



RDX can be made by the surprisingly simple method outlined hereafter. It is much easier to make in the home than all other high explosives, with the possible exception of Ammonium Nitrate.

MATERIALS:

- Hexamine -or- Methenamine Fuel Tablets (50 g)
- Concentrated Nitric Acid (550 mL)
- Ammonium Nitrate
- Distilled Water
- Table Salt
- Ice

EQUIPMENT:

- 500 mL Beaker
- Glass Stirring Rod
- Funnel and Filter Paper
- Ice Bath Container (Plastic Bucket)
- Centigrade Thermometer
- Blue Litmus Paper

1. Place the beaker in the ice bath, (see steps 3-4) and carefully pour 550 mL of concentrated Nitric Acid into the beaker.
2. When the acid has cooled to below 20°C, add small amounts of the crushed fuel tablets to the beaker. The temperature will rise, and it must be kept below 30°C, or dire consequences could result. Stir the mixture.
3. Drop the temperature below 0°C, either by adding more ice and salt to the old ice bath, or by creating a new ice bath. Ammonium Nitrate could be added to the old ice bath, since it becomes cold when it is put in water. Continue stirring the mixture, keeping the temperature below 0°C for at least twenty minutes.
4. Pour the mixture into a liter of crushed ice. Shake and stir the mixture, and allow it to melt. Once it has melted, filter out the crystals, and dispose of the corrosive liquid.
5. Place the crystals into one half a liter of boiling distilled water. Filter the crystals, and test them with the blue litmus paper. Repeat steps 4 and 5 until the litmus paper remains blue. This will make the crystals more stable and safe.
6. Store the crystals wet until ready for use. Allow them to dry completely using them. RDX is not stable enough to use alone as an explosive.
7. Composition G1 can be made by mixing 88.3% RDX (by weight) with 11.1% mineral oil, and 0.6% lecithin. Knead these material together in a plastic bag. This is one way to desensitize the explosive.
8. HMX is a mixture of TNT and RDX; the ratio is 50/50, by weight. It is not as sensitive, and is almost as powerful as straight RDX.
9. By adding ammonium nitrate to the crystals of RDX after step 5, it should be possible to desensitize the RDX and increase its power, since ammonium nitrate is very insensitive and powerful. Sodium or potassium nitrate could also be added; a small quantity is sufficient to stabilize the RDX.
10. RDX detonates at a rate of 8550 meters/second when it is compressed to a density of 1.65 g/cubic cm.

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