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How to buy your kit as cheaply as possible.

Tjin

- Gear reviews and tests -



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Description :

Some simple tricks and tips to get your things as cheaply as possible.

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How to buy your kit as cheaply as possible.

How to buy your equipment as cheaply as possible.

Outdoor and survival equipment can be very expensive and may not be affordable to many people. I'm one of them, as a poor student I can not pay retail price for all my equipment, because I simply don't have enough cash to do so. So here are a few tips and tricks to get your equipment for a lot lower price, but remember when buying things, there is a learning curve. Your preference may change over time, so expect that some kit won't be a keeper. Consider selling them to collect money to buy your replacement.

The basic steps to buy things cheaply:

- ▶ Be properly informed; this way you won't spend money on the wrong and/or cheap stuff. So read loads and loads of reviews on the particular equipment.
- ▶ If there is a free source, use it!
- ▶ be patient, not all the wanted equipment will be on sale at the same time.
- ▶ be flexible when it comes down to the brand and models. When the sales starts, your favorite kit will not always be on sale. So don't look at brands or models, but look at your needs. Think of the specifications it should meet, but don't be too picky on those either or else you will never find it. Look at the prices of all the kit that meet those specifications; remember them.
- ▶ Now when you finally have the specification of all the kit in your head, go to discount stores or any other kind of store that might possibly have these pieces of equipment on sale, but don't forget the internet and used goods advertising boards, etc. Look for things that meet those specifications, are highly discounted and a lot cheaper than its alternatives. Don't forget to calculate S&H costs if you order them from the web. Check for any damages or missing parts if possible, things aren't much good if it's too damaged or missing vital parts.
- ▶ Than try to negotiate an even lower price, than buy it.

Do I have it already? What do you already got? Why buy something you already got, right? So empty those attics, garages and other places you have old stuff stored and look for the bits and piece that might be handy. Don't just look what it is, but also what it can be! A shower curtain is not just that, but also a tarp with eyelets already mounted on one side!

Used goods Garage's sells, car boot sells, internet sites or any other form of second hand places are great places to find equipment for very little money. Since you're usually talking to the owner of the stuff you can negotiate.

Discount supermarkets For the Europeans: Discount supermarkets will often have good piece of equipment on special offer for very good prices. Look on there website every week to look what they are offering next week. If you see anything interesting, go on the day the offers starts in the morning. This way most of the stuff is still there and you will have more chance of finding the right size or model. Buy the things you need, nothing more. But buy enough, because it will take a long time before they are on offer again. Remember you can always return it, if you leave the package intact.

Group buys Why pay retail prices if you can pay less? There are websites and (sub) forums on the internet dedicated on group buys. It's very simple, find a source for the kit and look for loads and loads of other people who are also interested. Buy lots at once and demand discount.

Friends Having friends that buys new kit all the time and sells off there "old" stuff for a lower price has proven to be a very good inexpensive course. Also a great source for some exclusive things, that is normally hard to get in most places. Finding these friends is a little harder, though.

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Freebies Need matches, lighters and a pen? Why buy? Go to local promo events and you will be loaded with promo stuff. Often included are pens, lighters, matches, etc. No not always the highest quality, but if they work reliably, why not? Don't have any promo events locally? Get your free matches at the local bar and free wet tissues, free napkins and packages of salt and pepper at your local (fast) food joints! No I'm not saying you should raid those places, just grab a few extra when you're there already.

Dumpsters Dumpster diving for outdoor materials is usually pretty useless, just a cheap poly tarp once in awhile.