commercial explosives contain quantities of tracing agents, which make it real easy for the FBI to trace the explosion to the purchaser, so please, nobody blow up any banks, orphanages, or old folks homes, okay.

202.Picric Acid

by Exodus

Picric acid, also known as Tri-Nitro-Phenol, or TNP, is a military explosive that is most often used as a booster charge to set off another less sensitive explosive, such as TNT. It's another explosive that is fairly simple to make, assuming that one can acquire the concentrated sulfuric and nitric acids. Its procedure for manufacture is given in many college chemistry lab manuals, and is easy to follow. The main problem with picric acid is its tendency to form dangerously sensitive and unstable picrate salts, such as potassium picrate. For this reason, it is usually made into a safer form, such as ammonium picrate, also called explosive D. A social deviant would probably use a formula similar to the one presented here to make picric acid.

MATERIALS:

- Phenol (9« g)
- Concentrated Sulfuric Acid (12« mL)
- Concentrated Nitric Acid (38 mL)
- Distilled Water

EQUIPMENT:

- 500 mL Flask
- Adjustable Heat Source
- 1000 mL Beaker -or- other container suitable for boiling in
- Filter Paper and Funnel
- Glass Stirring Rod

1.Place 9« grams of phenol into the 500 mL flask, and carefully add 12« mL of concentrated sulfuric acid and stir the mixture.

2.Put 400 mL of tap water into the 1000 mL beaker or boiling container and bring the water to a gentle boil.

3.After warming the 500 mL flask under hot tap water, place it in the boiling water, and continue to stir the mixture of phenol and acid for about thirty minutes. After thirty minutes, take the flask out, and allow it to cool for about five minutes.

4.Pour out the boiling water used above, and after allowing the container to cool, use it to create an ice bath, similar to the one used in steps 3-4. Place the 500 mL flask with the mixed acid an phenol in the ice bath. Add 38 mL of concentrated nitric acid in small amounts, stirring the mixture constantly. A vigorous but "harmless" reaction should occur. When the mixture stops reacting vigorously, take the flask out of the ice bath.

5.Warm the ice bath container, if it is glass, and then begin boiling more tap water. Place the flask containing the mixture in the boiling water, and heat it in the boiling water for 1 « to 2 hours.

6.Add 100 mL of cold distilled water to the solution, and chill it in an ice bath until it is cold.

7. Filter out the yellowish-white picric acid crystals by pouring the solution through the filter paper in the funnel. Collect the liquid and dispose of it in a safe place, since it is corrosive.

8.Wash out the 500 mL flask with distilled water, and put the contents of the filter paper in the flask. Add 300 mL of water, and shake vigorously.

9.Re-filter the crystals, and allow them to dry.

10.Store the crystals in a safe place in a glass container, since they will react with metal containers to produce picrates that could explode spontaneously.

203.CHEMICAL FIRE BOTTLE

by Exodus

The chemical fire bottle is really an advanced molotov cocktail. Rather than using the burning cloth to ignite the flammable liquid, which has at best a fair chance of igniting the liquid, the chemical fire bottle utilizes the very hot and violent reaction between sulfuric acid and potassium chlorate. When the container breaks, the sulfuric acid in the mixture of gasoline sprays onto the paper soaked in potassium chlorate and sugar. The paper, when struck by the acid, instantly bursts into a white flame, igniting the gasoline. The chance of failure to ignite the gasoline is less than 2%, and can be reduced to 0%, if there is enough potassium chlorate and sugar to spare.

MATERIALS:

- Potassium Chlorate (2 teaspoons)
- Sugar (2 teaspoons)
- Concentrated Sulfuric Acid (4 oz.)
- Gasoline (8 oz.)

EQUIPMENT:

- 12 oz. glass bottle
- Cap for bottle, with plastic inside
- Cooking Pan with raised edges
- Paper Towels