield in the region. During the cold war such action in the region would have been considered dangerous as armed conflict involving Russian troops against U.S. backed governments and allies could escalate in intensity to involve the use of tactical, then strategic nuclear weapons.

Russia is just one player on

the international scene. Communist China received American neutron warhead and warhead miniaturization technology from the Clinton regime in a political maneuver that rivals a John Grisham novel. In a similar maneuver, the Red Chinese also acquired nuclear ICBM launch and targeting technology for a sum of a few million dollars paid into Bill Clinton's re-election campaign fund in the 1990's.

Acquiring American warfare technology to update one's own war machine is one thing, but an analysis of how that technology is being put to use will tell you if that technology is being aimed at you. In the 1990's shortly after China bought such technology from the Clinton regime the communist regime threatened to launch a nuclear attack against Los Angeles if the United States were to interfere in a communist Chinese attack against Taiwan. Since then, China has used American ICBM targeting technology to threaten Taiwan in some thinly veiled "war games" which included simulated missile attacks against the island nation and have used American launch and targeting technology to shoot down an aging satellite. The purpose of which is not only to test the technology which the communists bought from their political ally, Bill Clinton, but to show the world their capability of extending their agenda beyond their own borders.

What agenda would the

communist nation have beyond it's borders that would require obtaining superior American missile and space technology if that agenda were not hostile? We know that the technology was used to upgrade communist Chinese military forces and target China's neighbors who do not wish to live under communist rule.

Like Russia, China has been busy in South America and the Caribbean as well. China has opened very favorable relations with Peru, Uruguay and Venezuela. China is providing radar equipment and technology to Venezuela to help with what will be the largest naval station in the area. Russia and China are both putting up money, manpower and technology into the 1,020 square kilometer naval base on Venezuela's Margarita Island. China's radar technology is based on FM frequency transmitters which are capable of detecting stealth technology. Communist China's other holdings in South America includes the Panama Canal Zone where the communist empire controls an important choke point along trade routes that supply much of North and Central America. In North America, communist China has taken possession of the decommissioned Long Beach Naval Station in Long Beach, California. The communist empire is using the ex-American Naval station to offload Chinese junk bound for Wal-Mart and American consumption. They have also used the ex-American Naval

station to smuggle in small arms shipments including AK-47s and RPG anti-armor weapons destined for the hands of criminal gangs within the U.S.. It is not a stretch of the imagination to consider that communist China has either successfully or unsuccessfully attempted to smuggle in more devastating weapons perhaps even backpack nukes.

One may superimpose the above maneuvers on an atlas to assess just what threat this presents to the average American. Communist China and Russia whose leader, Vladimir Putin, was an old line communist, have moved military assets into place enabling them to cut off America from her interests anywhere on the globe with the exception of Europe and Canada. Europe cannot be counted on as allies as communism has become entrenched in nearly every government in Europe and Canada is so far down the socialist road that they couldn't tell the difference between a communist and any member of the Canadian Parliament. Following this trend to it's logical conclusion will lead the readers to realize that America will soon be isolated and surrounded by forces who, if not outright hostile, will be in a position to dictate terms favoring foreign national interests over those of American.

Even with militarily strong foreign nations maneuvering on a worldwide theater against an



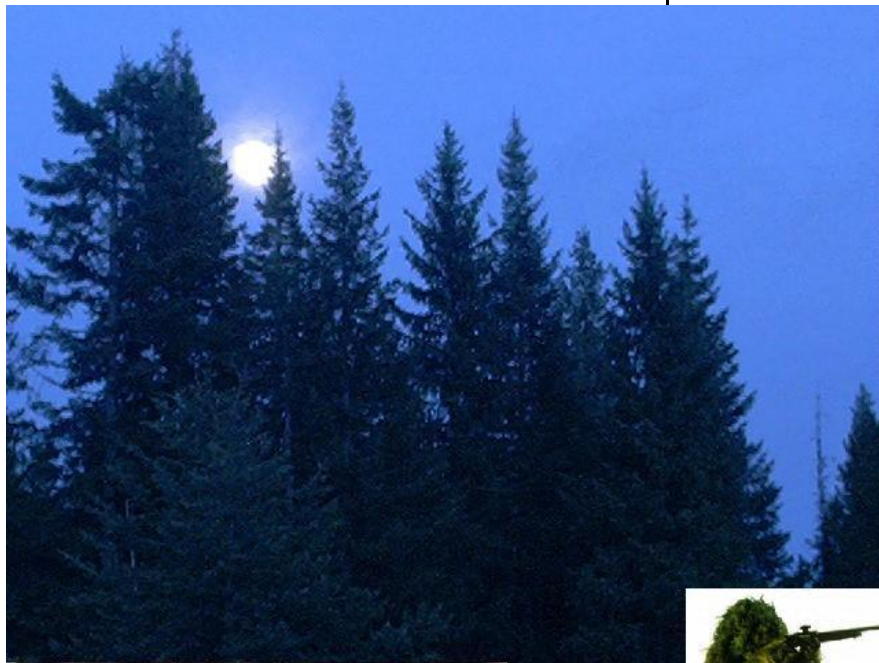
already spread thin and economically depressed America, an assault on America's borders and homeland would be certain defeat for those nations. Internally, Americans still identify culturally with their neighbors from the Canadian border to the Mexican border and from the Pacific to the Atlantic. An assault originating in Cuba on the State of Florida would raise the ire of every American in every corner of America. A wrath would sweep the nation that would bind every American together and wash over to sweep the Caribbean free of all perceived enemies. No, an empire isn't brought down by outside influences alone. An empire falls from within.

As mentioned, communist China has smuggled, at the very least, small arms shipments into America's borders destined for the hands of criminal gangs. Mexico is in chaos as it's corrupt government continues to degrade and pukes large portions of it's population north into America. Most Mexicans crossing

the border do so clandestinely and illegally. The problem with Mexico's populous crossing our borders illegally is that they are not crossing in the hopes of finding American opportunity as is often claimed. A movement among illegals has gained the lead role in bringing a foreign populous into America's homeland. This movement is one of repopulating the southwestern region of the U.S. with Mexican nationals for the purpose of wresting control of America's southwest and setting up an autonomous government called Azatlan.

Mexican separatist groups like La Raza (meaning The Race)

Re-conquest) have infiltrated across the southern border to set up political and activist organizations. These organizations help illegal aliens to cross the border undetected, find shelter within America and find employers who are willing to pay them under the table. Politically, these groups constitute voting blocks who illegally further their foreign agenda by encouraging and instructing non-U.S. Citizens on how to vote in local and national elections. They also have a propaganda arm which is plugged into the main stream media and is able to inject a favorable spin into their movement to move more



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and La Reconquista (meaning The | illegal aliens into the united

States and use their political influence to carve away a piece of America to found an Azatlan homeland based on race.

Again, a strong Republic would repel such insurrection without trouble, but that is not what is happening in the southwest. The insurrection on the southern border is growing successful through the media and politically. Why? Does this present the question, "are we a strong Republic?" Since an empire must fall from within before an enemy can conquer it, we must only be losing portions of America's southwest and our international position worldwide due to a weakening from within.

America can fall. We are witnessing a severe weakening of not just a political resolve to maintain our sovereignty and stability within and on our borders, but a weakening of American cultural and historical legacy. It is that which defines us as Americans that is falling by the wayside, weakening the Republic. The defining principals of being an American is no longer taught to upcoming generations, it indeed, has been already lost by previous generations. The loss of America's defining principals explains why we are witnessing a government acting without regard to American interests, how an Afro-Marxist with questionable citizenship could unscrupulously attain the office of the president, the merger of America into a North American Union

comprising of Canada the U.S.A. and Mexico, the ruin of America's economic base and the lack of resolve by the American people to act to stop the decline and fall of their own Republic. The resolve of Americans to act ends with contacting their representatives in either State or federal government. For the super majority of the American populous, resolve never becomes an issue as the super majority prefers not even to consider the problem as their society falls around them.

It would do little good should more Americans contact their government representatives. Since September 11, 2001 the majority of Americans have been calling for more secure borders with Mexico. It only makes good sense to secure the porous borders after a 'terrorist' attack if you are worried about further attacks. Yet, the Bush administration has hampered every attempt by the public in securing the border. The Bush administration has furthered every agenda that the Clinton regime began after it's false flag bombing of the Alfred P Murrah Federal Building in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. Everything the Clinton regime wanted in it's series of crime bills was incorporated into the Bush regime's PATRIOT ACTs. Americans lost more freedoms and our Constitution was violated further and made of a little less effect with each stroke of the

pen.

This leads the survivalist to think of what's next from the incoming regime. The answer isn't just more of the same. The character of the incoming regime will be much worse. Every cabinet post is being filled as of this writing by former appointees from the Clinton regime including the former co-president in the post of Secretary of State. These are the same people that brought you Waco, safer bullets for the children policies, cradle to grave social communitarian (Marxist) policies, the Constitution as a living (and changing) document policy, selling military secrets to hostile nations, the policy of restricting freedoms when they believe the people need more management and a huge central government running all aspects of every American's life.

The new head of the new incoming regime is an Afro-Marxist. As Bill and Hillary Clinton were communitarians (Anglo-Russian Marxists) they managed their regime according to such philosophies. Barrack Hussein Obama's ties to his family in Kenya, Africa includes support for the regimes being run by them in that part of the world. The brand of Marxism practiced by Afro-Marxists is one of strong hand tactics. They believe that no opposition to their policies should be tolerated. Where employed, the policies of Afro-Marxist

governments are strictly enforced. There are no nice choices like "our way or the highway". The choice is either "our way or we'll burn your village, rape your women and kill everyone". Opposition is met with as much violence as can be brought to bare on the opposing subjects.

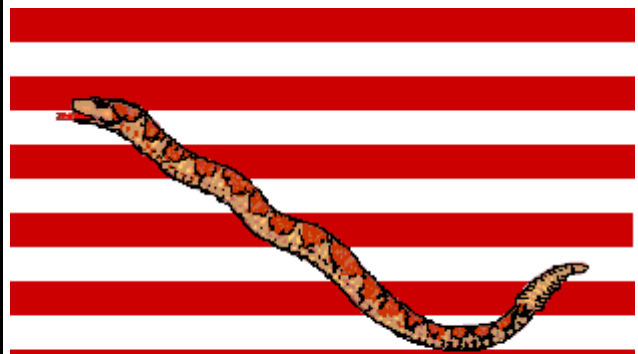
That translates for Americans as more Clinton-Marxist style top down rule by government edict. Waco style incidents could be magnified and become frequent again. Collaborations with other communist nations to meet a global Marxist agenda will be common. Any information outlet, such as shortwave broadcasting stations and the Internet, will be forced to spew only party approved dogma or be shut down. No voice of opposition will be allowed. As with all Marxist/socialist societies, the economy will continue to degrade and a Soviet Union style collapse will become inevitable. Whether America will survive the upcoming Marxist regime and move into another Marxist regime or fall before a regime change, whichever Marxist regime is in power when the final collapse comes, Marxism will not want to relinquish power. Marxism has been proven time and again throughout history that it does not work. It will fall, but when it falls it will hang on to everything it can and kill everyone around it in the process. Anyone critical of it's policies and means of operation

will be targeted and arrested or assassinated.

That's the threat before us now and it is in very close proximity. We, the American people, must prepare now for the struggles ahead. In fact, if you are just beginning to prepare now, you are way behind in what you must do to survive a Marxist America of the very near future. It has always been my assertion that in order to survive, you must know the threat to you and prepare for it accordingly. This article was meant to be an eye opener. To let the reader know what threat actually exists. After all, in the aftermath of a false flag disaster, turning to the government for help and support will only force you into their agenda to further Marxist goals in America. It will also force you into a position where you must forfeit your freedoms and constitutional guarantees. You, alone are responsible for your survival and the survival of those who depend upon you. You are going to have learn how to negate the threat to your survival, develop the tactics and skills to enable you to use that knowledge and make the preparations you need to implement your plans to keep yourself and family alive.

In future issues of TAPS Newsletter I intend to get much further into the meat and potatoes of survivalism and detail those skills and tactics you will need to survive the

threat. I will be testing and telling about the gear you will need or like to have on hand, the tactics to make yourself and the gear you use the most effective and I will tell you how to hone your skills to make yourself into the survivalist that can be counted on to pull those who are counting on you through some dangerous and bad times. I'm looking forward to it.



DONT TREAD ON ME

Tools of The Trade

by Ticom

One of the best parts about Middle School and High School were the shop classes. A room full of power tools, raw materials, and a teacher eager to show you how to put the two together to make stuff. The geeks in the computer room couldn't understand why you were getting your hands dirty with the "stupid people", and the motor heads in the shop class were wondering what the fuck some nerd from the computer room was doing in the metal shop. Being a technofreak you ignored them all. After a few classes in leather work, metal

shop, and electronics you soon learn that with a good set of tools and the right knowledge you can either modify common off-the-shelf equipment for your specific needs or custom make something for a fraction of what it would normally cost you.

My friend Paul came up from New York City sometime in the seventh grade. I remember our English teacher blowing a fit at the class over some minor issue and him with this bemused look on his face. He was from "The City" and seen it all before. Compared to the times he had to fight off muggers while walking to and from his old school, a screaming English teacher was entertainment. We were probably the only two in the class who weren't quivering.

Paul was into Ninjitsu. Yea, well it was the 1980s and who wasn't back then with all those movies. Ninja weapons were readily available at flea markets and variety stores of the era, but the cost was prohibitive to our meager budgets and most proprietors weren't going to sell to teenagers lest they invoke the wrath of the law. What was available were our dads' basement workshops where we found you can do a lot with little more than a hacksaw, tin snips, files, and a bench grinder working from pictures in the books you found in the martial arts section of Waldenbooks at the local shopping mall. We made numchucks and throwing stars that were at least

of the same quality as the stuff the flea market at the Baldwin Place Mall sold. Fun times.

Harry, another high school friend and co-conspirator of mine, was into lock picking. Locksmithing tools were available via mail order from places that advertised in **Survive** and **Soldier of Fortune** magazines (two must-reads for technofreaks of the era), but thanks to a writer going under the alias "Eddie the Wire" and a publisher called Loompanics you could pick up flat metal stock at the local hobby or hardware store and whip out a functional set of picks for about a tenth of the cost with the same set of tools I used a few years earlier during my ninja weapon phase of my interesting youth.

Phone phreaking during the mid and late 1980s was hobby that used yet another set of technological skills; this time electronics. Personal computers were also coming into being at the same time, and basic electronics knowledge was necessary to fix your equipment back then. We all got our ham tickets as a cover for action. Tell someone you're a ham radio operator and you have an automatic excuse for just about any type of weird electronics.

Going over to yet another aspect of technofreak craft, I just read an article in the December issue of **SWAT** magazine about a guy who makes his own tactical gear out of materials he

finds in the fabric section of Wal-Mart and at fabric places like Jo-Anns. With some basic sewing tools and skills you would have picked up at home economics class in middle school (if you went to school the same time I did), he made all sorts of interesting accessories for his Class III weaponry.

With that little trip down memory lane finished, welcome to ***Tools of the Trade***, my little piece of the world in the latest reincarnation of the greatest DIY underground technofreak zine ever published. It is here that I will post my projects, observations, rantings, and philosophical musings as a long-time, technofreak, survivalist, and occasional gomi-no-sensei. How long is long? I remember seeing Star Wars at a drive-in and how you had to put a dime in the payphone by the concession stand to get a dialtone out of it.

I use the term technofreak to describe our kind of people for a couple reasons. It is the original catch-all hobbyist term that appeared in the pages of **TAP** decades ago. It truly describes fellow hobbyists. We are into technology of all sorts, and individuals who display this sort of affection are considered outside the mainstream of society. We are technological freaks. By using the term technofreak there can be no semantic contention as occurs with that whole hacker/cracker thing.

By extension and necessity all technofreaks are survivalists to some extent. One does not exist outside mainstream society without practicing some manner of self-reliance and preparedness, and a lot of survivalist-type things are of great interest to technofreaks. The original founders of YIPL/TAP were urban-type survivalists as evidenced in many articles that appear in the zine, and that meme had continued with the Kentucky TAP crew.

Gear Acquisitions

I was shopping at a couple retail chain stores one night, and decided to try an experiment. I wanted to see if it was possible for a modern-day operative to equip his or her self with gear purchased from common nationwide department and home improvement stores in true Kurt Saxon Poor Man's James Bond fashion. These places are known to cater to the lowest common denominator with both their customers and their employees. Their marketing is aimed at the general dumb Amerikan sheeple consumer. I expected this experiment to be a bit of a challenge based on what I know about these places, and I was a bit surprised to find out it wasn't as hard as I originally thought.

Just what can you find at retail establishments? For starters, you can acquire the ingredients to make one of the holy grails of my youth: black

powder. Actually you can buy Pyrodex muzzle-loading propellant (aka "synthesized black powder") right from the sporting goods section of Wal-Mart, but nothing provides a greater sense of accomplishment and satisfaction than rolling your own. Go right over to the garden section of any decent hardware or agricultural supply store. You will find something labeled "Garden Sulfur". It is 90% pure Sulfur and will work adequately for any home chemistry experiment you wish to conduct. Then look for stump remover. This is Potassium Nitrate, aka Saltpeter, and will also serve your needs adequately. Even in this day of product liability and "terrorism" concerns you can still buy the components for the planet's oldest explosive right off the shelf. Perhaps there is hope for Amerika yet? You can actually find the components for much more powerful mixtures **if** you know what to look for, but I will leave it up to you to do the necessary research should you feel it necessary to do so. Home improvement and local hardware stores contain enough neat stuff for a small dedicated band of brothers (and sisters) to take over most third-world countries. I wouldn't be fond of becoming a benevolent (or even malevolent) despot and having to deal with the whining and petulant demands of an entire population of second-handers, but to each their own I guess.

That doesn't mean you'll be able to walk into a Wally-World wearing BDU pants, combat boots, and your "Kill a Commie for Mommy" t-shirt to have a friendly knowledgeable sales clerk assist you with your tradecraft shopping needs. Chances are the only reaction you'll get from the sales clerk would be a call to 911 as the news coverage of all those shopping center shootings hits his atrophied brain like a junkie's hit, and he automatically assumes the tactically-dressed gentlemen walking up to him wants to be the evening's top story on CNN. It's a brave new world out there, and the modern technofreak needs a different approach.

It is true that today you can pretty much order anything you want online and get it in a few days. That is all fine and good, but you are missing out on a lot by doing so and also committing a gross personal security violation by linking purchases to you. For the most part, retail purchases done with cash are totally anonymous, especially when you apply a little basic tradecraft and you remain in the sales clerk's eyes one of the faceless anonymous public that he or she deals with day in and day out. Knowing what you can find and where is handy when you need something on short notice.

You must start by knowing that unless you are one of the rare ones who is blessed with a

sensei you are truly out on your own, a veritable army of one. There are web sites and books that may help you, but your preparations should truly be kept to yourself and you will have to ultimately rely on your own judgment. This is but one of the first steps on a long journey and if you cannot make the relatively simple decision of what personal equipment to purchase then you won't be of much use in the long run.

You've seen the type before. They read through hundreds of product reviews on the Internet, ask the same questions numerous times on every forum they frequent, and despite having a wealth of information available to them still cannot make a simple yes or no decision. I made a rather humorous observation at a gun show recently. There is this local survivalist whom Vivian christened "Neuro John", a contraction of his psychological condition and first name. This guy used to ask twenty questions about what survival gear to buy, dance around with the fanciest excuses to delay his purchases, and then come up with the same twenty questions again because some Mickey Mouse Rambo Ranger posted up contradictory information on a web site. Well there he was at the gun show walking around like he was on Thorazine displaying absolutely zero situational awareness of anything. While doing this he was missing all the stuff he would

continually ask about. *Do not be like Neuro John.*

Your first task is a simple one. You are to proceed to a nearby retail chain and observe your fellow shoppers. Look at how they dress. Look at how they act. When making your acquisitions you will want to dress and act exactly like them. By doing this you will become invisible. One fashion trend that has become useful for the operative is the indoor wearing of baseball caps. Observe what your fellow shoppers wear and acquire one of the same. Local favorite professional (and college) sports teams and NASCAR are generally the most popular. Wear your baseball cap with the brim forward as they were intended to be worn. Generally speaking, the wearing of baseball caps backwards or sideways is only acceptable among certain urban youth known to have a penchant for criminal activity. This is **not** a group that you want to be misidentified with. Wearing the brim forward also serves a specific security and OPSEC function. With your head tilted slightly downward indicative of a weakened posture that is common these days, much if not all of your face will be concealed from the ceiling-mounted surveillance cameras commonly encountered in retail establishments.

Adapting or "kit-bashing" your trade craft equipment will require you to receive a working education in a wide variety of fields: electronics, computers,

chemistry, basic industrial shop, arts and crafts are all very useful. You will also want to acquire a working collection of tools as well. For all this you will need what I like to call a "shadow gallery", a place that is a combination of library, workshop, and refuge where you can remove your John Doe mask and work on projects unmolested.

It is essential to have a space specifically set aside for working on projects, so you don't have to constantly disassemble and put away a work in progress because it's dinner time and your family needs the kitchen table. The most important aspects of a shadow gallery involve isolation and sacred space. You are setting aside a location for the specific purpose of working on projects and general contemplation. The act of going to a sacred space enables the individual to achieve a certain state of mind conducive to one's work, and be free of distractions while working. In essence one is putting aside the mundane for a period of time and entering a different state of being and a different reality.

Many artist-types and modern-day dropouts in urban areas have found inexpensive loft (or is that 10pht ;) space where they can both work and sometimes live in old factories that have been subdivided into multiple rental units. I prefer more compartmentalization and would rather keep my sleeping space and work space in separate locations.

Rent the least expensive small apartment or a room where you basically keep a bed and clothes, and have the rest of your stuff at a commercial location where you can work on projects. The best cover business would be that of a consultant or artist/artisan-type. Pick something that is vague-sounding, a good explanation for having all sorts of odd stuff around, and requires no licensing from the local regime.

Those of you who already have mortgages and possibly families will probably have to settle for setting up in a basement, attic space, or backyard shed. Thanks to magazines such as **Make**, the DIY handyman thing is coming back into vogue, so as long as you keep up the appearance of a simple tinkerer and keep the noise level down (No testing of home brew Acetone Peroxide and audio shock wave generators in the back yard!), you shouldn't attract negative attention from the neighbors. Should your shadow gallery be at your residence, you would preferably want it in some out of the way place where a casual visitor won't notice it.

Books can get to be expensive and take up a lot of space, especially when it comes to technical books. Enter used bookstores. You should put together a list of all the used bookstores within reasonable driving distance in your area and frequent them regularly. You will

also find certain mail-order sources such as [Lindsay Publications](#) to be extremely useful. The Internet is also another source of material, and an entire library can be stuffed in PDF format on a CD-ROM or USB stick. Digging through all of the fluff on the Net to find the good stuff takes time and superb search engine skills. For those of you who are fortunate enough to find copies, the Domsday Disks put out by Wildflower LTD contain some of the best technological survival information gleaned from the Internet. In a future issue of **TAP**, we will be presenting the reader with a suggested reading list of books for a starting library.

Locating Sources

If you live near any small to medium sized city, there is probably a plethora of local sources to check out. Back in the days before the Internet, I sat down with a copy of the local Yellow pages to compile a list. I lived at the extreme north of the LATA, and missed some neat places in the LATA north of me before acquiring its phone books. I also learned of many cool places via word of mouth from fellow technofreaks. One of the legacies of **Cybertek** is a source list of interesting stores for the Northeast US. That list is still active and with the reincarnation of **TAP** will now cover the whole US as contributions are received. Yellow page-type searches are now

a lot easier with the Internet, and getting a list of every Army/Navy store (or other place) within fifty miles is now a trivial task. The hard part is finding which places are good. When compiling a local source list for future investigation, you want to look for the following in your area:

- Army/navy stores
- Ag stores (aka Agway)
- Bookstores, especially used bookstores
- Department stores such as Wal-Mart and Target
- Dollar stores
- Electronic and computer stores
- Goodwill and Salvation Army Stores
- Ham/CB shops
- Hardware stores
- Hobby/craft stores
- Home improvement stores (Home Depot, etc.)
- Industrial/electronic surplus
- Truck Stops
- Odd lot/job lot stores

You will also want to keep track of the following transient sources:

- Book sales
- Gun shows
- Tag sales and flea markets

Remember the Following

The following four simple rules will help you out immensely

in your quest to get you kit and shadow gallery together. Memorize and heed them well.

- Look normal.
- Act discrete.
- Know the mundane purpose of your purchases.
- Pay cash.

Odd Things You Should Get Now

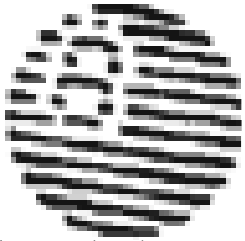
Toys, toys, toys! Admittedly one of the neatest things about being a technofreak is collecting interesting and useful gear. The following is a list that I've compiled over the years of items that every technofreak should acquire to assist them in their experimentation, general wanderings, and overall preparedness. This list could go on forever, but here are some handy items you should consider starting out with.

- Locksmithing tools
- DTMF decoder (standalone type - **not soundcard software**)
- Night vision gear
- A good wide-band communications receiver (Icom, Yaesu, etc.)
- Police scanner usable for your area(s) of operations
- Camping gear
- Comfortable, low-observable outdoor-type clothing
- Visqueen plastic sheeting
- Duct tape, 550 cord, cable ties, wire, electrical tape
- Bicycle

- A small reference library of useful books
- A couple good knives and a multi-tool (Leatherman tools are best.)
- A .22 pistol and rifle (and a few bricks of ammo)
- Pocket notebooks (Get them at the dollar store.)
- Scientific calculators (not the graphing type), especially solar powered ones
- Solar panels
- Hand tools (and a tool box to put them in)
- Dremel tool (and a good assortment of bits)
- Parts to build small generators
- AC inverters and deep cycle batteries
- A good pair of binoculars.
- Topo maps of your area (paper ones)
- CB radio
- A pallet of late-model laptop and small form-factor desktop computers (usually salvaged from dumpsters or bought from Goodwill)
- Linux CDs (Knoppix, Puppy Linux, security distros)
- A couple shelves of assorted electronic parts and scrounged electronic devices that you can scrounge components from (usually salvaged from dumpsters or bought from Goodwill)
- A well-stocked first aid kit

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Phreak Report

What would an issue of **TAP** be like without articles on phone phreaking? Indeed, **TAP** was originally created as a phone phreak newsletter, and phone phreaks could be considered some of the first technological survivalists. Knowledge on getting around some of hidden corners of our nations telecommunications infrastructure is a skill all serious survivalists should have. While some may say that phreaking is dead, we here at **TAP** disagree. While the art of phone phreaking has appeared to decline over the past twenty years, it is far from dead and only needs some new intrepid pioneers to bring forth a new renaissance.

With this fresh start, let

me begin by sharing a piece of advice given to novice phreaks over twenty years ago by Fred Steinbeck in TAP #86, The Ten Commandments of Phone Phreaking:

I. Phreak thou not over thine home telephone wires, for those who doest must surely bring the full wrath of the authorities down upon thy heads.

II. Speakest thou not of important matters over thine home telephone wires, for to do so is to risk thine right of freedom.

III. Use not thine own name when speaking to other phreaks, for that every third phreak is an informant is well known.

IV. Let not overly many people know that thy be a phreak, as to do so is to use thine own self as a sacrificial lamb.

V. If thou be in school, strive to get thine self good grades, for the Authorities well know that scholars never break the law.

VI. If thou workest, try to be a goodly employee and impresseth thine boss with thine enthusiasm, for important employees are often saved by their own bosses.

VII. Storest thou not thine stolen goods in thine own

home, for those who do are surely non-believers in the authorities, and are not long for this world.

VIII. Attractest thou not the attention of the Authorities, as the less noticable thou art, the better.

IX. Make sure thine friends are instant amnesiacs and will not remember that thou have called illegally, for their co-operation with the Authorities will surely less thine time of freedom on this Earth.

X. Supportest thou **TAP**, as it is thine newsletter, and without it, thy works will be far more limited.

Now a lot has happened in the past twenty years. The Bell System was broken up and the telecommunications industry massively deregulated. Advances in technology have given us some really neat phone toys such as Asterisk, and we are now at the point where an average individual can have their own entire VOIP phone switch in a desktop PC. The same VOIP technology is providing unlimited phone service to anyone for about \$25 a month. By staying within a VOIP network, you can have free phone service. Playing with phones is now considered a lot more acceptable these days than back when Ma Bell owned everything. Even so, discretion and caution is just as important now as it was twenty years ago.

Back in the old pre-divestiture Bell System days, area codes only had a one or zero in the middle digit, and the first two numbers of an exchange could not be a zero or one. The increase of the amount phone numbers needed to provide service to subscribers has changed those rules, and there is now even more territory to explore. Where do you start? By doing what the original phone phreaks did: number scanning. Pick a block of numbers and dial around to see what you can find.

Where should you start? You should first check the original "Bell System" NNX exchanges for the incumbent LEC, where N is any number between 2 and 9 and x is any number from 0 to 1. In those exchanges you need to find where the test numbers reside. This was usually in the NNX-99XX or NNX-0XXX parts of the exchange. Old Bell System LECs favored 99XX where GTE LECs often used 0XXX, but there is no hard and fast rule on this one. Old H/P BBS G-files of test numbers are a good research source as are back issues of **TAP**. It is amazing how many test numbers from back in the 1970s and 1980s have remained the same to this day. Recently, AT&T has been rumored to be standardizing test numbers throughout their exchanges and is using the 958 and 959 exchanges for their test numbers.