

## How To Make Char Cloth Tutorial.

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**WARNING: The gasses given off in this process are flammable; also this process produces a lot of smoke and should only be done outside.**

The aim of this tutorial is to give you an insight in how to make Char cloth. For this you will need the following:

- A suitable retort with an airtight lid (an old coffee can is ideal).
- Cotton (pillow cases, t shirt, light weight denim).
- Fire or BBQ.
- A twig.

The first thing to do is punch a hole in the lid of the retort, slightly smaller than the diameter of the twig, the twig will be pushed into this hole to finish off the burning process. I made my hole the same size and had to use mud to seal the aperture round the twig.



My retort showing the hole in the lid.

Now you need the material you intend to burn, the lighter weight the material the faster it will burn. Now you need to tightly pack the material into the retort, the key here is to tightly pack the material together. Air space in the tin isn't too much of a problem but air space in the material is. The slower the material can burn the better quality the char. Now put the lid on firmly. You can blow this principle up to make your own charcoal for your BBQ if you have enough space and time.



Material tightly rolled ready to go into retort.



Material packed into retort.

Now for the fun and second critical bit, the controlled burn. Heat is the key, flame is not, so you can do it on a BBQ after you have finished cooking, just make sure you have enough fuel to keep the process going.

I found arranging the can at 45 deg. was ideal as it kept the hole out of the flame and allowed the smoke to be seen against the fence, as you need to see the smoke the cloth produces. You will need to rotate the retort periodically to ensure all the cloth inside the retort burns. **IF AT ANY POINT YOU HEAR THE A ROARING SOUND RUN A STICK OR OTHER DISPOSABLE OBJECT INFRONT OF THE HOLE IN THE LID AS THE GASSES PRODUCED BY THIS PROCESS ARE ON FIRE AND SHOULD NOT BE ALLOWED TO BURN. YOU WANT SMOKE NOT FLAME.**

When all the material has burn smoke will no longer be produced and this is your cue to take the retort off the heat and insert the stick into the hole in the lid and leave the whole lot to cool somewhere dry. Now open the retort and extract the char cloth and use at will.



Plug in after burning



The torn up result of a successful burn

Congratulations, you have just made your first batch of char cloth.