

Henry Goldkamp

American DIY

As an alternative method of distressing your denims, boil them in extravagance, cayenne, and heaps of bay leaf for about 20 minutes. Salt to taste. Men, instead of whistling it, will inhale their desire.

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Rather than build a time machine, walk your city and pick up any pay phone. Hold it to the summer of your ear. Picture the past or the future in your mind's eye—whichever concerns you most. Whisper *I'm ready*. This is the next best thing.

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Next time you find yourself praying, write each word out onto spare bricks. Compose your prayer into a temple. Smash it with the family sledgehammer.

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In the fast food restaurants you frequent, refrain from driving through. Instead, go inside, order, then use the rest room. Black out the bathroom mirrors with black paint. Enjoy your soft tacos not knowing what you look like. If no paint is available, drink alcohol excessively for similar results. Burritos are meaningless.

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If you are fascinating enough to think of white guilt as victimhood, go tanning.

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How to become an American prophet: Before sleeping, quickly eat a pint of Ben and Jerry's Chocolate Chip Cookie Dough as you watch recent comedy movies. Wash that down with the myth of White Cherry Gatorade and an all-natural Whole Foods popsicle. Leave the television on, the spoon in the carton as you sleep. This constitutes a shrine. The dead will storm your visions to find you. The best remember their warnings and treat the next day as a type of wake.

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Take an old toilet paper tube and douse its insides with super glue. Collect the shards of cognac bottles you've broken while arguing about the future of your various relationships. Fill the tube with them, and place it over every candle in your apartment. The flames will go out.

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Register the domain objectifywomen.org and offer a new metaphorical quote each day based on the archived wisdom of female-identified authors, politicians, activists, playwrights, actors, princesses, queens, and CFOs. Finance this through women's rights groups. Begin with: "Women are the largest untapped reservoir of talent in the world." —Hillary Clinton.

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Before taking home your Tinder date, gently remove all the USED stickers off of the spines of your college textbooks in order to make it seem like you chose education for yourself.

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This is an idea for anyone wishing to resist capitalism. Purchase a flight from Detroit to JFK. Be patient in the line for Budget rental cars. Drive your Hyundai Elantra to Unilever Corporate Headquarters in Englewood Cliffs, New Jersey. Request to see the head of I Can't Believe It's Not Butter. Once seated in

his fine office, take out a plain white sheet of computer paper. Crumple it up and stuff it in your mouth. To the best of your ability, whisper to the worker taking out a small trash liner, *I can't believe it's not money.*

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When an abandoned school is set for demolition, paint its entire façade blue, leaving a note on the contractor's sign: *I read somewhere that blue breeds creativity. I wish you were more creative, and I'm breaking up with you.* If on a budget, blue viewfinders will do. If immobile, picturing such a school is fine, too.

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For interracial couples with young children, fashion a mock thumb out of a dishwashing glove. Gently paint it the color of your baby's belly. Slip it on to fully dupe the child when playing Got Your Nose.

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With old Sprite two-liters, cut out a mask to wear over your face whenever you're feeling ugly. The transparent green plastic will encourage strangers to come up, ask you to take it off, and compliment you. Organize these results in a notebook. So far, "You look like a lawnmower that has been asked to make a smoothie" takes the cake.

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When having fun at nightclubs, be brave and respectfully approach the person you are most attracted to. Next, determine if they are male, female, or neither. One technique involves challenging the person to a push-up contest. If they understand, you are in luck. This means they are not extraterrestrial aliens, and you can continue your pursuit without notifying the government.

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Go to the contemporary arts center of your respective city, push open its thick glass entrance. Find the section with the crispest books. Browse, pick the one that intimidates you most in content, graphic design, or color. Rub this on your wrist until you feel a burning sensation and see if you understand what's inside the book, you, or both. If this worries an attendant, order a coffee. Be on your way.

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Mark your travels of the United States map by cigarette butts you pick up in the cities you've been to. The stink will save you money, in that you'll wish to travel less.

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Though illegal, it is pleasant to transform your father's Prius into a police cruiser of a future of your choosing. For example, mounting emergency lights that glow soft pink hues, reminding citizens of an unattainable, grandmotherly kindness. For example, softly playing Stravinsky's *The Firebird* in lieu of sirens. For example, approaching the driver's side window with an affable gait, explaining, "I'm here to ensure you live forever."