

RECOIL

GUN LIFESTYLE: GEAR • TECHNOLOGY • SPORT • OUTDOOR • HOME & PERSONAL DEFENSE

EXTREME ROCK CRAWLER:
JEEP WRANGLER
PG. 26

SPRINGFIELD ARMORY NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE
KILLED IN: MARK CHRISTOPHER LAWRENCE
SECRET CARRY BAG BUYER'S GUIDE
PHYSICAL FITNESS COLUMN
TRACKING HUMANS
Ghillie Suit

SPRINGFIELD ARMORY:
M1A EBR
PG. 63

VETERAN
DESIGNED
ARM BRACE
KEEPS IT
SHORT
PG. 38

10-8 Performance,
Vickers Tactical,
Arc'teryx, Ares Gear,
Benchmade, Glock,
Praetor Defense,
RESCO Instruments,
Safariland, SIG SAUER,
Sintercore, Smith Elite,
TangoDown, Magpul,
Troy Industries,
Warren Tactical,
Under Armour, Keen
PG. 8

15
IGGER
YER'S
DE

CZ
CZECHMATE:
RACE READY
PG. 54

FREE
FULL SIZE
TRIJICO
TARGET
INSIDE

11 **RECOILWEB.COM**
ISSUE 9
\$8.99
DISPLAY UNTIL 12/03/2013

BENELLI:
INTEGRATED XRAIL SYSTEM
PG. 60

GHILLIE SUIT

A USMC SCOUT SNIPER GIVES US THE LOWDOWN ON BUILDING YOUR OWN

BY PETE PALMA III

PHOTOGRAPHY BY HENRY Z. DE KUYPER

The idea behind a ghillie suit is to provide a foundation to which you attach natural vegetation. Doing so will break up your outline, which is easily recognizable to the human eye. But you don't want to look like a bush — if you look into a field that has two trees, your eyes are drawn to the two trees. You want to look like the rest of the area, i.e. the field.

For example, when training for my second Iraq deployment, I took too long to get to my final firing position, and I was worried about running out of time. So I just crawled out from behind the bush that was concealing me, hastily set up my rifle, and fired. My objective was to get shots on target without being seen by my instructor. He was unable to locate me even after my second shot.

Almost everything you need for a ghillie suit can be found at your local craft store.

But when the walker in the field revealed my location, the instructor could clearly see where I was. He had been focused so intently on the two bushes bracketing me that he didn't even notice my poor position and camouflage.

A sniper platoon is one of the few places where being good at stalking is considered a good thing. However, since I was a machine-gunner rather



01
02
03
04
05
06
07
08
09
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28
29
30
31
32
33
34
35
36
37
38
39
40
41
42
43
44
45
46
47
48
49
50
51
52
53
54
55
56
57
58
59
60
61
62
63
64
65
66
67
68
69
70
71
72
73
74
75
76
77
78
79
80
81
82
83
84
85
86
87
88
89
90
91
92
93
94
95
96
97
98
99
100



than a sniper when I built my first ghillie, I knew absolutely nothing about the art. So I proceeded to build my suit like the ones in the movies or those you see in the big retail catalogs. It was a ghillie monster and stuck out like an officer's hot daughter.

I did just about everything wrong. When I first showed up to sniper school, where everyone has been in platoons for years, not only was I laughed at, but as penance I was made to dance around in my furry-legged ghillie bottoms in front of everyone. It was rough. Here's how to avoid making the mistakes I did.

CLOTHES

First, you'll need to pick a uniform to start with — this can be either a shirt or jacket and pants, or a one-piece like a flight suit. The jacket and pants give you more flexibility, but a coverall-type makes it easier to crawl backwards out of position as there's no way it can be dragged over your head. Tan is better than green, because it is always easier to make light things darker than to make dark things lighter (this is the theme of camouflage in general).

It should be a size larger than you usually wear because when you start sewing on pads and netting, the suit will "shrink" and you will want the extra room when you are stalking. In the movies and in old war stories from Vietnam, you always hear about snipers crawling on their bellies for days. So I initially put most of my padding on my chest and thighs. Don't do that.

There will be times where you will be skull dragging, but the majority of your time will be spent on your hands and knees either in a high or low crawl. This provides for relatively good cover, but also allows you to move quickly. If your jacket buttons in the front, you'll need to sew a piece of cloth over it so that it doesn't open constantly, but I'd focus the padding on the elbows and knees.

1-4 Dye your suit to match your environment with water-based dyes.



5 Lay out netting on base garment and cut to size.



6 Attach netting with fabric adhesive.



7 Or sew at the knots using dental floss.





8 Cut jute into 12-18-inch-long chunks.

9 Form a loop and thread through netting.

10-11 Pass loose ends through loop and pull tight.

12 Add different colors to break up outline...

13 ... but don't go overboard.

14-15 Untwist strands to get more volume.

If you don't have experience running a sewing machine, buy some decent wine and flowers and get someone who knows what they're doing to sew it for you. Otherwise you'll be wrestling with it for hours. Ask me how I know this.

NETTING

Lay out netting on the suit and cut it to size. The netting placed on the back should have openings of around 1 to 1.5 inches. This will be large enough to attach jute and shove in vegetation. It can be attached quickly with Shoe Goo, or you can sew each knot with dental floss. The netting should cover the back, shoulders, triceps, ass, thighs, and calves.

Worthwhile additions to the suit include a piece of 550 cord on the cuffs as thumb loops to keep the sleeves from riding up your arms and annoying the crap out of you, as well as possibly cutting out the back of the jacket and inletting mesh to help keep you cool.

JUTE

Once you have attached your netting, you can then tie on jute as a base layer, dyed to match your area of operations. Do *not* go overboard with the jute, as the majority of your camo should come from natural vegetation. Find vegetation from low on the ground — things that look like nothing special, such as grass or weeds.

VEIL

The veil is arguably the most important part of the suit. It usually starts as a boonie cover with the bill cut off to avoid casting a shadow on your face, an unnatural dark area that is a dead giveaway. Netting should be placed on the veil in much the same way as on the ghillie top, and mesh can be placed in the top for cooling.



16-19 The ghillie's real job is to carry natural vegetation from the area you're working in.



20-22 Don't have jute cord? Cut strips from sandbags and tie them to the netting instead.



There is more to sniping and stalking than the ghillie suit. I have known people who, for a bet, have done perfect stalks buck-ass naked, simply using proper movement and concealment. There is no one way to make a ghillie. If you lined up 100 snipers, you'd see 100 different ghillies and every sniper would immediately recognize his own suit. Follow the steps above, use good principles of camouflage and concealment, and make your suit your own. It is a matter of pride to create and modify your ghillie. And it will evolve with you — as you refine your skills, you will refine your ghillie. 🎯

VETERANS DAY 2013

To all U.S. veterans,

For selflessly serving our nation and bravely defending
our freedoms and liberty, we are eternally thankful.

Your dedication, courage, and sacrifice will always be honored.

Respectfully,
RECOIL Magazine



