

Take those lessons home, work on what you find needs improvement in dry fire, rinse and repeat.

Q. Any recommendations for someone purchasing their first firearm?

Again, this is extremely subjective. It depends entirely on your use-case, your means, budget, and what you can comfortably carry if applicable. If I'm to give another very generic answer, get the most reliable/proven platform that you can comfortably use, afford, accessorize, find magazines for, and practically feed and maintain. For handguns, Glock has a number of models that will fit any slew of use cases, 9mm will be the most practical and effective chambering for most people. The Smith & Wesson M&P 2.0 series and the Sig P365 are also great options. For rifles, the AR-15 are easily the most accessible and adaptable platform stateside. AR-15s are a deep rabbit hole to get into, but if you're scraping the bottom of the barrel in your bank account, Palmetto State Armory and Ruger make some of the most affordable options out there, but their QC is largely done by the customer, and are not reputed to be the most robust track record out there. If you can afford to move up to something like a BCM, you'll have something well-proven that should last a long time. If you're really feeling savvy, building your own rifle will greatly open up possibilities for customization and overall knowledge of the platform (that's how I always have done it).

Q. A lot of people question if they can safely own firearms for mental health or other reasons. Do you have any advice for such folks?

Yes! It's not only okay to be honest about this, it's necessary. After weighing the risks and benefits for arming yourself, if you still feel like you may have concerns about suicidal ideation/impulses as a firearm owner, there's a few things that you can do. For one, if getting to your gun quickly isn't a concern, consider separating your ammunition and magazines from the gun (different rooms, containers, etc.), locking up parts or the entire gun itself. Find people you live with, family, or friends you can trust to hold onto things for you when you're not feeling safe with your guns - don't give them the actual registered/serialized gun lower, but if you're able to give them the firing pin, bolt, slide, or some other crucial part required for the firearm operate, that can be easy and convenient. Have a contingency plan in place with your friends or family before things get bad, and have them check in with you proactively to help ensure they're there for you when you need it most.

Q. Online firearms content is usually associated with chuds and barely-closeted fash. What inspired you to launch this project?

Exactly that. I didn't even want to take on this project myself, but as cheesy as it is, you really do have to be the change you want to see in the world. There is a constant cultural war being fought to gatekeep firearms from certain demographics for political ends. I just want to see more friendly avenues to access what otherwise is pretty basic knowledge around the matter of guns existing in our material world and how we interact with them.

Q. Where can people follow your work?

Well, I'm retired from making YouTube videos these days, but I do have a plethora of them for folks who haven't been keeping up with my work, along with a playlist for newbies. I'm still active on social media and do post tidbits of knowledge (among other things) when I can. You can find me at the following links:

youtube.com/tacticoolgirlfriend instagram.com/tacticoolgf
facebook.com/tacticoolgirlfriend twitter.com/tacticoolgf
tacticoolgf.bsky.social



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From All 'Round the Sound**

Tacticool Girlfriend

A Q&A on Queer Self-Defense and Survival

Tacticool Girlfriend is a trans Afghan self-defense content-creator living in the so-called United States. Sabotage Noise presents a short interview

Q. Why do you think trans folks or other marginalized folks should consider arming themselves?

Many people have traditionally relied on existing authorities and law enforcement to protect them, or at least believed that was the job of these entities. While I have long insisted that that's largely not the reality, especially for minorities, I feel like the facade is quickly falling before a lot of people's eyes that may not have been so critical before. That's all the more reason to understand and internalize well-being, and always have been. While under existential threat as minorities in a fairly hostile political climate, it only is common sense that we should take whatever steps we can to ensure our own safety that are most immediately effective.

Q. What are some good options for self-defense outside of firearms?

Pepper spray, first and foremost. I carry a gun everywhere I go, but my pepper spray canister on my keychain is still what I view as my primary weapon. Is it always the best, most effective tool? No, but it is probably the most universally applicable in most self-defense scenarios, and is the easiest, most accessible means to train with and use. Aside from that, it could never hurt to learn some martial arts - your body will always be your primary weapon, and it is the platform from which all others are utilized.

Q. What kind of training is necessary for safely carrying?

That depends on your needs and threat assessment, this is a very personal matter. But if I'm to give a broad answer, after finding what carry method(s) and implements work best for you, the formula follows as with any kind of shooting training: dry fire, working on exercises that isolate every aspect of your draw, shooting, moving, reloads, etc. - use a shot timer with a par time on it in order to get metrics, otherwise you're just aimlessly going through the motions with no feedback. Then go to the range, and if possible, replicate those actions and motions into live fire drills to assess how you're progressing.



FOOD SHOWS + BENEFITS

OLYMPIA

The Mortuary

📍@olymortuary

EVERY Thursday 6-8pm - People's Cafe Open Mic free/ donation coffee + tea by Wobbly Cup
Cooperative Cafe~~ (weeks off April 10, 17, 24)
EVERY 1st Sunday 1:30-4:30pm - Prisoner Letter Writing Night (Mar 2, Apr 6)~~
Mar 10 7:30pm - Altar de Fay + more
Mar 18 6pm - The Moray + Fugue State Ravens
Mar 21 8pm - Sprint Equinox Rave
Mar 28 6:15pm - Short film "Unrestricted Access" benefit for Prisoner Letter Writing
Mar 29 8pm - Eucalyptus Rave
Apr 4 6pm - Ihyjason/Blind Heresy/Micha xox/casi
Apr 12 7pm - Panties for Prisoners trans benefit
Apr 19 6pm - Death Casp/CXPX/AXEFEAR
Anarchist Breakfast + Clinic Defense every friday 9am-noon @ Legion and Adams

BREMERTON

People's Exchange

(639 Callow Ave)

📍@peoples_exchange

EVERY Sunday 6pm - Queer Meetup~~
Every 4th Wednesday 2-4:30pm - Harm Reduction Kit Making~~

The Charleston

📍@thecharleston333
(333 N Callow Ave)

Mar 28, 8pm - Holy Locus//Yes Ma'am//Pigeon Pit//Bird Teeth //Freerangelunatic

Apr 5, 8pm - Charleston's 17th anniversary ft. Rotteness// Generation Decline//Burial Rites//Chin Up//Riot Orgy

SEATTLE

Left Bank Books 📍@leftbankbookscollective

(92 Pike St)

EVERY Last Sunday 7pm - Discussion group "Leaping Towards the World to Come" (Feb 22, Mar 30) ~~
EVERY 1st and 3rd Thursday ++ EVERY 2nd and 4th Tuesday 7:30pm - Mutual Aid Social Therapy (MAST) and Potluck
(Mar 6, 11, 20, 25, Apr 3, 8, 17, 22) ~~
March 5 7:30pm - Blue Velvet movie night
March 8 7:30pm - Rats Alice Trujillo release *Two People Going to the Bottom of a River* and *Check Engine Light*
March 15 7-10pm - The Moray/Fugue State/Ravens ~~
March 19 7:30pm - Koyaanisqatsi movie night

Pipsqueak

📍@pipsqueak.seattle

(173 16th Ave)

EVERY 1st Sun 3-5pm - Prisoner Letter Writing (Feb 2, Apr 6) ~~
EVERY Wed 6-9pm - Queer/Trans Art Jam~~
EVERY 3rd Mon 7-9pm - Pipsqueak community dinner: Bring utensils, plate/bowl, and mask (Mar 17, Apr 14) ~~
Mar 30 & Apr 6 10:30am - Silent Meditation

March for Trans Youth Care

March 2 @ 12pm - Meet @ Ballard Locks by Botanical Gardens. Wear a mask.

CONTACT SABOTAGE NOISE PRODUCTIONS!

EMAIL: sabotagenoiseproductions@proton.me

📍@sabotagenoiseproductions

This zine posted monthly!



Kitsap County-Based Mutual Aid Benefit Show Booking

TACOMA

The Gravel Pit

📍@gravelpittacoma

March 14 7pm - Guillotine Gambit//Miss Prince//Clitchette

Solidarity Center

(1220 S 23rd St)

BOOKING: hilltopsolidarity@proton.me

Bi-weekly - Feed the People w/ Black Panther Party~~

March 12 4pm - Stop the Bleed training

The Sabotage Noise zine is throwing a 2nd Anniversary Party!!

May 10, 5-8pm @ Fantagraphics Bookstore, 1201 S Vale St, Seattle

Releasing a compilation zine with all of our year-two interviews! Also featuring 5-6 zine tables, a panel with past-interviewees, and a punk set by Septik