Print your own from zines.headingnorther.com!
@headingnorther

headingnorther@gmail.com

©️ $️ $$$

August 7th 2020
From southeastman and headingnorther

Why you should consider dressing in black with your closest pals

Complete with tips and tricks and unsolicited advice!

Warning: highly condensed history. Consider diluting with further reading:
Citations:

1. Crimethink, "Bloks, Black and Otherwise"
2. Autonomous Resistance, "Can't Stop Kaos: A Brief History of the Black Bloc"
3. T. Ordelman, Squatters in Kreuzberg, 1981, Wikimedia Commons
6. Crimethink, "Bloks, Black and Otherwise"
7. Autonomous Resistance, "Can't stop Kaos...
8. Autonomous Resistance, "Can't Stop Kaos...
9. B. Keiser, Demonstrators don sea turtle costumes 1999
10. Autonomous Resistance, "Can't Stop Kaos...
11. K. Desouki, 2013, Getty Images
13. Crimethink, "Bloks, Black and Otherwise"
14. A. Kwan, Hong Kongers Protest, June 12, 2019, Getty Images
16. Crimethink, "Bloks, Black and Otherwise"
17. Crimethink, "Bloks, Black and Otherwise"
18. Crimethink, "Bloks, Black and Otherwise"
19. Crimethink, "Bloks, Black and Otherwise"
20. Crimethink, "Bloks, Black and Otherwise"

Notice any patterns? If you want to learn a lot more about the history, implementation, and impact of bloc, check out the two zines:

"Bloks, Black and Otherwise" (Crimethink)
"Can't stop Kaos: a Brief History of the Black Bloc" (Autonomous Resistance)

Both of which are a quick google away.
ACTION ITEMS

After a stressful protest, a narrow escape, or a daring action, you'll have some emotions to unpack. Being attacked by police is traumatic; talk to your protest partner and affinity group. Help each other process. Doing so will make you more effective in the long run.

**As advertised: unsolicited advice**

- Spend time with people outside of the context of actions
- Take breaks
- Quest Center is offering free mental health services & acupuncture for BIPOC protesters (as of June 19, 2020) quest-center.org
- Rosehepp Medic Collective has a collection of local resources at roseheppmedics.org/links-and-resources/local-community-resources

---

**BLOC**

- Cover face and hair
- Cover tattoos and piercings
- Carry a black bag

**TIPS**

- Use black tape to cover visible logos
- No plain black shirt? Turn one inside out
- Try a t-shirt balaclava (but wear a mask underneath to protect against COVID-19)
- Change up your BLOC often—including bag

---

**DEBLOC**

Wearing BLOC in transit makes you a target.

- Find a safe place w/out cameras to bloc up and debloc
- Colorful mask & shirt (aim for irony)
- Stow all gear
- Don't bring anything you're not willing to lose

---

BLOC curious? For a lot more info on how to do bloc right, check out the zine "Blocc, Black and Otherwise" (see citations)
**History & Purpose**

Black bloc originated in the Autonomon movement in West Berlin from 1980-81 when facing a housing crisis thousands of people squatted in abandoned buildings. It's often associated with anti-capitalist, anti-imperialist, anarchist movements — but since its popularization it has been used by diverse movements including Hong Kong pro-democracy protesters.

Over the next decade, bloc became common in Germany and then spread to the rest of the world.

Blocs are known for employing a diversity of tactics including resisting police, dispersal and property damage.

Berlin 1989: 30,000 protesters, 8,000 black bloc disrupt IMF/WB congress.

Seattle 1999: anti-WT protests mark first large black bloc in North America; national media attention.

**DOs AND DON'Ts**

**DO** spread accurate information on your social media.

**DON'T** post pics or videos of protests (best case: disrespectful, worst dangerous).

**DO** write the National Lawyers Guild PDX jail line on your body before you head out.

**DON'T** bring your phone to protests — or at least turn off face/fingerprint unlocking.

**DO** have a protest buddy.

**DON'T** talk to your non-protesting friends and families about specific protest activities.

**DO** come up with an easy-to-hear nickname to use in bloc.

**DON'T** introduce yourself with your real name.

**DON'T** talk to friends & family about abortion, protests, racism...

**DO** establish clearly defined limits with them: are you comfortable defying lawful orders? Being tear gassed? Getting arrested?

**DON'T** point your phone at the cops. Consider delaying your stream by ~30 min to complicate their response.

**DO** talk to friends & family about abortion, protests, racism...

**DON'T** livestream protests actions or Aces "PPB uses streams for intel."

**DON'T** talk to cops: an illustrated guide

I would like a lawyer. I am invoking my right to remain silent.
So You're at a Portland Protest

During a dispersal, it's easy to panic.

Don't panic.

Running is a natural response to dispersal, but it leaves people behind and can lead to trampling.

It's important to keep in touch with your affinity group and protest buddies.

For all these reasons:

walk don't run

(and don't turn your back on the riot cops)

Walk don't run

of Black Bloc

Egypt 2013:

So why should you consider bloc ing up?
- To avoid surveillance & remain anonymous.
- Even if you don't think you're breaking any laws, police are arresting people for no more than their presence at protests.

Following revolution, Black Bloc formed to protect large anti-government protests & shut down public transit.

Hong Kong 2019:

To protect others:
- If you look the same as vulnerable people (e.g., people on the front lines, people who are more marginalized), it's harder to identify them.
- It encourages widespread participation: anyone can wear black.
- It promotes unity & solidarity.

Huge black blocs battle with police, vandalize shopping malls and more in pro-democracy protests, a direct result of proposed extradition bill.
Classic black bloc:
The bloc has no singular leadership, but it does have tactical strategy.

Anyone can be part of the black bloc; much of the black bloc is very young.

Affinity groups are based on trusted friendships. Groups come together to form a large, decentralized bloc that can accomplish goals.

Mom and dad bloc are both forms of non-anonymous bloc. Other examples include chef bloc & lawyer bloc; these forms of bloc use the wearer's identity to send a public message, and the unity of bloc to show unity.

Disadvantages:
- Small groups of people in bloc can be targets for police.
- Bloc works best in environments where bloc members have a place to slip away and debloc (i.e. it works better in a city than a field).
- And it works better at actions you can leave.
- Media tends to portray bloc negatively using bloc to reach the public through these channels is difficult.

These are some of the reasons why bloc isn't used at every action.