

4. With knife and sticks, shape 2 strips of wood 1 by 1/8 by 1-«. Tie the wood strips to the lead or carbon rods so that they are 1-« inches apart.
5. Connect the rods to the battery in a motor vehicle with the insulated wire.
6. Submerge 4-« inches of the rods in the salt water solution.
7. With gear in neutral position, start the vehicle engine. Depress the accelerator approx. 1/5 of its full travel.
8. Run the engine with the accelerator in this position for 2 hours, then shut it down for 2 hours.
9. Repeat this cycle for a total of 64 hours while maintaining the level of the acid-salt water solution in the glass jar.

CAUTION: This arrangement employs voltages which can be quite dangerous!  
Do not touch bare wire leads while engine is running!!

10. Shut off the engine. Remove the rods from the glass jar and disconnect wire leads from the battery.
11. Filter the solution through the heavy cloth into a flat pan or tray, leaving the sediment at the bottom of the glass jar.
12. Allow the water in the filtered solution to evaporate at room temperature (approx. 16 hours). The residue is approximately 60% or more sodium chlorate which is pure enough to be used as an explosive ingredient.

### **131. Mercury Fulminate by the Jolly Roger**

Mercury Fulminate is used as a primary explosive in the fabrication of detonators. It is to be used with a booster explosive such as picric acid or RDX (which are elsewhere in this Cookbook).

#### **Material Required:**

- Nitric Acid, 90% conc. (1.48 sp. gr)
- Mercury
- Ethyl (grain) alcohol (90%)
- Filtering material [Paper Towels]
- Teaspoon measure (–, «, and 1 tsp. capacity)-aluminum, stainless steel or wax coated
- Heat Source
- Clean wooden stick
- Clean water
- Glass containers
- Tape
- Syringe

#### **Source of Nitric Acid:**

- Elsewhere in this Cookbook
- Industrial metal processors

#### **Source of Mercury:**

- Thermometers
- Mercury switches
- Old radio tubes

#### **Procedure:**

1. Dilute 5 teaspoons of nitric acid with 2-« teaspoons of clean water in a glass container by adding the acid to the water.
2. Dissolve 1/8 teaspoon of mercury in the diluted nitric acid. This will yield dark red fumes. NOTE: It may be necessary to add water, on drop at a time, to the mercury-acid solution in order to start a reaction.
  - CAUTION: Acid will burn skin and destroy clothing. If any is spilled, wash it away with a large quantity of water. Do NOT inhale fumes!
3. Warm 10 teaspoons of the alcohol in a container until the alcohol feels warm to the inside of the wrist.
4. Pour the meta-acid solution into the warm alcohol. Reaction should start in less than 5 minutes. Dense white fumes will be given off during the reaction. As time lapses, the fumes will become less dense. Allow 10 to 15 minutes to complete reaction. Fulminate will settle to the bottom.
  - CAUTION: This reaction generates large quantities of toxic, flammable fumes. The process MUST be conducted outdoors or in a well-ventilated area, away from sparks or open flames. DO NOT inhale fumes!
5. Filter the solution through a paper towel into a container. Crystals may stick to the side of the container. If so, tilt and squirt water down the sides of the container until all of the material collects on the filter paper.
6. Wash the crystals with 6 teaspoons of ethyl alcohol.
7. Allow these mercury fulminate crystals to air dry.