

These bonding tricks are such a blast to undertake, he'll have no idea they're part of a ploy to fuse your union. Pick and choose the ones that grab you.

By Beth Sobol

■ Whether you've been with your guy for just a few weeks or more than a few years, one thing is likely true: You could always be just a little bit tighter as a couple. "Intimacy is an integral part of any budding or long-term relationship," says Cara Gardenswartz, PhD, a Los Angeles clinical psychologist. "But you need to keep things fun so it doesn't feel like a labor-intensive process."

To that end, *Cosmo* asked tons of real women to share the easy, no-brainer ways they've gotten superclose to their men—feel free to steal a page out of their bonding manual.

1 "I suggested we invite another couple over for dinner and he was game. He came with me to the grocery store and helped me chop and sauté in the kitchen. Playing host together really made us feel like a team." —Robin, 32

2 "We just started dating and both work long days, but we try to chat at least a few minutes a day over Instant Messenger. We play a game where we IM one random thing about ourselves each day, like the name of my pet rabbit growing up or that his dream vacation is a trip to Australia." —Bridget, 27

3 "My guy is a great skier, but I'd never been and I was terrified. We went for the weekend and had the best time. He was a great teacher and helped me off my butt when I fell." —Val, 23

4 "We once went driving through the town he grew up in. He showed me where he played little league, where

he learned to ride a bike, where he first kissed a girl....It gave me such a clear picture of his childhood." —Jillian, 26

5 "I joined a fantasy baseball league, which involves choosing your favorite real-life players and playing in a make-believe game online. He was wowed when I asked his opinion on which players to choose and why. We bonded over it for hours." —Karen, 32

6 "My guy's all-time favorite food is hamburgers. So we've made a game out of exploring each other's neighborhoods to find the best burgers in the city. We've even developed a ratings system based on silly things like firmness of bun, quality of pickles, type of french fries, etc." —Caitlin, 25

"AFTER A LONG DAY, I'LL DRAW A BATH AND INVITE HIM IN. WE CHILL OUT AND TALK."

7 "My boyfriend is passionate about his favorite band. So right before we went to see them in concert, I downloaded all their songs so I could learn them. He was so surprised when I started belting out all the lyrics at the show. We had a ton of fun dancing around together." —Elizabeth, 29

8 "I can't believe he's into it, but he loves coming to yoga class with me. All of his friends tease him, but he's got the best reply ever. He just says "Hey man, I'm flexible in ways you don't even know about." —Angie, 28

9 "He'd never admit it, but my boyfriend loves to take bubble baths. After we've both had a long day at work, I draw one for myself and invite him to jump in. Sometimes it leads to sex, but most of the time, we just chill out and talk." —Becca, 31

10 "I let him paint my toenails. Half the time, I end up with polish all over my feet, but it's so sweet and intimate that I don't really care."

—Jackie, 29

11 "I bought tickets for me, him, and his two best friends to their favorite team's baseball game. He said that seeing me get along so well with his buddies was the best present he could have asked for."

—Melissa, 30

12 "My guy plays golf at least twice a week, so I figured that if I ever wanted to see him during the weekend, I should try taking a few lessons. Turns out, I got hooked too! Now we try to spend at least one day every weekend together out on the course." —Lauren, 29

13 "We're from different religions, but I went home with him to celebrate Easter. We dipped eggs with his nephews and then took them on an egg hunt. He was thrilled to see me bonding with his family." —Annie, 26

14 "I try to make plans with his friends' wives and girlfriends to do things like go shopping or see a

15 How He Gets Close

Instead of waiting for words, look for the hidden meaning in his actions. Calling you a pet name in front of his buddies or even giving up the remote control are signs he's tightening your twosome.

SOURCE: CARA GARDENSWARTZ, PHD