

Fieldcraft Equipment

The Field Repair Kit



Being Prepared for any situation in the outdoors is a necessity. When in the outdoors, it is inevitable that equipment will eventually need repairs. Whether small or major repairs, having a few items in a small kit can make those repairs in the field easy and allow you to continue on your adventures instead of needing to return home due to unusable gear.

Once you have returned from a field outing, any field repairs should be inspected and repair upgrades made as necessary to keep your gear in good serviceable order.

It is also equally important to always inspect gear before heading out to detect any damage or parts needing repair.



This list contains some suggestions on assembling a kit that will allow for many repairs to be completed in the field under most conditions.

□ *Repair Needles*

An assortment of medium and large sewing and repair needles will allow you to repair any cloth, leather, or synthetic material gear. The needles can be carried on a small patch of leather by using the largest needle to puncture the leather in positions to allow the needles to be passed thru the holes for easier and more secure carrying. Medium needles can also be used for some first aid applications. The leather patch is also useful in stopping the edge of a knife blade. Carrying an assortment of repair needles in this manner is high on the "*Utility to Weight Ratio*™" scale.

□ *Waxed Thread*

A roll of wax coated thread paired with the repair needles allows for the repair of cloth, leather and synthetic material repairs. Waxed thread is stronger than traditional thread, thicker than traditional thread, and water-proof. Once the repair is made, the thread will hold and not shrink making the repair last. A roll of waxed thread is light weight and can be used in many field repairs making it high on the "*Utility to Weight Ratio*™" scale.

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- ❑ ***Craft or Floral Wire***

Thin, malleable wire used by crafters and florists can be used to make repairs when a material more rigid than waxed thread is needed. A length of wire 18" to 24" can be rolled compact enough to take up very little space in a kit; and is very high on the "*Utility to Weight Ratio*®" scale. It can also be used to fashion snares in a survival situation.
- ❑ ***Nylon Cable Ties***

Nylon cable ties or "zip-ties" can be used to make many quick and efficient repairs, as well as be useful in constructing a shelter in a survival situation. Carrying a few different size ties allows for greater flexibility in making repairs, and adds very little weight to a kit, which makes zip ties high on the "*Utility to Weight Ratio*®" scale.
- ❑ ***Duct Tape & Electrical Tape***

Duct tape is legendary in the number of uses, and is almost matched by electrical tape. Wrap 18 inches of duct tape around an aluminum common nail for easy carry. Two strips of electrical tape about 24 inches in length will fit on an identical nail. Not only does this method make it easier to carry tape, it also adds at least two aluminum nails to you kit. Light weight malleable nails can be used for many applications in the field, and weigh very little, making them high on the "*Utility to Weight Ratio*®" scale.
- ❑ ***Safety Pins***

In addition to their First Aid applications, safety pins allow for quick and easy repairs to clothing without the need to stop to complete major sewing repairs, especially when it is essential to keep moving. Safety pins can also be used in many survival applications from constructing a sleeping bag to fashioning fishing hooks. They take up very little space and add very little weight to you kit, making safety pins high on the "*Utility to Weight Ratio*®" scale.
- ❑ ***Elastic/Rubber Bands & Ranger Bands***

Rubber bands have uses so numerous, it would be impossible to list them all, but they are light weight, useful in many situations, and compact small, taking up space in a kit. Ranger bands cut from a small inner tube of a bicycle tire are more robust and stronger than most rubber bands. They are also very light and compact well into a kit. Both are high on the "*Utility to Weight Ratio*®" scale and should be included in any repair kit.
- ❑ ***Heavy Duty Aluminum Foil***

Aluminum foil is useful in many situations, and can be used to keep small parts or small equipment organized when fashioning repairs, and it can be used for many survival applications. A 12" x 12" section of heavy duty aluminum foil can be folded flat to a square approximately 4" x 4" and will add a negligible amount of weight to a kit making it high on the "*Utility to Weight Ratio*®" scale.

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□ *A Straight Razor Blade*

A straight razor blade can be used in making repairs to most natural and synthetic materials, and can be used to make precision cuts during the repair process. While it does not replace a knife, it can be used to preserve a knife place when cutting some heavier materials. A razor blade is light weight, small, and easy to carry in a repair kit, making it high on the "*Utility to Weight Ratio*®" scale

□ *A Small Sewing Kit*

A small sewing kit with small fabric needled and thread is very useful in making clothing repairs while in the field. Having a few extra buttons of common sizes adds greater utility to a small sewing kit. A dedicated fabric sewing kit will all for more precise and more permanent clothing repairs, and will add very little weight to a kit, making a sewing kit high on the "*Utility to Weight Ratio*®" scale.

All of the components of a field "Fix-it Kit" should be placed in a small case or tin and then placed in a waterproof bag or pouch to protect the components of the kit and have it ready for use when the need for a repair rises.

