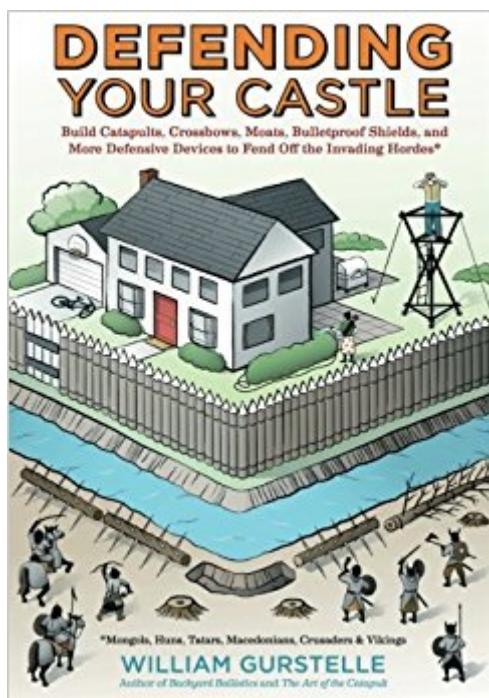


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# Defending Your Castle: Build Catapults, Crossbows, Moats, Bulletproof Shields, And More Defensive Devices To Fend Off The Invading Hordes



## Synopsis

Your home is your castle, but could it withstand an attack by Attila and the Huns, Ragnar and the Vikings, Alexander and the Greeks, Genghis Khan and the Mongols, or Tamerlane and the Tartars? Engineer William Gurstelle, author of the bestselling Backyard Ballistics, poses this fascinating question to modern-day garage warriors and shows how to build an arsenal of ancient artillery and fortifications aimed at withstanding these invading hordes. Each chapter introduces new bad actors in the history of warfare, details their conquests, and features weapons and fortifications to defend against them—culminating, by the end of the book, in a fully fortified home. Clear step-by-step instructions, diagrams, and photographs explain how to build a dozen projects from table-top models of the Cheval-de-frise, Da Vinci's Catapult, and Alexander's Tortoise to the fullsize working Carpini's Crossbow, Hour-Glass Watchtower, and Palisade Wall. With a strong emphasis on safety, this book also gives tips on troubleshooting, explains the physics behind many of the projects, and shows where to find the best materials. It's sure to be an indispensable guide for at-home defenders everywhere.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

“You know that one book you’re allowed to have on a desert island? Take this. You’ll need it, if you’re going to defend it.” • Ziya Tong, host, Daily Planet  
“Ever feared that raging Viking or Mongol invaders are about to attack your home? Gurstelle eases those concerns with a perfect blend of history and how-to, from building a battering ram-proof

door and a house-surrounding moat, to making an updated version of Da Vinci's catapult. I haven't felt this safe, or productive, in centuries. •Mike Senese, Executive Editor, *MAKE*"Some designs lend themselves to science projects and would appeal to high school students as well as general readers. Practicality aside though, this book is a delight readers will learn some military history while having a good time." •Library Journal "A fascinating journey for historians and makers alike. Neither of these elements are too focused on, leading to a very balanced and fun read. •FactoryTwoFour "Gurstelle has done the research, so it isn't just the engineering but the history behind it that you take away. That's what separates this from a doomsday prep book." •DoltYourself.com

William Gurstelle is the author of *Absinthe & Flamethrowers; The Art of the Catapult; Backyard Ballistics; Building Bots; Notes from the Technology Underground; and Whoosh, Boom, Splat*. He is a professional engineer who has been researching and building model catapults and ballistic devices for more than 30 years and is a contributing editor at *Popular Mechanics*, a columnist for *Make* magazine, and writes frequently for *the Atlantic, Maxim, and Wired* as well as other national magazines. He lives in Minneapolis, Minnesota. William Gurstelle is the author of *Backyard Ballistics; The Art of the Catapult; Absinthe & Flamethrowers; Building Bots; Notes from the Technology Underground; and Whoosh, Boom, Splat*. He is a professional engineer who has been researching and building model catapults and ballistic devices for more than 30 years and is a contributing editor at *Popular Mechanics*, a columnist for *Make* magazine, and writes frequently for *Wired, the Atlantic, and Maxim* as well as other national magazines.

This is a fun book for those who like to tinker. The projects involved require different skills and aptitudes, so there is something for everyone. It was slightly disappointing that some of the devices included were only tabletop models; although the cheval de fries pencil holder was charmingly unexpected.

The easy flow and style of this book make it a fun read. But, more importantly it is chock full of useful information on historically valuable tools and technology for defending your ground. I plan to experiment with a variety of these projects and do some innovating of my own. Others concerned about preparing for a less kind and gentle future may want to consider buying this book and doing the same thing!

Wow, I love this book. Be warned though you will feel an urge to build a moat and wall around your house once you're done reading this. The history intercut with great projects you can use to defend yourself. Now unfortunately some of the projects require a lot of work to scale up to size but other than that this is a great book if you love history or preparing for the end of the world

This book is a lot of fun. I knew some of the military history, but there was still some more to learn. But much more important than the military history was the how to. Some of the projects are so complex I would never consider them but some are doable and fun.

In only one respect do I differ with the author about home defense: in a post-apocalyptic scenario and a lawless world, the person in that watchtower would be exposed to a probably-fatal rifle shot or crossbow bolt. Other than that, the book is well-written and in places, really entertaining.

Simple construction plans that anyone can do. The author is obviously an expert. Well researched.

bought this as a gift, it is wonderful! great illustrations and entertaining to read

This arrived before I expected. My husband had asked for this book and is pleased. (I'm not sure about the moat around my house.) Got anything on draw bridges?

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