

Unusual  
Hiding  
Places  
for  
Drugs/Weapons  
Etc.

## HANDGUN HIDEAWAY

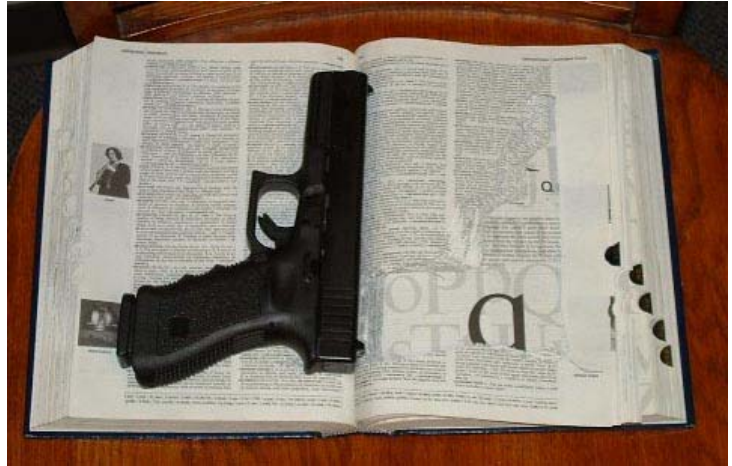
A police officer from the North Bend Police Department in Oregon discovered that a dictionary (or other large book) can house more than just words, it can be a prime spot to conceal drugs or weapons.

The NBPD operates on what they call a "Plus One" theory, believing that, in the majority of incidents where substantial drugs or weapons are found in a vehicle or residence, a second search will yield more contraband.

This dictionary and handgun were located during search #2 after the first search had located 4 lbs. of drugs, a 9mm handgun and drug paraphernalia.

The American Heritage Dictionary had been cut out to conceal a semi-automatic handgun. As observed in the photo, the cutout was in the shape of a Glock 22, but could easily be custom made with a razor knife to fit almost any handgun.

The dictionary was positioned face up and directly behind the driver's seat so that it could be accessed quickly, but would not be suspicious to anyone making a cursory visual check of the car's contents.



## VIDEO CAMERA HIDING PLACE

On April 24<sup>th</sup> a Glendale, California police officer made a traffic stop reference a registration violation. During a consent search of the vehicle he located a full size "Sharp" camcorder on the rear passenger seat. A closer look at the camera revealed a fake videocassette had been placed in the camera and, once it was removed, he found a fully loaded "Taurus" 9mm semi-automatic handgun with an altered serial number.



### HIDDEN COMPARTMENT IN CADILLAC

Officers in Nevada discovered a unique method of concealment when they conducted a felony car stop recently. The stop was on a Kidnap suspect who was driving a 2000 Cadillac Seville STS. The officers were told prior to the stop that the suspect had a gun, however, when they conducted the stop and took the suspect into custody **they were unable to locate the firearm even though the victim had warned of a hidden compartment in the car.**

During a more extensive search the officers found two hinges directly below the steering wheel, but efforts to find or open a compartment were unsuccessful until the victim told them he had seen the suspect place a magnet on the dash and open the glove compartment door before opening the hidden door. **Once the magnet was in place and the glovebox was open, the hidden compartment opened automatically by pushing down the tilt steering wheel adjuster**, revealing a fully loaded Smith & Wesson .40 cal. handgun.



(See the [Calibrepress.com](http://Calibrepress.com) website for additional photos and information on this item.)

### THREE-COMPARTMENT WATER BOTTLE

Several law enforcement officers in Maine and other areas of the country have recently discovered this seemingly innocuous water bottle with a hollowed-out center chamber during searches of vehicles. These bottles can be bought at the local boutiques here in Brunswick (Maine).

The bottles break down into three separate pieces, with the top and bottom ones containing some water -- while the center section (behind the label) could conceal a weapon or contraband. Inside one bottle found in California was a stash of six plastic Ziploc bags containing methamphetamine, a plastic scale, and a spoon. Other bottles found in California and New York contained other contraband. The concealed area is also large enough to hold a small weapon.

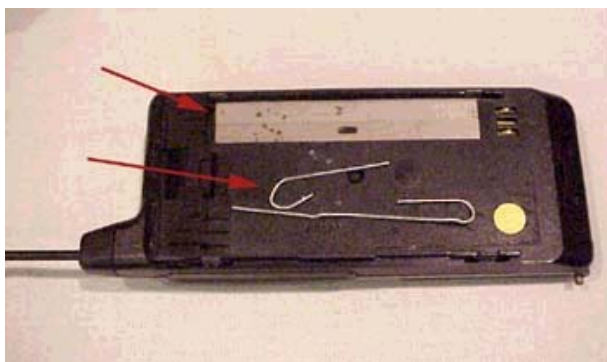


## PEPSI GUN LOCKER

Police in Riley County, Kansas were executing a narcotics search warrant on a residence when they discovered the Pepsi machine shown below. The machine had been converted into a gun safe and concealed 17 firearms and over 4,000 rounds of ammunition.



## WORKING CELL PHONE HIDING HANDCUFF KEYS & RAZOR BLADES



Secreted between the battery and the body of this Motorola cellular flip phone are 2 large, sturdy paperclips bent into improvised handcuff keys and a 3 1/4-in., razor-sharp single-edge blade that may have come from a wallpaper cutter.

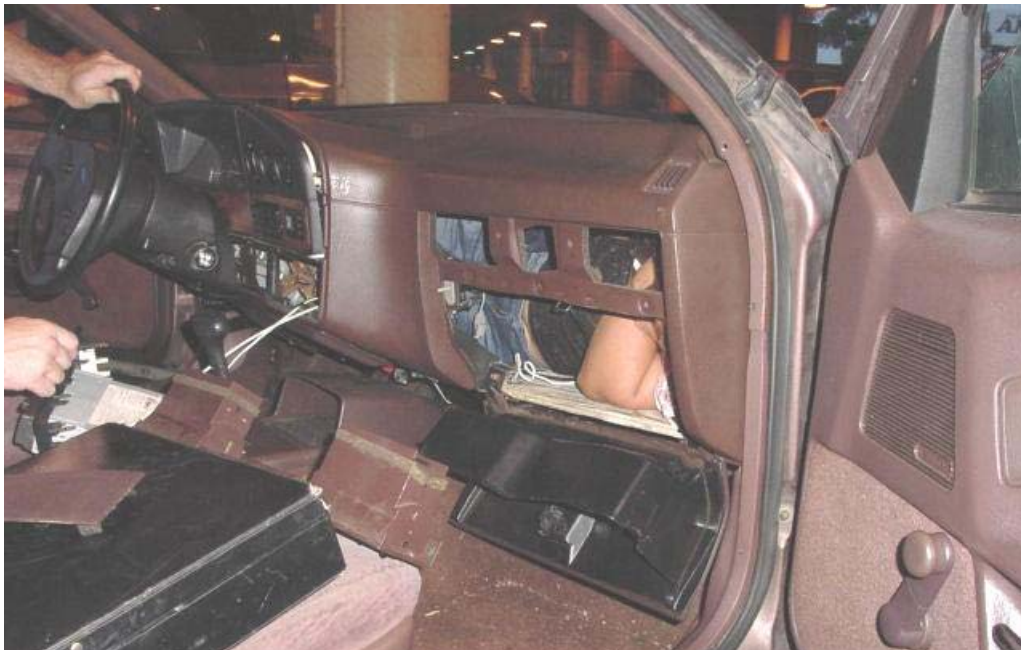
When the battery pack is in place, the phone is fully functional and will turn on when being tested - at airport and courthouse security points, for example.



## UTILIZING THE SPACE BETWEEN THE ENGINE AND THE DASHBOARD OF AN SUV

A US Customs Primary Inspector asked the driver of the Chevy Suburban shown below for his registration. Suddenly a hand came out of the glove compartment producing the requested document which the driver then handed to the Inspector.

A search of the vehicle found a 135 lb. woman was hidden in the cavity behind the dashboard. (If a full size woman could be smuggled in this hidden compartment, imagine how much drugs or weapons would fit.)



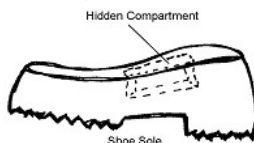
## GUN CONCEALED IN CHILD' S TOY



Los Angeles County Deputies from Industry Station stopped several males who appeared to be gang members at a Valinda hotel at 2 a.m. on August 30, 2000. When Initially detaining the males for a possible vehicle burglary, one began to walk away towards a nearby hotel room. He was carrying various items including a stuffed 14 inch "Cookie Monster" doll. The male was detained, placing the items he was carrying on the ground. A deputy checked the items and noticed that the doll felt unusually heavy. He found that the back had a Velcro opening with an interior pocket where the suspect had concealed a loaded semi-automatic pistol.

## HIDDEN POUCHES

Several incident have been reported recently where contraband and/or weapons were discovered hidden in the arches, soles and sports pouches on sneakers and other footwear.



## COMMERCIALLY AVAILABLE BASEBALL CAP WITH CONCEALED COMPARTMENT

An officer in Waterbury, Vermont recently arrested a subject who was wearing this hat. During the arrest the suspect dropped the hat; however the arresting officer picked it back up and placed it on his head. Once at the station the officer took a closer look and when he started feeling around the inside of the hat he noticed that the head/sweat band area where the bill meets the front of the cap was thicker than it should be. Once the officer pulled back the sweat band he found a concealed velcro closure and a hidden compartment. "The compartment was empty," stated the officer, "But it could have easily concealed plenty of contraband, razor blades or cuff keys." Or worse, a knife or handgun. In fact, another officer from Carlisle (PA) PD also recently encountered one of these caps, worn by a suspect who was concealing marijuana inside- and tested the capacity of the concealed compartment with his own Beretta .25 handgun. "It sealed just fine," said the officer. "And other than the obvious weight, it was not noticeable at all while the hat was being worn."

These concealment caps are created by an outfit called Hawaiian Island Creations and distributed by various beachwear shops around the country. The hats bear the Hawaiian Island Creations logo on the front. Please keep this particular hat in mind to help remind you to stay alert for unusual bulkiness and to check for hidden compartments.





## HIDING PLACE FOR 584 LBS. OF MARIJUANA

On March 15th, 2003, Falcon Lake, Canada RCMP, stopped a 1998 Peterbilt tractor-trailer at the West Hawk Lake DOT weigh scales, near the Ontario border. The lone male driver from Abbotsford, BC, was destined to the Toronto area with a load of cedar trees. The driver was nervous yet overly friendly. His paperwork showed that he was delivering trees to the US eastern states yet the driver claimed to be en route to Toronto. He also admitted to be carrying a few crates of freight for his boss but did not have any shipping papers for them. The driver denied any knowledge of the crates contents. They were opened and found to contain hockey bags filled with marihuana. The crates were all sealed and caulked to fully seal in the marihuana odor. A total of 584 lbs of marihuana was found in 12 hockey bags.



## CONCEALMENT JEANS

Info provided by the Regional Security & Emergency Preparedness Inspector in Ottawa, Canada:

These pants and shorts for men and women are sold over the Internet by Seedless, a company located in San Diego, California. Their web site address is <http://www.seedlessclothing.com/frames.html>. This hidden pouch could be used for concealing anything from a controlled substance to a weapon. **The pouch is closed with Velcro and is accessible through the inseam area.** An "S" on the front left pocket and "Seedless" sewn on the waistband over the rear right pocket (similar to jean labels) can identify the shorts and pants. If a person is encountered wearing these shorts, caution should be exercised as a weapon could be concealed in the pouch.





## SAFE CANS AND CANDLES FOR HIDING GOODIES

Source: Brunswick, Maine Police Department:

The following items are being sold at local gift shops.



**Safe Scents™**  
The Candle That's a Safe

**Hide Your Valuables, No One Will Ever Know!!**

© EAGLE ENTERPRISES, LLC/CHATSWORTH, CA. 91311

## **HASHISH SMUGGLED INSIDE SPOOLS OF THREAD IN MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE**

**Source: The Drug Enforcement Administration Office of Forensic Sciences, Department of Justice. Information, Washington, DC:**

The DEA South Central Laboratory (Dallas, Texas) recently received a package containing four spools of white thread containing packages of suspected hashish. The package was seized by the United States Custom Service in Memphis, Tennessee, after X-ray analysis indicated an anomalous mass under the threading of each spool. (However, there was no apparent deformation of the threading on the spools.) The exhibits were submitted to the laboratory after a controlled delivery in Picayune, Mississippi.

Disassembly of each spool revealed a rectangular strip, packaged in brown tape, which had been wrapped around the spool canister, then covered with tightly wound thread (see Photos 3 and 4). Analysis by microscopic examination, Modified Duquenois-Levine, and GC/MS confirmed hashish, combined net mass 387.9 grams. The THC content was not quantitated. This is believed to be the first exhibit of this type ever submitted to the South Central Laboratory.



## **INTELLIGENCE ALERT - HEROIN IN SUITCASE WHEELS AT JFK AIRPORT, NEW YORK**

**Source: The Drug Enforcement Administration Office of Forensic Sciences, Department of Justice. Information, Washington, DC:**

The DEA Northeast Laboratory (New York, New York) recently received an exhibit consisting of twelve black suitcase wheels containing suspected heroin (see two of these wheels in Photo). The United States Custom Service at JFK Airport, New York, seized the wheels after being removed from a suitcase from a passenger arriving on a flight from Colombia.

Each wheel contained a black plastic bag, which contained chunks of light brown powder, combined net mass 795.5 grams. Analysis by GC-FID, FT-IR, and GCMSD confirmed 89 percent heroin HCl. Over the past few years, the Northeast Laboratory has received a wide variety of exhibits seized by Customs agents at JFK Airport, including luggage handles, shoes, suitcase liners, clothing, etc., in which heroin had been concealed.





## COCAINE IN AUTO BATTERIES



### Bulletins

Concealment  
Criminal Intell  
Narcotics  
Officer Safety  
Legal  
Terrorists Info  
TOPS

Bulletin Archives

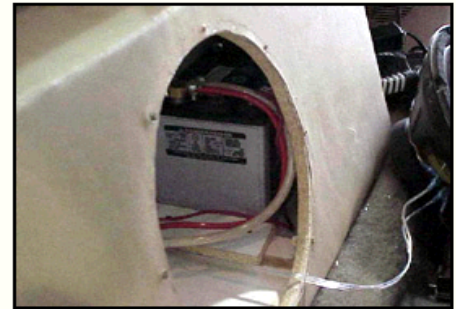
### Bulletin: Concealment Method

CM # 03 - 08

Subject:	<b>Cocaine concealed in Mexican-made auto batteries</b>	Issued: 03-12-03
From:	Criminal Intelligence Unit	Page 1 of 1
Source:	U.S. Customs Service, TX	

Hollowed out batteries in two Ford F-250 pickup trucks were used to conceal cocaine. Recent tampering to the posts and cable area of the batteries was visually noticeable during inspection. More than 6 kilograms of cocaine were concealed in each of the batteries.

Both vehicles contained concealed motorcycle batteries, hidden within rear speaker boxes, that provided the actual source of power to start the vehicles.



Photos courtesy of USCS, TX

## NEW MEXICO STATE POLICE SEIZES 44 POUNDS OF COCAINE FROM A RESERVE GAS TANK LOCATED IN THE BED OF A PICKUP TRUCK

**Source: New Mexico State Police:**

On April 2, 2003, the New Mexico State Police stopped to assist a motorist on IH-40 in New Mexico with a flat tire. The driver was nervous and gave conflicting information. After obtaining consent to search, Sgt. Mora discovered a false hidden compartment within a auxiliary gas tank located in the bed of the 1997 Dodge truck. Inside the compartment was 44 pounds of cocaine. The driver was en route to Miami, Florida, from Albuquerque, New Mexico. Point of contact is Sgt. Rudy Mora at New Mexico State Police/Canine Unit (505) 841-9207





## PICTURE FRAME HIDDEN COMPARTMENTS

On January 15, 2003, Special Agents from California Department of Justice, Orange County Firearms Division, served a Search Warrant at a residence in Compton, California, for an Armed Prohibited Person. Agents made contact with a subject who was questioned about firearms listed in his possession that were identified in the Automated Firearm System (AFS). After the residence was secured, the subject was taken inside the house and asked where the firearm was located. The agents escorted him to one of the bedrooms where the subject pointed to a picture above the bed.

After **examining the picture frame, agents discovered a hidden compartment** within the frame revealing a Smith & Wesson .38 revolver loaded with live ammunition. The subject was asked if there were anymore firearms and he then pointed to another picture in the same room. Another firearm, a .357 revolver was discovered in a similar manner also with live ammunition. Upon further search by agents, additional weapons and ammunition were



## NEW AND BETTER HIDING PLACES

Info courtesy of MAGLOCLEN (Middle Atlantic Great Lakes Organized Crime Law Enforcement Network):

Below are photos reference a seizure last month at Peace Bridge Traffic in Fort Erie, Ontario Canada during a vehicle stop . A TEC 9 machine pistol and 110 grams of weed were found under the back seat in the hollowed out foam.



## SUN VISOR RIFLE RACK

Patrol officers should use caution approaching SUV's and Pick-Up trucks during traffic stops, where the driver or front passenger has his/her hands over their heads in the area of the sun visors. They could be reaching for a firearm.

The below illustrated rifle rack is made by Pace Edwards and is available for sale to the public. For further information on the rifle rack, visit the manufacturer's website at [http://www.paceedwards.com/si\\_ri.asp](http://www.paceedwards.com/si_ri.asp)



## HEROIN HIDDEN IN SEMI-TRACTOR HEADLINER

**Source: From the Kentucky Motor Vehicle Enforcement Drug Interdiction Unit:**

On May 23, 2003 a member of the Kentucky MVEDIU located 6.6 ounces of heroin in the headliner of a semi tractor. The vehicle was traveling south on I-64 without a trailer (bobtail). The operator was nervous and gave verbal consent to search the vehicle. He would not sign a written consent to search, however, he did initial the written consent to search form indicating that he had been given verbal consent.

Testing indicated that the substance was heroin, however this unit is not familiar with the form it is shaped into. Anyone familiar with this form of heroin which has been turned into pellets is asked to contact Off. Shannon Chelf at 502-564-4603. The substance was located in the headliner in the sleeper berth.

