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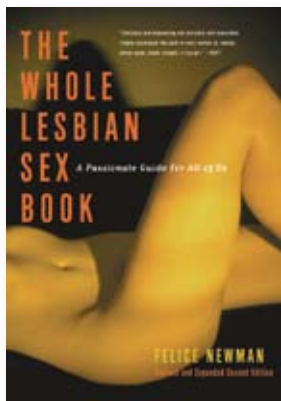
THINGS EVERY LESBIAN SHOULD OWN

YOU HAVE THE INCLINATION. NOW ALL YOU NEED ARE THE TOOLS OF THE TRADE.

Like the Girl Scouts, lesbians always need to be prepared—prepared to rumble, prepared to play, prepared to get our groove on or get her off. So, our advice gurus Lipstick and Dipstick have searched far and wide for the 20 essentials every lesbian should own.

1. DO-IT-HERSELF KIT. The 135-piece Apollo Precision Toolkit is a handy dandy girly pink toolkit that comes with everything you'll need around the house—sans the hot dyke to do the work. If pink tools are too femme, get the Craftsman 68 Piece General Purpose Tool set (Dipstick swears by it). It also doesn't hurt to have a sexy tool belt to carry it all. (\$45, apollotools.com; \$150, sears.com)

2. THE WHOLE LESBIAN SEX BOOK. We both keep this book on our bookshelves because we get a lot of juicy questions and author Felice Newman knows her sex. Even for self-proclaimed players, there's always something new you can learn. (\$25, cleispress.com)



3. RETIREMENT PLAN. We're not Suze Orman, but we listen to her. We pay off our credit cards before we buy luxury items and we know that it's never too

early to start saving for the future. Not sure where to start? Find a financial advisor you can trust or check out Orman's book *Women and Money*.

4. BICYCLE. Whether you use the bike for recreation or for transportation, a bicycle is *almost* the most fun thing you can put between your legs.

5. MAGIC WAND. We think the Magic Wand is the second most fun thing you can put between your legs. If you don't have one of these under your bed, get one right away. (\$54, babeland.com)

6. GYM MEMBERSHIP. The gym is not only a great place to work out and get inspired, but it's also a great place to meet chicks. Being healthy is cool.

7. VALID PASSPORT. Be ready to bolt the next time those cheap tickets to the Caribbean become available. With all the airline competition and hotels vying for your money, deals are a dime a dozen.





8. KILLER HUMMUS RECIPE.

Hummus is a staple at lesbian parties, so know your chickpeas and be a hit with a great recipe in your back pocket. Balsamic hummus? A garlic twist with Cholula hot sauce? Spend some time perfecting your mashed masterpiece.

9. QUALITY LUBE. A must-have for lesbians, no matter what you're into in the bedroom. Use Pink Silicone Lubricant for your dildos—as long as they're not made of silicone or you put a condom on it—and you'll be able to go all night. For oral sex try the ID Juicy Lube sampler, with luscious flavors like tangerine mint and watermelon. For self-loving, try Sliquid, a water-based, organic lube for women. (\$10 and up, cheaplube.com)

10. CAT. Every lesbian needs to have a cat in her lifetime (it's in the Dyke Rule Book). Animals are there for us during bad breakups, bad days, when we just want to lay on the couch all day eating potato chips or even when we want to dance around the living room in our underwear.

11. BLACK BOOTS. Nothing boosts your self-esteem like walking around in shoes that make you feel like you could take on the world. Butch it up with a pair of unisex Fluevogs, get sexy with Franco Sarto's Phantoms or go retro with newly reissued Dr. Marten's Vintage 1460 boot, a direct

replica of their very first boot from 1960. (\$80 and up, zappos.com)

12. WHITE BUTTON DOWN SHIRT.

This is a staple of any lezzie wardrobe. You can wear it to work, the bar, tied at the waist, with a pair of jeans and cowboy boots to a Lucinda Williams concert or under your favorite holiday sweater. Also, you never know when the next White Party is going to happen.

13. MELISSA ETHERIDGE ALBUM.

All lesbians should own at least one Melissa Etheridge album. Lipstick's top pick: *Your Little Secret*. While Dipstick's is the *Greatest Hits* album, which is perfect for road trips with your lover girl. (\$12 and up, ladyslipper.com)

14. DUCT TAPE. Nothing says MaeGyver MuffDiver like duct tape. There are so many practical uses: Shorten a hem, fix a tail light, write a note on the sidewalk outside your lover's house or make a cool dyke wallet. We both keep a roll on hand for those moments when only duct tape will do the trick. It comes in assorted colors now, too.

15. MUSICAL INSTRUMENT. It doesn't matter what it is—guitar, harmonica, small drum—just have something around to pull out and jam with. The ladies love a dyke with rhythm.

16. THE COUPLER. Made of recycled rubber, this will be the best \$5 you have ever spent. The strap converts two single dildos into a double dong.

It's the perfect way to please you both. (\$5, womynsware.com)

17. LEATHER JACKET.

Whether it's fitted and sexy like Lipstick's or bomber style like Dip's, this is one fashion accessory every dyke needs. If you're a vegan, get faux leather from Vegan Essentials. Whether you're riding in Dykes on Bikes or an evening with a date, a leather jacket is the perfect outerwear.

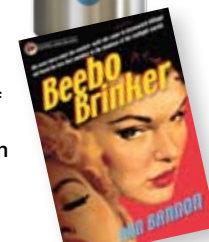
18. SOFTBALL GLOVE. You're a lesbian after all, so you must have a glove around the house. The girls might want to pull together a spontaneous game on the beach at P-town or while you're waiting for dinner on T-Day. Heck, with your lezzie chops, you may be asked to short-stop for the company team. So have a glove ready and know how to throw a ball.

19. STAINLESS STEEL OR ALUMINUM WATER BOTTLE.

Some places are banning plastic water bottles, and with good reason. Plastic is ruining

the environment and our health. Do everyone a favor and get a Sigg. We like the "Green is the New Black" design. (\$25, sigg.com)

20. BEEBO BRINKER. Okay, you probably can't afford an original 1962 edition, but you should own one of the reprints to this classic lesbian pulp novel. You can even get it on your Kindle (\$9, amazon.com) ■



NOTHING SAYS MAGGYVER MUFFDIVER LIKE DUCT TAPE



SHOW SOME PRIDE WITH YOUR RIDE

Just when you thought a dyke on a bike couldn't get any hotter—it does. Republic Bike, a Florida-based online custom bike shop, allows you to personalize your ride with all shades of the rainbow. Offering customization right down to the cranks, it's easy to spend an afternoon clicking through frames, grip colors and hub speeds on the user-friendly website. If creative customization just isn't your thing, the company also offers a list of pre-designed "popular builds," which provides direction for the indecisive. At \$399, you'll be hard-pressed to find a personalized bike any cheaper. So accent your sexy red rims with a crisp white chain just in time to cruise down to Pride, where all the ladies will want to swing a leg over your frame. [Rachel Cullen]

