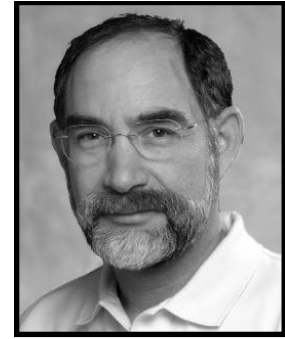


BUILDING YOUR POCKET SURVIVAL TIN AROUND THE RSK® MK5-G2

by **Doug Ritter**

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"I design Doug Ritter Gear like my life depended upon it, because your life might™"

A knife is your most fundamental survival tool. Thank you for purchasing my **RSK® Mk5-G2™** designed in collaboration with knifemaker David White. This compact and lightweight knife is not a replacement for a full sized pocket knife or fixed blade, but it serves as the essential backup you should always carry as part of your personal survival gear. It's far better than the single-edge razor blade or insubstantial mini-folder or micro-tool often included in many small survival kits.

The **RSK® Mk5-G2™** was specifically designed to fit into an Altoids® size mint/candy tin, commonly used all over the world as a container for small survival kits.

The **lanyard** attached to your **RSK® Mk5-G2™** is an integral part of the design. It helps provide a more secure and comfortable grip by effectively lengthening the short handle. Adjust the position of the knot so that when you grasp the knife and lanyard, the knot fits snugly into the end of your fist. You can cut off excess cord if desired. Just be sure to not cut it too short and to heat seal the ends so they don't unravel. You can replace with a custom lanyard/fob incorporating a fancier or decorative design.

The included lightweight sheath is designed for occasional survival use, not the rigors of everyday carry. For a short-term survival situation, it can be carried in a pocket or hung on a safety lanyard around your neck. For everyday use, we recommend you have a more robust sheath made by a custom sheathmaker.

The following list of components can be used to guide you in assembling your own Pocket Survival Tin™ using the tin that the knife comes in.

Firestarter: Lighters are bulky and unreliable, though admittedly easy to use. Carry one in your pocket, but don't bet your life on one. For the kit, include a small flint (ferrocium) style firestarter; one-hand operable is best. A few waterproofed matches would be a nice addition. Strike-anywhere style, waterproofed with clear nail polish, lacquer or varnish, are a good choice; or commercial water or wind resistant safety matches can be used, but you must then also include a striker strip (packed to keep it dry).

Tinder: This should be waterproof and be able to be lit with the sparks from your flint style firestarter. There are a number of such tinders commercially available, or you can make your own from cotton balls and petroleum jelly or wax.

Signal Mirror: One of the best and well-proven means to signal. To be a true signal mirror it needs to have a retro-reflective one-hand aimer. On the down side, a good signal mirror, even a thin one, takes up quite a bit of space, so you might also consider just polishing the inside of the tin's bottom and using it two-handed.

Whistle: For signaling distress, this is much better than yelling. Three blasts is the signal for "HELP." Choose one that exceeds SOLAS standards. Plastic won't cause problems like metal will in freezing cold conditions.

Compass: In almost all cases, your best survival strategy is going to be the stay put and let Search & Rescue come find you. The only exceptions should be if you will not be missed, if you must move to seek safe shelter, or if you absolutely know where you are going and are honestly confident beyond any question that you can reach it without further endangering yourself or your companions. Having got that out of the way, a small button compass can be useful in maintaining a route. Liquid-filled are easiest to use.

Duct Tape: May be the ultimate multi-purpose solution to almost every survival problem (only a slight exaggeration). 12-24 inches can be rolled around a pencil stub or flat around a piece of cut-up credit card. Can be torn into thinner strips for use; doubling or tripling the available length. You can also use a $\frac{3}{4}$ "-wide length to seal the kit, making it more waterproof.

Needle & Thread: Often times your clothing or gear will need repair. Choose a large needle with a large eye for ease of use and threading, along with strong nylon thread. Thread can be wound on a bobbin for storage or purchased in bobbin sized rolls.

Safety Pins: Another multi-purpose component useful for making repairs. Medium sizes are most useful.

Aluminum Foil: Has many uses, including as a fire reflector. Use only Heavy Duty style, the more the better.

Nylon Cord: Braided is best, minimum 100 lb test, 6 feet or more can be useful to make shelter, etc.

Paper & Pencil: Useful to keep a log, write yourself notes so you don't forget critical things to be done, or for rescuers in case you decide to leave or become unconscious. Waterproof paper is best.

Wire: 24-28 ga/.032” Not really for making snares, this is just another multi-purpose component with lots of uses

Water Purification: Chlorine Dioxide tablets are the best solution currently available, in my opinion.

Flashlight: A compact LED flashlight is best. Make sure it cannot be inadvertently turned on in the kit.

Fishing Kit: For short-term survival, food isn't an issue. This is more of an “entertainment kit” to keep from getting bored and not a true necessity. For fishing or baiting birds, include multiple small to medium bait hooks.

Basic Medical Supplies: Some like to carry a few adhesive bandages and the like, but I'd rather use that space to carry more duct tape and improvise what I need for the short term required.

Personal Medications: If you take a medicine without which you will either die or become mentally unstable, make sure you carry at least 2-3 day's supply.



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DISCLAIMER and WARNING: Any survival situation is inherently dangerous and could result in any survivor's injury, maiming or death. Doug Ritter, Equipped To Survive and Blue Rige Knives do not assume any responsibility for the use or misuse of the RSK® Mk5-G2™ knife or any of the equipment or information included in this list. USE SURVIVAL EQUIPMENT AND TECHNIQUES AT YOUR OWN RISK. Check local laws to ensure any equipment you carry is legal.