container, because of its tendency to pick up water from the air. The crystals formed in the above process would have to be heated VERY gently to drive off the remaining water.

197.Black Powder III **by Exodus**

First made by the Chinese for use in fireworks, black powder was first used in weapons and explosives in the 12th century. It is very simple to make, but it is not very powerful or safe. Only about 50% of black powder is converted to hot gasses when it is burned; the other half is mostly very fine burned particles. Black powder has one major problem... it can be ignited by static electricity. This is very bad, and it means that the material must be made with wooden or clay tools. Anyway, a misguided individual could manufacture black powder at home with the following procedure:

MATERIALS:
- Potassium Nitrate (75 g) -or- Sodium Nitrate (75 g)
- Sulfur (10 g)
- Charcoal (15 g)
- Distilled Water

EQUIPMENT:
- Clay grinding bowl and clay grinder -or- wooden salad bowl and wooden spoon
- Plastic Bags (3)
- 300-500 mL Beaker (1)
- Coffee Pot or Heat Source

1.Place a small amount of the potassium or sodium nitrate in the grinding bowl and grind it to a very fine powder. Do this to all of the potassium or sodium nitrate, and store the ground powder in one of the plastic bags.
2.Do the same thing to the sulfur and charcoal, storing each chemical in a separate plastic bag.
3.Place all of the finely ground potassium or sodium nitrate in the beaker, and add just enough boiling water to the chemical to get it all wet.
4.Add the contents of the other plastic bags to the wet potassium or sodium nitrate, and mix them well for several minutes. Do this until there is no more visible sulfur or charcoal, or until the mixture is universally black.
5.On a warm sunny day, put the beaker outside in the direct sunlight. Sunlight is really the best way to dry black powder, since it is never too hot, but it is hot enough to evaporate the water.
6.Scrape the black powder out of the beaker, and store it in a safe container. Plastic is really the safest container, followed by paper. Never store black powder in a plastic bag, since plastic bags are prone to generate static electricity.

198.NitroCellulose **by Exodus**

Nitrocellulose is usually called "gunpowder" or "guncotton". It is more stable than black powder, and it produces a much greater volume of hot gas. It also burns much faster than black powder when it is in a confined space. Finally, nitrocellulose is fairly easy to make, as outlined by the following procedure:

MATERIALS:
- Cotton (Cellulose)
- Concentrated Nitric Acid
- Concentrated Sulfuric Acid
- Distilled Water

EQUIPMENT:
- Two (2) 200-300 mL Beakers
- Funnel and Filter Paper
- Blue Litmus Paper

1.Pour 10 cc of concentrated sulfuric acid into the beaker. Add to this 10 cc of concentrated nitric acid.
2.Immediately add 0« gm of cotton, and allow it to soak for exactly 3 minutes.
3.Remove the nitrocotton, and transfer it to a beaker of distilled water to wash it in.
4.Allow the material to dry, and then re-wash it.
5.After the cotton is neutral when tested with litmus paper, it is ready to be dried and stored.

199.RDX II **by Exodus**

RDX, also called Cyclonite, or composition G-1 (when mixed with plasticisers) is one of the most valuable of all military explosives. This is because it has more than 150% of the power of TNT, and is much easier to detonate. It should not be used alone, since it can be set off by a not-too severe shock. It is less sensitive than Mercury Fulminate or Nitroglycerin, but it is still too sensitive to be used alone.