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\$ Kitchen Improvised Plastic Explosives. \$
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\$ PART II \$
% RDX Manufacture %
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in by
Agrajag The Prolonged

This is the second in a series of articles dealing with the production of plastic explosives. This article will cover step by step (SXS?) instructions on how to make RDX, which is the main ingredient in the rest of the plastic explosives I will cover. The information in this and all of the other articles dealing with the production of plastic explosives was originally written by written by Tim Lewis in a book called, "Kitchen Improvised Plastic Explosives". I will give the address to send for this and many other books and the end of this article.

THE PRODUCTION OF RDX IS VERY DANGEROUS IF YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU ARE DOING. DO NOT ATTEMPT ANY OF THIS IF YOU WISH TO LIVE TILL YOUR NEXT BIRTHDAY!

Since the first part of WWII the armed forces of the United States has been searching for the perfect plastique explosives to be used in demolition work. This search lead to the development of the 'C' composition plastique explosives.

Of this group C-4 being the latest formulation that has been readily adopted by the armed forces. This formulation was preceded by C-3, C-2, and C.

In this series of articles, I will cover all these explosives in their chronological progression as they were developed and standardized by the armed forces. All these explosives are cyclonite or R.D.X. base with various plasticizing agents used to achieve the desired product.

This plasticizer, usually composes 7%-20% of the total weight of the plastique.

Cyclotrimethylenetrinitrime or cyclonite is manufactured in bulk by the nitration of hexamethylenetetramine, (methenamine, hexamine, etc., etc.) with strong red 100% nitric acid.

The hardest part of this reaction is obtaining this red nitric acid. It will most likely have to be made. More on this later.

Hexamine or methenamine can usually be bought in bulk quantities or hexamine fuel bars for camp stoves can be used but they end up being very expensive. To use the fuel bars the need to be powered before hand.

The hexamine can also be made with common ammonia water (30%) and the commonly available 36% formaldehyde solution. To make this component place 185 grams of clear ammonia water in a shallow pyrex dish. To this add 500 ml. of the formaldehyde solution to the ammonia water. Allow this to evaporate and when the crystals are all that remains in the pan place the pan in the oven on the lowest heat that the oven has. This should be done only for a moment or so to drive off any remaining water. These crystals are scraped up and placed in a airtight jar to store them until they are used.

To make the red nitric acid you will need to buy a retort with a ground glass stopper. In the retort place 32 grams sulfuric acid, (98%-100%), and to this add 68 grams of potassium nitrate or 58 grams of sodium nitrate. Gently heating this retort will generate a red gas called nitrogen trioxide. THIS GAS IS HIGHLY POISONOUS AND THIS STEP, AS WITH ALL OTHER STEPS, SHOULD BE DONE WITH GOOD VENTILATION.

This nitric acid that is formed will collect in the neck of the retort and form droplets that will run down the inside of the neck of the retort and should be caught in a beaker cooled by being surrounded by ice water.

This should be heated till no more collects in the neck of the retort and the nitric acid quits dripping out of the neck into the beaker.

This acid should be stored until enough acid is generated to produce the required size batch which is determined by the person producing the explosive. Of course the batch can be larger or smaller but the same ratios should be maintained.

To make R.D.X. place 550 grams of the nitric acid produced by the above procedure in a 1000 ml. beaker in a salted bath. 50 grams of hexamine, (methenamine) is added in small portions making sure that the temperature of the acid DOES NOT GO ABOVE 30 DEGREES CELSIUS. This temperature can be monitored by placing a thermometer directly in the acid mixture. During this procedure a vigorous stirring should be maintained. If the temperature approaches 30 degrees, IMMEDIATELY STOP THE ADDITION OF THE HEXAMINE until the temperature drops to an acceptable level.

After the addition is complete continue the stirring and allow the temperature to drop to 0 degrees celsius and allow it to stay there for 20

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minutes continuing the vigorous stirring. After the 20 minutes are up, pour this acid-hexamine mixture into 1000 ml. of finely crushed ice and water. Crystals should form and are filtered out of the liquid.

The crystals that are filtered out are R.D.X. and will need to have all traces of the acid removed. To remove this trace of acid, first wash these crystals by putting them in ice water and shaking and refiltering. These crystals are then placed in a little boiling water and filtered. Place them in some warm water and check the acidity for the resultant suspension with litmus paper. You want it to read between 6 and 7 on the Ph scale. If there is still acid in these crystals reboil them in fresh water until the acid is removed and the litmus paper shows them between 6 and 7, (the closer to 7 the better).

To be safe these crystals should be stored water wet until ready for use. THESE CRYSTALS ARE A VERY HIGH EXPLOSIVE AND SHOULD BE TREATED WITH THE RESPECT THEY DESERVE! This explosive is much more powerful than T.N.T.

To use, these will need to be dried for some manufacturing processes in the next few articles. To dry these crystals, place them in a pan and spread them out and allow the water to evaporate off them until they are completely dry.

This explosive will detonate in this dry form when pressed into a mold to a density of 1.55 grams cubed, at a velocity of 8550 M/second!

COMPARISON OF DETONATION VELOCITIES

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	T.N.T	R.D.X.	"C"	"C-2"	"C-3"	"C-4"

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Live long and prosper,
Agrajag

Ps, The information from above was obtained from a book, "Kitchen Improvised Plastic Explosives", by Tim Lewis and the Information Publishing Company. You may obtain a catalog of books that they sell by writing:

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Box 10042
Odessa, Texas, 79762

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