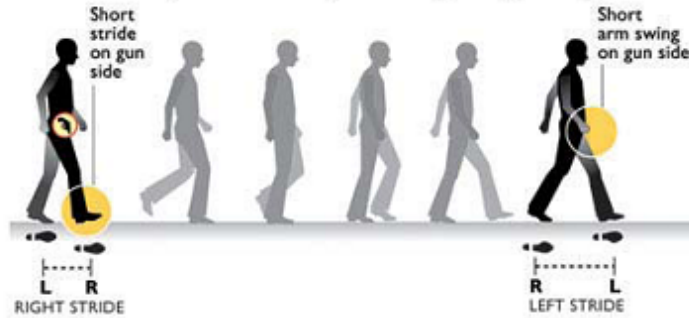


Spotting a hidden handgun

ASYMMETRICAL GAIT

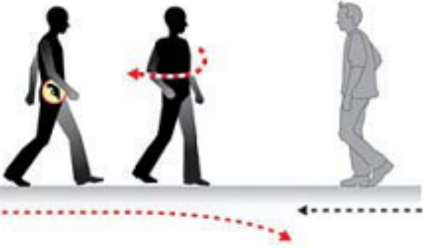
A gun in a right-hand pocket or tucked into the right side of a waistband may hinder leg movement on that side, making the right stride shorter than the left.

A slightly clipped arm swing may also signal a hidden gun: the forearm on the gun side will tend to stay close to the body, instinctively guarding the weapon.



UPPER BODY SHIFT

When approached from the front, a person with a hidden gun will instinctively turn the gun side of his body away from the person approaching, and may veer to that side to avoid a face-to-face encounter. He is also likely to pull his arm in toward his body on the gun side.

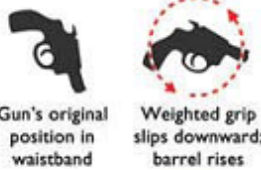
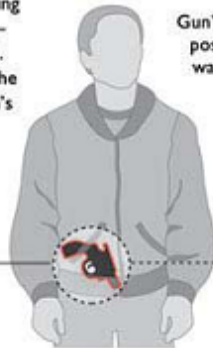


A QUICK ADJUSTMENT

A gun's weight is distributed unevenly, with more of its weight in the grip than in the barrel. Vertical motion — like descending stairs or stepping onto a curb — tends to shift the barrel upward. A quick, circular movement of the hand or forearm adjusts the gun's position.



GUN HIDDEN UNDER JACKET



Gun's original position in waistband

Weighted grip slips downward; barrel rises



HAND REPOSITIONS GUN

RUNNING FROM THE RAIN

When running toward shelter from rain, or across a busy street, a person concealing a gun is likely to brace the weapon with an arm or hand.



CONSPICUOUS CLOTHING

Garments worn to conceal weapons often appear odd, mismatched, or out of season, and can actually draw attention to a person trying to avoid scrutiny. A closer look may reveal movements or other characteristic signs of a hidden handgun.

JACKET FITS UNEVENLY
One side hangs lower than the other, and swings like a pendulum with each step

HAND RESTS ON GUN
Hand constantly feels for gun through clothing

HOLSTER BULGES
A holstered gun appears as a lump when arms are extended or when the body bends at the waist

STYLES DON'T MATCH
Oversized or mismatched coat seems incompatible with other clothing

CLOTHES DON'T SUIT WEATHER
A coat is open in cold weather, for quick access to a gun ...
... or closed in hot weather, to conceal one



Source: Robert T. Gallagher, former detective, Anti-Robbery Tactical Unit, New York City Police Department

Megan Jaegerman