

## Checklist of Tools and Supplies to Get for Making Rocket-Shells

*Print This Out as Your Shopping List*

**CAUTION:** You are hereby expressly advised to acquire the tools and supplies below on your own without pillaging your family's kitchen, an unfortunate practice proven over many lifetimes to sow intense domestic discord. Likewise you are cautioned against "borrowing" any of these tools from said kitchen, and later returning them. Should your better half inevitably discover the odor of sulfur in the set of measuring spoons, you will discover a form of pyrotechnics far more dangerous than fireworks.

- Electric Drill.** Use the 1/8" bit that comes in your kit with it
- 6 inch ruler** (longer is okay)
- 30-40 mesh kitchen colander screen.** Walmart has nice metal framed ones. Mesh size is measured by counting the number of vertical wires across 1 inch of screen.
- 12 mesh kitchen colander screen.** Walmart
- Brown kraft paper, white butcher paper, or newspaper.** Rolls of white paper at Costco are good, but you can use newspaper.
- A baking sheet tray.** Preferably with a lip or edge to keep the stuff inside.
- A couple of plastic tubs with tight fitting tops.** Good clean ones, at least a quart in volume and about 9 inches in diameter.
- Spark-free mallet or dead-blow hammer.** Leather or plastic head, not bouncing rubber, or metal. Extra weight in the head is what you want. Home Depot.

- A ramming post.** A 6x6 or thicker length of lumber, about 3-4 feet tall. Ramming rockets on a table or counter top is often a disaster. Home Depot.
- 1/2" diameter x 5-1/2" long round wooden dowel** or solid aluminum rod. You want a perfectly flat end. Home Depot
- 3/4 to 1" wide masking tape**
- Plastic model cement**
- 12 inch long bamboo skewers.** Longer is okay, because you can always cut them down in size. Walmart, supermarkets.
- Wooden block 6-8 inches square.** A scrap piece of 2 x 6 is excellent.
- Razor blade knife,** or single edge razor blade. Home Depot.
- 1 tablespoon measuring spoon.** Walmart.
- 1/4 teaspoon measuring spoon.** Walmart.
- 1 teaspoon measuring spoon,** Walmart.
- Plastic funnel.** Walmart.
- Small atomizer/spray bottle.** Small as in the picture above is perfect. Walmart.
- Coarse bristle scrub brush.** Walmart.
- Copper, iron, or PVC pipe about 1 to 4 inch ID by 3-5 feet long.** This gets driven into the ground as a rocket launch tube. Home Depot.
- Leather glove.** Keeps your hand from being burned if you have an accidental ignition. Yes, it happens. Home Depot.
- Safety glasses.** Protects your eyes from burns. Home Depot.

- ❑ **Long sleeve *cotton* shirt and long pants.** Cotton protects skin better than almost any other material if there is an accidental flash fire. In a fireworks flash fire, cotton does not catch fire. Serious fireworks injuries usually happen because of burns, not the explosion. You can survive fireworks burns if you keep most of your skin covered. Short sleeve shirts, shorts, etc. leave too much skin exposed. The more skin exposed, the greater the risk of death--literally. Do not ever wear synthetics when working with pyrotechnics. They will melt and fuse to your skin, which can make even minor burns much worse.
  
- ❑ **BBQ “clicker” lighter.** The long-nose kind. Or get the Bernzomatic TS4000 trigger torch is what fireworks pros use. A complete kit with tank and torch head are at Home Depot. More expensive but you can use it one handed, one click of the button on and off. Its hot flame is bright enough to help you find the fuse in the dark, even down in the grass. Both types of lighters will keep your fingers and skin away from what you’re lighting—do not ever use cigarette lighters or matches to ignite fireworks, unless you truly enjoy pain and suffering.