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From southeastman  
and headingnorther

# BLOCING UP FOR PORTLANDERS

VOL II

Complete with  
tips and tricks and  
unsolicited advice!

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

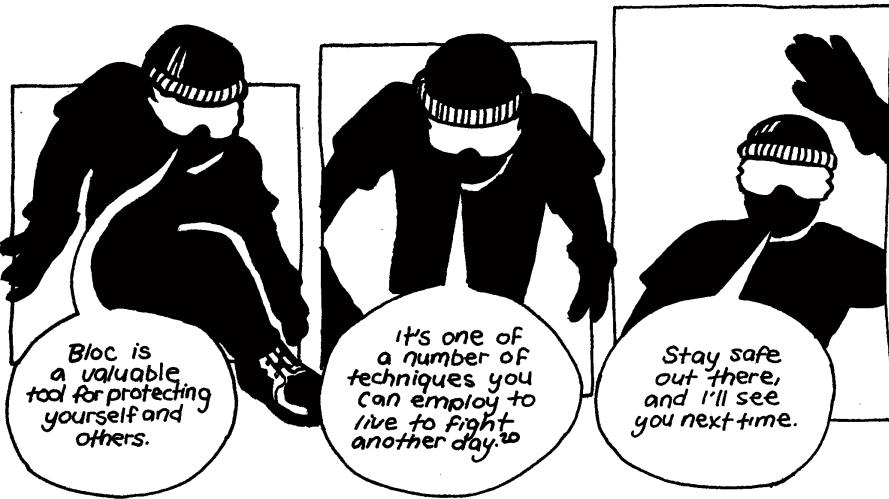


# Citations:

1. Crimethink, "Blooms, 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
4. Autonomous Resistance; "Can't stop Kaos: a Brief History of the Black Bloc"
5. Vitalist International, "Summer in Smoke Report from the World's Biggest Bloc," 325 RSS, December 10, 2019
6. Crimethink, "Blooms, 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
12. W. Eskandar, "The Black Bloc: Evolution of the Revolution," Middle East Institute, April 25, 2013
13. Crimethink, "Blooms, Black and Otherwise"
14. A. Kwan, Hong Kongers Protest, June 12, 2019, Getty Images
15. Vitalist International, "Summer in Smoke Report from the World's Biggest Bloc," 325 RSS, December 10, 2019
16. Crimethink, "Blooms, Black and Otherwise"
17. Crimethink, "Blooms, Black and Otherwise"
18. Crimethink, "Blooms, Black and Otherwise"
19. Crimethink, "Blooms, Black and Otherwise"
20. Crimethink, "Blooms, 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:

"Blooms, 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 protestors (as of June 19, 2020) [quest-center.org](http://quest-center.org)
- Rosehip Medic Collective has a collection of local resources at [rosehipmedics.org/links-and-resources/local-community-resources">rosehipmedics.org/links-and-resources/local-community-resources](http://rosehipmedics.org/)

Bloc curious? For a lot more info on how to do bloc right, check out the zine "Bloc, Black and Otherwise" (see citations)



## 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

# History & Purpose

Black bloc originated in the Autonomist movement in West Berlin from 1980-81 when, facing a housing crisis thousands of people squatted in abandoned buildings.<sup>2</sup>



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.<sup>6</sup>

Berlin 1988: 80,000 protesters, 8,000 black bloc, disrupt IMF/WB congress.<sup>3</sup>



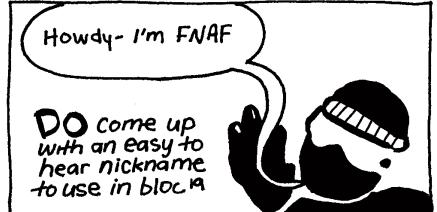
Seattle 1999: anti WTO protests mark first large black bloc in North America; national media attention!<sup>10</sup>

Black blocs are most often utilized to combat surveillance technology.<sup>4</sup> 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.<sup>5</sup>

## DOS AND DON'TS



Hi, I'm  
**DON'T** introduce  
yourself with your  
real name



Howdy- I'm FNAF  
**DO** come up  
with an easy to  
hear nickname  
to use in bloc!<sup>11</sup>

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

2NITE:  
WTF  
7:00 PM  
QAQ

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

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

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

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



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

971-247-1012  
(on 8/1/20)

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

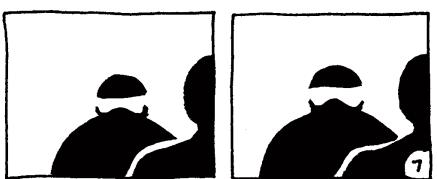
**DON'T**  
livestream  
protestors'  
actions or faces.  
PPB uses streams  
for intel.



**DO** point your  
phone at the  
cops.  
Consider delaying  
your stream by  
~30 min to complicate  
their response.

**DON'T TALK  
TO COPS:**  
an illustrated  
guide

I would like a  
lawyer. I am  
invoking my  
right to  
remain silent.





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<sup>18</sup>

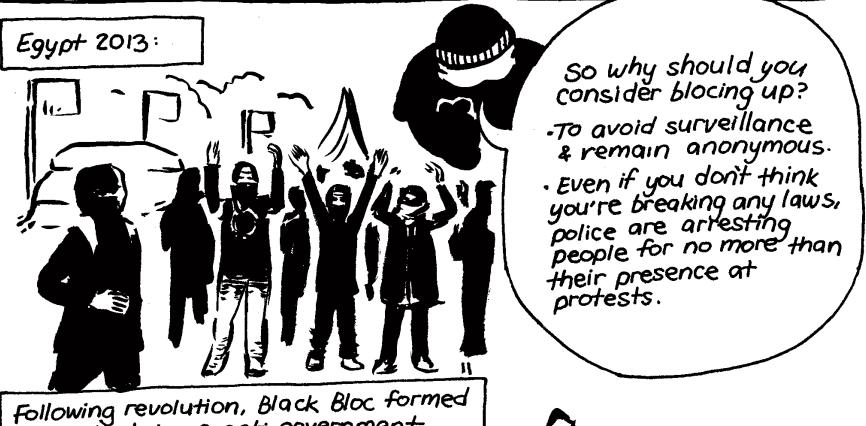
(and don't turn your back on the riot cops)

Walk don't run

6

# of Black Bloc

Egypt 2013:



Following revolution, Black Bloc formed to protect large anti-government protests & shut down public transit<sup>12</sup>

Hong Kong 2019:



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