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Hot to Spot Bad Guys – concealed weapon giveaways

Categories : [Uncategorized](#)

Tagged as : [concealed weapon](#), [prevention](#), [self defensespot criminal](#)



**LOOK LIKE YOU'RE PACKING BUT
DON'T LOOK LIKE YOU'RE PACKING**

INTRODUCING THE NEW
BULGE
H O L S T E R

FLEXIBLE SHAFT
ALLOWS PLACEMENT
AT ANY ANGLE!

*Sometimes it's
Great to Print!*

I like spotting Bad Guys **before** any trouble starts (in case you [hadn't noticed](#)). Life is much easier if you know in advance what trouble is heading your way.

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One of the ways to spot a Bad Guy is to watch for someone carrying a concealed weapon. There are only 2 conclusions to draw if you spot someone carrying a concealed weapon

- this is a Bad Guy; or
- this is a Good Guy

If the guy walks up to you, assume he's a BG. If he leaves you alone, could be either.

Spotting concealed weapons

Once you know what to look for when checking for weapons, you can use this knowledge in 2 ways: Preventatively when scanning people in Fringe Areas; Or, you can scan anybody that approaches you to check if there are any weapons giveaways (someone walking up to you in a [Fringe Area](#) who is shifting something on his waist = BAD NEWS).

So today I present a “spotting concealed weapons” chart that I cribbed off the [Gentlemint.com website](#):

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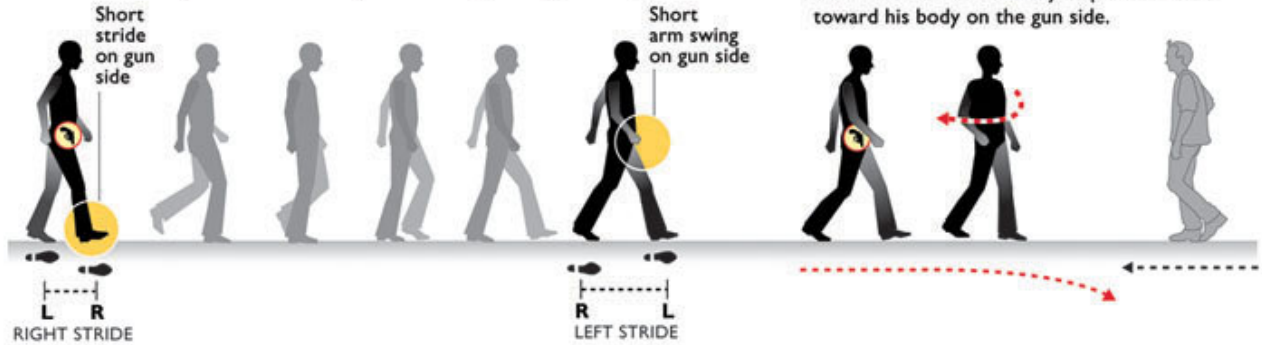
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Spotting a hidden handgun

ASYMMETRICAL GAIT

A gun in a right-hand pocket or tucked into the right side of a waistband may hinder leg movement on that side, making the right stride shorter than the left.

A slightly clipped arm swing may also signal a hidden gun: the forearm on the gun side will tend to stay close to the body, instinctively guarding the weapon.



UPPER BODY SHIFT

When approached from the front, a person with a hidden gun will instinctively turn the gun side of his body away from the person approaching, and may veer to that side to avoid a face-to-face encounter. He is also likely to pull his arm in toward his body on the gun side.

A QUICK ADJUSTMENT

A gun's weight is distributed unevenly, with more of its weight in the grip than in the barrel. Vertical motion — like descending stairs or stepping onto a curb — tends to shift the barrel upward. A quick, circular movement of the hand or forearm adjusts the gun's position.



RUNNING FROM THE RAIN

When running toward shelter from rain, or across a busy street, a person concealing a gun is likely to brace the weapon with an arm or hand.



CONSPICUOUS CLOTHING

Garments worn to conceal weapons often appear odd, mismatched, or out of season, and can actually draw attention to a person trying to avoid scrutiny. A closer look may reveal movements or other characteristic signs of a hidden handgun.

JACKET FITS UNEVENLY

One side hangs lower than the other, and swings like a pendulum with each step

HAND RESTS ON GUN

Hand constantly feels for gun through clothing

HOLSTER BULGES

A holstered gun appears as a lump when arms are extended or when the body bends at the waist

STYLES DON'T MATCH

Oversized or mismatched coat seems incompatible with other clothing

CLOTHES DON'T SUIT WEATHER

A coat is open in cold weather, for quick access to a gun ... or closed in hot weather, to conceal one



Source: Robert T. Gallagher, former detective, Anti-Robbery Tactical Unit, New York City Police Department

Megan Jaegerman

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Obviously there are no guarantees that someone concealing a weapon will display any of these behaviours, but this knowledge (and the will to apply it) stacks the deck in your favour, and against the BG's favour.

I don't put much stock in the "uneven gait" example, simply because I see so many people walking around with bad body mechanics (and stiff legs and injuries and pains) that it's the exception to see someone with an even gait.

For me, the 3 I look for the most are the **quick adjustment**, the **bulge**, and the **hand rests on gun** (and I know that I'm very guilty of the **Running from the rain** giveaway when I run around with my kids). I will be making a point of looking for the other giveaways, even if it's just for extra practice. I think I'll start with looking for people with pants that sag more to one side than the other (thanks [Gentlemint](#)).