Everyday Carry Gear:
The 11 Items I Carry With Me At All Times

Jason R. Hanson
www.SafeHomeGear.com
Hi. My name is Jason Hanson.

I’m a former CIA Officer and the New York Times bestselling author of Spy Secrets That Can Save Your Life.

I’ve been blessed to appear on numerous television shows including Shark Tank, NBC’s Today Show, Dateline, Rachael Ray, and Fox & Friends.

As a security specialist, I teach anti-kidnapping, escape & evasion, evasive driving, and firearms courses, to name a few. One of the topics my clients often ask me about is the type of gear I carry daily to protect myself.

The fact is, the gear you carry will make life much easier should you ever find yourself in a crisis situation. In other words, you never, ever want to walk around without tools to protect yourself.

So, to help you be as safe as possible, below is my personal list of every day carry gear. Pick and choose the items you think will work for you and then make sure you start carrying these around with you.

**Gun**

Unless I’m going to a place where I can’t legally carry a gun (the post office, a courthouse, the state of California), I always carry a gun on me.

Since I love guns there are several different guns I might carry. These include a Glock 19, Springfield 1911, Ruger LCP, and Sig Sauer P238.
When it comes to guns, the most important thing to remember is to buy quality. As long as you buy a gun from a quality manufacturer then you shouldn’t have any problems with it if you ever have to use it to defend your life.

When carrying a gun, I either have it in my right, front pants’ pocket (if it’s a small pocket gun) or I carry it inside the waistband at the 4 o’clock position on my hip.

As far as holsters, Milt Sparks and CrossBreed are a few of the companies that make solid holsters.

The truth is, I’ve got a box of holsters in my closet and if you’re also a gun person like I am, you will too, since it seems to be a lifelong quest to find the perfect holster.
Knife

Just like I mentioned about a gun, I always carry a knife on me, unless I’m in a place where it’s illegal. I own several different knives and you might find me carrying a Benchmade, Kershaw, or SOG, to name a few. When carrying a knife, I keep it clipped to my left pants’ pocket.

I always carry a credit card knife too, because it’s a good idea to have a backup and because the credit card knife takes up almost no space. You can obtain the credit card knife I carry daily, for free, right here.

Hopefully, the only time you’ll use your knife is to open the mail or boxes from Amazon, but in a crisis situation a knife is invaluable. This is why you should not only carry one on your person, but have a knife (or two) in the glove box of your vehicle and in your desk at work.
Lock Pick Set

I carry a credit card size lock pick set in my wallet at all times. Once you learn how to pick locks (which I teach in my *Spy Escape & Evasion* course) you’ll be amazed at how often you put this skill to use.

You can use it to open doors, filing cabinets, padlocks, and more. Also, because I get this question often, lock pick sets are TSA approved and you can carry them on airplanes, which I always do since my lock pick set stays in my wallet.

When you’re going through a security checkpoint at the airport, one of three things will happen. About 90% of the time the lock pick set will go straight through without any questions; 5% of the time I’ll get asked if it’s a lock pick set and I say yes and that’s all that happens; the other 5% of the time they look at it and give it right back to me since you’re allowed to carry lock pick sets on a plane.
I don’t need to explain why you need to carry a cell phone. It’s common sense to have a cell phone on you in case of an emergency. Just make sure it’s always charged.

What’s more, from an identity protection and privacy standpoint, if you use a smartphone make sure you’re using a Virtual Private Network (VPN.)

A VPN encrypts your data so criminals can’t steal your personal information. The VPN I use is called TunnelBear but there are many VPN’s out there that you can check out.
Bobby Pins

Bobby Pins are used to escape handcuffs and to pick locks. I carry at least two bobby pins on me. Obviously, if you're just going to your local grocery store to get milk you probably don't have to worry about having bobby pins on you. But, if you're traveling overseas to the more dangerous places of the world then you'll definitely want them with you.

Depending on how dangerous the place is I'm going, I'll carry the bobby pins inside the Escape & Evasion Gun Belt. I also carry them in a pocket and even carry some in my shoes. In other words, I have them all over if there's a high threat level in the area.
Hair Barrette

Hair Barrettes are also used for escaping handcuffs. The hair barrette is my favorite tool to escape cuffs and it’s what I’ll go to first if, heaven forbid, I ever find myself in such a situation.

I carry two hair barrettes on me just like I do bobby pins and I carry a lot more if I’m headed to a dangerous place. Also, you don’t have to purchase fancy hair barrettes. The ones I use are just the regular ones you can get at Wal-Mart or Target.

Paracord Keychain

On my keychain, I have some paracord. Paracord has some amazing uses from simply tying objects together to escaping certain restraints.
The keychain I use has about nine feet of paracord, which is the perfect amount if you have to use it to escape from zip ties or rope.

Click here to watch a video of me using paracord to escape rope. You can also get a free paracord keychain when you click on the blue link.

![Paracord Keychain](image.jpg)

**Handcuff Key**

I carry a handcuff key on my keychain in case I’m ever illegally handcuffed. I also keep a handcuff key inside my Escape & Evasion Gun Belt. Handcuff keys are legal to carry and I’ve flown all over with mine and have never had a problem.

They are inexpensive and you can check out the ones I use here at our Spy Store.

If you choose to practice learning how to escape handcuffs, first make sure you always have a key with you, and second make sure you use real cuffs such as the Smith & Wesson Model 100 handcuffs.
$300 in cash

If you ever find yourself in a tight spot, a little bit of cash can get you out of a jam. I recommend having around $300 in cash with several twenties and at least one, $100 bill. If you’re ever in trouble and you flash that $100 bill it will likely motivate someone to help you out.

Also, if you travel overseas then you absolutely need cash on you for emergency purposes. I know of numerous people (including myself) who have used cash to get out of some crazy situations.

In fact, here’s an article I wrote about how having cash on me possibly kept me out of a foreign jail and how I dealt with corrupt police overseas...

In short, I was in a foreign country with someone who had just gotten us in a jam. I could have killed this person for doing something stupid because I was now standing in front of two police officers.

After a bit of talking, one of the officers started to grab me and tell me he was taking me down to the police station.
Needless to say, going to jail in a foreign country is pretty much the last place you want to be. Thankfully, by doing exactly what I’m about to share with you, I was able to get out of the jam and leave the area even though my wallet was $50 lighter.

Before I continue, I want to make it clear that I’m talking about using bribery only in dire circumstances. I would never condone bribing the police here in the U.S. because things will not end well for you and you will likely go to jail.

However, if you’re in Mexico and you have to bribe the police in order to keep yourself out of a Mexican prison then I’m all for it in order to keep you safe.

The scenarios where you may have to bribe the police overseas can vary. Perhaps, you get pulled over for a moving violation or maybe the police see that you’re an American and they simply want to hassle you. Whatever situation you find yourself in, here is the “right” way to bribe the police.

First, you would never say something like, “Officer, what’s it going to cost me to get out of this?” You would also never whip out a huge wad of cash and start peeling back bills while looking at the officer.
Even though the police are corrupt, they’ll still be royally ticked off if you make it clear you’re trying to bribe them.

Instead, what you want to do is play the dumb and apologetic American.

You want to apologize over and over for your mistake and be as nice as you can be about it. Then, (and these are the key words to use) you want to say to the police officer, “I’m so sorry and I’m sure there is a fine I have to pay for this, how do I go about paying it?”

This is exactly what I did in the situation I mentioned above and the police officer said there was a $50 fine and I could just take care of it with him. (Little did he know, I would have paid a lot more than that to get out of there.) I handed the officer $50 and was able to continue on my way.

The good news is, even if the police officer won’t take any cash from you it won’t appear as if you’re trying to bribe him. If you ask him if there’s a fine to pay and he says yes and tells you that you have to go to the court house (or somewhere else) then at least you know you have to pay a fine and how to pay it.

Hopefully, you never find yourself overseas in a situation that requires you to “pay a fine” to corrupt police, but if you do, you now know what to say to get you on your way and keep you out of any foreign jails.
I have several pocket flashlights from brands such as O-Light and SureFire. I also have a small Photon LED light with a red beam that goes on my keychain.

Since there are numerous flashlight companies, just like everything else, buy a quality flashlight and don’t go cheap. Also, have flashlights everywhere, from your car, all over your house, and on your person.

To give you an example of how important a flashlight is, here’s an article written by my business partner Tom Lavin. Tom and I are partners in our corporate business, Global Protection and Intelligence.
How I Safely Got Jay Z Out of a Club
By Thomas Lavin

The club was packed as we backed Jay Z into the corner of a dark VIP Room. The other protection agents and I were spread out in an attempt to keep the growing crowd behind the makeshift space designated for his personal appearance. I remember one agent making eye contact with someone in the crowd. He reached out and pulled a tall gentleman across the line and into our sanctioned off area.

Another gentleman immediately came up behind him yelling, “Why does he get in there and I don’t?” The agent looked the guest square in the eye and said “when you start playing for the Chicago Bulls, you let me know and I will let you right in.” The response after that was not appropriate for me to repeat in this correspondence. Over a short period of time the crowd grew and the tension rose. We attempted to keep the increasing number of people at bay as Ashley, Jay’s road manager at the time, informed us that our egress was eminent. In protection agent terms, that basically meant we were getting the heck out of Dodge.

The same frustrated gentleman became a primary boisterous instigator in the crowd. The club actually brought three in house security guys up to help us maintain the integrity of the VIP space. As soon as one agent stepped away from the crowd, the outspoken gentleman popped under the roped off section that defined the outer border of our safe zone.

Jay and I stepped in between him and the advancing guest. The guest already “had drama” with the first agent so my job was to de-escalate the situation as an objective third party. The intruder was not having any of it. When I asked if I could be of assistance he informed me that he was going to “have a drink with Jay.” When I informed him that it was a private party and he needed to go back to the club area he looked me up and down and commented, “What you gonna do? I ain’t no shorty!”

He repeated over and over, “I ain’t no shorty.” Each shout grew louder in volume and in intensity. The gentleman began to advance with a chest bump in what seemed an attempt to close the distance between himself and Jay Z. I glanced back over my shoulder and saw Jay was on his feet and walking behind another bodyguard toward the private entrance we had previously
designated for egress. I pulled my Tactical Flashlight from its holster and shined it in the gentleman’s face. With a loud direct shout, I said “Hey, that is enough. Let me see your driver’s license.” He stopped for just a moment, his face went blank and I stepped away to the open door that our team had just gone through. I looked through the gap as the door closed in front of me and saw the gentleman still trying to regain his focus.

I remember laughing in relief as I recalled the altercation. I thought for a moment that I was going to have to physically engage the offender. Thankfully, we were able to get the job done without any physical confrontation because a bright light broke the darkness of the nightclub for just enough time to disorient a potential aggressor. The light went off and I was gone before the guy knew what happened. I don’t even think he knew where we went.

With more than twenty-five years of experience in the investigative, intelligence and protection industry, one of the most underestimated tools is the tactical flashlight. Many security professionals seem to shy away from flashlights because they don’t like being called “flashlight cop” or “rent a cop” or something negative. But the fact is, a professional bodyguard thinks with a strategic agenda that places physical violence as a very last resort and uses everything, including his flashlight, at his disposal. This particular instance with Jay Z at a nightclub after-party is exactly the kind of proactive strategy that could be valuable to you in everyday life.

With a small amount of training, you can learn to effectively use this tactical light. Personally, as a regular citizen walking down the street having a high-powered light has been helpful on many occasions. The light can be a distraction, attract attention, help find something you dropped and can be deployed as a tool to strike or leverage pressure points. People borrow my light regularly for random issues.

The bottom line is, the tactical flashlight is highly underrated as a tool in the hands of a protective agent or anyone who wants to keep themself safer.
The Tactical Pen is my favorite self-defense tool and I keep it clipped to my right, pants pocket at all times.

There are places I can’t bring a knife or a gun, but my Tactical Pen goes everywhere with me. I’ve flown all over the world with it and have been in highly secure government buildings with it as well.

The fact is, most of us carry a pen around anyways so it might as well be a pen that you can use to defend yourself.

In fact, check out this note on the next page that I received from a fellow in Florida...
"Jason, thank you, thank you, thank you. You saved my life about 45 minutes ago. I pulled into my regular fuel station just down the street from my house tonight, and went in to pay for my fuel. When I came out a car had pulled in behind my vehicle and was blaring their music loud. As I pumped fuel I noticed that the person behind the wheel of the vehicle behind mine was obviously high. He was sitting in his car laughing, then crying, then laughing, etc.

Suddenly he became irate, got out of his vehicle, and started trying to pick a fight with someone. I called the police but before they could get there he had gotten back in his car and hit the back of my vehicle. He then got back out and came at me. Thank you for the tip on the tactical pen. I pulled the tactical pen from my pocket as he came forward, warned him not to get any closer, then, I had to use it. He reeled like he was struck by a snake and I was able to get off of the X. Thank you. I owe my health, and possibly my life, to you tonight."

~Justin Lalone, Lakeland, FL

For full details about the Tactical Pen I carry daily (including pictures and videos) visit www.TacticalSpyPen.com.
About the Author

Jason R. Hanson is a former CIA Officer and security specialist.

He’s the author of the New York Times bestseller Spy Secrets That Can Save Your Life.

He's also an Eagle Scout (Troop 826, Oakton, VA).

Jason's appeared on numerous television shows, including ABC's Shark Tank, the NBC's Today Show, Fox & Friends, and the Rachael Ray Show.

Jason's unique safety and survival training has helped people thwart kidnapping, stop home invasions, and prevent a number of other crimes. To contact Jason about training or speaking opportunities visit www.SpyEscape.com.