

Chain Saw Pack:

One of those nice-and-easy do-it yourself projects!

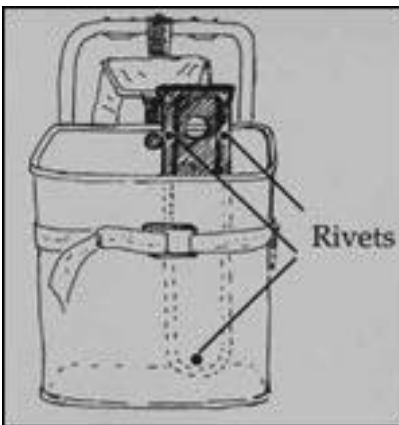
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Did you ever wish that you could carry your chain saw safely on your back instead of at the end of your aching fingers? Here's a pack that I have found useful for carrying chain saw, wrench, chaps, wedges, gas, bar oil, *etc.*, for miles on the Trail. In addition, this rig keeps everything together so that you don't get started on your job only to find that you've forgotten something. (The pack is not big enough for a logging helmet; you must carry that on your head.)

Basically, it's a "freighter" pack with the bottom part of a 5-gallon gasoline can strapped to it. The saw is held vertically by a standard plastic scabbard, which is bolted -or riveted- to the can. This way, the saw can be removed without disturbing anything in the pack, and the weight of the power head is balanced high on the pack for easy carrying.

The pack frame is military surplus, although any sturdy frame with a bottom shelf could be adapted to this purpose. The can is a standard steel "Jerry can" with the top part cut off using a hacksaw. After smoothing the rough edge with file and sandpaper, repaint the can to match your saw or protective helmet.

If you can't obtain the materials for construction of this pack locally, they can be ordered from Mass Army Navy, phone 1-800-343-7749. (Not cheap!)



ALICE frame	MEB 064	\$29.95
Shoulder Straps	MBB 018	\$17.95
Hip Belt	MBB 832	\$12.95
Gas Can	MEB 259	\$34.95

Now comes the tricky part. You can't use just any bolts to attach the scabbard to the inside of the can. The bolts must have a flat head to avoid catching on the saw teeth and dulling them. Two bolts at the top and one at the bottom are probably sufficient, as illustrated. "Pop" rivets could also be used by drilling an access hole in the face of the scabbard for the rivet tool. Use the 3/16" rivets with a 3/8" access hole. Don't use the smaller rivets; they're not strong enough. Run the scabbard all the way to the bottom of the can for extra strength. The holes in the scabbard and the can must be very carefully aligned and drilled. I would recommend use of a template to avoid frustration during assembly.

A quart can of fuel-oil mix and a pint plastic bottle of bar oil are probably sufficient for most Trail projects. A file doesn't weigh much and can be a lifesaver if you accidentally hit a rock.

--Pete Rentz, AMC-Berkshire Chapter