

Flint, Steel and Battery

In this method of fire-making, sparks are shaved off a piece of steel by striking it briskly with a piece of flint or other rock. In actual use, the steel is struck against the flint, since it's usually easier to do it that way. A piece of char-cloth is held against the flint (or other rock) to catch the sparks. Once a spark is caught by the char-cloth, it is easy to blow into flame. Char-cloth is made by placing pieces of woven cotton inside an airtight metal container. That container is then placed in a fire and left there until the cotton becomes charred and black. Due to the lack of air in the container the cotton doesn't actually burn.



The flint and steel firemaking kit. This can be obtained at most outdoor and camping stores.



Small Battery

A small battery and fine steel wool can be used to start a fire. Simply bridge the battery terminals with the steel wool and a spark will instantly form in the steel wool.



This photo shows the spark immediately forming as the battery terminals are bridged with the steel wool. A 9 volt battery is being used here.



The spark travels quickly through the steel wool. This could be placed in a tinder bundle and blown into flame.