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## 7 Ways A Newbie Paintball Player Can Learn Everything They Need

By Andrea Wilson

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Paintball is a great game for getting a lot of exercise, challenging yourself and having fun. But as a newbie, you may find yourself embarrassed because you don't know the rules, or intimidated by more experienced players. You may be hesitant to go out and play your first game because you're not sure what to expect. If you do some research first, you will quickly find that the information you need to feel a lot more comfortable and a lot less like a newbie is easily found, especially online.

But first a note of warning for all newbies...

Paintball is Not a War Game!

Many people mistakenly believe that paintball is a "war game." However, it's really more like hide-and-seek, with the marking of the opposing team being the way to tag the person out. This is especially true of recball, woodsball, jungle paintball and scenario games. It is advised that you do not refer to the opposing team as "the enemy" or a mark as a "kill"! Some communities have shut down paintball because players engaged in "war" talk during and after a game.

How to Quickly and Easily Find Useful Information About Paintball

#### 1. Research the Internet

The World Wide Web contains a vast storehouse of information on paintball. To make the best use of the Internet, search Google or Yahoo for specific paintball terms like "woodsball tactics,"

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instead of the general term "paintball." Look for sites that list paintball rules and offer hints, tips, tactics and strategy. You can also check out sites that review paintball equipment, but beware: a newbie doesn't need an expensive paintball gun to get started. Many of the expensive guns don't work any better than a good newbie gun. This is what the paintball players who wrote "Paintball Heroes" say, "If you're a newbie, buy a good quality semi-automatic gun, but don't spend a fortune on it. And for goodness sake, learn how to clean it, load it, take it apart, and put it back together again...in your sleep!"

### 2. Read Books

Go online and visit Amazon.com or BarnesAndNoble.com (Chapters.Indigo.ca in Canada). Search for books on paintball. Check out the reviewers' comments carefully before you buy. Or better yet, trot down to your local big bookstore and see if you can find copies of the paintball books you found online. Take time to browse through them and see which ones appeal to you most. Check the local prices against the prices online before you buy.

### 3. Read E-Books

You may find a few paintball e-books online, too, but these are harder to find than print books. "Paintball Heroes" at <http://www.paintballheroes.com> is a great e-book for beginners. It was written by two teenage paintball fanatics!

To find other e-books, try searching for "paintball ebook" on Google or Yahoo. Ask around in the forums and pay attention to advertisements on paintball sites.

### 4. Study the Forums

Also search for "paintball forums" and you will find experts and newbies alike sharing information about paintball equipment and strategy. However, be aware that much of the information shared on forums is misleading, if not just plain wrong. Pay attention to what is said by forum leaders and well-known players, but take everything said by anyone else with a grain of salt...or a shaker of salt, for that matter!

– Air-Powered.com (Autococker Owners Group) – <http://www.air-powered.com>

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- Atomix Paintball Forums – <http://www.atomixpaintball.com/vb>
- BSG Paintball Forums – <http://www.bsgpaintball.com/forums>
- Calgary Paintball Forums –  
<http://xtremepaintballcanada.com/calgary/forums>
- Epic Paintball Forums – <http://www.epicpaintball.com> (Click on "Forums.")
- Fat Bob's Paintball Forum –  
<http://www.fatbobsdirect.com/forum/index.php>
- Force of Nature Forums – <http://www.forceofnature.com/invision>
- New York City Paintball Forums –  
  
<http://www.nycpaintball.com/forums/index.php>
- P8ntballer–Forums.com – <http://www.p8ntballer–forums.com>
- Paintball Addict Forums – <http://www.pb–addict.com>
- PaintballArizona.com Forums –  
<http://www.paintballarizona.com/modules.php?name=Forums>
- Paintball.com Forums – <http://paintball.com/pb/forums/index.cfm>
- Paintball Central Forums – <http://www.pballcentral.com/forum>
- PaintballCow.com Forum (Oregon) –  
<http://paintballcow.ipbhost.com/index.php>
- PaintballForum.ca – <http://www.paintballforum.ca>
- PaintballForum.com – <http://www.paintballforum.com>
- PaintballForums.com – <http://www.paintballforums.com>
- PaintballForums.net – <http://www.paintballforums.net>
- Paintball–Forums.com/BGnM's Paintball Forums –  
<http://www.paintball–forums.com>
- Paintball–Guns.com – <http://www.paintball–guns.com/forums.htm>

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– Paintball In 5 Forum – [http://www.pbn5.com/paintball\\_forum](http://www.pbn5.com/paintball_forum)

– Paintball Review Forums – <http://www.paintball-review.com/forums/index.php>

– PballCanada.com – <http://forum.pballcanada.com>

– PbFreak.net Forums – <http://www.pbfreak.net>

– PbNation – <http://www.pbnation.com>

– Phoenix Paintball Forum –  
<http://www.paintballuk.com/phoenix/forum/default.asp>

– Southwest Paintball Forums (UK) –  
<http://www.southwestpaintball.co.uk/forum/index.php>

– Utah Paintball Forums – <http://www.mypaintball.com>

– Vancouver Paintball Forums –

<http://xtremepaintballcanada.com/vancouver/forums/index.php>

– WARPIG Rec Talk – <http://www.warpig.com/forums/rec>

### 5. Subscribe to Paintball Magazines

There are several good paintball magazines, both in print and online.

For print magazines, go to your local bookstore and spend some time at the magazine racks. Pick the magazine that appeals to you most and look in the front for their Web address (URL) or subscription address. Subscribe online or by mail. It's a lot cheaper to subscribe to a magazine than to buy it each month from the newsstand.

For online magazines, search on Yahoo or Google for "paintball magazine online" or "online paintball magazine." Several online magazines are listed in the Resources section of the "Paintball Heroes" ebook, including:

– Action Pursuit Games – <http://www.actionpursuitgames.com>

– Crossfire Paintball Magazine – <http://www.crossfiremag.com>

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- Force of Nature – <http://www.forceofnature.com>
- Paintball Games International – <http://www.paintballer.com/magazine/index.shtml>
- Paintball Sports International – <http://www.paintballsportsint.com>
- The Paintball Times – <http://www.paintballtimes.com>
- Paintball 2Xtremes Magazine – <http://www.paintball2xtremes.com>

### 6. Watch Experienced Players

So, you just got marked, eh? Disappointed? Well, don't be, this is your opportunity to quietly observe those more experienced players from the sidelines. Pay attention to:

- The way they hold their gun
- The way they move from bunker to bunker
- The way they signal to their teammates.

See if you can figure out their plan. All good players go into every game knowing the plan their team decided on before the game started. Here are some questions to ask yourself as you observe experienced players:

- What are they wearing?
- How do they shoot from a bunker?
- How do they steady their gun?
- What bunkers do they choose? See if you can figure out why.
- How do they keep from getting marked?

Keep mental notes of everything you see. Later, compare what you noted with the information you've been researching. Where does it match? Where are there differences? Can you figure out why? Does it have to do with:

- The terrain

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- The type of game being played
- The player's age or experience
- The rules of the field
- The player's style of play or position (point man, safety, sniper, back man, front man, rover, etc.)?

### 7. Volunteer

Later, when you have a few games under your belt, volunteer to referee at your local field. This is the fast way to becoming an expert paintball player, as you are able to observe not only the great players' methods, but all the newbie mistakes, too.

Pay Attention to the Experts, Not to the Know-it-alls

All in all, paintball information can be found easily and quickly, especially online. Just remember to go to the experts for help (books, e-books, magazines, forum leaders, pro players, etc.) and to stay away from the newbie-talk and ramblings of know-it-alls that fill many of the forums.

Andrea Wilson is a writer and the mother of a teenage paintballfanatic. To learn more about paintball,

she recommends you take a look at <http://www.PaintballHeroes.com> and <http://www.PaintballPicks.com>.

### **Ingenious Paintball Gun Exchange Program**

**By Shelley Borle**

#### **Ingenious Paintball Gun Exchange Program by Shelley Borle**

Real Action Paintball has offered an assortment of paintball markers that are intended to provide the customer an experience that is as real as possible. The foundation of this operation is the RAP4, the initial paintball marker planned like a real assault rifle, the military's M4. Real Action Paintball proclaimed an additional trade first: an equipment trade-in program.

"Real Action Paintball will take any paintball markers, air soft guns, or bb guns in trade," said KT Tran, owner and operator of Real Action Paintball. "They don't even need to be working for the customer to earn \$150 in credit." The credit, says Mr. Tran, can be put towards the purchase of a RAP4 Paintball Gun, T68 Paintball Gun, or a T16 Paintball Gun.

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"We unite and serve several disciplines – including airsoft, paintball, military, and law enforcement training – so we decided the best way to serve our broad customer base is to allow them to trade in the old equipment they already have for new."

The pitch appears just in time for people who might be shopping for that wonderful gift either for himself or herself or a friend or family member. The end date for the offer has yet to be established, Mr. Tran thinks that it will be a hit since it targets a customer base that have previously articulated their curiosity in real action games and training.

"We just want to make it easier for our customers to get the newest and best products available."

About The Author: Shelley Borle is a Virtual Assistant, Writer & Expert On Boys. Visit Her Country Variety Lifestyle Magazine <http://www.countryvariety.com/CVL.htm> as well as her CountryVariety.com Professional Virtual Services site <http://www.countryvariety.com> Email [shelley@countryvariety.com](mailto:shelley@countryvariety.com)

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