best bodyweight exercises for traps

best bodyweight exercises for traps are a powerful and accessible way to build upper back strength, improve posture, and create that coveted V-taper physique without needing any equipment. The trapezius muscles, commonly known as the traps, are a large muscle group that extends across the upper back and neck, playing a crucial role in shoulder blade movement and head stabilization. This article will delve into the most effective bodyweight movements to target your traps, exploring variations and proper execution for maximum results. We'll cover exercises that focus on the upper, middle, and lower trap fibers, ensuring a balanced and comprehensive approach to trap development. Get ready to unlock your potential for a stronger, more sculpted upper back solely through your own body weight.

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Understanding the Trapezius Muscles

The trapezius muscles, or traps, are a complex pair of muscles situated in the upper back and neck. They are anatomically divided into three distinct sections: the upper, middle, and lower trapezius. Each section has a specific function and requires targeted stimulation for complete development and optimal performance. Understanding these divisions is key to selecting the most effective bodyweight exercises for traps.

The Upper Trapezius

The upper trapezius originates from the occipital bone of the skull and the spinous processes of the cervical vertebrae, inserting onto the clavicle. Its primary actions include elevation of the scapula (shrugging), upward rotation of the scapula, and extension and lateral flexion of the neck. When aiming for the "boulder" look on the shoulders and upper neck, targeting the upper traps is paramount. Many bodyweight movements naturally engage these fibers.

The Middle Trapezius

The middle trapezius runs from the spinous processes of the thoracic vertebrae to the acromion and spine of the scapula. This section is primarily responsible for retracting the scapula (pulling the shoulder blades together) and stabilizing the shoulder girdle during arm movements. A strong middle trapezius is essential for good posture, counteracting the rounded shoulder posture that is common in modern lifestyles.

The Lower Trapezius

The lower trapezius originates from the spinous processes of the lower thoracic vertebrae and inserts onto the spine of the scapula. Its main functions are depression of the scapula (pulling the shoulder blades down) and upward rotation of the scapula. The lower traps are often underdeveloped and contribute significantly to overall shoulder health and posture, preventing impingement and aiding in controlled arm elevation.

Key Bodyweight Exercises for Traps

While many think of weights when it comes to building traps, a surprising number of effective bodyweight exercises can significantly contribute to their growth and strength. These movements often leverage leverage and isometric holds to create resistance. Focusing on controlled movements and mindful muscle activation will yield the best results.

Scapular Pull-Ups (or Scapular Hangs)

This foundational exercise is excellent for activating the scapular retractors, primarily the middle and lower traps. Begin by hanging from a pull-up bar with your arms fully extended. Instead of pulling yourself up with your biceps, focus on squeezing your shoulder blades together and down, lifting your body slightly without bending your elbows. This movement directly targets the muscles responsible for scapular stability and retraction. Hold the top position for a second or two, then slowly lower back to the starting position.

Inverted Rows (Bodyweight Rows)

Inverted rows are a fantastic compound exercise for the entire upper back, including the traps. Find a sturdy bar at waist height (like in a squat rack or Smith machine) or use a low bar. Grip the bar with an overhand grip, slightly wider than shoulder-width, and hang underneath with your body in a straight line from head to heels. Pull your chest towards the bar by squeezing your shoulder blades together. This engages the middle traps powerfully, helping to pull the shoulder blades towards the spine. The angle of your body determines the difficulty; a more horizontal position is harder.

Scapular Push-Ups

Performed in a plank position, scapular push-ups isolate the shoulder blade movement. Start in a high plank position with your hands directly beneath your shoulders. Keeping your arms straight, allow your chest to sink slightly towards the floor by letting your shoulder blades move closer together. Then, push through your palms to protract your shoulder blades, pushing your upper back away from the floor. This movement is crucial for developing the serratus anterior and also engages the lower and middle traps for scapular control and stability.

Pike Push-Ups

While primarily targeting the shoulders, the pike push-up also significantly engages the upper traps, especially at the peak contraction. Start in a downward-facing dog position, forming an inverted V with your body. Your hands should be shoulder-width apart, and your hips should be elevated. Lower your head towards the floor by bending your elbows, aiming to touch the ground between your hands. As you push back up, focus on the shrug-like motion at the top to activate the upper traps. This exercise is a great precursor to handstand push-ups and builds foundational strength.

Superman

The Superman exercise is excellent for strengthening the erector spinae muscles of the lower back, but it also provides significant activation for the lower and middle traps. Lie face down on the floor with your arms and legs extended. Simultaneously lift your arms, chest, and legs off the floor, squeezing your glutes and lower back muscles. For enhanced trap engagement, focus on pulling your shoulder blades down and back as you lift your arms. Hold the contracted position for a moment before slowly lowering back down. This exercise is fundamental for improving postural muscles.

Advanced Bodyweight Trap Variations

Once you've mastered the foundational bodyweight exercises, you can introduce variations to increase the challenge and further stimulate trap development. These advanced techniques often involve increased range of motion, unilateral work, or more demanding stability requirements.

Archer Push-Ups

Archer push-ups are a unilateral variation of the inverted row, demanding significant strength and stability. Set up as you would for inverted rows, but position one arm further away from your body, keeping it mostly straight, while bending the other arm to pull your chest towards the bar. Your body will shift towards the bent arm. This forces the traps of the supporting arm's side to work harder to stabilize the scapula, while the actively rowing arm's traps assist in the pull. Alternate sides for a balanced workout.

One-Arm Hangs (on Pull-up Bar)

This is an advanced isometric exercise for grip strength and shoulder girdle stability. Hang from a pull-up bar with one hand. Focus on keeping your shoulder depressed and your scapula stable. The traps, especially the upper traps, will work isometrically to prevent the shoulder from shrugging up uncontrollably. Hold for as long as possible, then switch arms. This develops incredible endurance and control in the shoulder complex.

Planche Lean

While primarily a core and shoulder exercise, the planche lean, when executed with proper scapular

protraction, strongly engages the upper and middle traps. Start in a push-up position and lean your body forward as far as you can while maintaining straight arms. The effort to keep your shoulders pushed away from your ears and your shoulder blades spread (protraction) heavily involves the traps. This requires significant anterior deltoid and serratus anterior strength, indirectly benefiting trap stability.

Integrating Trap Exercises into Your Routine

To effectively build your traps using bodyweight exercises, strategic integration into your existing workout plan is key. Simply performing these exercises sporadically won't yield optimal results. Consistency and proper programming are crucial for seeing gains in strength and hypertrophy.

Frequency and Volume

For most individuals, training the traps directly 2-3 times per week is sufficient. Overtraining can lead to injury and hinder progress. When incorporating bodyweight exercises, aim for 2-4 sets per exercise, with repetitions ranging from 8-15 for strength and hypertrophy. For isometric holds, aim for 20-45 second holds per set.

Placement in Your Workout

Bodyweight trap exercises can be incorporated into various workout splits. They can be added at the end of an upper body day, as part of a back-focused workout, or even as a standalone session if you have specific goals for trap development. If performing exercises like pike push-ups, which also heavily target shoulders, consider doing them earlier in your shoulder or upper body workout when you are fresh.

Progressive Overload with Bodyweight

The principle of progressive overload is vital for continued muscle growth. With bodyweight exercises, this can be achieved through several methods.

- Increasing repetitions: Aim to do more reps with good form over time.
- Increasing sets: Add an extra set to your routine.
- Decreasing rest times: Shorten the rest periods between sets.
- Increasing time under tension: Slow down the eccentric (lowering) portion of the movement.
- Improving form and range of motion: Focus on a deeper contraction or a more controlled descent.
- Using more challenging variations: Progress from basic scapular pulls to inverted rows, then to archer variations.

Common Mistakes to Avoid

Even with effective exercises, improper form and execution can limit results and increase the risk of injury. Being aware of common pitfalls is crucial for maximizing the benefits of bodyweight trap training.

Ignoring the Mind-Muscle Connection

A common mistake is to perform repetitions without actively focusing on the muscles being worked. For traps, this means consciously squeezing your shoulder blades together during rows, or actively shrugging at the top of pike push-ups. Without this connection, you're likely using momentum or other muscle groups to complete the movement, bypassing effective trap stimulation.

Using Too Much Momentum

Bodyweight exercises, especially those like inverted rows and scapular pull-ups, can easily become momentum-driven if not performed with control. Resist the urge to swing your body or use jerky movements. Focus on a smooth, controlled contraction and a deliberate eccentric phase. This ensures that your traps are doing the majority of the work.

Neglecting Lower Trap Activation

Many bodyweight exercises naturally emphasize the upper and middle traps. It's important to actively seek out and perform exercises that target the lower traps, such as the Superman with an emphasis on scapular depression and retraction, or specific mobility drills that encourage downward scapular movement. A balanced approach is key for shoulder health and posture.

Insufficient Range of Motion

For exercises like inverted rows, ensuring a full range of motion is crucial. This means fully extending your arms at the bottom and pulling your chest as close to the bar as possible at the top. Similarly, in pike push-ups, aim for a deep descent and a controlled ascent. A limited range of motion reduces the time your muscles spend under tension and diminishes the effectiveness of the exercise.

Conclusion

Developing strong and defined traps is achievable without ever stepping foot in a gym or touching a dumbbell. By understanding the anatomy of the trapezius muscles and implementing the precise bodyweight exercises outlined in this article, you can cultivate significant upper back strength, improve your posture, and enhance your overall physique. Remember to prioritize proper form, consistent effort, and progressive overload to unlock your body's full potential for trap development.

FAQ

Q: Can bodyweight exercises truly build significant trap size?

A: Yes, with consistent effort and proper technique, bodyweight exercises can contribute significantly to trap size and strength, especially for beginners and intermediate trainees. Advanced variations and progressive overload are key.

Q: How often should I do bodyweight trap exercises?

A: Training your traps 2-3 times per week is generally recommended. Ensure adequate rest between sessions for muscle recovery and growth.

Q: What is the best bodyweight exercise for upper traps?

A: Pike push-ups and certain variations of scapular shrugs or shrug-like movements at the top of push-ups effectively target the upper traps.

Q: How do I target the middle and lower traps with bodyweight?

A: Inverted rows, scapular pull-ups, and Superman exercises are excellent for engaging the middle and lower trapezius muscles by focusing on scapular retraction and depression.

Q: Can I do bodyweight trap exercises every day?

A: No, it's not advisable to train traps every day. Muscles need time to recover and repair, so incorporating rest days is crucial for growth and preventing overuse injuries.

Q: How do I progress if bodyweight exercises become too easy?

A: You can progress by increasing repetitions, sets, decreasing rest times, slowing down the tempo (increasing time under tension), or moving to more advanced variations of the exercises.

Q: Are bodyweight trap exercises good for improving posture?

A: Absolutely. Many bodyweight trap exercises focus on scapular stability and retraction, which are vital for counteracting rounded shoulders and improving overall postural alignment.

Q: What muscles do bodyweight trap exercises work besides

the traps?

A: Depending on the exercise, you'll also engage your rhomboids, deltoids, biceps, forearms, core, and erector spinae muscles, making them effective for overall upper body strength.

Best Bodyweight Exercises For Traps

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2025-09-03 Going far beyond pull-ups, push-ups, and squats, Bodyweight Strength Training Anatomy includes 177 innovative exercises that target every muscle in the body. With full-color anatomical illustrations, step-by-step instructions, and training advice, it is the authoritative resource for sculpting your physique without weights, machines, or expensive equipment.

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be honest) - - we could ALL use that sort of a midsection - - not to mention the six pack - - doncha think? Your abs will literally HURT, smoulder and POP like never before when you implement the EXTRAS IN these tips! If you've been suffering from IBS - or flatulence- or those annoying issues that make you "constantly have to go" - well - you might as well kiss them goodbye once you start on these exercises! Constipation? Whats that? The malady that affects almost everyone, including fitness gurus and such? Well, you'll completely forget what the meaning of that word is, almost! Literally pushups with these magic tips work your entire core from the inside out like NOTHING ELSE AND NO OTHER exercise/workout can or WILL! Your entire abdominal region and lower back will become rock solid - and health issues will become a thing of the PAST. Not to mention your hamstrings, groin, everything will become way more powerful than it is right now, and more flexible. Implement the tips here in, you'll literally get into "supreme martial artist" shape with persistence as close to Bruce Lee as you can get! You'll build a massive upper body - shoulders and chest -not to mention slabs of MUSCLE all over back - especially the upper back - and this won't be the bloated "gym" muscle you see all over the place that looks good, but ain't got squat to back it up, hehe (pun intended!) And you'll do so while keeping the lean, mean and TONED look. STEEL AND WHALEBONE! Your legs will get the workout of their lives on some of these pushups - believe me now - and trust me LATER! You'll start to lose FAT - that unsightly blubber around your waist and midsection specifically within a FEW workouts. That's right - and this fat loss will be so RAPID you'll not only wonder where the love handles, muffin tops, bingo wings etc WENT - - but you'll be scratching your head in amazement at the sheer SPEED you'll lose weight at! It won't just be rapid, it might well be permanent, so well will you be "rewiring your body's circuits" once you implement these tips! You'll literally be huffing, puffing and blowing the dang house down! Improved digestion is a given - not to mention an increased appetite. You'll be able to eat more, and still not turn into "Tubbo" i.e. no more unsightly lard anywhere on your frame! You'll be able to fit into clothes you haven't fit into for years. Friends and co-workers won't believe the rapid changes in you - and will ALL want to know the secret - let 'em in on it if you so desire, hehe. Perhaps the best thing for the average Joe - you won't have any excuses left NOT to workout any more, my friend. All you have to do is drop down and start on these pushups - and as for a space to workout - - well, we ALL have a floor and a few inches of space somewhere, don't we?? Your forearms - and grip - will increase tremendously. "Carpal tunnel", pain in the wrists etc will become a thing of the past very quickly indeed. MY! IF there was ONE reason I'd urge you to pay heed to these tips its that you'll build a gorilla like grip x10 and CLAWS OF PURE STREAMING STEEL when you implement the tips right! You'll feel relaxed throughout the entire day - and you'll have an unshakeable, "laser like" confidence about you after just a few workouts - confidence that others will NOTICE ("Here cometh the MAN!") - and confidence that will propel you - UNWAVERED - towards whatever goal you set for yourself! COMETH THE HOUR, COMETH the man, folks will say about you! LITERALLY - that is the confidence and vibe you'll build with these tips and workouts! Increased success with the "opposite sex" is a by product of these workouts. I don't know why, but pushups lend themselves to a sort of "confident demanor" that women (or men) will pick up on - a sort of feeling you CANNOT get from pounding weights galore at the gym. If you can handle your own body from all angles and directions- you can handle — ah, but I'll stop there - but you get the picture, my friend! REAL functional strength that STAYS with you regardless of circumstance or situation. You'll be able to carry your damsel up several flights of stairs WITHOUT being out of breath - and come "moving day", you'll be tossing sofas around like no-one's business! And thus forth ... Mental strength that CANNOT be beat. Believe me, once you start doing 100 plus - or 250 - or even the hallowed 500 pushup number per workout - you'll develop an unshakeable sense of mental strength which will allow you not just to achieve nigh any goal you set yourself - but also to overcome adversity sometimes of the most harrowing kinds (and believe me, I've been there on this one! And much, much more my friend. The above is just the proverbial TIP of the iceberg ... Who is this book for? For the every day Joe or Jane that wants to improve their strength and conditioning beyond any sort of belief, and guick at that. For bloated "tubbos" looking to lose the lard guick. If you're looking to add

that extra oomph to an already solid upper body routine, this book (manual) is for YOU. If you're looking to build Tyson/Herschel Walker like ARMS – this book is for you (do what the greats did, you'll be great too in your way – guaranteed – natural law of the Universe, friend). If you're looking to build a REAL 12 pack from the inside out as opposed to the showy tosh at the beach so many guys exult in showing (and girls too). If you're looking to build strength that never quits on ya, amps when you need it. If you're looking to build trap power like no other combo of routines can or will build (those mountainous GORILLA Traps). If you're an ace swimmer, elite martial artists, triatholoner – or Crossfitter looking to UP your game and take it to the next level. And lots of other categories not mentioned here! Get this NOW, my friend. It is indeed a MUST HAVE along with Pushup Central. Best Rahul Mookerjee

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best bodyweight exercises for traps: THE PUSHUP CENTRAL READER! Rahul Mookerjee, 2023-04-24 This book is a gigantic compilation a.k.a magnum opus containing the two very well received books Pushup Central and Pushup Central - the TIPS!. The first book goes where no man has gone before in terms of pushups, and indeed physical activity, and shows you unique, creative and interesting ways to do pushups that will burn fat off your body guicker like butter in a furnace or ole George Foreman's grills, hehe - and build lumps of hard, solid corrugated MUSCLE over your entire body while doing so. Your health and fitness levels will skyrocket dramatically within a while of getting on this routine. Your abs will become a bundle of steel and chiseled muscle, and you'll have pillars for legs - stamina that doesnt run out - and SKYROCKETING CONFIDENCE and best of all, these exercises will truly develop the iron jaw in your mentally and physically. Once you get on the exercises in Pushup Central (once you learn them, and then DO them regularly as opposed to just read) - you'll not only become a fitness phenom like NO other (in relatively short time at that!) but you'll find that problems in other areas of your life melt away and you achieve all goals you set for yourself on auto pilot, almost. You'll focus like a laser on your work - and goals - and will sleep like a baby at night as well on these routines. Truly, 100 pushups a day keeps the doctor away - for good - and I ain't even kidding there. And if you thought that was all, no, I'm just getting started. The SECOND book in the series is the world famous book on TIPS - extras that were not included in the initial book - 51 forgotten TIPS that will take you from being just good at pushups to rarified and STRATOSPHERIC levels of excellence at this exercise. In other words, the cake is great, but the icing is really what makes it uber special, and so it is with this cake and the icing - and in this book, yours truly, the bodyweight exercise Guru as the 0 Excuses fanatics swear I am (and they're spot on) brings you pushups like never before, in a style and format that has never ever been put out there before, period. These tips will help you improve your pushup numbers per set or overall - they will BOOST your stamina while doing pushups (if you implement correctly) - they will help you RECOVER faster too. You'll learn which are the best supplementary exercises and workouts to do with pushups - the best way and best types of pushups to do - why certain types of pushups are always a must to do, others maybe not so much so - and a lot, lot more that no-one else out there knows, let alone teaches you. EACH of these tips is probably worth the \$150 odd I'm charging for the course, which given the massive amounts of information that is NOT known to the public (no, you cannot find it all on Google either) - is a pittance my friend, a nigh pittance I'm charging you for this course. I should really be pricing this at \$1000 or thereabouts, and likely will at some point. But for now, we'll stick

to a special introductory price of \$150 for the Kindle Edition. Be sure and check out the paperback and hardcover versions as well! Pushing for YOU - forever! Very best, Rahul Mookerjee Fitness Fanatic par excellence and so can YOU BE if you do the thing! :)

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best bodyweight exercises for traps: Robert Kennedy's Musclemag International Encyclopedia of Bodybuilding Gerard Thorne, Phil Embleton, 1997

best bodyweight exercises for traps: Your Body Is Your Barbell BJ Gaddour, 2014-05-13 The most efficient and effective exercises for a leaner, more muscular physique using the Bodyweight Eight No weights. No machines. No space. No hassles! With Your Body is Your Barbell, a reader will have no excuse not to get into the best shape of his or her life...simply, easily, and in just 4 weeks in the convenience of his or her own home. How? Using nothing more than what God blessed—a body with unlimited potential. Metabolic training expert BJ Gaddour, CSCS, who Men's Health magazine calls one of the 100 Fittest Men of All Time, has created a remarkably efficient and effective body-transforming diet and workout program based on just a handful of simple moves, the

Bodyweight Eight. These no-equipment-required exercises are all one needs to build a strikingly symmetrical, perfectly proportioned, and classically beautiful physique, just like BJ's. (Not long ago, he was a fat guy with bad knees and an addiction to ice cream sundaes.) But it doesn't stop there. Once readers master each legendary fitness feat with perfect form, he will use BJ's Sweat Spectrum, scalable, step-by-step progressions to go from ground zero to super hero. From these exercise variations, readers can construct hundreds of personalized workouts. Dozens of sample workouts are already demonstrated through big, bold how-to photographs within the book, and organized by goal, duration, intensity, and targeted body zone. This is the only book a man or woman needs to achieve the body he or she has always wanted anywhere...and without gear.

best bodyweight exercises for traps: The Best of the Rest of Brutally Huge Bill Davis, 2016-05-03 The Best of the Rest of Brutally Huge The Brutal Years is a compilation of all the world renowned best selling books in the Brutally Huge Series.

best bodyweight exercises for traps: You Are Your Own Gym Mark Lauren, Joshua Clark, 2011-01-04 From an elite Special Operations physical trainer, an ingeniously simple, rapid-results, do-anywhere program for getting into amazing shape For men and women of all athletic abilities! As the demand for Special Operations military forces has grown over the last decade, elite trainer Mark Lauren has been at the front lines of preparing nearly one thousand soldiers, getting them lean and strong in record time. Now, for regular Joes and Janes, he shares the secret to his amazingly effective regimen—simple exercises that require nothing more than the resistance of your own bodyweight to help you reach the pinnacle of fitness and look better than ever before. Armed with Mark Lauren's motivation techniques, expert training, and nutrition advice, you'll see rapid results by working out just thirty minutes a day, four times a week—whether in your living room, yard, garage, hotel room, or office. Lauren's exercises build more metabolism-enhancing muscle than weightlifting, burn more fat than aerobics, and are safer than both, since bodyweight exercises develop balance and stability and therefore help prevent injuries. Choose your workout level—Basic, 1st Class, Master Class, and Chief Class—and get started, following the clear instructions for 125 exercises that work every muscle from your neck to your ankles. Forget about gym memberships, free weights, and infomercial contraptions. They are all poor substitutes for the world's most advanced fitness machine, the one thing you are never without: your own body.

best bodyweight exercises for traps: SOUAT 101 Rahul Mookerjee, 2022-11-11 DISCLAIMER The exercises, workouts, and routines in this book are meant for people in good physical condition. Stop if you experience any pain or other discomfort while doing these, and visit a medical practitioner if you have any doubts. The author is not a medical professional, and is not responsible for injuries (or other maladies) that may arise as a result, either direct or indirect of following the routines and exercises in this manual. That said, this book is probably, along with 0 Excuses Fitness which didn't devote near as much attention to squats as it should have - and Gorilla Grip, and Pushup Central - and my books on pull-ups - a MUST have for any serious trainee. The exercise in this book will REHABILITATE - not harm. That has been the case for EVERYONE that has followed these routines - and ... Dear Reader, Man! I gotta tell you, I feel so damn ANNOYED when I write disclaimers of the sort I just did above, which I didn't copy and paste from a template (I should have one). I gotta put it in though because no doubt there will be SOMEONE who tries these exercises, does them wrongly, and then turns around and in a typical trigger happy manner blames the author and the book for "causing the problems" when the reverse is actually true. Legal disclaimers and all that, I didn't pay much attention to these things before, I rarely do even now, but since we've grown to a certain level "I gotta put it in". And I almost done made the disclaimer into the introduction! You that is reading this likely KNOW who I am, Rahul Mookerjee, the "Stella Artois of Bodyweight Training Culture" as this shi fu is called - brutally honest to a T from day one, and continuing on in that vein now. "If you ain't squatting - you ain't training". Period. In Matt Furey's classic book Combat Conditioning, Furey once penned something similar along the lines of "if you're not doing Hindu squats, you're not really doing Combat Conditioning". Maybe, maybe not, but I get his drift. To me, I'd say squats - period - not necessarily just Hindu squats. My book 0 Excuses Fitness which

is the baseline for any serious fitness trainee has been called the "very best there is in fitness out there, there is NOTIHNG else that even comes CLOSE" contains instructions on squats, and an entire video (digital download) dedicated on how to do Hindu squats. And a whole plethora of pushups - indeed, if you do what I did in the workout video the rest of your life, you'll quickly get in great shape and advance beyond your wildest dreams. But all along, I had this niggling feeling I wasn't devoting "enough attention to squats". I did to pushups, yes. But even then I came out with Pushup Central - another classic manual with 55 different ways on how to perform "the world's oldest exercise" and that was both very well received and very warranted (and a classic example of DOING the thing first even though "no-one asked for it"). Sometimes you gotta DO first. The customer - YOU - sometimes has to be SHOWN the final product - FIRST. And back to squats, for some reason, a lot of the great books on bodyweight training culture don't talk a lot about 'em. I would be remiss to leave out Brooks Kubik's Dinosaur Bodyweight Training here, in it he says you should do squats daily, and do 'em for the rest of your life. He provides detail on them too, but again, nowhere near what this great exercise deserves. And again - as Rahul Mookerjee says, if you ain't squatting, you aint training, period. I don't care what else you do, I don't care if you climb hills for four hours a day straight (as I did, and continue to do, and it keeps in SUPER CONDITION) - I don't care if you bang out 250 straight pushups in the morning, and then repeat in the evening, I don't care if you're a stud at pull-ups, I don't care if you can bridge for hours on end - all those things are great, you SHOULD work up to those levels, but again. If you ain't squatting, you aint training. Sprinting doesn't replace squats. Step ups don't even come close (to me, they are the lazy man's equivalent of leg training - though don't get me wrong, they are a great SUPPLEMENT). But again. There is a reason the ancient Hindus did squats galore for thousands of reps a day. There is a reason the Gama swore by BOTH Hindu Pushups - and Hindu SQUATS. He was reputed to have done over 5000 squats and 3000 pushups daily, and while these numbers are probably not entirely accurate the fact remains that bodyweight exercises were the cornerstone of his routine - and ultimately what brought him PHENOMENAL SUCCESS (he once lifted a 1200 kg stone that TWENTY FIVE regular people failed to budge on their "collective"). That's an example of the power that bodyweight training can give you. Look, as I've said repeatedly in my training newsletters - there is nothing that beats the up and down motion of the body you get with squats - it works the core and entire body like NOTHING ELSE! Lots of folks think squats are just an thigh exercise. Wrong. Done right, they work the thighs yes, but if thats all you think you're working - you ain't doing 'em right. Squats tax the HAMSTRINGS - a hugely ignored part of the body - the calves (obvious) and also the entire back and CHEST. They tax the BUTT muscles when done right! The deep breathing you do (or should do) when doing squats enlarges the rib cage and improves functioning of the entire body - improves assimilation and digestion of the FOOD you EAT - gets rid of extra fat around the midsection and entire body guicker than almost any other exercise will - and is an "all in one" exercise that you can do even when you're pressed for time. Steve Austin "oh hell yeah" (we all know him!) once made the comment of "if you do squats, I don't care what else you do, youre going to grow!". For a wrestler on the road almost 365 days a year, and a beast incarnate, I'd listen when someone like him says something. Ditto for dips, often called the upper body equivalent of the squat, and pull-ups, but this book focuses on SQUATS. Again, if there was one flaw that I personally believe 0 Excuses Fitness had, it did not devote near enough space in the 300 plus pages of the book to squats. I believe it got close in terms of pushups, but I put out two more books on pushups anyway! And now, I'm doing the same with SQUATS. Enjoy! Some may get back to me at this point with "well, I squat with weights". And thats great if you choose to do so. However, this book is about bodyweight squats, which I truly believe tax the body FAR more internally at a deeper level than simply "5 sets of the heaviest squat" you can do. Indeed, a lot of these guys that can squat Everest fall flat on their face - or butt - when asked to do 100 straight Hindu squats, for one (and we ain't even getting to the tougher versions you'll see in this book). If they can even do them to begin with - most flop out at 20 when they start and cannot walk properly for DAYS on end. Remember, it "aint just bodyweight squats", there is a whole ART to squats if you do 'em RIGHT! I cannot tell you how much it irritates and annoys me -

aggravates the living hell out of me when someone approaches something with that "its just this" attitude, if thats the attitude you got, then don't do the exercise in the first place. It doesn't need you - you need it. Period. And last, but not least, if you have pre-existing injuries, rods in your legs wonky lower backs and shoulders from years of either heavy squatting or lifting or (even worse) "body building" (boobybuilding) some of you might think "well, high rep will kill me". No, my friend, it wont. The way I teach you to do these exercises is UNLIKE any other you've seen out there - those that have read my books know this "I've never seen anything like your books out there". The INTENSITY is unparalleled - like with me. And all these squats REHABILITATE - they don't tear down. If you're currently in good shape, they will get you in BETTER SHAPE - and how? Because they tax you from the entire out. Your fasica, your BREATHING, your TENDONS, joints, ligaments, all those ignored parts of the body will be worked heavily and to the bone, not just your muscles!! In fact, done right, bodyweight squats have been proven to increase BONE density too my friend much like upper body exercises like pull-ups etc have. Best part though, as I've said before You'll FEEL like a billion bucks! NOTHING trains the body and makes you feel better than heavy duty LEG WORK! Trust me on this one, when you're walking around with that "thighs rippling" (without you consciously doing it) ... you'll know what I mean. Lets keep the focus on fitness though, not "looks". Those are a distant by product, and as I've said tons of times before, train for FITNESS, train for functional STRENGTH, not "looks". Train for something useful, train for something that can save your life (and ass) when you really, really need it, when no-one else will help, when it's YOU, and just YOU against all of 'em, train to have the gumption to beat the odds even when they're staggeringly against you, train to have WILL, train to have SOLID, superhuman POWER - and so forth. In short, training should be practical and useful, bottom line! And way too many people make it otherwise. Anyway, I could write tomes all day on this, and do on my site ... But for this introduction, we've gone on all enough, so I'll stop here. Hehe. But as a last reminder - - remember, if you ain't squatting? Then you ain't training, period. Onward! LEG RIPPLING SWAGGER! Without you even trying, my friend. I dont know if you know what I'm talking about, but maybe you do ... In 2002, I went to China for the first time - at the age of 23, supposedly my "best time" when I was supposed to be in the "best shape of my life". Yet, for me, it's been the opposite most of my life. When young, I was never in good shape - though I wanted to be - and got ridiculous advice from all and sundry in terms of training such as "lift pink 10 kg dumbbells" for half an a hour day, thats how the big guys build muscle! Or, the "he thinks he's so strong" comments made by family members who did not know any better that tore me down mentally. This isn't me castigating family here. This is me being brutally honest with you about my LIFE and fitness - and ME - in general as I always am, and telling you a story as I always end up doing - all true, hehe. REAL LIFE! Perhaps no other book fits the "real" (keeping it real) category better than THIS one, the words BE flying out of my mouth as I speak - phew! Deep breath. But anyway, so I went to China, climbing the stairs to my fourth floor apartment left me dizzy (almost) and breathing hard, when I had to lug suitcases up there? My! It was like I had to climb Everest! And dont get me wrong. I did other things back then -I was a weight lifter - I lifted real weights, not 10 kg dumbbells! People in the office would squeeze my forearms and say "he's STRONG!" I still remember my mother, who once made the "he thinks he's so strong" comment when I was young say the reverse when she saw me lug their suitcases up heavy ass 25 kg suitcases, one hand at a time up to my apartment. "I'll never forget how you did that", she exclaimed. But even with all that, a lot was missing. I was strong, but not anywhere NEAR fit. And I could use my strength ONCE - but nowhere near what it needed to be ie. "repetitively". It was really in the September of 2003 or I believe 2004 (I Think I first went to China in 2003, not 2002 as I said up there) that my life changed ... Anyway, I'll get the dates clear later. ... when I met a certain Ann Lee! The first time I dated her in the park - right smack next to my house, with a huge mountain in it I could SEE from my apartment, yet for some odd reason I ignored this free fitness tool right in front of me (we often do that!) ... the date was her idea, the park? I didnt even know it was there! - and we climbed the mountain, I remember what a MESS I felt like when doing it! I remember STRUGGLING up that damn hill like it was Everest (right now I can slink up it easy peasy

five times a day, and it ain't an easy hill to hike, trust me!) ... I remember how out of breath I was, I remember my legs turning to jelly - my lower back wonking out - and calves burning ... and all along, I remember a PUMP, a massive PUMP in my forearms of all things I had NEVER felt with anything else! I still remember the girls there giggling in that cute Chinese way and pointing at the fat lao wai (foreign devil, or "wai guo ren" - old man from from foreign land) climbing the hell Or was it hill. Hehe. It felt like the former! I remember thinking "when will this damn torture end". Hehe. That hill felt interminable! I was going to put the picture from Advanced Hill Training here too, maybe someday. For now - back to it - THAT, as a certain Kelly was to say "years later" - is REAL TRAINING! REAL HILL climbing! I had experienced it before when climbing the Indian Himalayas, so steep that when I asked my father to do it again once after a day the very vehment "NO WAY!" was all the answer I needed Hehe. Anyway - where was I. Swashbuckling thighs, eh. The hill caused a revolution in my life, fitness wise, most of it is here for you to see! It CHANGED my life - till this day, I credit Ann Lee for doing this. If she had not come into my life, none of this would have happened. Of course, I credit my work on a certain Dongguan Expat website as well for that, but thats another story! Anyway, I quickly got in better shape climbing that hill on the weekend, then after Ann Lee kicked my rumpus again (I was making excuses about not climbing after work "it's too late" or something) - I started doing it daily, and a fitness machine emerged. The lower back that had felt so wonky for DAYS after that first climb - became STRONG. The legs - thighs especially turned into rippling pillars of STEEL from that climb. My upper body fat disappeared, my strength improved, my PULL-ups shot through the roof, most of all, I was seeing my GRIP strength improve by leaps and bounds which amazed me! An idiot once wrote back on Gorilla Grip saying "he claims he's improved his grip by NOT doing a single pull-up for months, but he doesnt say how he's done it!". Actually, I did say. He was just too dumb to read between the lines. My core strength increased x 10, my digestive issues went away, but all of that is different, another story, what I'm going to tell you about is one night I was walking to the bank to get some cash for a trip out of China, and the way I was walking, with my thighs bulging out naturally - well, I dont know if you guys have ever experienced that, but it makes you feel like a BILLION BUCKS! I repeat, a billion bucks, untouchable, confidence like nothing else, and it usually comes with a toned swagger to your CORE too, strength you will NEVER lose! I've often tried to replicate this "without having it", and it showed. People told me "dont splay your legs out like that!" But when you have it naturally, it shows too! In the movie Get Carter, Sly Stallone walks into see the owner of the pub where his brother Richie died - now, he's dressed in a full suit, typical "mob enforcer", calm, menacing, quiet, viper ready to strike if need be ... goateed to a T, and so forth, as my friend Lily once said, "looking like a bad ass!" He was. But that walk to the desk, much like my walk to the ATM that night, the way the thighs rippled, that understated SWAGGER that comes from being in SUPER SHAPE - I'll never forget that! You have to FEEL IT to UNDERSTAND! And squats, my friend, are the ONE exercise that will give you this x 10000! Sure, you can climb stairs, you can hike hills - all of that is great. But like I've said above, nothing replaces squats. You that can hike hills for hours might be amazed when you first get on some of the squats in my program, you might not be able do more than 25, and you might not be able to walk for days after wards either. Trust me on this one! Squats do what NO other exercise does, my friend, and back to swashbuckling SWAGGER, and machismo, and feeling great... well, thats the icing on the cake, but also the reason you should be DOING these in the first place! On one last note - some of you might ask though, "why do I need squats" (given what I've said about other forms of training). You might as well ask me "why do you need to breathe - or train - or live in the first place", it's that obvious. Look, like I've said before, nothing beats the up and down motion your body makes, and the internal changes that go on your body, the strength it builds, the functional strength it builds throughout the whole body that you simply cannot get from any other movement. When you wrestle, for one, what sort of positions do you have to constantly fight your way out of? I dont think you're climbing a hill or stairs in that motion, are you? Squats have a CIRCULAR sort of motion, my friend, not just Hindus, all squats, that ensure you return back to where you started, "full circle", a motion used in EVERYDAY life, fighting, walking, all of it, and

again, you have to squat first to truly understand it. Sure, the other methods I've mentioned work, but they dont work nearly as well as squats, and NOT in the same manner. Does that mean you dont do them? Of course not. You do BOTH. You have ALL the fitness tools you need in your fitness toolkit, not just one, but you don't neglect the most basic and important one as most people DO. Squats build EVERYDAY strength and functional fitness - and I'm talking BODYWEIGHT squats in a way nothing else can, that is the most simple and concise answer I can give you. There is a reason the old timers did these daily without fail and in high reps, and if even that isn't enough for you, you're at the wrong page, and probably better off pumping and humping the leg press at the Jim. FEROCIOUS SQUATS! Way too many idiots and morons think and will say the bodyweight squat - or the Hindu squat or any of the variants I'm going to be teaching you in this NEVER SEEN BEFORE COURSE "just a warmup"... Or, it doesn't build muscle. Or, the real deal is weighted squat, and those should really be focused upon, while the others? Blah. "Just do it" to get them over with, and usually in a haphazard half hearted manner. I'm here to tell all these sort of people that they're grade A buffoons. Not only are they choosing the path of most injury as opposed to least, but they're also depriving themselves of the valuable tendon and ligament benefits you get from bodyweight work not to mention strength, that can be used repeatedly without your legs giving out as opposed to 5 reps, or 20 reps while squatting a cow or what not. Dont believe me, take the cow squatters, ask them to pump out 100 - hell, 50 ferocious squats, and we'll see. FEROCIOUS SQUATS. Maybe I should rename the book that ... Hehe. Or maybe I'll leave it the way it is! But really, my friend. When you do these, remember too many people go through the motions and nothing else, do NOT be one of those people. I was resting this afternoon, then I said to myself - lets do some squats, and let's AMP THEM! FEROCITY! You really put all you got into them, you don't pause for long breaks either to catch wind, you ... are a man - or a woman - on a MISSION basically. The sort of mental strength this sort of workout builds is beyond comparison, you cannot get it from anything else, weights or not included, but why just believe me? Take it from the old time strongmen, all of who had legs of pure steel. Not all squatted an elephant, or even bothered, but they all, right from the Gama, to Bruce Lee, to modern day legends like Herschel Walker were DAMN good at the bodyweight squat, and did tons of reps daily, often throughout the day. There is a reason to the so called madness, or a method, and a reason behind doing what they did. REALLY put all you have into it. FOCUS - I repeat - focus on breathing in and out with every repetition consciously, this will make the workout far tougher, and bring way more results than if you do it without focus on the breath. You should REALLY feel the heart thumping after around 100 reps or so, if you can even get that far. Ass to grass - on every rep. No excuses, pally. And STRAIGHT back up, no bent knees on that one. And there it is. FEROCIOUS squats, and boy do they bring results and then some. Anyway, enough on that. On to the ... (and yes, thats one of the secrets to squats getting you in ferocious, awesome shape, but there's plenty more in the BOOK) BENEFITS you can get from this course - I think we've covered a lot above already! But here they are again in bullet format for you ... Build a BULLETPROOF, rock solid body with squats, a "son of the soil" look that comes only from having a sturdy foundation beneath you, a foundation that cannot be ROCKED. Build the sort of SWASHBUCKLING "thigh" swagger (and swagger in general) feeling you get when you have those ripping, FIT legs and a toned midsection (they go together). The feeling cannot be beat, it cannot be replicated, and it, or the lack of it SHOWS when you walk - or STRIDE around the place - and believe me, THIS feeling alone is worth a BILLION BUCKS and the price of this course MANY TIMES OVER!! Build massive thighs that ripple with functional muscle by doing this course - NO, "rippling" with muscle is NOT an exaggeration! Build MUSCLE on your entire body and lose weight quicker by doing squats, yes, just squats, I repeat, JUST SQUATS!! and nothing else quicker than almost ANY OTHER EXERCISE. If you ain't squatting, you aint training, and thats a maxim that holds true my friend - so does the maxim of "if you squat, I dont care what else you do", youre going to GROW! Increased lower back strength without doing a single exercise for the lower back, the squat taxes EVERYTHING when done right. Improved - VASTLY improved performance on all your upper body exercises, including pull-ups. (especially pull-ups, I should say). Perhaps the most

amazing benefit of this sort of heavy duty LEG training is the indirect gains you see in GRIP Strength – writing this makes me feel literally light headed thinking about it, trust me on this one. You can forget about digestive issues like IBS, constipation, flatulence and such the general population is afflicted with – squats are the best medicine ever, natural, and you dont need no doctor for them either (and neither the bills, hehe). A sense of calmness and sang froid when you get good at this that will translate over into your daily life, work, relationships, all of it. Improved performance in the BEDROOM – especially when you combine squats with isometrics and pull-ups. You'll build mental focus and gumption like NOTHING else. A lot of lazy fools will tell you high rep squats are boring. When you hear that, think "ah, yes. They require FOCUS and dedication, so these idiots think it's boring!". You'll build FEROCITY from the inside out like nothing else you've done before, you'll truly understand, comprehend the meaning of being a TRUE BEAST! And many, many more that I have not mentioned here as yet, but will as I go along. This course is worth its weight many times over in GOLD. And if you're IN ANY way serious, or even CLAIM to be serious about physical training done right, you'll want to get your mitts on this nigh invaluable course NOW. Just do it, my friend. NOW! Best, Rahul Mookerjee

best bodyweight exercises for traps: Sports Fitness and Training Armel Dawson, 2019-07-18 Sports fitness training is all about developing physical conditions to improve sports performance and skills. Sports training programs can help to improve strength flexibility and stamina to improve performance in specific sports. Options include increasing arm strength for tennis playing or improve strength and core stability providing better balance playing golf. Today's athletes are breaking records that many thought were untouchable-in large part due to the major advances in sports training. There are several universally accepted scientific training principles that must be followed in order to improve sports conditioning and performance. Because every athlete is different, each person's response to exercise will vary. This book provides the very best information and insights on sports fitness training. It combines explanations of modern methods with sample training programs, workouts and drills for successful application. The state-of-the art training prescriptions presented in this book will lead to the way to the future of athletic strength and conditioning. It will be very helpful to anyone looking to do any kind of training for sports or even for general conditioning. This is a complete training book which is the equivalent of a personal coach, trainer, and sports medicine doctor in one volume with Illustrations.

best bodyweight exercises for traps: Physical Fitness and Wellness Reena Rani, 2021-05-17 A person who is fit is capable of living life to its fullest extent. Physical and mental fitness play very important roles in your lives and people who are both, physically and mentally fit are less prone to medical conditions as well. Fitness does not only refer to being physically fit, but also refers to a person's mental state as well. If a person is physically fit, but mentally unwell or troubled, he or she will not be able to function optimally. Mental fitness can only be achieved if your body is functioning well. You can help relax your own mind and eliminate stresses by exercising regularly and eating right. People who are physically fit are also healthier, are able to maintain their most optimum weight, and are also not prone to cardiac and other health problems. In order to maintain a relaxed state of mind, a person should be physically active. A person who is fit both physically and mentally is strong enough to face the ups and downs of life, and is not affected by drastic changes if they take place. Becoming physically fit requires a change in life style as well. You will have to incorporate a regular exercise routine in your life and also eat healthier. By avoiding junk foods, fizzy drinks, bad habits like smoking and alcohol and by getting adequate amount of rest, you will be able to become physically and mentally fit. Just by eliminating all these food substances from your life, no matter how temporarily, you will allow your body to detox and become stronger. Make sure that you spend more time outdoors in the sun, and fresh air and take part in more healthy activities. Fishing, bicycling, swimming, hiking, and even playing foot ball with your kids should be a part of your physically fit lifestyle.

best bodyweight exercises for traps: <u>Salad Recipe Cookbook, Plant Based Diet Cookbook, Binge Eating Overcome Overeating, Fitness Nutrition & Bodyweight Training Charlie Mason, </u>

2021-03-02 Salad Recipe Books: When it comes to a quick, healthy, meal that you are guaranteed to always feel good about after the fact, nothing beats a good salad! Unfortunately, without a little bit of help in the old idea department, it is easy for your average salad to fall into somewhat of a routine. That's where The Complete Salad Recipe Cookbook comes in as inside you will find dozens of recipes specifically chosen to help you spice up your boring old salads. It doesn't matter what type of meal-shaped hole that you are trying to fill, whether you are looking for something that is ready in minutes, a traditional favorite, something for 10 or more of your closest friends or even something the entire family is sure to love. Plant Based Diet Cookbook: Plant-based cooking is a nutritional avenue that allows you to fully appreciate food in its most uncultivated and whole form! Simply put, your new path to cooking will center on vegetables, fruits, nuts and seeds, spices, grains, beans, and cold-pressed oils. The list of possibilities is vast! Let The Complete Plant-Based Cookbook aid you in concocting distinctive and enticing recipes, allowing you to live a more healthy and colorful life. Inside, you will find mouth-watering recipes, from Turmeric Roasted Potatoes and Asparagus or a Thai Zucchini Noodle Bowl to a fresh Walnut and Pear Salad with a homemade Lemon Poppy Seed Dressing. Binge Eating Overcome Eating: Obesity is omnipresent today. In many cities over half of the adults are obese, and many of the children are as well. One of the largest contributors to obesity is binge eating. Binge eating is when someone is driven to eat compulsively and keeps eating passed the point of fullness and even passed the point of physical pain. It is often done in an altered state of consciousness in which the eater doesn't even notice that she/he is eating. Binge eating guite often, is a contributing factor to the diabetes epidemic. This book will discuss the causes of binge eating and learn how to stop it! By learning what triggers a binge eating episode, a person is empowered to break the cycle that keeps them unhealthy and unhappy. Also explained is why diets will not make you thinner nor stop overeating. The bad habits that keep you locked into continuing binge eating are described along with an easy way to do away with them. A guide to making a food plan that will give you complete control over your food intake is included. Bodyweight Training: Think you need to hit the gym hard-core and work until you're sore to lose weight and improve your fitness and strength levels? Think again. You could do all of that and more, and all you need is your own body weight to do it! Your body is an incredible machine, stronger and more capable than you know, and it is in this book that you will learn just how to improve and adapt your fitness routines to harness your bodyweight training exercises for improved results.

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