

CREDIT CARD FRAUD AS REVOLUTIONARY PRAXIS:

Bankruptcy for anarchists, or how to be as lazy as possible, a step by step guide to proven methods of getting all the free money and getting away with it legalishly*.



By: some anarchists

*** Not some nickel and dime get a card in your dog's name, max it out in one day on beer and candy and then never pay it, ruining your credit for life nonsense.**

Based on a true story...

Real Talk:



I committed credit card fraud out of necessity, or depression, or economic hardship, or pure laziness. It might have also had something to do with an unwillingness to be deprived of my dreams of not being an exploited cog in capitalism's wheels...and/or dreams of having stuff, like food, shelter and heat. Or pure privilege, whatever. Here's the deal, we all know credit is a scam. It's a con-job to trap us all into feeling we need capitalism in order to get what we want, and so that we feel like we can't leave exploitative systems of capital accumulation because we owe it for the debt they were nice enough to give us in the first place. This is so we can survive in the system forced upon us. So that's my rationalization...errr, uh, argument for why it's okay to play their game and bend the rules a little. It's time to bail ourselves out.



Step One:

Apply for credit cards (and don't stop until you have at least three). If you're not already on mailing lists and getting tons of "pre-approved" junk or spam mail get on them. I don't know how, but I'm sure it shouldn't be too hard. Go to sketchy big bank web sites and apply for cards. Small local banks aren't quite as shady and might deny you based on reality.

Fill out the applications they give you creatively... answer the questions the way you know they want you to answer them, it's just like applying for a job, or talking to authority figures: lie. When they ask if you own your own home, say yes. When they ask you how much your annual household income is put down a believable but still upper middle class number like 80 grand or something.

Here's the thing you don't want to hear: use your real name. No joke, this will make it easy to make those purchases you want because you probably look shady as shit to a "normal" and people are going to want to see some I.D.. It also makes everything seem more legit and not like a scam. And like I said, this is about the long term, so read on to see how this works out and how you still get away with it clean.

Step two:

Now these fraudulent capitalist assholes will send you a card because they can't be bothered to do a background check and see if you're lying, or to check up on anything at all. All they see you as is a product waiting to be exploited with interest and fees. They want you in over your head, trapped. This ensures that you will keep working as a cog in the machine they depend on to profit. But here's the deal, don't let them know you're a fuck up. Get the cards and spend normally; a little here and a little there. Should you go right out and buy a lap top and some new shoes, fuck yeah! Should you try and max it out right away, fuck no! Don't be distraught if they only give you a few hundred bucks, each. You can get that up to tens of thousands of dollars in credit over the next few years.



Step three:

Make the payments! Make the minimum payments plus a little extra just like you are a fine upstanding sucker. There are lots of ways of doing this. You can use “real” money you actually worked for, or you can take out “cash advances” on your cards. Pretty much the only thing you can’t do is pay the card off with itself. A little more advanced strategy you can use once you really get going is to pay off some of your more maxed out and high interest cards with the “convenience checks” that inevitably come with your bills from other cards. I ended up using these check to pay my rent too. You’re really just shuffling their own money around and they know it, but they don’t care because they think they’re going to fuck you on that %19 interest they’re making, and all they really care about is that incoming profit on these loans. Yes, you are wasting a lot of “your” money paying these jerks, but it lets you get so much more money in the long run. And whatever you do **DON’T MISS ANY PAYMENTS OR BE LATE;** they might cut you off, or cap the amount they are willing to raise your limits in the future.

Step four:

Slowly get close to maxing out your cards. Don’t ever exceed the limits they have though, but get close. If you have had the card for a while and always made payments on time they will usually ask you if you would like your limit raised. The correct answer is always an emphatic YES! Don’t worry about standing out. Most people are drowning in debt and the credit agencies love it! They don’t care

at all about the money. What they care about is constant steady knowable income futures; these are the actual profits they make. This is what looks good to their bosses. If you get close to maxing out your cards and they don't offer to raise your limits, call them and ask. Again this is normal. They will almost always say yes and usually will raise your limit by %100. They'll do this at least every year!

Step five:

Avoid running into problems. If you get an offer that says zero interest till whenever and offer you a convenience check to transfer the balance on some maxed out and high interest card, do it! The more transfers you do the more time your original records get shuffled, lost, or destroyed. You see, once you are in the game and have good credit and a payment history and all this debt/cash floating around the new cards won't even really ask you questions you have to lie about. They know you're "good for it." Often just paying off the other card with a convenience check is all the paperwork they need. Usually these new offers will also have much larger limits.

How to get out:

Inevitably you may want to get out for some reason. Most likely out of fear and paranoia at getting caught, or just the feeling of soul crushing shame and/or debt caving in on you like you are over your head or something... (That's why I did it at any rate). If you're stressed don't hesitate, these are valid reasons. But, you're not trapped, it just feels that way. Whatever, here's the deal, this is what I did, and my bankruptcy lawyer said it was the smartest thing I could have done. Try to spread out your debt over several smaller cards 10 grand here, 6 grand there. My lawyer said that no card company is going to waste their time flying out a lawyer challenging you for anything less than 100 grand. It's just not worth their while. But, I liked smaller amounts on more cards just to be safe. Next stop spending money on the cards. Yes this will require you to get money somewhere else. I'm not saying you should do anything so drastic as take some gas-mart or coffee shop job, but again, do what you have to do (if you were smart you would have been squirreling away paper cash). Stop spending money on the cards for at least six months, but, and I can't stress this enough, KEEP MAKING YOUR MINIMUM PAYMENTS AND AS ON TIME AS YOU CAN. This shows a paper trail of hardship. It looks like you lost your well-paying job and were trying to hold it together. Even if there's some money left on the cards don't run right out and buy a big screen TV or anything dumb right before you declare bankruptcy. For real, cut those cards up to avoid temptation. You don't want any red flags or reasons for anyone to start snooping around and get the notion you might be pulling something here. Then go several months without making a payment to establish hopelessness, making it look like you honestly had no other option but to declare bankruptcy. You will get lots of harassing phone calls at this point, this is normal, don't stress.

This is the most important step in getting out: set aside at least 1000 bucks for your lawyer's fees. I took a job the whole last year I wasn't using the cards so I got 1000 bucks back on my tax return (I know, not very punk or anarchist of me to pay taxes or whatever). As it turned out the judge ordered that my tax return be confiscated to help pay off my creditors, but when I told him I already filed and

used the return to pay my lawyer he just said, "Good, never mind." And I fucking smiled knowing that even in the end I was sticking it to the banks one last time.

So here's the deal with bankruptcy: no one cares. It happens all the time. My lawyer didn't care, because it's how they made a living, and because I didn't say anything sketchy (never admit you are doing sketchy shit, this is something that happened to you, not something you are pulling off). The judge didn't care. The lawyers of the card companies didn't give a fuck, because they weren't there because the card companies didn't give a fuck because I was getting off with so little money on each card that it wasn't worth anyone's time's to care, or bother to fly a lawyer out. Basically on the day of my bankruptcy the judge asked me if everything my lawyer said in the paperwork was true to the best of my knowledge and then asked if there were any lawyers representing the creditors to contest it. I said yes, and there was no one there to contest it so the judge discharged all my debt and I was free. The whole thing took like two minutes!

The best part is that when you do bankruptcy you can list everything ever on it. I listed all my past landlords, and everyone that had ever tried to put me through collections or sue me so if any of them ever found me again they couldn't get squat. Your lawyer will even write a letter to each company and everyone else you put on your bankruptcy explaining to them that if they ever try to collect money from you you can sue them. One company sent me to collections, but my lawyer wrote the collection agency a letter too and they dropped it.

(But seriously if you ever get a letter from a collection agency you should always write them right back and tell them that they bought a bad claim, and that you are not in any way legally responsible for it, and will not pay it under any circumstances. I've even said that it was already dismissed in court once. That's always worked for me!)

Q&A: Do you lose everything you have?

Short answer is no. You don't lose anything! Not one damn thing with the exception of that year's tax return if you haven't already collected it. Bush passed an anti-bankruptcy law a few years back, it's meant to scare you and keep you in debt. It doesn't affect you at all in any other way (unless you're rich, and if so your lawyer will tell you all this same shit so go talk to them). Under bankruptcy you are allowed to declare and keep one car worth up to \$2000, if you say you need it for work. You are allowed to keep \$2000 in home furnishings, (like TV's and junk). You are allowed \$600 worth of guns too! (oh yeah, stock up on guns for the rev or whatever). I declared my gun because it was legally registered to my name, and I bought in on a card...and I wanted to rub it in. I said I didn't have anything else of any value, and no one cared and certainly no one bothered to come take any kind of look. Even if they would have no one thinks your bikes, band shirts, or LP's are valuable so you probably don't have shit to worry about. If you have a car legally in your name I'd declare it and just put its worth at under two grand, say you only paid 500 bucks for it, say it's beat to shit and unsellable, look up the blue book value on it and pick the lowest one, whatever, figure it out. And that's the best advice: figure it out, and pay attention, laws are different all over and ever changing

over time. Look into things and use your best judgment on what to do and how to tell the half-truths you need to come off still being “respectable,” or at the bare minimum seeming honest!

Bankruptcy is stigmatized in our culture, but shockingly not a big deal at all. I had so many car loan and credit card offers immediately following my bankruptcy. They do this because they know you can only default once every seven years, so you aren't likely to do it on these new debts! Again, they've got you. I applied for three cards a few months after everything had gone through and I got them all. I spent a few hundred bucks on them then cut them up and made the payments until they were paid off and now my credit score is better than it ever was and I'm in a good position to go through the whole process all over again. But I'm going bigger this time and waiting until I'm done with school. Btw school loans are federally guaranteed you can't be rejected for debt or having gone through bankruptcy!



The next step in free money: Off to college

My next zine in the free money series will be about scamming student loans. (Colleges will give you free money; basically they pay you to learn junk you're already interested in--you don't have to pick a program or major or take all the boring whitewashed/greenwashed classes—but for real though, do yourself a favor and take a critical thinking and even a science and pseudo-science class). I'm speculating that I can pull this scam off and this time use the cards to slowly--over a few years--pay off all my student loan debt, and then discharge those cards under bankruptcy too!



copyleft