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business with either a handgun or garrote. This method usually guarantees a high level of efficiency and privacy.

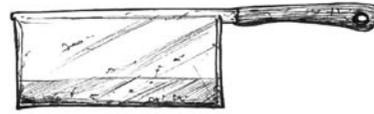
### The Ambush

In a hostile or suspicious atmosphere a guy may be too difficult to set up. Then the hit team will whack the victim at a suitable location, which is often as he is getting in and out of his car, or entering or leaving one of his places of business. This method tends to be less successful, as the hitters don't hang around after firing, and sometimes leave the victim still breathing.

### What Dead Guy Can Tell Ya

When guys are clipped sometimes symbolic items are left in or on the body to indicate why he was killed. Money stuffed into the dead guys mouth means that he was too greedy for his own good. A rat, canary or even a guys tongue cut off means that he was talking to the Feds. When a victim gets his genitals cut off and stuffed into his mouth it means that he was fooling around with

another guys woman, or was an informer (they seem to like this one). One Philadelphia mobster had fireworks stuffed into his mouth to suggest it was a payback hit for a bombing that the Mafiosi had carried out.



### Disposal

An ambushed victim cut down in a hail of bullets will usually be left where he fell, but one taken for a ride can be made to disappear. A Mafiosi's final resting place could be the inside of a 55 gallon oil drum, in the concrete foundations of a building, buried on a country farm, as part of the crushed remains of a compacted automobile, or dismembered and distributed around the local dump. With a disappearance there can only be the presumption of death, and always the possibility that the victim has gone on the lam or taken their own life.



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# The Rackets

When it comes to money the Mob is into anything and everything. Here are just a few:

## Loan Sharking

Putting money out onto the street at very-high interest rates has long been a steady earner. The vig or vigorish is the minimum payment demanded each week and covers the points of interest on the loan, and can range from 3 to 5 points at a business rate, down to 0.5% to 2% at an associate rate. Associate rates in the Mafia are reserved for made guys, and allows them to borrow five figure sums off of their Capo's to put it out onto the street at a business rate, allowing everyone to make good.

For instance a \$2,000 dollar loan at a very high interest rate of 5 points would have a vig of \$100 dollars a week. If unpaid the vig is added on to the principle, so at the end of the second week the borrower would owe \$2,100 dollars still at 5 points a week. The ideal arrangement is where the borrower can just about make his weekly vig, but makes no progress in paying off the principle. A guy can pay five times the original loan and still be no nearer to clearing it.

Mafiosi of course use the threat of violence to get what they are owed, but do not generally kill those that can't pay as dead men don't pay debts. Instead if the guy has a business or flash car it will be taken to make good the debt. Some scheming Mafiosi set about for this to happen so that they can have a legitimate business front to operate from and launder money through.

An alternative to the long term loan is the 7 day 6 for 5 loan introduced by Cleveland mobsters in the late 60's. For every 5 dollars borrowed the loan shark gets 6 in return. This method is successful in producing quick profits.

## Stock Floating

Mafiosi commit white-collar crime with pump and dump stock broking. They buy a big a bunch of worthless shares using hundreds of different phony names in a struggling

company, for say \$3 bucks a share. Then by using some disreputable broking firm that they've set up, they get to work pumping up the shares that because now of the new interest have risen in price a little. The Mafiosi gets his guys to push the stock like crazy over the phone to professional and retired people with money to invest. Telling them that they will be able to triple their money if they buy in now, as the stock is hot and gonna go through the roof. Being greedy many will go the whole nine yards, and invest their entire life savings on the strength of the sellers slick words to get their piece of the action. When the stock hits an optimum price, which can be six to fifteen times what was paid for it, they pull the plug on the operation and dump large. The stock market gets wind of a mass sell and the shares drop, then plummet in value as everyone tries to bail out at the same time. For many, particularly the most gullible who continue to believe the broker's lies as the company moves offices, lose everything.

A legitimate though ethically wrong way of earning money in the gray area of "Stock Broking", is by handling Mob controlled union pension and welfare funds. These vast funds are invested repeatedly in different stock for the broker's sales commission. Constantly buying and selling stock on a 1 to 3 percent commission, when dealing in millions quickly adds up.

## Extortion

Putting the squeeze on legitimate and illegitimate businesses for a cut of their profits and action. Some extortions use pure strong arm tactics particularly where other criminals are concerned. Here a drug dealer or bookie will be openly threatened with a one way ride if he doesn't pay a weekly tax on his operation.

A more refined way of going about it is by creating a problem at a business like a bar, by having associates run up bar tabs they don't pay, insult and fight with customers, cause damage, and otherwise turn the once swanky place into a spit and sawdust joint.

