



Ferro Rod  
IS0001 8/1/23

### !!! IMPORTANT !!!

YOUR NEW FERRO ROD MUST BE PREPARED BEFORE INITIAL USE. There is a black coating on the surface that prevents oxidation during storage. You'll need to scrape a portion of this coating off to create a bare/shiny area that will be used when actually striking for sparks.

Although we refer to ferro rods "fire starters", even the best rod on earth will NEVER make fire...ferro rods make SPARKS. Making a fire out of sparks can be really tricky at first, so it's important for you to understand the basics and practice before you head out into the field.

Tinder is the material you will be trying actually ignite with the sparks you generate, and the key is VERY DRY and FLUFFY tinder material such as dry grass, fine wood shavings, frayed jute rope, pocket lint, etc. If the tinder is even the least bit damp it will make getting a fire ignited much more difficult (but not necessarily impossible). Be sure to also gather additional fuel such as small twigs, sticks etc so that once your tinder bundle is lit you won't have to scramble to keep it fed. With the tinder you've selected, try to make a fluffy "birds nest" out of it on a dry solid surface, and in a location that is shielded from wind, rain, etc.

There are numerous techniques that people use with ferro rods, but the common theme for success is strong, controlled strokes! A common novice mistake is trying to strike a ferro rod like a match, but a ferro rod does NOT need to be struck quickly and delicately. Rather, you need sturdy, strong strokes to generate maximum sparks. There are a multitude of techniques for using a ferro rod, however, our preferred technique is to move the rod, not the scraper. We find this method much more effective because you'll be able to get sparks closer to the tinder. By contrast, when you move the scraper instead of the rod, your hand gets too close to the tinder. You'll either knock over your tinder or the sparks will cool down too much by the time they land on it. The "move the rod" method also makes it easier to get your sparks dead center on the tinder instead of showering them all over the place.

1. Hold the scraper between your thumb and forefinger and align it at a 45-degree angle toward the top of the rod.
2. Position the tip of the ferro rod directly next to your tinder "bird nest".
3. Pull the ROD back (not the scraper) using firm pressure and long, full strokes.
4. Sparks should rain down on your tinder and hopefully light it. If your tinder is even a bit damp you may need to keep vigorously striking to flood the tinder with sparks that will hopefully catch.

Fire making truly is a skill so don't be discouraged if it takes a little time for you to get the hang of it. We recommend practicing with something easy, such as a cotton ball with petroleum jelly on it. Then practice on different types of tinder, especially ones you'd find in wilderness survival situations.

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