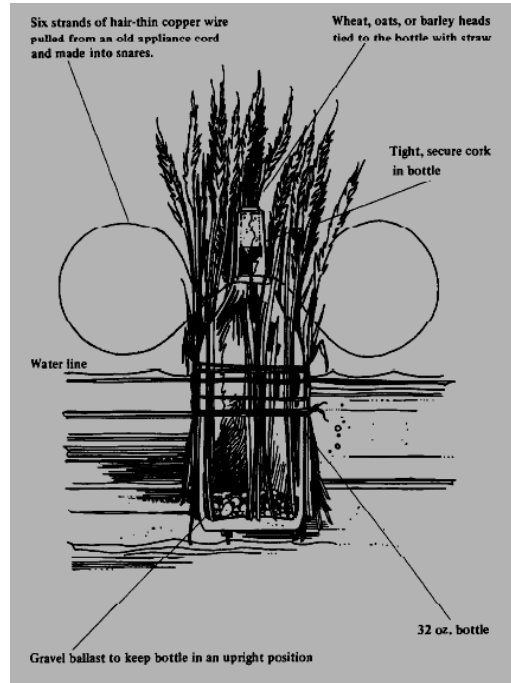
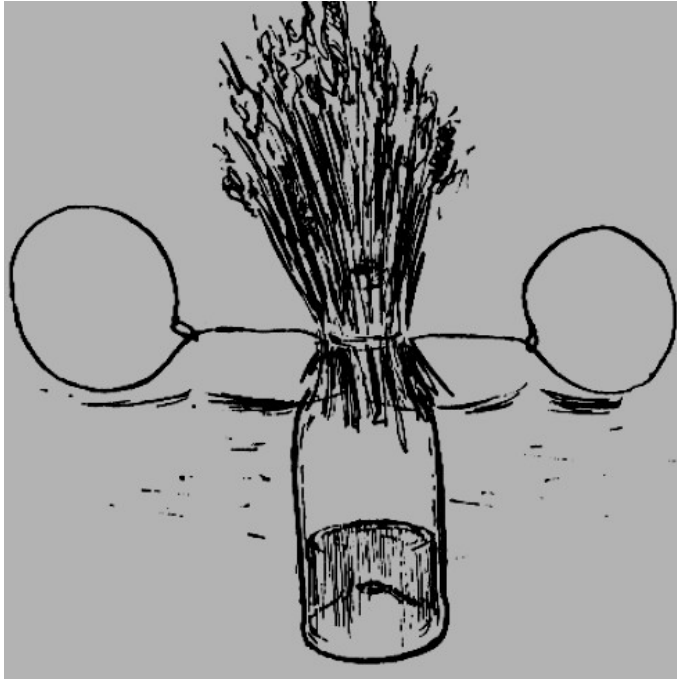


A Long-Term Survival Guide – How To Make Bottle Traps:

In a survival situation, discarded bottles can be used to make several types of improvised traps.

Almost anywhere you look, you can find abandoned containers, such as glass bottles, plastic bottles, aluminum cans, and steel cans, and each of these discards has several potential uses, for long-term survival. Here is one way to make an improvised floating duck trap, from a bottle:



Duck Trap: These traps are floating snares, that use a bottle as the float, and grain as the bait.



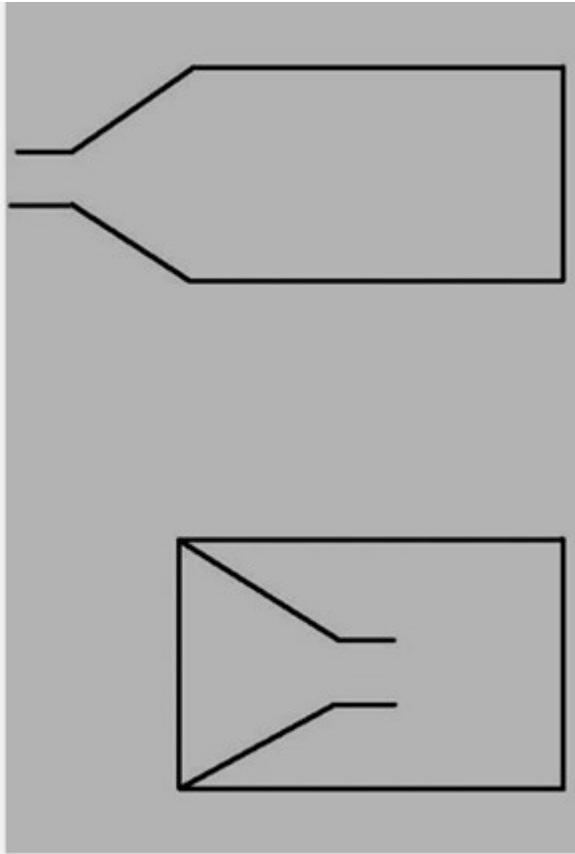
I tie cordage to my bottles in a crude net pattern, before adding the wire snares, but this is optional.



(If you are using glass bottles and don't have any corks, you can make wooden plugs from sticks.) Add a few handfuls of sand or gravel to the bottle, to make it float upright, then tie some grain (a sheaf of wheat, or sorghum heads) to the bottle as the bait. In this example I used a local berry that the birds really seem to like, but even dead grasshoppers (tied to some leaf stalks) make good bait.



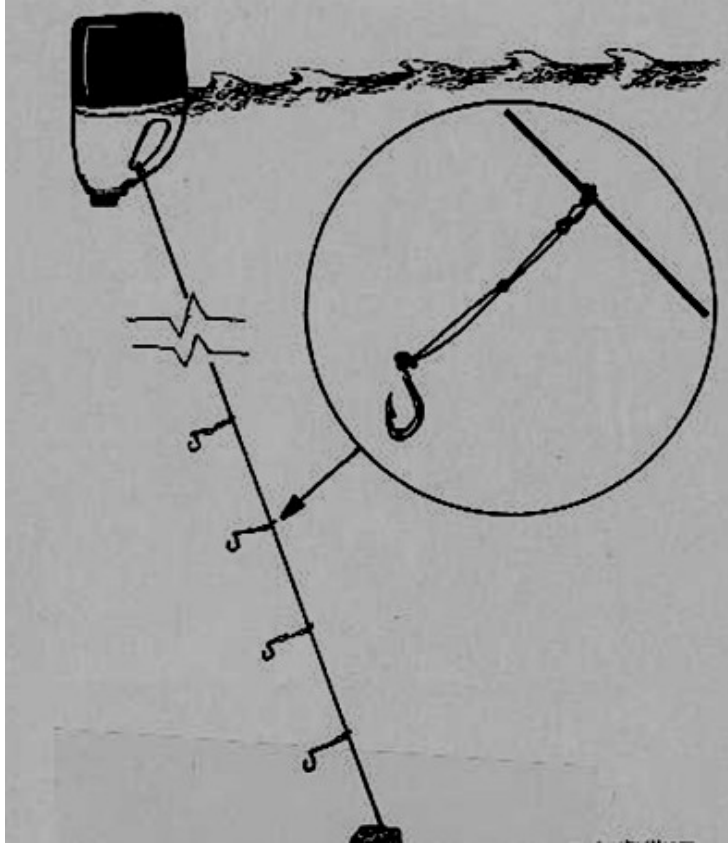
Water can be added to the bottle as needed, to make it float at the optimum height. I always tie my traps to the shoreline with cordage so that trapped ducks can't swim off with them, and a rock on a cord can be used as an anchor to keep the trap in the best spot. In rivers, set traps in any calm pool. The trap will tend to spin around, as ducks nibble at the bait, making the wire snares very effective. Ducks feel safer on the water, and will almost always investigate what seems to be an easy meal.



Minnow Traps: Almost any plastic bottle or jug can be made into an improvised minnow trap, by cutting off the top, and reversing it into the body of the bottle, as shown. Minnows can be cooked and eaten, or they can be used as bait to catch larger fish, or animals such as ducks and raccoons.



A better version of the minnow trap is made with two bottles, by cutting off the bottom of one, and the top of the other, and arranging them as shown. It makes removing the trapped minnows easier. Minnow traps should be baited with dead bugs, crumbs, pet food or entrails from previous catches. I let these traps float on the surface of waters where minnows live, tethered to shore with cordage.



Jug Fishing: If you have any fish hooks, you can use a bottle or jug as a float for “jug fishing”, which is also sometimes called a “vertical trotline”. Just tie cordage between the jug and an anchor stone, and then add baited hooks (on short side-lines) at intervals, like a regular horizontal trotline. I like to tether the jug to shore with cordage, so that large fish can’t swim off with the trap.

A similar trap is a long stick, with a bottle float tied to each end, and hooks on short cords tied at intervals along the stick. I call it a trot-stick. One end is tied to an anchor stone on a cord, and the other end is tethered to shore, like the vertical trotline.



Finally, fish hooks baited with grasshoppers, minnows, or small frogs will catch ducks, whether they are tied to a rope staked to the ground, like in this illustration, or tied to floats on the water. But all of these techniques are probably illegal in normal times, so use for survival situations only.