



Dear Customer,

Thank you for choosing one of Flint&Steel's fire making kits. The skills required for the manufacture of high-quality forged steel strikers and other such products have been carefully preserved and passed down from generation to generation by the artisan blacksmiths of our family.

The kit which you now hold in your hands is a precise copy of the ancient fire making kits that were widespread throughout medieval Europe and Asia, as well as being used in North and South America upon the colonization of the New World by Europeans.

All of the components of our kits are made by hand. Just as was done in the olden days, we only use naturally-occurring materials and primitive technology to ensure that our kits are environmentally friendly. In our smithy, we carefully forge and quench our steel strikers over charcoal according to ancient methods which have stood the test of time. We also scorch linen fabric ourselves to ensure that we produce char cloth tinder of the highest quality. We carefully select the choicest chunks of flint and split them into smaller, more convenient pieces. Based on the leather and linen pouches found by archeologists, we have also created a range of bags and pouches in medieval style.

We really love what we do and put our heart and soul into everything we make. In each of our kits and steel strikers you'll find a real piece of history. So that you can more easily make a fire, we have prepared a set of fully-illustrated instructions. By following these step-by-step instructions, you'll not just easily learn how to make a fire, you'll be able to pass on your new skills to others.

We sincerely hope that you will enjoy using this kit to make fires with your friends and loved ones, whether you're out camping, on a picnic or even lighting your fireplace at home!

We are always happy to answer any questions you have or to listen to any comments or suggestions you might wish to make.

*Yours truly,
The Flint&Steel Team.*

Flint and Steel Kit User Guide

1. Package contents

Before use make sure the following items are included in the package (see fig. 1):

- forged steel striker (firesteel);
- piece of flint;
- tin tinderbox containing char cloth tinder;
- bundle of jute twine to prepare the dry kindling.

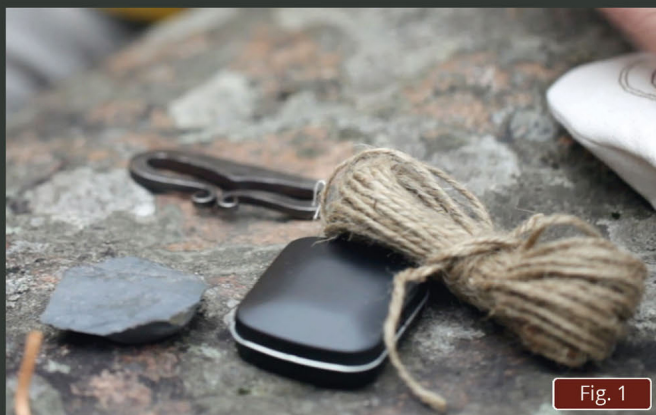


Fig. 1

2. Preparing the dry kindling

Cut 5-6 pieces of twine (10-12 cm each in length), and unwind the thread (see fig. 2).



Fig. 2

Separate each thread into its component fibers (see fig. 3).



Fig. 3

Crumple the resulting fibers into a ball of 2 inches diameter (see fig. 4).



Fig. 4

Please turn over.

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3. Producing an ember with char cloth tinder.

From the metal tinderbox remove a rectangular piece of tinder (char cloth) and place it on top of a flat part of the flint (see fig. 5).



Move the tinder towards the sharp edge of the flint so that their edges meet as shown. Make sure that the edge of the tinder does not hang over the edge of the flint. Also, the edge of the flint should not be visible beneath the tinder (see fig. 6).



Take the steel striker and place its long, working surface (the blade) upon the sharp edge of the flint upon which you have placed your tinder. This is known as the "starting" position. Now raise the steel striker up by about 15-20 cm and strike a glancing blow downwards at the edge of the flint (see fig. 6).

At the moment of your strike, when the working edge of the steel striker comes into contact with the sharp edge of the flint, shards of metal will splinter off the steel striker in the form of sparks flying in all directions (see fig. 7.)



When sparks fall upon tinder, it catches fire and begins to smoulder (see fig. 8).



One strike is often insufficient and you may need to make a series of 4-5 strikes before you see any sparks falling on the tinder or any part of the tinder smouldering.



4. Blowing upon the flames.

Place the smouldering tinder inside a pre-prepared ball of kindling and start to blow upon it (see fig. 9).

Make sure that the burning tinder is in the center of the ball of kindling at all times.

You should not blow too abruptly, but rather smoothly and continuously in 3-5 second intervals. This is how you will ensure that there is an uninterrupted supply of oxygen and thus get the hot ember that is the piece of tinder to ignite the fibers of kindling (see fig. 10).



Once the ball of fibers has begun to burn, immediately place it within a pre-prepared hearth with dry kindling and firewood (see fig. 11).



Congratulations!

You have just made a real primitive fire! For more information and some hints and tips, take a look at our selection of online videos:

<http://www.flint-and-steel.com/videos/>